COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 12.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 98, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1891.

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81	Victoria	"
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83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	"
91	Grenada	"
92	Bermuda	"
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	"
96	St. Lucia	"
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	"
100	Straits Settlements	"
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	"
106	British Guiana	"
107	Barbados	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago	"
109	Western Australia	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	"
113	Falkland Islands	"
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9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"

No. 12.

TURKS AND CAICOS.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 98, Old Series.]

Governor Sir H. A. BLAKE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

King's House, Jamaica,
April 18, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship two copies of the Turks and Caicos Islands Blue Book for the year 1890, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1890.

1. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The receipts for 1890 were 528*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* in excess of those for 1889, and amounted to 8,901*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, which, added to the balance from the previous year of 2,538*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, gave a gross revenue of 11,439*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, the largest on record since the year 1872. The increase is due to unusually large imports, the import duties being 661*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* more than in 1889.

The expenditure amounted to 8,262*l.* 13*s.*, or 1,183*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* more than in 1889. The increase is caused chiefly by the large amount expended from the surplus revenue, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being 7,067*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* against 6,946*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* in the previous year.

After defraying the liabilities for 1890, there remains a balance to the credit of the Colony of 3,177*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, besides the amount invested (1,000*l.*) to meet any sudden emergency. The financial condition of these Islands is therefore more satisfactory than it has been for several years.

TURKS AND CAICOS

2. *Public Works.*

Several new works were undertaken during the year. The principal ones were the building of a new public tank and the completion of the sea wall in front of the town, at Grand Turk, and the erection of a landing wharf and of a harbour light, at Cockburn Harbour. The tank is not yet finished, but the other works have been completed in a satisfactory manner. The construction of some new drains at Cockburn Harbour was also commenced, and some small works were carried out at Salt Cay.

3. *Legislation.*

There were only four Ordinances passed during the year, two of which were the usual supply ordinances. The others were No. 3, "To provide for the establishment of a Public Library and "Free Reading Room," and No. 4, "To provide for the incor-"poration, regulation, and winding up of Trading Companies."

Under the provisions of the Library Ordinance, the former Ordinances relating to the Public Library were repealed, and the Library was established in the Jubilee Memorial Building, and reconstituted under the name of the "Victoria Public Library and Free Reading Room," the general public having the right to use the library building at all times when open to subscribers, and to have free access to the books and papers. This measure has added greatly to the usefulness and popularity of the library, it being now in a flourishing condition.

The fibre industry having been introduced into these islands, it became necessary to pass a law to allow of the formation of joint stock companies, and the Companies Ordinance is to the effect that the Jamaica Laws (27 Vict. s. 2, cap. 4, and 28 Vict. cap. 42) relating to joint stock companies shall, so far as the provisions thereof are applicable, be in force in this dependency.

4. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. C. P. Stamers, Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour, was appointed Assistant Commissioner at Salt Cay, in the place of Mr. J. W. Baker, who retired from the service on the 1st May. Mr. L. S. Leslie was, on the same date, appointed Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour, and Mr. W. A. Astwood, Revenue and Boarding Officer, the office of Resident Magistrate at North Caicos having been abolished, and the office

of Revenue and Boarding Officer at Cockburn Harbour revived by Order in Council of 6th February, which also fixed the salary of the Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour at 250*l.* with a travelling allowance of 30*l.*, and the salary of the Revenue and Boarding Officer at 120*l.*

The Government Medical Officer was absent on sick leave from the 29th September to the end of the year, and his duties were performed by Dr. L. M. Clark, of Jamaica, from the 23rd December to the end of the year, as the services of a qualified medical man could not be obtained during the first two months of Dr. Andrew's leave.

The Commissioner was absent on vacation leave for the last three months of the year, his duties being performed by the Judge of the Supreme Court.

5. *Pensions.*

Miss Eliza Jones, late matron of the poor-house, who drew a pension of 15*l.* per annum, died in August, and one pension was added, viz., 160*l.* per annum, to Mr. J. W. Baker, late Assistant Commissioner at Salt Cay.

6. *Education.*

The general inspection showed little change in the state of the schools, the average attendance being somewhat better than in the previous year, and the standard of efficiency about the same. There was no change of teachers, and the schools were all in operation throughout the year.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports were very much heavier than in the previous year, owing to the number of vessels wrecked with valuable cargoes The exports were also very heavy, as the greater part of the wrecked cargoes was transhipped. The export of salt was not so large as that of 1889, which was the largest on record, but was considerably over the average. There was on hand at the beginning of 1890, about 370,000 bushels, and the crop raked during the year was a very good one, being about 2,250,000 bushels. The stock remaining on hand at the end of the year was about 600,000 bushels.

T ables are attached as usual showing the trade, as compared wth former years, and also the rainfall.

TURKS AND CAICOS.

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the Year 1890 in comparison with the preceding Year 1889.

	1889.			1890.		
Imports.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alcohol	4	0	0	2	0	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	9	14	0	22	16	10
Bay water	5	2	0	23	15	0
Bread	17	19	3	21	16	3
Butter	75	18	1	72	13	1
Cheese	29	5	3	29	15	4
Cigars	7	16	6	8	8	9
Flour, wheat	528	15	2	600	5	8
Lard	84	8	11	89	1	9
Lumber and shingles	152	19	10	44	1	4
Meat, salted and cured	216	17	7	260	17	11
Oils	40	18	8	46	1	5
Paint in oil	14	3	9	20	16	5
Rice	64	1	0	89	4	3
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	489	11	1	695	2	9
Soap	47	9	0	103	17	3
Sugar	296	12	4	311	19	5
Tea	41	16	0	39	0	0
Tobacco	40	13	3	52	1	11
Wine	11	16	10	20	3	5
Ad valorem duties	758	14	11	1,046	7	6
	2,938	13	5	3,600	6	3
Other Sources of Revenue.						
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1889—2,108,506 bushels; in 1890—1,974,015 bushels	3,074	19	7	2,878	17	11
Light duties	920	7	4	866	11	8
Auction duties	40	0	8	109	2	7
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	19	17	0	42	8	6
Fees of office	102	15	11	92	16	3
Postage	186	0	8	165	2	8
Post Office Money Order commissions	41	9	8	32	12	10
Liquor licenses	100	0	0	100	0	0
Wine "	58	0	0	72	10	0
Dog tax	9	16	6	21	2	6
Sales, Crown land	228	1	4	7	15	4
Lease " "	45	11	3	190	12	2
Wharfage and storage	32	7	0	121	18	4
Grant in aid of Mail Service	232	14	1	312	10	0
Miscellaneous	302	11	8	247	0	5
Special	40	0	0	40	0	0
	5,434	12	8	5,301	1	2
Recapitulation.						
Imports	2,938	13	5	3,600	6	3
Other sources	5,434	12	8	5,301	1	2
	8,373	6	1	8,901	7	5
Balance from 1888 and 1889	1,244	9	6	2,538	11	4
	9,617	15	7	11,439	18	9
Expenditure for 1889 and 1890	7,079	4	3	8,262	13	0
Balance for 1890 and 1891	2,538	11	4	3,177	5	9

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1888, 1889, and 1890.

Articles.	1888.	1889.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	19,865 11 8	32,392 8 2	30,007 14 0
Sponge - - - -	287 9 8	249 3 10	181 6 7
Str'w, shells - - -	32 18 0	—	17 5 0
Sisal hemp - - -	—	—	49 10 10
Turtle shell - - -	—	257 12 4	30 0 0
Total - - -	20,185 19 4	32,899 4 4	30,285 16 5

VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1888, 1889, and 1890.

—	1888.	1889.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - - -	28,268 3 11	27,369 0 9	42,107 15 11

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1882 to 1888; and actual EXPORT for 1889 and 1890.

Ports.	1882 to 1888.	1889.	1890.
Grand Turk - -	567,328	856,677	770,754
Salt Cay - - -	481,437	490,544	559,423
Cockburn Harbour -	506,224	761,285	643,838
Total Bushels -	1,554,989	2,108,506	1,974,015

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1887 - 300,000 bushels.

" " " 1888 - 750,000 "

" " " 1889 - 370,000 "

" " " 1890 - 600,000 "

RAINFALL for the Year 1890 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January - - -	3·87	4·62	4·68	2·23
February - -	·32	·52	·87	1·70
March - - -	1·64	2·52	1·64	5·92
April - - -	·44	·89	1·41	·42
May - - -	1·85	·05	Nil.	2·73
June - - -	·15	·31	Nil.	2·36
July - - -	1·32	1·82	1·59	3·06
August - - -	1·64	·88	·89	1·16
September - -	2·77	2·09	1·34	8·03
October - - -	1·05	1·31	·20	1·55
November - -	3·43	3·57	3·27	3·27
December - -	1·59	1·31	·62	·73
Total inches - -	20·07	19·89	16·51	33·16
Average for seven years, 1883 to 1889 - -	27·22	23·06	25·29	47·21

8. *Agriculture.*

On account of the small rainfall, the corn crop failed entirely at the Caicos Islands, and the other crops also felt the effect of the dry weather. There would have been much suffering among the inhabitants had it not been for the fibre industry, which furnished work for many, as the land occupied by the companies engaged in this cultivation is being rapidly cleared and planted. The grants for the lands surveyed in 1889 at North Caicos were issued during the year, and the persons to whom the lands were granted appear to take pride in having become landowners. The Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour writes in his annual report that they are planting more cassava than they did at first, and that there is a material improvement in their condition.

9. *General Remarks.*

The fibre companies above referred to were formed during the year, but have not yet been registered, as the Companies' Ordinance has but recently come into operation. One of these companies is located at the Island of West Caicos, having obtained a lease of the land there, which is suitable for the cultivation of fibre plants, with conditions for obtaining a grant in fee simple at any time

after two thirds of the land shall have been planted out. This land was surveyed by Captain Jackson, the late Commissioner, in July last, and the work of clearing it was begun in August, and is going on rapidly, being of great benefit to the labourers from the neighbouring settlement of Blue Hills, who are employed there. Up to the present date about 500 acres have been cleared. The plants set out are growing well, and some of the larger ones, planted in October, are already putting out suckers.

A Government Savings Bank was opened on the 13th January, at Grand Turk, with branches at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. It is an institution which has long been needed, and it has proved fairly successful, the deposits during the year amounting to 544*l.* 8*s.* Of this amount 39*l.* 2*s.* was withdrawn, leaving a balance due to the depositors, on the 31st December, of 505*l.* 6*s.* besides the accruing interest, which is at the rate of 2 per cent. The revenue of the bank, for the year, was 9*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure 29*l.* 10*s.* This excess is caused by the outlay of 23*l.* 7*s.* for books and forms, and is not likely to occur again, as the difference between the interest on the invested funds and the interest paid to the depositors will cover the working expenses of the bank.

E. H. JOHNSON,
Acting Commissioner.

Commissioner's Office,
Grand Turk, 16th March 1891.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 35.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1889-91.

(For previous Report *see* Colonial Report No. 112, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1892.

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1892.

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110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	,,
113	Falkland Islands	,,
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	,,
117	Hong Kong	,,
118	St. Helena	,,

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6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	,,
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	,,
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
13	Gibraltar	,,
14	Zululand	,,
15	Sierra Leone	,,
16	Barbados	,,
17	Falkland Islands	,,
18	Labuan	,,
19	British Honduras	,,
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	,,
23	Grenada	,,
24	Straits Settlements	,,
25	British Guiana	,,
26	St. Helena	,,
27	Mauritius	,,
28	Gambia	,,
29	Hong Kong	,,
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	,,
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	,,
34	Newfoundland	,,

No. 35.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1889 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 5.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

King's House, Jamaica,
December 28, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for the period from 1st October 1889 to 31st March 1891.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK, 1889-91.

Legislation.

During the 18 months from October 1889 to March 1891, 58 Laws were passed by the Legislative Council—viz.: Laws 17 to 40 of 1889, 1 to 32 of 1890, and 1 to 2 of 1891. (Laws 3 to 25 of 1891 were passed after the close of the new financial year.) Of these the following are the most important:—

Law 19 of 1889, which reduces the age at which children are to be received into a reformatory or industrial school from 16 to 14 years.

Law 25 of 1889, which makes provision for cases where the reformation of persons convicted of first offences may be brought about without imprisonment.

Law 28 of 1889—"The Public Water Supply Law." The objects of this Law are to consolidate the existing Laws on the subject of the public water supply, and to enable parochial boards, with the Governor's approval in Privy Council, to fix a sliding scale in regulating the rates and charges payable for water supply.

Law 32 of 1889—"The Agricultural Produce Buyers Law." This Law was framed for the purpose of preventing the system of roadside buying and selling, which gives rise to a vast amount of prædial larceny. The terms of the Law are very stringent, but the evil of prædial larceny had reached such dimensions that severe

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legislation was considered necessary. The Law is to continue in force for only three years, it being hoped that this will be sufficient to stamp out the evil.

Law 33 of 1889, the objects of which are to enable an exhibition of the products of industry, agriculture, &c., to be held in Kingston, and to make provision for its management and conduct, and for guaranteeing against any financial loss arising therefrom.

Law 38 of 1889—"The General Markets Law Amendment Law." This Law was passed in order to restrain the exposition for sale of poultry, game, fresh meat, &c., elsewhere than in a market. The markets have been erected by loans, and the market fees are pledged for payment of the interest and principal of the amounts advanced.

Law 40 of 1889—"The Conveyancing Law." This Law is nearly a transcript of the Imperial Conveyancing Acts (44 & 45 Vict. c. 41. and 45 and 46 Vict. c. 39.). It deals with unqualified persons who act as conveyancers.

Law 3 of 1890.—This Law was passed in order to remove all doubts as to the validity of marriages on board H.M.S. "Urgent" since the Marriage Law of 1879, the chaplain of that ship through a misunderstanding not having applied to be appointed a marriage officer under the Law.

Law 4 of 1890—"The Prison Service Law." The institution of a prison service apart from the constabulary, but in the first instance largely drawn from it, has been found to work admirably in other Colonies, and this Law has been drafted from the Prison Laws and rules of other countries, assisted by the local experience of the Inspector-General of Police.

Law 8 of 1890.—This Law increases the duty on rum to 6*s.* a gallon.

Law 9 of 1890 provides for the taking of the census of the Island. It is a copy (*mutatis mutandis*) of the Census Law of 1880.

Law 11 of 1890—A Law to legalise Art Unions. This Law is adapted from the English Act, 9 & 10 Vict. c. 48., with such alterations as were necessary to meet local requirements. It was passed principally to enable the disposal of several of the articles which it was expected would be sent to the Colony for display at the Exhibition of 1891.

Law 13 of 1890, which gives the Governor power to appoint a managing commissioner of the Kingston and Liguanea waterworks, Kingston gasworks, markets and slaughter-house, instead of the Custos of Kingston being such managing commissioner as heretofore.

Law 17 of 1890 makes provision for improving the condition of the parochial roads by placing the more important of them on the schedule of main roads. Some such measure had for a long time been urged on the Government, for, owing to the limited amounts at the disposal of the parochial road commissioners, the condition of several of the roads was a source of great inconvenience and dissatisfaction to the public. The Law also gives power to the Governor to raise money by loan for the reconstruction of

these roads, special taxes being imposed to provide for the payment of the interest and principal of the loan, and after that for the maintenance and repair of the roads.

Law 19 of 1890 was passed to relieve the Governor from payment of import duty, rates, and taxes.

Law 23 of 1890 gives power in certain cases to the trustees to sell portions of the Titchfield Trust Lands. These lands have of late years become very valuable, and as they were of no use to the trust, the trustees desired to dispose of some of them and apply the money in increasing the advantages of the trust.

Law 24 of 1890—"A Law to prevent the Importation of Cattle "and other Animals suffering from contagious or infectious Diseases." It was feared that the importation of cattle from South America, which had recently assumed considerable proportions, might, if not properly regulated, result in disease being brought to the Island by these foreign cattle. The Law is extracted from the English Act, 41 & 42 Vict. c. 74., so far as it relates to the importation of foreign cattle, with such alterations as are necessary to bring it into conformity with local usages.

Law 26 of 1890 provides for the admission free of import duty of apparatus and appliances for generating, storing, or conducting electricity, and machinery or mechanical contrivances for developing the resources of the Island. It was thought that as gas piping, machinery, and plant for the Jamaica Railway were admitted free of duty, the same advantage might be extended to other apparatus for the application of mechanical contrivances and electric energy to industrial enterprises.

Law 27 of 1890 gives power to the Government to contract with companies for building, extending, or completing hotels. The want of hotel accommodation was much felt, and, in view of the expected large influx of visitors to the Exhibition, it was thought that something should be done to encourage capitalists to speculate in hotels.

Law 29 of 1890 is really an amendment of Law 32 of 1889, but to prevent confusion, it was thought better to repeal that Law and to introduce a new enactment. Its object is to further regulate the purchase and sale of certain articles of agricultural produce, and to provide for the licensing of agricultural produce dealers.

Law 31 of 1890 makes provision for a system of sewerage for Kingston, for disposing of the sewage and for the reconstruction of the streets.

The question of the drainage and reconstruction of the streets of Kingston has for a long time attracted much attention, and no pains have been spared to obtain the best professional advice on the important subject of sub-soil drainage. This Law is the outcome of the information obtained. It makes provision for the appointment of nine Commissioners, three of whom must be resident in Kingston. These Commissioners have power to appoint one of their number a Managing Commissioner and to pay him 200*l.* a year, but no other Commissioner may receive any remuneration for his services.

The Commissioners are to collect and discharge the sewage into the sea beyond the Palisadoes, or to use it for fertilizing a sewage

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farm if it should be thought desirable to dispose of all or any part of it in that manner.

Law 32 of 1890—"The Electric Lighting Law." This Law was passed to control an electric lighting company so as to prevent injury to life and property. It is an adaptation to local circumstances of the English Acts, 45 & 46 Vict. c. 56. and 51 & 52 Vict. c. 12.

Finance.

In accordance with the decision of the Legislative Council, a change has been effected in the date of the financial year. The year under review commenced on the 1st of April (from which period the financial year will date in future), when a surplus was brought over of 190,287*l.* The revenue realised was 628,950*l.*, not including the revenue collected for main road purposes under Law 17 of 1890, namely, 30,815*l.*, making a total sum of 819,237*l.* The expenditure, on the other hand, including the sum of 29,018*l.* 15*s.* for sinking funds and 3,500*l.* for the redemption of debt, and excluding 34,141*l.*—the expenditure from loans raised or authorised—amounted to 575,250*l.* The year therefore closed with the large surplus of 243,987*l.*

The appropriated parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary, and other local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced in this year 124,619*l.*, being an increase of 17,347*l.* over the receipts in 1888–89.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services, including the proceeds of employers' notes for cost of introduction of immigrants, amounted to 4,405*l.*, and the expenditure to 8,411*l.* The decrease of revenue is due to the reduction of export duties on sugar and rum under Law 9 of 1889, and the discontinuance of immigration under the old law.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report with those of the previous year is given below:—

—	1890–91.	1888–89.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	366,662	284,377	82,285	—
Export duties - - -	6,687	9,398	—	2,711
Light dues - - -	2,377	2,300	77	—
Harbour master's fees - -	2,816	2,162	654	—
Rum duties - - -	136,160	95,502	40,658	—
Licenses - - - -	2,915	19,933	—	17,018
Stamps - - - -	19,286	16,666	2,620	—
Tax on stock - - -	4,753	4,501	252	—
Main Road Revenues.				
Holdings tax - - -	15,743	—	15,743	—
Spirit licenses - - -	15,071	—	15,071	—
	—	—	157,360	19,729
	572,470	434,839	137,631	—

——	1890–91.	1888–89.	Increase.	Decrease.
Main Road Revenues—cont.	£	£	£	£
Postal revenue - - -	17,685	18,295	—	610
Telegraph revenue - -	6,392	4,795	1,597	—
Court fees - - -	7,578	7,187	391	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	4,639	3,622	1,017	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	9,365	8,903	462	—
Interest on savings bank investments after paying depositors -	3,896	4,755	—	859
Interest other than above - -	7,927	4,402	3,525	—
Jamaica railway receipts - -	436	60,859	—	60,423
Reimbursements for expenditure -	2,205	24,178	—	1,773
Miscellaneous - - -	6,972	7,710	—	738
	—	—	6,992	64,403
	87,295	144,706	—	—
	659,765	579,545	—	57,411
Revenues specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues - -	50,317	42,146	8,171	—
Kingston streets tax - -	6,639	3,381	3,258	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	10,693	9,781	912	—
Parochial general purposes -	2,016	757	1,259	—
Poor rates - - - -	40,531	38,263	2,268	—
Sanitary rates - - -	8,238	8,119	119	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,345	1,239	106	—
Gas rates - - - -	2,598	2,641	—	43
Miscellaneous - - -	2,242	945	1,297	—
	—	—	17,390	43
	124,619	107,272	17,347	—
Immigration Revenues.				
Export duties - - -	2,598	3,675	—	1,077
Proceeds of planters' notes -	1,427	4,078	—	2,651
Miscellaneous - - -	46	61	—	15
Interest - - - -	334	324	10	—
	—	—	10	3,743
	4,405	8,138	—	3,733
Totals.				
General revenue - - -	659,765	579,545	80,220	—
Immigration revenue - -	4,405	8,138	—	3,733
Appropriated revenue - -	124,619	107,272	17,347	—
	—	—	97,567	3,733
Total - -	788,789	694,955	93,834	—

The yield of the general revenue shows a net increase of 80,220*l.* over the previous year. The chief items of increase are import duties, 82,285*l.*, attributable to general increased prosperity, owing to the development of the fruit trade, and an improvement

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in the coffee market; and rum duties 40,658*l.*, caused by extra duty imposed by Law 17 of 1890. The chief items of decrease are export duties, 2,711*l.* the result of a reduction of the tariff; licenses, 17,018*l.*, caused by the appropriation of the receipts from spirit licenses for main road purposes under Law 17 of 1890; railway, 60,423*l.*, loss of the traffic receipts on its sale; and reimbursements for expenditure, 1,773*l.*, due to the abolition of the cadastral survey tax.

The receipts from appropriated revenues show an aggregate increase of 17,347*l.* over those of the preceding year. The larger increases are in respect of parochial road revenues, 8,171*l.*, due to the tax under the Agricultural Produce Buyers Law 29 of 1890; Kingston Street Tax, 3,258*l.*, chiefly due to the appropriation of the receipts from spirit licenses under Law 17 of 1890. The remaining items of increase being mainly due to increased rates.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1888–89:—

——	1890–91.	1888–89.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt	76,569	83,128	—	6,559
Pensions	14,167	15,036	—	869
Administrative departments	34,585	32,094	2,491	—
Government savings bank	2,374	2,234	140	—
Revenue departments	33,740	31,902	1,838	—
Postal service	21,540	20,919	621	—
Telegraph service	5,554	4,438	1,116	—
Judicial	38,574	36,058	2,516	—
Ecclesiastical	6,138	6,277	—	139
Medical	49,502	49,515	—	13
Constabulary	50,133	47,827	2,306	—
Prisons	18,388	18,658	—	270
Reformatories	5,185	5,476	—	291
Education	40,252	37,518	2,734	—
Industrial schools	162	—	162	—
Harbours and pilotage	1,416	1,473	—	57
Military	8,590	7,648	942	—
Coasting service	1,800	1,786	14	—
Steam communication—Halifax	783	833	—	50
Subsidy Telegraph Company	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration department	3,466	2,939	527	—
Registration of titles department	527	—	527	—
Island Record Office	1,407	1,257	150	—
Colonisation of immigrants	—	60	—	60
Government printing department	6,534	6,336	198	—
Jamaica institute	3,586	942	2,644	—
Board of supervision	339	485	—	146
Public plantations and gardens	6,932	5,070	1,862	—
Railway	385	33,167	—	32,782
Maintenance of lands	—	167	—	167
Census, 1891	84	—	84	—
Miscellaneous	5,346	7,165	—	1,819
Public works	90,608	55,180	35,428	—
Lighthouses	1,055	2,452	—	1,397
Repatriation of Jamaicans	—	4,559	—	4,559
Total	531,721	524,599	56,300	49,178

—	1890-91.	1888-89.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	60,148	51,639	8,509	—
Kingston streets - - -	892	892	—	—
Parochial municipal objects -	9,143	6,720	2,423	—
Parochial general purposes -	3,157	2,387	770	—
Relief of poor - - -	43,221	38,566	4,655	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	5,524	8,241	—	2,717
Fire appropriation, Kingston -	1,502	1,147	355	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,702	3,041	—	339
	—	—	16,712	3,056
Total - - -	126,289	112,633	13,656	—
Immigration expenditure - -	8,411	8,973	—	562
Total general expenditure - -	531,721	524,599	7,122	—

The general expenditure of the Colony shows an increase of 7,122*l.* The following are the chief items of increase:—Administrative departments 2,491*l.*, chiefly for increments to salaries, and postages on the discontinuance of the franking system; Revenue departments 1,838*l.*, for increments to salaries and increase of staff; Telegraphs 1,116*l.*, for the establishment of new stations and extra operators and travelling charges; Judicial 2,516*l.*, for increase of the staff of the Resident Magistrates' Courts; Constabulary 2,306*l.*, due to an increase in strength of the force; Education 2,734*l.*, due to an improvement in the schools and consequent increase in the grants; Jamaica Institute 2,644*l.*, for grant to Imperial Institute, Exhibition expenses, and the purchase of new books and furniture; public gardens and plantations 1,862*l.*, chiefly for meeting cost of display at the Exhibition. There is also a large increase of 35,428*l.*, under Public Works, due to the purchase of wharf premises at the foot of East Street, Kingston, and increase of works generally. The large items of decrease will be found under charges of debt 6,559*l.*, and railway 32,782*l.*, saving of working expenses and maintenance after its sale in January 1890.

The expenditure from appropriated revenues shows an increase of 13,656*l.*, the principal heads of increase are parochial roads 8,509*l.*, parochial municipal objects 2,423*l.*, and poor relief 4,655*l.*; the only important decrease being 2,717*l.* under "Sanitary Appropriation."

Pensions.

During the 18 months under review pensions, amounting in all to 1,593*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pension Law 34 of 1885, and the resolution of the Legislative Council of the 23rd October 1885, while the pension list was reduced to the extent of 3,216*l.* 4*s.*, by deaths, &c.

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Debt.

There has not been any fresh debt incurred during the year under review; but a sum of 1,500*l.* was raised in the preceding half-year, under Law 20 of 1888—"The Rio Cobre Canal Debenture Conversion Law"—to meet the amount of debentures issued under Law 27 of 1872, which became redeemable during that period.

3,500*l.* of debentures was paid off from general revenue during the year, 2,900*l.* under Law 37 of 1887, and 600*l.* under Law 8 of 1871, while 3,900*l.* were redeemed from the sinking funds provided for the purpose, as follows:—1,300*l.* under 28 Vict. c. 26.; 200*l.* under Law 12 of 1879; 800*l.* under Laws 8 and 17 of 1880; 1,200*l.* under Law 19 of 1880, and 400*l.* under Law 17 of 1884.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows on the 31st March 1891, and on the close of each of the preceding financial years noted below, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	s.	d.
1881 - - -	920,924	19	4
1882 - - -	1,238,750	0	0
1883 - - -	1,257,916	2	1
1884 - - -	1,243,899	18	9
1885 - - -	1,427,458	14	2
1886 - - -	1,478,790	3	8
1887 - - -	1,491,993	3	9
1888 - - -	1,502,684	9	8
1889 - - -	1,506,883	6	0
1891 - - -	1,458,221	12	7

Of the above amount of debt on 31st March last, 822,622*l.* was on account of the railway purchase, reconstruction, and extension, and 82,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by the general revenue, raised on account of the several undertakings specified:—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

During the period under review—viz., the 18 months from the 1st of October 1889 to the 31st March 1891—there were three sessions of the Council, namely :—

1. A session, after adjournment, which met for business on 23 days, its first meeting being on 1st of October and the last on the 1st of November 1889.
2. A session, after prorogation, which met on 39 days, its first meeting being on the 25th February and the last on the 1st of May 1890; and
3. A session, after prorogation, which met on 37 days, its first meeting being on the 24th February and the last on the 29th of April 1891.

On the 10th of October 1889, consequent on the illness of the Hon. Henry Hicks Hocking, Attorney General, the Hon. Thomas Bancroft Oughton, LL.B., appointed temporarily as acting Attorney General, took his seat as an ex-officio member of the Council.

On the 25th of February 1890 the Hon. Henry Kirke, who had been appointed acting Attorney General by Her Majesty the Queen, took the seat vacated by Mr. Oughton as an ex-officio member of the Council.

On the 14th of April 1890, consequent on the absence from the Island of the Hon. Colonel William Clive Justice, C.M.G., the Hon. Frederick Benjamin Price White, the Senior Military Officer, took his seat as an ex-officio member of the Council.

The Hon. Neale Porter, Colonial Secretary, being on leave of absence, the Hon. James Allwood, the Acting Colonial Secretary, took his seat on the 5th of February 1891 as an ex-officio member of the Council.

The Hon. Henry Hicks Hocking, Attorney General having returned from leave of absence, resumed his seat on the above date vacated by Mr. Kirke.

Major-General Wilsone Black, C.B., the Senior Military Officer, took the oath and his seat as an ex-officio member of the Council on the 6th April 1891.

Civil Establishment.

The Hon. H. H. Hocking, Attorney General, was granted leave of absence from the 10th October 1889, and Mr. T. B. Oughton, Barrister-at-Law, appointed to act provisionally in that office until the arrival of the Hon. H. Kirke in January 1890.

On the 6th November 1889 Mr. W. Fawcett, Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, left the Island on leave of absence, and Mr. James Allwood, Assistant Colonial Secretary, was appointed to act for Mr. Fawcett during his absence.

Mr. L. R. Fyfe, first-class clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, was appointed Colonial Secretary of Grenada in the early part of 1890.

Mr. W. Baggett-Gray was appointed Crown Solicitor in the room of Mr. S. C. Burke, retired.

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Mr. Thomas Harrison was appointed Surveyor-General in the newly-formed Lands Department.

The Hon. Neale Porter, Colonial Secretary, was granted leave of absence from the 10th February 1891, and Mr. James Allwood, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary during Mr. Porter's absence.

Mr. R. G. Marsden, Resident Magistrate for Portland, was granted leave of absence from 1st January 1891.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under all heads has been 208,125*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, of which 69,482*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* was expended on main roads and bridges and parochial roads taken over as main roads, and 138,643*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in salaries and services, maintenance, &c., of public buildings, lighthouses, Rio Cobre canal works, acquiring lands for railway extension, &c.

The cost of maintenance of main roads and bridges, exclusive of those taken over under Law 17 of 1890, was 59,732*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* This large expenditure was due to heavy rains, which damaged the roads in some of the parishes, to a considerable increase of traffic, and to the cost of building bridges, culverts, parapet and retaining walls, widening and generally improving the roads, which are in excellent order throughout the Island.

The average cost of main roads per mile for the 18 months was 57*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, being equal to 38*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* per mile per annum, against 38*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1888–89.

Upwards of 407 miles of parochial roads were taken over as main roads, and work to the amount of 9,749*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* was done on them.

Many of the bridges, constructed under the St. Thomas and Portland Bridges Loan Law, were completed and thrown open to the public.

The expenditure for maintenance and repairs of public buildings amounted to 10,346*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, and wa , as usual, for the maintenance of churches and rectories, court houses, prisons, constabulary stations, public offices, hospitals and asylums, &c.

On new works and public buildings the sum of 40,119*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* was expended mainly in providing increased accommodation for the courts, police, prisons, hospitals, &c., erecting a new ward at the Lepers' Home and building industrial schools for boys and for girls.

The telegraph lines throughout the Island, 595 miles in extent, were maintained in good order at an average cost of 2*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* per mile per annum, being 12*s.* 4*d.* less per mile per annum than in the previous year, and several new lines were erected.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, and Folly Point were maintained in good order, and a new holophotal light was erected at Morant Point in place of the former light.

The officers of the Public Works Department, at the request of the parochial authorities, undertook many road works for which

money had been granted from the parochial road reserve fund, and also reported and advised on various parochial works.

The public works stores were removed from the railway premises to the East Street wharf premises, which were purchased and fitted up for the purpose at a cost of 8,009*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* The store department continues to be a source of great convenience as well as economy to the Government.

Lands.

During the 18 months 26 ¾ acres of land, besides a town lot, were taken possession of under Law 43 of 1887, and proceedings were commenced for the forfeiture of 27,941½ acres for non-payment of the quit rent and land tax.

The amount realised by the sale and lease of Government lands was 1,535*l.*, and the amount received for rent of lands and buildings was 1,488*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Surveys were made for various purposes, and plans of lands purchased, leased, or sold were prepared, as well as other plans and maps, including a cadastral map of the parish of Westmoreland. Many investigations respecting lands liable to forfeiture were also made.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The expenditure for management and maintenance of the works for the 18 months was 2,346*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, or an average of 1,564*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.* per annum. The average cost for the previous seven years was 1,516*l.* per annum.

312*l.* 9*s.* was spent on new works and on extending subsidiary channels.

The amount collected was 3,765*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*, or an average of 2,510*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* per annum; the average for the previous seven years was 2,277*l.*

The works were maintained in good order during the period under review.

Telegraphs.

The gross receipts during the period of 18 months under review were 8,933*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, being but 309*l.* 11*s.* less than the collections for the two preceding years; the expenditure was 8,121*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

The number of messages sent and received amounted to 159,499.

Nine new telegraph stations have been opened, and a new line constructed between Kingston and Annotto Bay, which has proved of great service in providing an additional means of communication in cases of interruption.

2,085 foreign telegrams were sent from inland offices, the cost of transmission being 4,079*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, which amount was collected and has been paid over to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

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The railway telegraph lines have been made available for the use of the public under the regulations which govern the inland telegraph service, and special arrangements have also been made by which telegraph stations may be opened and used out of office hours, a privilege which was granted at the instance of those interested in the shipment of fruit.

Railway.

The Jamaica Government Railway was handed over to the Jamaica Railway Company on the 1st January 1890 under the provisions of Law 12 of 1890. It is reported by the Government Director of the Company that the gross revenue from that date was 92,610*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* and the expenditure 61,095*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 31,515*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* In the 15 months from 1st January 1888 to 31st March 1889, when the railway was the property of the Government, the gross revenue was 72,924*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* as against an expenditure of 41,398*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 31,526*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

The following is a comparison of the revenue for the two periods :—

—	1st January 1890 to 31st March 1891.			1st January 1888 to 31st March 1889.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle - - -	49,648	14	2	39,682	10	9
Passengers - - - -	30,556	7	3	26,818	2	2
Princes Wharf - - -	9,486	19	0	5,788	16	7
Miscellaneous - - -	2,918	9	5	635	10	0
	92,610	9	10	72,924	19	6

There was an increase of 35,196 in the number of train miles run. The earnings per train mile for the 15 months under review were 6*s.* 2·18*d.* and the expenditure 4*s.* 0·94*d.* as against 5*s.* 6·18*d.* and 3*s.* 1·57*d.* in the previous period.

The number of passengers carried was 374,690, 33,145 of whom were first class, and the remainder third, there being no second class carriages in use on the line ; 17,002 passengers travelled with season tickets.

The first 12½ miles of the extension to Montego Bay were completed and opened during the period under review.

Botanical Department.

The department continued to perform during the 18 months under review most useful work in connexion with the propagation, sale, and distribution of plants and seeds.

The Hill Garden at Cinchona has been much improved, new walks have been formed and numerous flowering and other shrubs have been planted out.

Great attention has been paid to the native hill ferns, and several additions to the collection have been made.

A plantation of tree tomatoes ("Cyphomandra betacea") has been formed, and some of the fruit was sent to England, and, when eaten a month after being gathered, was pronounced to be very good and in excellent condition.

Cinchona Plantation.—No cultivation of cinchona has been carried on during the year.

The forest and ornamental trees planted at this station in 1883 were all thriving well.

Hope Gardens.—No great amount of work has been carried on at these gardens during the year.

Thirty acres of sisal hemp, imported from Turks' Islands, has been established and the plants are doing well. Half-an-acre of onions was established from seeds imported from the Canary Islands. The seeds germinated freely, and the plants have done well, many of them forming good large-size bulbs.

A valuable consignment of plants was received from the Royal Gardens, Kew.

The number of plants distributed free was 15,899, and the number sold 13,351. The amount received from the sales amounted to 387*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

Castleton Gardens.—These beautiful gardens continued in full operation, and attracted a large number of visitors during the period under review.

The Government of Lagos sent out, during this year, two apprentices to be trained in practical work at the Botanical Gardens in this Colony, with a view of hereafter appointing them as working superintendents of the district branches or out-stations in their own country.

An industrial school has been established in the grounds of the Hope Gardens, and a certain number of the boys are engaged in daily labour in the gardens. During the period under review seven Bulletins have been published containing 25 separate articles, giving information on new and important agricultural industries, as well as notes on other cultures, lists of plants growing in the gardens, and descriptions of native plants. These Bulletins have done much valuable work, and have come to be regarded as an essential feature of the Botanical Department.

Education.

The following statistics show the progress which has been made in the work of education during the 12 months ended 31st March

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1891, the period which the Inspector of Schools has taken in his Annual Report for purposes of comparison :—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average Attendance.	Per-centage in average Attendance of Number on Books.	Class of Schools. I.	II.	III.	F.	E.	Not inspected.	Fees.	Grants in aid, including Building Grants.
												£	£
1890-91	831	822	80,041	44,422	55·4	115	339	357	6	5	9	8,863	29,310
1888-89	826	788	75,480	43,488	57·6	104	288	386	9	1	38	7,944	27,690
Incrse.	5	34	4,561	934	—	11	51	—	—	—	—	419	—

This comparative table shows an increase of 4,561 in the number of scholars enrolled, this being somewhat larger than the increase in 1888–89, and about thrice as great as the estimated increase in the number of children between 5 and 15 during the 18 months ended 31st March.

The comparative falling off in the average attendances is, in the opinion of the Inspector of Schools, to be largely accounted for by the epidemics of whooping cough which had been prevalent, and the unusually wet weather, especially in the west of the Island.

It is gratifying to see that there is a great increase in the amount of fees paid, as it is no doubt an evidence of the general prosperity of the Island. The number, too, of first-class schools has increased from 104 to 115, or 10 per cent., and the number of second-class schools from 288 to 339, or 17 per cent., whilst the number of third-class schools has fallen from 386 to 357. "More "striking evidence of improvement in the quality of the work "in our schools," as Mr. Capper observes, "could hardly be "looked for, and the inference is clear that the work done by "the training colleges during the past few years is now beginning "to tell."

In the period under review two of the annual examinations of teachers and students in training colleges have taken place. The following table will show the principal results at a glance for the three years 1888–90 :—

Year.	Students Presented.	Honours with Bonus.	Full Passes.	Partial Passes.	Failures.
			Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1888	134	7	62	15	23
1889	142	6	62	14	24
1890	149	3	66	13·4	20·6

It will be observed that the number of candidates has continually increased; that the number of third year prizewinners has decreased, but that the per-centage of full passes had increased, whilst that of partial passes and of failures has decreased, from which it may be inferred that the quality of the work has improved.

In December 1890 the Government Training College for Male Teachers at Spanish Town was finally closed, as it was found that teachers could be trained at Fairfield and the Mico Institutions at less cost, and previous to its close all the second and third year students from the institution were removed to Fairfield and the Mico respectively. St. Mary's Female Training College was also closed in December 1890. This college was started some 10 or 12 years ago by the Rev. E. Bassett Key, and has, Mr. Capper reports, done some excellent work, as is evidenced by the number of its students who are and have been in charge of first-class schools, having raised them in several instances from a much lower position.

Only one pupil-teachers' examination was held during the period under review. A far larger number of candidates presented themselves than in any previous year, there being 205 pupil-teachers and 234 volunteers, as against 180 and 92 in 1889. The proportion of failures is still, as might be expected, greater under the system requiring a pass in each subject than it was when the total number of marks was considered; but Mr. Capper is of opinion that there are indications that teachers are working with a view to meeting this requirement, and that the per-centage of passes will improve annually.

In the month of February 1891 the Board of Directors of the Mico were able to arrange for the holding in Jamaica of a "Teachers' Institute" for the discussion of educational principles and methods, and two of the most prominent educators in America, Dr. T. W. Dickenson, Secretary to the Massachusetts Board of Education, and Professor A. C. Boyden, from one of the principal Normal Colleges of the State, came to superintend. Every facility was afforded to teachers all over the Island to attend the Institute, and allowance was made by the Education Department for the necessary closing of the schools, and a small sum granted to every teacher coming up from the country for board and lodging during the meetings. In addition every teacher attending the Institute was, by arrangement with the Exhibition Commissioners, granted a ticket of admission available for the whole of the two weeks during which the Institute was held.

The result surpassed the most sanguine expectations. There is no doubt that the visit of Dr. Dickenson and Mr. Boyden has given a powerful stimulus to the work of elementary education in the Island.

Immigration.

There were no immigrants serving under indenture in the Colony on the 31st December 1890, but the number, including

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Chinese who had not completed a residence of 10 years, was 2,191, and the number who had completed their residence, and who are locally termed free coolies, was 10,263, thus making a total of 12,454 East Indians in the Colony on the 31st December 1890.

During the year there were no immigrants introduced into the Colony, but applications were received for 1,842 labourers, and orders were telegraphed to India to send 1,000.

The immigrants ex "Hereford," 1885 completed their indentured period of five years in the Colony, and were granted certificates of exemption from further service.

The ship "Foyle" sailed for Calcutta on the 25th May of this year with 567 time-expired immigrants; of this number only 29 were placed on the list of invalids. The amount of 4,297*l.* 9*s.* was taken away by 109 of the passengers in Treasury Bills payable in India; as usual, a large quantity of silver jewellery and gold coins was also taken away by the coolies.

A report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, which was appointed to consider the question of the renewal of immigration, was presented to Council on the 15th of April of this year, and, after amendment on a financial point, was adopted.

The report was in favour of the resumption of immigration, on the basis of the payment by the employer in respect of each immigrant, in his option, of

(*a.*) 15*l.* 10*s.* in cash on allotment or
(*b.*) 2*l.* in cash on allotment,
1*l.* 10*s.* at the end of one year,
3*l.* 10*s.* „ „ two years,
3*l.* 10*s.* „ „ three years,
3*l.* 10*s.* „ „ four years,
3*l.* 10*s.* „ „ five years,

making 17*l.* 10*s.* in all in regard to the second.

The report was also in favour of making the immigration department available for the protection of native labourers who enter into contracts for work on plantations, and extending to them the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by indentured immigrants. As the result of this report the 1,000 coolies previously referred to were ordered.

There were no murders among the East Indian population during the year.

Emigration.

During the 18 months ended 31st March 1891, 1,088 persons left this Island for the Isthmus of Panama and Port Limon, and 2,726 returned therefrom—these figures show a great decrease on the year previous—the numbers then being 3,184 and 11,671 respectively; this is to be accounted for by the total cessation of work on the Panama Canal.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows for the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1880–81	7,970	342,339
1881–82	9,543	324,847
1882–83	11,925	325,705
1883–84	13,601	350,546
1884–85	15,511	360,190
1885–86	16,320	363,292
1886–87	17,047	363,481
1887–88	18,311	393,250
1888–89	18,496	408,213
1890–91	19,872	423,011

showing an increase of 14,798*l.* in the amount of the deposits and of 1,376 in the number of depositors.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
Immigration Return Passage Fund -	4,738	16	5
Constabulary Reward Fund - -	522	1	4
Sinking Funds - - - -	1,672	0	5
Constabulary Pension Fund - -	1	19	7
Smith and Beckford's Charity - -	248	18	5

There were also 220 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, Administrator General, and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 24,461*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*

The remaining 21,520*l.* accounts, representing 399,377*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, are all ordinary savings bank deposits. Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 14,840 were for 5*l.* and under, and 6,907 were for over 100*l.*

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The assets of the bank at 31st March last were distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Consols, 2¾ per cent. -	-		-	20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock :—						
Canada, 3 per cent. -	27,908	0	8			
" 3½ " - Cape of Good Hope, 4 per cent. - -	47,766	6	8			
Ceylon, 4 per cent. -	14,400	0	0			
New South Wales, 3½ per cent. - -	31,558	11	3			
Victoria, 4 per cent. -	12,015	0	0			
				133,647	18	7
Debentures :—						
Canada, 4 per cent. - New South Wales, 5 per cent. - -	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales, 4 per cent. - - South Australia, 6 per cent. - -	60,997	10	0			
South Australia, 4 per cent. - - Victoria, 4½ per cent. -	53,531	2	6			
" 4 " -	47,308	12	6			
Jamaica, 5 per cent. - " 4½ " - " 4 " -	35,830	5	8			
				251,658	3	2
				405,710	19	0
Cash on deposit in Colonial Bank -				25,311	13	7
Total - - -				431,022	12	7

During the year 4,112 accounts were opened and 2,973 closed, showing an increase of 28 in the number of accounts open.

The number of deposits amounted to 31,727, and withdrawals to 30,997, representing respectively 215,441*l.* and 220,703*l.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 14,308*l.*, while the revenue realised was 15,829*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,521*l.* on the year's transactions.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows:—

	£
1880–81	1,392,699
1881–82	1,321,962
1882–83	1,625,411
1883–84	1,568,639
1884–85	1,487,833
1885–86	1,325,603
1886–87	1,322,336
1887–88	1,695,605
1888–89	1,597,600
1890–91	2,188,937

showing an increase in the year under review of 591,337*l.*, or 37 per cent. on comparison with the value of imports in the year 1888–89. This increase is not confined to any particular class of imports, but is manifest in a greater or lesser degree in nearly all descriptions of articles received.

The value of goods entered for home consumption amounted to 2,153,180*l.*, an increase of 590,257*l.*, and is classed thus:—

——	1890–91.	1888–89.
	£	£
Ad valorem goods	1,001,691	680,743
Rated goods	865,104	693,152
Free goods	286,385	189,027

The following items are those which have principally contributed to this increase of 590,257*l.*, the proportion of which, for each as compared with last year, is shown in each case:—Foodstuffs, 7·3 per cent.; liquors, 39 per cent.; tobacco, 63 per cent. household furniture, 62 per cent.; clothing fabrics, 35 per cent.; hardware and ironmongery, 63 per cent.; building materials, 49 per cent.; machinery other than estates' machinery, 164 per cent.; books and printed matter, 53 per cent.; and on other imports, 102 per cent.

The imports were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions:—

——	1890–91.	1888–89.
United Kingdom	56·0	55·0
Canada	7·0	9·2
United States	34·0	33·9
Other countries	3·0	1·9

showing very little change in the sources of supply.

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The following table shows the value of imported articles which were freed from duty in the tariff under Law 11 of 1867, and is given in continuation of similar tables in previous Reports:—

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	20,709	10,380	14,199	12,604	9,268
Mills - - - -	1,702	2,203	1,563	2,516	862
Other machinery - - -	5,075	3,260	5,324	6,618	2,509
Pans for boiling sugar - -	1,190	809	2,025	1,067	—
Pipes for fluids - - -	1,534	2,600	3,512	4,358	2,365
Stills - - - -	5,217	1,777	1,489	312	72
Shooks of all sorts - -	4,370	12,424	13,724	13,520	11,588
Staves - - - -	3,299	10,645	6,148	10,590	9,052
Wood hoops - - -	756	1,932	1,923	1,047	1,107
Iron, galvanized - - -	5,156	3,595	9,469	8,649	4,758
„ other manufactures -	4,964	14	433	1,109	—
Miscellaneous - - -	7,443	5,015	7,118	5,242	4,854
	61,415	54,654	66,927	67,632	46,435

(*continued.*)

—	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	10,704	4,287	4,569	13,389	13,772
Mills - - - -	257	564	722	1,756	1,714
Other machinery - -	3,553	2,442	12,569	5,570	20,761
Pans for boiling sugar - -	201	435	203	415	254
Pipes for fluids - - -	8,205	3,472	3,028	2,531	8,395
Stills - - - -	1,102	998	345	277	443
Shooks of all sorts - -	7,149	13,649	17,974	9,973	4,296
Staves - - - -	3,375	3,822	4,952	983	150
Wood hoops - - -	855	978	1,841	797	159
ron, galvanized - - -	3,132	3,036	3,147	5,582	8,238
„ other manufactures -	—	—	683	659	1,271
Miscellaneous - - -	4,339	2,608	4,443	4,961	70,249
	42,872	36,291	54,476	46,893	119,702

In the large sum of 20,761*l.* for other machinery is included 10,633*l.*, the value of electric light materials freed from duty under Law 26 of 1890; also 3,104*l.* for copying and printing; 2,854*l.* for sewing machines; 1,333*l.* for estates' machinery, and 1,068*l.* for other labour-saving machinery. The large increase under "Miscellaneous" is due to importations for the Jamaica Railway Company's extensions. In this item is also included

1,687*l.* 17*s.*, the amount for goods imported free for the army and navy.

The following table gives the value of the exports in each of the last 10 years:—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1880–81 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881–82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,058
1882–83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883–84 - -	1,350,900	33,089	1,483,989
1884–85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885–86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886–87 - -	1,334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887–88 - -	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888–89 - -	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890–91 - -	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814

This shows an increase of 287,990*l.* over that of the preceding year, and the following are the items which principally contributed thereto:—Cocoa, 3,858*l.*; cocoanuts, 12,583*l.*; bananas, 192,254*l.*; oranges, 5,694*l.*; ginger, 5,877*l.*; pimento, 33,484*l.*; rum, 61,705*l.*; logwood, 7,166*l.* Coffee and sugar are the only important items which show a falling off.

These figures exhibit a marked improvement in the fruit industry of the Island, and, judging from the activity manifested in this direction in various parts of the Island, there is every prospect of its further development.

The value of the several articles of Island produce bear the following per-centage proportion to the total export value:—

—	1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1890–91.
Sugar - - -	26·1	18·8	19·8	17·3	16·3	13·1
Rum - - -	19·8	17·1	22·6	12·2	9·1	11·0
Coffee - - -	13·3	11·1	15·6	19·3	19·4	15·7
Dyewoods - -	13·2	18·1	14·4	21·2	25·0	21·3
Fruit - - -	15·4	22·5	16·2	21·6	20·3	29·4
Pimento - -	4·5	4·3	3·4	2·7	3·2	4·5
Other produce - -	7·7	9·1	8·0	5·7	6·7	5·0

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The exports of the principal staples in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
Sugar - - hhds.	21,056	38,392	30,783	29,427	24,986
Rum - - phns.	13,952	22,742	20,085	20,364	20,805
Coffee - - lbs.	9,846,096	7,418,638	9,448,100	4,295,994	9,033,606
Pimento - - lbs.	6,058,264	8,514,517	9,551,630	12,372,863	6,794,078
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	45,459	33,409	33,108	46,724	57,533
Ginger - - lbs.	751,494	608,384	836,889	1,359,321	9,379,056
Arrowroot - lbs.	1,888	5,116	2,515	3,655	1,008
Fruit, value - £	44,216	124,269	132,962	253,021	181,650

(*continued.*)

—	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.
Sugar - - hhds.	16,460	23,043	24,524	16,163	20,994
Rum - - phns.	14,763	24,126	18,684	13,749	15,936
Coffee - - lbs.	6,150,960	6,337,742	11,084,080	9,485,960	8,476,160
Pimento - - lbs.	6,919,087	7,335,712	7,454,608	5,172,153	10,120,544
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	65,082	63,114	103,364	116,247	110,994
Ginger - - lbs.	1,193,158	1,111,926	1,144,864	1,002,653	—
Arrowroot - lbs.	1,010	1,693	3,092	836	—
Fruit, value - £	231,522	215,583	337,403	303,910	531,726

The exports from the Colony during the past nine years were distributed among the different countries in the following proportions :—

—	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.
United Kingdom -	62·5	54·46	43·4	37·2	39·7	38·6	40·2	37·3	32·4
Dominion of Canada -	12·9	16·66	13·4	5·4	3·5	1·3	1·6	2·3	2·1
United States -	17·8	10·07	31·1	42·2	44·0	43·9	43·2	50·2	55·3
Other Countries -	6·8	6·81	12·1	15·2	12·8	16·2	15·0	10·2	10·2

showing a progressive increase in our trade with the United States, owing in great measure to the continued development of the fruit industry already referred to.

Agriculture.

Under this head may first be noticed as most striking the extraordinary strides made during the 18 months ended 31st

March 1891 in the extension of the fruit trade, the output of bananas having improved by 68 per cent., cocoanuts by 77, and oranges by 12 per cent.

The cane cultivation has continued to decrease, but there has been an increase in the cultivation of coffee, tobacco, cocoa, and ground provisions; and it may be interesting to note that the area under banana cultivation represents a little more than the area of the canefields that have gone out of cultivation during the past 10 years.

The increase in the area of land in coffee cultivation is to be attributed to the steady prices which have ruled for this commodity for some time past.

The cultivation of tobacco has shown a decided spurt, but the only parishes in which it appears to be grown to any extent are St. Andrew and St. Catherine, the increase of area in the former parish being 74 acres and in the latter 10. There is no doubt great scope for the extension of this plant, but it is believed that the want of continuous labour has been a drawback in the past to the development of this industry.

During the period under review there has been a large increase in cocoa cultivation, and it is hoped that the steps which the Government have taken in providing instructors to teach the peasantry the proper methods of growing and curing this commodity will tend largely to further increase its cultivation, for which a steady market is always obtainable at remunerative prices.

The pimento crop was a good one—the best for the past five years.

The following table shows the relative value in 1890–91 and in 1888–89 of the principal and minor products exported:—

	1890–91.	1888–89.
Sugar - - - - -	13·1	16·3
Rum - - - - - -	11·0	9·1
Coffee - - - - -	15·7	19·4
Dyewoods - - - - -	21·3	25·0
Fruit - - - - -	29·4	20·3
Pimento - - - - -	4·5	3·2
Minor products - - - -	5·0	6·7

Police.

The police force on the 31st of March 1891 consisted of one inspector-general, 14 inspectors, four sub-inspectors, 117 sub-officers, and 568 constables, being a total of 704 of all ranks, or only one man below the allowed strength for the period under

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review. The strength of the rural police was 928, giving an effective police establishment of 1,632 on the 31st of March. 171 men were enrolled and 152 discharged or dismissed from the force. Gratuities and pensions amounting to 712*l.* odd were granted to 50 of the men discharged.

The regular police were distributed as follows during the 18 months :—178 in Kingston, 436 in the 13 other parishes, and 71 under training at the depôt at Spanish Town.

The services rendered by the police as compared with the four preceding years are as follow :—

——	1885–86.	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–91.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information -	5,148	4,849	5,334	4,218	9,624
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,753	1,729	1,674	1,873	2,499
Number of search warrants executed -	85	82	75	102	153
Number of persons summoned - -	—	12,956	14,297	14,018	25,427
Number of persons subpœnaed - -	11,707	17,832	22,472	21,702	27,540
Number of seizures under revenue laws - -	[illegible]	393	465	225	665
Number of post-mortems ordered - -	337	338	319	388	627
Number of prisoners escorted - -	9,798	9,081	8,050	8,796	15,312

The criminal returns show nine cases of murder, including child murder, the cases in 1888–89 having been only four. Three of these were discharged for want of evidence or prosecution, and six were convicted in the Superior Courts. There were 20 cases of manslaughter; in the previous year there was the same number. Of these six were discharged, eight were acquitted, and six convicted.

Of other offences against the person the returns show six cases of concealment of birth, the same number as in 1888–89 and the previous year.

There were 683 cases of cutting and wounding, or 318 in excess of the number in the year preceding the period under review. Of these 397 were convicted and the remainder acquitted or abandoned for want of evidence or prosecution. Of the eight cases of shooting with intent, two were discharged, five acquitted, and one abandoned. Rape and assault with intent to commit rape numbered 55 and 43 respectively, 15 of the former and 18 of the latter were convicted.

Of the 25 persons apprehended for unnatural offences, 11 were convicted, seven acquitted, five discharged or the cases abandoned for want of evidence or prosecution, and 2 remained undisposed of on 31st March.

Of the more serious offences against property committed with violence, breaking into dwelling-houses and stealing, and breaking

into shops, warehouses, counting-houses and stealing, were the most serious, the figures for the 18 months being 228, or 60 more than in the year ended on 30th September 1889.

206 places were found by the police left open at night. In many cases where the fact of shops having been found open was brought to the notice of the owners they appeared indifferent to what might have resulted from their own negligence.

Offences against property committed without violence, such as larceny of small stock, larceny from dwelling-houses, shops, warehouses and counting-houses, larceny of dyewoods, ground provisions, money, prædial larceny, &c., all show an increase, especially prædial larceny, for which 1,692 persons were apprehended; of this number 1,027 persons were convicted.

The returns show an increase in the crime of arson, but feloniously wounding stock and wilful damage to property show a decrease.

There were 33 cases of forgery and offences against the currency, of which 20 were convicted.

The police rendered the usual service in connexion with the Main Road, Sugar Mills, Birds and Fish Protection, and Agricultural Produce Dealers Laws. Satisfactory work was done in respect to cruelty to animals, 972 cases having been brought up during the 18 months ended on 31st March 1891. Little assistance was, however, given to the police by the public in carrying out this work.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols in the Island on the 31st of March 1891 was 910. The number in each of the last five years on the 30th of September was as follows:—

1885 - - - - -	782
1886 - - - - -	803
1887 - - - - -	795
1888 - - - - -	749
1889 - - - - -	890

The number in the year under review was thus the highest in the series.

There were 5,570 commitments to all the prisons during the 18 months; during the previous 12 months there were 3,808. The re-convictions were 1,846; during the previous 12 months there were 1,242.

There were 31 deaths in the General Penitentiary during the 18 months. Of this number 16 were cases of prisoners in an impaired state of health when admitted to prison. There were 57 deaths in all the other prisons, and one sentence of capital punishment was carried out.

The net cost of the prisons amounted to 13,362*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*, or 15*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.* per prisoner per annum, the figures for the previous 12 months being 13,149*l.* 7*s.* 0¼*d.* and 17*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.* respectively. The gross earnings in cash were 5,372*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

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The estimated value of labour yielding no return in money was 5,458*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, in the preceding 12 months it was 4,028*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*,

The prisoners were, as usual, employed in making bricks and tiles, burning lime, quarrying stone, and in washing and repairing clothing for the prison and for other public institutions, as well as for private parties.

The value of the washing and repairing done was 1,073*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, or 388*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* more than the previous 12 months.

School was regularly held in the General Penitentiary and in the Saint Catherine, Falmouth, and Hanover District Prisons.

Religious services were conducted regularly at the General Penitentiary by the chaplains of the different denominations attached to the institution, as well as in the St. Catherine, Hanover, and Falmouth District Prisons and the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol. No regular provision exists for the religious instruction of the prisoners in the Short Term Prisons at Black River and Port Antonio, but they are visited occasionally by the local clergy.

Discipline was well maintained in all the prisons, very little corporal punishment was required, and was only inflicted in cases of violent assaults on officers. The "mark system" introduced into the General Penitentiary in October 1888 worked satisfactorily.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population on 31st March 1891 was 645,377, but by the census taken five days later it was found to be actually 639,491.

The natural increase by excess of births over deaths was for the half-year to 31st March 1890, 2,403, or 7·5 per 1,000 persons living, and for the year to 31st March 1891 was 8,467, or 13·2 per 1,000 of population, which is about the mean rate of increase, and may be considered satisfactory, as an epidemic of whooping cough caused 3,621 deaths during the period.

The births registered amounted to 11,275 to 31st March 1890, giving a rate of 35·6 per 1,000 of population, and during the year to 31st March 1891 to 24,507, being 38·4 per 1,000 of population; the proportions of illegitimate births being 61·6 and 60·7 respectively which, I regret to say, are the heaviest rates on record.

The marriages registered were 1,860 to 31st March 1890, and 3,560 to 31st March 1891; the number of marriages in the year has thus increased since 1881–2 when it was 2,026, the rate per 1,000 of population being in that year 3·4, whereas it now is 5·5.

The per-centage of illiterate persons among those married is 56·3.

The deaths registered were 8,872 to 31st March 1890, or 28·0 per 1,000 of population, and 16,040 to 31st March 1891, or 25·0 per 1,000.

The death rates for these periods are higher than any since 1880–81, and the records of causes of deaths show that then as now the excessive mortality was due to an epidemic of whooping cough

In the Cayman Islands the total number of births was 283 and of deaths 73, while 44 marriages were registered ; the proportions to 1,000 of population being of births 45·6, of deaths 10·0, and of marriages 6·6.

General.

The period under review has been one of unusual interest and importance in the history of the Island. In the report on the Blue Book for 1888–89 it was stated that a period of depression closed with the year 1887–88, and that it was anticipated that the then new-born prosperity would be maintained and would increase. These anticipations have been fully realised, as the preceding summary of the reports of the several public departments show. The revenue of the Colony has largely increased, the expenditure having been kept within reasonable limits, while both the imports and exports are larger than in any year of the past decade.

The cultivation of the sugar cane continues to diminish, but not so fast as the fruit trade increases, and there is a growing desire to devote more attention than has hitherto been given to the cultivation of the minor products and to the introduction of new economic plants. The immigration system has been placed on a new and satisfactory basis, and it may therefore fairly be hoped that the want of steady labour, which has for so long proven a serious obstacle in the way of the larger cultivators of the soil, will gradually but certainly cease to be felt.

But perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the past year is the attention which has been drawn to the Island in other parts of the world. This has been due to a great extent to the Exhibition opened at Kingston on the 27th of January last by H.R.H. Prince George of Wales.

The opening ceremony itself was attended by many strangers and by some distinguished persons, and throughout the period of three months during which it remained opened the Exhibition was visited by many from across the seas.

Convinced as I am that Jamaica needs only to be better known to become a favourite resort of the tourist in search of scenes of interest and beauty, of the invalid fleeing from the rigours of a northern winter, and of the settler in search of good land, a healthy climate, and perfect protection of property, the presence of so many visitors during the period referred to cannot fail to be of the greatest advantage to the Colony.

In order to encourage the influx of visitors as much as possible, the Jamaica Hotels Law of 1890 was passed, by which the Government guarantees the debentures of companies formed under its provisions. As a result five new hotels conducted on proper principles have been erected.

An important step in the direction of improving the means of communication throughout the Island was taken during the year by the passing of Law 17 of 1890, which provides for the transfer

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to the Public Works Department of a considerable proportion of the parochial roads in each parish, hitherto under the management of the local boards. This will not only ensure the principal roads being kept in a condition of perfect repair, but, by relieving the parochial boards of the burden of their maintenance, while in no way reducing the revenue available for road purposes, will enable them to improve those roads which still remain under their care, and to construct new roads in districts where the want of means of communication has been much felt.

The extension of the railway, which, in accordance with the terms of the agreement of the 29th March 1889, was transferred to an American syndicate on the 1st January 1890, is being pushed in the direction of Montego Bay in the north-west of the Island; when the line in that direction is completed the railway will be extended to Port Antonio in the north-east.

During the year a Lands Department was created with the Surveyor-General at its head; it is hoped that this will ensure more attention being given to Crown lands, forest preservation, and the protection of river sources than has hitherto been possible while the Crown Surveyor's Department was merely a branch of the Public Works Department.

Ths loyalty of the inhabitants of Jamaica has long been a striking feature in their character. It has, I am pleased to say, suffered no abatement. The enthusiastic reception given to H.R.H. Prince George of Wales by all classes of the community on the occasion of his visit to the Colony to open the Exhibition afforded ample proof of the devotion of Jamaica to the Government and person of Her Majesty the Queen.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

King's House,
24th December 1891.

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JAMAICA.

(TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.)

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 12.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1892.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to 'Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890–91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	"
40	Seychelles and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890
41	Gambia	1891
42	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 43.

JAMAICA

(TURKS AND CAICOS).

(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 12.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

King's House, Jamaica,
April 16, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship two copies of the Turks and Caicos Islands Blue Book for the year 1891, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1891.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1891 was 7,354*l.*, as compared with 8,901*l.* in 1890, being an excess of 242*l.* in the estimate. The balance brought forward from 1890 was 3,177*l.*, which, added to the receipts collected within the year, made up a total revenue of 10,531*l.*

The decrease inthe revenue from that for 1890 was principally due to a falling off of 581*l.* under import duties, which may be attributed to the absence of wrecks, with one exception, with valuable cargoes, and of 569*l.* under exports, on account of 404,555 bushels of salt less being shipped than in the preceding year.

The ordinary expenditure was 6,983*l.*, as against 7,067*l.* in 1890, being 53*l.* under the estimate. The expenditure from surplus funds on special works was 1,012*l.*, making a total expenditure of 7,995*l.* The ordinary expenditure was 370*l.* under the receipts,

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

but the latter fell short of the total expenditure by 641*l.* and reduced the balance to 2,535*l.* to carry forward at the close of the year. There is also a reserve sum of 1,000*l.* invested to the credit of the Dependency.

Public Works.

The opening of a channel for boats at the South Creek, Salt Cay, and the construction of the North Tank at Grand Turk, were carried to completion within the year. The road to the North Wells, Grand Turk, which is much used by the poorer classes to cart water along, was put in a state of good repair, and Saunders Pond Alley, which had become well nigh impassable, made into an excellent road, and several of the streets in the towns of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, which were in a very bad state of repair, were made up. A contract was accepted to remake a portion of the road to the lighthouse, and the work was begun, but had not been completed at the close of the year. This long-needed work, when finished, will be a great boon to the owners of plantations of corn, &c. most of which are located in the part of the Island through which this road runs. Many minor repairs to abutments at Grand Turk and Salt Cay, the sea wall at Grand Turk, and Government property generally in the Dependency, were executed during the year.

Legislation.

The undermentioned Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year :—

No. 1—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2—The Companies Amendment Ordinance.
No. 3—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 4—The Superannuation Amendment Ordinance.
No. 5—The Fibrous Plants Ordinance.
No. 6—The Cable Company's Ordinance.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

Legislative Board.

Mr. H. Higgins, on appointment as Commissioner, became a member and was nominated President of the Board. Dr. A. W. Thompson, Government Medical Officer, was appointed an official member of the Board, *vice* Dr. Andrews, who resigned his appointment in the Government Service.

Board of Education.

Mr. H Higgins, as Commissioner, became a member and Chairman of the Board. There was no change among the other members.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. H. Higgins, Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone, was appointed Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands *vice* Captain Jackson, transferred to the Bahamas, and arrived in the Dependency on the 30th March. Dr. A. W. Thompson was appointed Government Medical Officer in April *vice* Dr. Andrews, resigned. Captain Jackson was absent on leave during January, and the Judge acted as Commissioner from the beginning of the year until the arrival of the Commissioner in March. Dr. Clark, a Jamaica practitioner, was employed as Government Medical Officer, in place of Dr. Andrews, on sick leave, from 1st January until the arrival of Dr. Thompson in April.

Messrs. Harriott and Stamers, Assistant Commissioners at Grand Turk and Salt Cay respectively, were each absent on vacation leave for three months in the year.

Mr. J. C. Crisson acted for the former in the capacity of Police Magistrate, and Mr. E. C. Harriott acted for him as Registrar of the Supreme Court and of Deeds; Mr. G. D. Jones, of Salt Cay, acted for Mr. Stamers, during his absence.

Foreign Consuls.

The undermentioned gentlemen represent in the Dependency the Governments of the countries named:—

United States of America.—J. L. Hance, Consul; J. D. Murphy, Vice and Deputy Consul.
Sweden and Norway.—C. R. Hinson, Consul.
Dominican Republic.—C. R. Hinson, Consul.
Haytian Republic.—J. W. Darrell, Consul.
Denmark.—J. D. Murphy, Consul.
France.—W. S. Jones, Consular Agent.
Spain.—G. J. Gibbs, Vice-Consul.

Education.

There are seven free elementary schools, viz., five mixed, and one for boys only, and one for girls only, in the Dependency, which are maintained out of a Government Grant of 600*l.* per annum.

At the annual inspection the number of scholars on the books was found to be larger than in 1890, and the attendance showed a considerable improvement. All the schools, with the exception of those at Kew and Blue Hills, were in operation throughout the year. The school at Kew was closed for the first five months of the year, on account of the illness and absence, on leave, of the master, whose state of health eventually compelled him to resign his appointment in December. Arrangements were made to have the vacancy thus caused filled by a teacher from Jamaica, early in the ensuing year. The school at Blue Hills was closed on the

1st July, the acting teacher, who had not given satisfaction, being permitted to resign, and was reopened on the 5th of October, under a new teacher procured from Jamaica, and whose wife was appointed sewing mistress.

The following table gives a summary of the school returns for 1891 :—

Summary of School Returns for 1891.

School.	Teacher.	Average Number on Books.	Average Attendance.	Number of Days in operation.	Cost of School.
					£ s. d.
Grand Turk - - -	R. G. Wint - -	217	80	216	153 11 3
Salt Cay - - -	N. W. Astwood - -	65	37	205	71 12 3
C. Harbour (Boys.) -	T. T. Godet - -	42	32	201	67 2 9
„ (Girls.) -	Mary Tatem - -	56	24	211	53 9 3
Kew - - - -	J. McCaulay - -	70	42	134	66 5 4
Blue Hills - - -	S. Irons - - -	70	40	131	58 11 2
Lorimers - - -	J. J. Tucker - -	74	48	206	54 1 2
Total - -	—	594	303	—	524 13 2

Population.

The census was taken throughout the Dependency on the 6th April, with the following results :—

The total population numbered 4,785 souls, of whom 41 were on board vessels not belonging to the Dependency, making the actual population of the Islands 4,744, being an increase of 12 on the census taken in 1881, and of 21 on that taken in 1871. The increase was in the female population. Both the white and black population have decreased since the previous census was taken, the former over 25 per cent., and the latter about 3 per cent., while the coloured population has increased by 243 souls, or about 18 per cent. The decrease in the white population may be attributed to emigration to the United States of America. The census returns showed the average annual birth-rate to be 35 per 1000 and the death-rate 24 per 1000 of the population, viz. :—

Average annual number of births, 166.
„ „ „ „ deaths, 115.

This is a decrease of one per thousand in the birth-rate and an increase of three per thousand in the death-rate on the returns from the census of 1881. The returns showed a total of 29 persons suffering from infirmities in the Dependency.

Imports, Exports, &c.

The following tables compare the Receipts and Expenditure of Public Revenue for 1890–1, and give trade and other statistics.

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the Year 1891, in comparison with the preceding Year 1890.

	1890.			1891.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports.						
Alcohol	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	22	16	10	6	8	6
Bay water	23	15	0	5	19	0
Bread	21	16	3	21	18	9
Butter	72	13	1	65	0	9
Cheese	29	15	4	29	10	0
Cigars	8	8	9	16	4	3
Flour, wheat	600	5	8	483	15	1
Lard	89	1	9	73	10	5
Lumber and shingles	44	1	4	162	7	4
Meat, salted and cured	260	17	11	215	4	7
Oils	46	1	5	48	17	5
Paint in oil	20	16	5	17	2	2
Rice	89	4	3	65	8	0
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	695	2	9	625	14	6
Soap	103	17	3	28	7	5
Sugar	311	19	5	283	5	10
Tea	39	0	0	35	6	6
Tobacco	52	1	11	40	17	7
Wine	20	3	5	38	0	7
Ad valorem duties	1,046	7	6	756	5	9
	3,600	6	3	3,019	4	5
Other Sources of Revenue.						
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1890—1,974,015 bushels; in 1891—1,569,460 bushels	2,878	17	11	2,288	18	0
Royalty on cave earth	0	0	0	20	14	0
Light duties	866	11	8	676	13	4
Auction duties	109	2	7	21	13	0
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	42	8	6	26	12	0
Fees of office	92	16	3	80	1	0
Postage	165	2	8	186	3	1
Post Office money order commissions	32	12	10	33	4	4
Liquor licenses	100	0	0	75	0	0
Wine "	72	10	0	72	10	0
Dog tax	21	2	6	15	3	7
Sales, Crown land	7	15	4	7	5	0
Lease, " "	190	12	2	195	4	9
Wharfage and storage	121	18	4	32	9	4
Grant in aid of Mail Service	312	10	0	250	0	0
Miscellaneous	247	0	5	313	8	9
Special	40	0	0	40	0	0
	5,301	1	2	4,335	0	2
Recapitulation.						
Imports	3,600	6	3	3,019	4	5
Other sources	5,301	1	2	4,335	0	2
	8,901	7	5	7,354	4	7
Balance from 1889 and 1890	2,538	11	4	3,177	5	9
	11,439	18	9	10,531	10	4
Expenditure for 1890 and 1891	8,262	13	0	7,995	13	8
Balance for 1891 and 1892	3,177	5	9	2,535	16	8

Commissioner's Office,
Grand Turk, January 20, 1892.

H. HIGGINS,
Commissioner.

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1889, 1890, and 1891.

—	1889.			1890.			1891.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cave earth - - -	—			—			414	0	0
Salt - - - -	32,392	8	2	30,007	14	0	23,017	0	5
Sponge - - - -	249	3	10	181	6	7	1,250	0	1
Str'w, shells - - -	—			17	5	0	—		
Sisal hemp - - -	—			49	10	10	10	15	3
Timber - - - -	—			—			5	15	0
Turtle shell - - -	257	12	4	30	0	0	37	0	0
Total - - -	32,899	4	4	30,285	16	5	24,734	10	9

VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1889, 1890, and 1891.

—	1889.			1890.			1891.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports - -	27,369	0	9	42,107	15	11	26,891	17	4

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1883 to 1889; and actual EXPORT for 1890 and 1891.

Ports.	1883 to 1889.	1890.	1891.
Grand Turk - -	595,535	770,754	533,706
Salt Cay - - -	483,439	559,423	355,994
Cockburn Harbour -	556,932	643,838	679,760
Total Bushels -	1,635,906	1,974,015	1,569,460

Salt in the Colony on 31st December			1888	- 750,000	bushels.
"	"	"	1889	- 370,000	"
"	"	"	1890	- 600,000	"
"	"	"	1891	- 350,000	"

RAINFALL for the Year 1891 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January - - -	2·47	2·56	2·00	3·00
February - -	·68	1·12	·57	2·00
March - -	2·38	·27	·81	1·00
April - - -	5·57	5·32	2·28	3·00
May - - -	4·00	3·95	2·27	3·26
June - - -	·90	1·64	·46	6·73
July - - -	2·01	1·71	1·21	3·90
August - - -	4·70	4·89	2·92	3·69
September - -	·62	·66	3·42	3·00
October - - -	5·08	4·12	5·14	12·63
November - -	3·58	5·69	1·53	1·56
December - -	4·16	4·63	3·75	4·32
Total inches - -	36·15	36·56	26·36	48·09
Average for seven years, 1884 to 1890 - -	26·45	23·01	24·29	49·58

Shipping.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years were :—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 - - -	359	53,121	374	56,021	733	109,142
1890 - - -	365	52,441	370	50,457	735	102,898
1891 - - -	307	40,590	313	40,421	620	81,011

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 - - -	52	53,066	52	53,066	104	106,132
1890 - - -	55	56,265	55	56,265	110	112,530
1891 - - -	60	61,190	60	61,190	120	122,380

Agriculture.

Owing to a drought followed by floods, the crops of corn, yams, potatoes, &c., failed in the Caicos Islands in the spring, and occasioned considerable distress amongst the people, who had to be assisted with food by the Government, to tide over the famine.

The cultivation of the Pita (Sisal) plant has made fair progress, especially in the Caicos Islands, and the reports from the plantations, towards the close of the year, were satisfactory. Two companies, the "West Caicos Fibre Company, Limited," at West Caicos, and the "East Caicos Company, Limited," at Breezy Point, formed for the purpose of raising pita plants and extracting the fibre, registered under the companies ordinance, and there are several private plantations. A small shipment of fibre was made to New York within the year from one of the latter, and the first quality fetched a cent a pound more than the second quality—an equal price to the best from Yucatan. This speaks well for the quality of the fibre which can be produced in these islands, and promises a bright future for the local fibre industry.

Banks.

The Government Savings Bank was established in January 1890, and the following table gives the number of depositors, and the amount due to them, on the 31st December in each of the two years which it has been open:—

—	No. of Depositors.	Amount due to Depositors.
		£
1890 - - - -	89	505
1891 - - - -	82	523

General Remarks.

The industries and products of the Dependency were well represented in the Turks and Caicos Islands court at the Jamaica Exhibition, and received awards of two diplomas of honour, one gold medal, four silver medals, one bronze medal and three honourable mentions in all.

In August, a hurricane passed the Islands, but the centre of the disturbance, being evidently considerably to the north of them, its full violence was not felt locally; and no serious damage to property, or loss of life on land, was caused. The local shipping, however, suffered considerably, and several small vessels and boats were driven ashore and either damaged or totally wrecked.

The Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company, Limited, having decided to extend the cable from Bermuda to the West Indies, and to establish a station at Grand Turk, made application to the Legislative Board to afford certain facilities to the company for carrying out the project, and the necessary ordinance was passed by the Board in December.

It should undoubtedly benefit these islands generally, to be brought more in touch than they are at present with other parts, and the cable should not only greatly facilitate business transactions, but should also cause an increase in the shipping, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that a station of the company will be established and in working order at no distant date.

Grand Turk, March 21, 1892.

H. HIGGINS,
Commissioner.

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No. 65.

JAMAICA 1891-2.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1889-91 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 35.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
November 21, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ending 31st March 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1891-92.

King's House,
November 21, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for the year ending 31st March 1892, with précis of the Departmental Reports.

Since the closing of the Jamaica Exhibition on the 2nd May 1891, many applications have been made for information about the Island of Jamaica and its possibilities, and it may not be amiss to lay before your Lordship some general information that may be useful to inquiring capitalists.

The Island of Jamaica contains about 2,683,000 acres, of which about 413,000 are flat, and the remainder hilly. There are 640,000 acres under cultivation, or about one-fourth of the whole; but if we deduct from this the 372,000 acres in common pasture, the amount of actual cultivation is reduced to about 268,000 acres or one-tenth of the total. Along the centre of the Island run ranges of hills attaining an elevation in the west of 1,800 feet and in the east of 7,500.

There is a great variety of soil and climate, and every tropical product, save, possibly, those requiring the steamy swamps of tropical

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South America, can be grown, while many of the products of the temperate zone can also be successfully cultivated. Lying, as the Island does, with its longer axis from east to west, the north side, exposed as it is to the constant north-east trade wind, is several degrees cooler than in the south; but all round the Island a strong sea breeze blows during the day, which is replaced at night by a cool land breeze blowing down from the hills. The climate is extremely healthy. The average death-rate of 22·4 per thousand hardly conveys a true impression, the mortality among negro children here, as elsewhere, being very high as compared with the children of the Caucasian races. The climate is particularly suitable for lung complaints and nervous affections. There are several mineral springs of great medicinal value. The temperature of the spring at Bath in St. Thomas-in-the-East, is 126° F., and that of Milk River Bath in Clarendon 92°F. These springs are efficacious for gout, rheumatism, paralysis, &c.

The Jamaica Exhibition of 1891 was conceived and carried out as an advertisement, a stimulus, and an object lesson. It was carried through without any interference on the part of the Government, the proposal being secured by private guarantees which were given to the amount of 27,000*l.* It was opened on the 27th January and closed on the 2nd May; during that time it was visited by 302,831 persons. The full result of the exhibition has not yet been shown and it will afford a measure of the capacity of the people for improvement, but already there are gratifying evidences that the efforts of those who brought about the exhibition have not been in vain. There has been a considerable sale of improved sugar mills for small cultivators Dairy farming has been started, and machinery imported similar to that exhibited, the beginning of what may be an important industry, as we import annually over 720,000 pounds of butter. Pottery works have been begun, as it was discovered that we have in Jamaica as good clays for the purpose as can be procured in England, and there has been generally excited an inquiring interest in possible additions to the products of the Island that must bear fruit in the near future. While Great Britain, the United States, and Austria, France, Germany, and Italy were represented, the principal exhibitor was Canada, and the Dominion has laid the foundations of increased trade with Jamaica that already begins to show signs of expansion.

The exhibition closed with a net deficit of 28,465*l.* to meet which 19,000*l.* has already been paid up by the guarantors.

The year shows a falling off of 55,653*l.* in the income of the Colony as compared with the previous year, but it must be remembered that the imports of the year 1890–91 were the largest on record. The Collector-General in his report compares the imports with those of the year 1889–90 with a result of 25,600*l.* in favour of the year 1891–92.

Of this diminution of revenue 7,100*l.* was due to the remission of duty demanded by the United States Government under

threat of the imposition of discriminating duties on our sugar and coffee.

It was not expected that the free importation of the low-grade sugar into the United States would benefit the West Indies, and the result has proved that our estimate of the effect was well founded. Probably we shall not feel the full effects of the McKinley Tariff Act for a few years, when the bounty offered for home-grown sugar, almost equal to the cost of production, has increased the area of cultivation of cane and beet in the United States; but the prices of Muscovado and centrifugal sugars have receded rather than advanced in the New York market. Happily it has not been necessary to replace the 30,000*l.* abandoned by the imposition of other duties, and I hope that, with economy, the necessity for doing so may be avoided.

The exports during the year fell off to the extent of 180,718*l.* in respect of Island produce, fruit contracting in value to the extent of 235,375*l.* in consequence of an abundant crop in America, while sugar and rum show an increased value of 75,828*l.*

I hope to see the cultivation of fibre plants extended. The Sisal plants procured from Florida by my direction in 1889, and planted at Hope Gardens, have done so well that there is no doubt of the suitability of soil and climate, and already at least two lantations have been started.

During the year the means of communication have been largely extended. Eight hundred and ninety-seven miles have been added to the main road system, and the money set free has been used for the purpose of improving and extending the parochial roads. Several of the dangerous rivers on the Northside have been bridged, and power has been given by Law 20 of 1892 to raise money for the construction of additional bridges, so that within three years I hope that every river in the Island will be bridged, a boon that can only be appreciated by those who have experienced the perils of travelling in the rainy season, when the rivers are liable to sudden and dangerous floods, from which many lives are annually lost.

It is expected that the extension of the railway to Montego Bay, on the Northside, will be completed within two years. The effect will probably be to largely increase the business of that port.

Legislation.

During the Session of 1892 the Legislative Council passed 32 Laws. The following are the most important:—

Law 1 of 1892—"The Customs Tariff Amendment Law, 1892." This Law was passed to give effect to an arrangement entered into with the United States Government with reference to the McKinley Tariff Act, under which certain articles are admitted free, and the duties on others reduced from 25 to 50 per cent.

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Law 6 of 1892 abolishes the Poll Tax on horsekind and horned stock, it being felt that the proceeds of this tax, which had been imposed to meet a special financial emergency, could now be dispensed with.

Law 7 of 1892 provides for the appointment of an Assistant Resident Magistrate for Kingston. On the reduction by the council of the salary of the Police Magistrate nobody could be found to accept the office at the reduced salary allowed. The duties were performed for some time by the lay justices, but their attendance was necessarily irregular, and as this state of things was productive of considerable inconvenience to the public, it was considered best to appoint a lawyer, who, in addition to the work of the police court should assist the Resident Magistrate generally in his work, which is frequently heavier than one magistrate can well get through.

Law 10 of 1892 enlarges the powers of the visiting officer by providing under certain circumstances for the quarantine of ships after their arrival in port, and after they have been allowed to communicate with the shore, and also for the quarantine of vessels with mud ballast.

Law 12 of 1892 empowers the authorities of a reformatory or industrial school to board out some of the children, and to pay for their board out of the funds applicable to the maintenance of the institution.

Law 13 of 1892 exempts from payment of harbour fees vessels entering any harbour for the purpose of calling for orders only—thus re-enacting an exemption which had been allowed by Law 36 of 1873, but apparently accidentally omitted from Law 24 of 1889.

Law 14 of 1892—"The Cattle Trespass Law, 1888, Amendment Law, 1892"—exonerates the owner of trespassing stock from any action for damages, provided he has adopted all reasonable and proper precautions for the confinement of his stock.

Law 17 of 1892 empowers the Governor to raise a force of coast defence volunteers for special services in connexion with submarine mines, &c., and provides for their being paid when out for training or on active service.

Law 20 of 1892 makes provisions for raising by loan money for the construction of certain bridges in different parts of the Island, the cost of which could not be met from the ordinary general returns of the year.

Law 22 of 1892 amends the Mountain and Rivers Reserves Laws of 1889 and 1890, and enables the Governor in Privy Council from time to time to declare by Proclamation any mountain ridge a mountain reserve, and to revoke any such Proclamation should it be found that its operation seriously affects any man's land

Law 23 of 1892 gives the Government power to acquire land for the purpose of erecting a lighthouse in the vicinity of Negril Point.

Law 24 of 1892, "The Bankruptcy Laws Further Amendment Law, 1892," is in the main an adaptation of the English Bankruptcy Act, 1883 (46 & 47 Vict. cap. 52).

Law 26 of 1892 makes provision for the granting of pensions or gratuities, under certain conditions, to officers who joined the public service after the passing of Law 34 of 1885, and who do not therefore come under the provisions of that Law. The Law provides that the officers shall contribute at the rate of 2 per cent. on their salaries to a pension fund.

Law 31 of 1892—"The Elementary Education Law, 1892," this Law provides for the further development and improvement of the existing system of giving assistance out of public funds to elementary schools, to meet the cost of which a tax on houses estimated to yield 10,000*l.* a year is imposed. The Law also provides for the establishment of a Board of Education to advise and assist in the general administration of the Law.

Law 32 of 1892—"The Secondary Education Law, 1892," which enables the Governor in Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Board of Education (established by the Elementary Education Law), to establish a school for higher education at the public expense in any district where one may seem to be required, thus affording facilities for such *higher* education which did not exist prior to the passing of this Law.

Finance.

The year commenced with a surplus of 243,987*l.* and the revenue realized was 590,611*l.*, making together a sum of 834,598*l.* The expenditure, including 28,998*l.* for sinking funds and 600*l.* for redemption of debt, amounted to 639,864*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of 194,734*l.*

The appropriated parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary, and other similar local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced in this year 124,154*l.*, being a decrease of 465*l.* on the receipts in 1890–91.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services, including the proceeds of employers' notes for cost of introduction of immigrants, amounted to 31,838*l.*, an increase of 27,433*l.* on the collections in the previous year, which is due to the amount received from planters' notes on the resumption of immigration under Law 14 of 1891. Export duties on sugar and rum having been abolished, a decrease of 2,150*l.* occurs under this head.

JAMAICA. 1891–2.

The usual comparative table, showing the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report and those of the previous year, is given below :—

Revenue.	1891–92.	1890–91.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	319,810	366,662	—	46,852
Export duties - - -	654	6,687	—	6,033
Light dues - - -	2,201	2,377	—	176
Harbour master's fees - -	2,467	2,816	—	349
Rum duties - - -	123,418	136,160	—	12,742
Licenses - - - -	1,263	2,915	—	1,652
Stamps - - - -	19,317	19,286	31	—
Tax on stock - - -	4,753	4,753	—	—
	—	—	31	67,804
Tax revenue -	473,883	541,656	—	67,773
Postal revenue - - -	18,278	17,685	593	—
Telegraph revenue - -	5,687	6,392	—	705
Court fees - - -	8,442	7,578	864	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	4,614	4,639	—	25
Interest on securities, sinking fund	9,955	9,365	590	—
Interest from savings bank after paying depositors - -	3,935	3,896	39	—
Interest other than above - -	7,361	7,927	—	566
Interest, Jamaica railway bonds -	23,548	—	23,545	—
Jamaica railway - - -	—	436	—	436
Reimbursements for expenditure -	24,468	22,405	2,063	—
Miscellaneous - - -	10,442	6,972	3,470	—
	—	—	31,164	1,732
Non-tax revenue -	116,727	87,295	29,432	—
Total general revenue -	590,610	628,951	—	38,341
Specially appropriated Revenue—Main Roads Law, 17 *of* 1890.				
Land tax - - -	296	—	296	—
Draft H. Stock tax - -	978	—	978	—
Holdings tax - - -	14,045	15,743	—	1,698
Spirit licenses - - -	16,694	15,071	1,623	—
	—	—	2,897	1,698
	32,013	30,814	1,199	—

Revenue.	1891-92.	1890-91.	Increase.	Decrease.
Parochial Revenue.				
	£	£	£	£
Parochial road revenues - -	44,845	50,317	—	5,472
Kingston street tax - -	7,437	6,639	798	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	11,068	10,693	375	—
Parochial general purposes -	1,875	2,016	—	141
Poor rates - - - -	38,748	40,531	—	1,783
Sanitary rates - - -	6,621	8,238	—	1,617
Fire rates - - - -	1,771	1,345	426	—
Gas rates - - - -	2,612	2,598	14	—
Miscellaneous - - -	9,177	2,242	6,935	—
	—	—	8,548	9,013
	124,154	124,619	—	465
Immigration Revenue.				
Export duties - - -	448	2,598	—	2,150
Proceeds of planters' notes :—				
Law 7 of 1878 - -	701	1,427	—	726
Law 14 of 1891 - -	29,673	—	29,673	—
Miscellaneous - - -	52	46	6	—
Interest - - - -	964	334	630	—
	—	—	30,309	2,876
	31,838	4,405	27,433	—
Totals.				
General revenue - - -	590,610	628,951	—	38,340
Specially appropriated revenue -	32,013	30,814	1,199	—
Parochial revenue - -	124,154	124,619	—	465
Immigration revenue - -	31,838	4,405	27,433	—
	—	—	28,632	38,806
Grand total - -	778,615	788,789	—	10,174

The yield of the general revenue shows a net decrease of 38,341*l.* The falling off occurs chiefly in import duties, 46,852*l.*, the effect of the McKinley Act and a smaller importation of British ad valorem goods; in rum duties, 12,742*l.*, owing to a lesser consumption, which is attributed to the falling off in the trade in fruit and logwood having caused less money to circulate among the labouring classes in certain districts; in export duties, 6,033*l.*, caused by the repeal of the Laws under which these duties were collected. The chief items of increase are interest on railway bonds, 23,545*l.*, which is a new item since the sale of the railway; reimbursements for expenditure, 2,063*l.*; and miscellaneous, 3,470*l.*

The revenues specially appropriated towards the main roads, recently undertaken under Law 17 of 1890, yielded 32,013*l.*, against 30,814*l.* in the previous year. This small increase is not attributed to any special cause.

JAMAICA. 1891–2.

Parochial revenues show a falling off of 5,472*l.* in road revenues, caused by the reduction of the land tax and quit rent to the extent of the collections made for the Cadastral Survey tax, which were refunded from this item under Law 8 of 1891; and in poor rates, 1,783*l.*, and sanitary rates 1,617*l.*, due to ordinary fluctuation and the reduction of the rates. The only item which shows any very appreciable increase is miscellaneous, 6,935*l.*

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1890–91:—

Expenditure.	1891–92.	1890–91.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt - - -	77,314	76,569	745	—
Pensions - - - -	13,227	14,167	—	940
Administrative departments -	86,355	36,959	49,396	—
Revenue departments - -	34,363	33,740	623	—
Postal service - - -	23,862	21,540	2,322	
Telegraph service - - -	6,382	5,554	828	—
Judicial - - - -	39,764	38,574	1,190	—
Ecclesiastical - - -	5,562	6,138	—	576
Medical - - - -	55,068	49,502	5,566	—
Constabulary - - -	51,390	50,133	1,257	—
Prisons - - - -	19,619	18,388	1,231	—
Reformatories - - -	5,336	5,185	151	—
Education - - -	40,790	40,252	538	—
Harbours and pilotage - -	1,802	1,416	386	—
Industrial schools - - -	634	162	472	—
Military - - - -	8,595	8,590	5	—
Coasting service - - -	1,800	1,800	—	—
Steam communication with Halifax	350	783	—	433
Telegraph subsidy - - -	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration department - -	3,338	3,466	—	128
Island record office - -	1,663	1,407	256	—
Registrar of titles department -	513	527	—	14
Government printing office -	9,386	6,534	2,852	—
Jamaica institute - - -	1,832	3,586	—	1,754
Board of supervision - -	436	339	97	—
Public plantations and gardens -	5,057	6,932	—	1,875
Railway - - - -	673	385	288	—
Census, 1891 - - -	6,232	84	6,148	—
Miscellaneous - - -	15,245	5,346	9,899	—
Public works - - -	90,478	90,608	—	130
Lighthouse - - -	1,181	1,055	126	—
	—	—	84,376	5,850
Total general expenditure -	610,247	531,721	78,526	—
Expenditure from specially appropriated Revenues.				
Main Roads Law 17 of 1890 -	4,376	—	4,376	—

Expenditure.	1891–92.	1890–91.	Increase.	Decrease.
Parochial Expenditure.				
Parochial roads - - -	59,552	60,148	—	596
Kingston streets - - -	860	892	—	32
Parochial municipal objects -	11,729	9,143	2,586	—
Parochial general purposes -	3,963	3,157	806	—
Relief of poor - - -	43,908	43,221	687	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	6,791	5,524	1,267	—
Fire appropriation, Kingston -	1,863	1,502	361	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,854	2,702	152	—
	—	—	5,859	628
	131,520	126,289	5,231	—
Immigration Expenditure.				
Immigration department - -	708	1,829	—	1,121
Introduction of immigrants -	33,783	384	33,399	
Return passages - - -	1,149	6,035	—	4,886
Pensions - - - -	—	163	—	163
	—	—	33,399	6,170
Total immigration - -	35,640	8,411	27,229	—
General expenditure - -	610,247	531,721	78,526	—
Expenditure from specially appropriated revenues - -	4,376	—	4,376	—
Parochial expenditure - -	131,520	126,289	5,231	—
Immigration expenditure - -	35,640	8,411	27,229	—
Grand total - -	781,783	664,047	117,736	—

The general expenditure of the Colony shews an increase of 78,526*l.* The following are the chief items of increase:—Administrative departments, 49,396*l.*, for public works and immigration, the latter now being charged as public expenditure under Law 14 of 1891; postal services, 2,322*l.*, for the manufacture of stamps, post cards, and increased payments to the railway company for conveying mails; judicial, 1,100*l.*, for expenses of the Resident Magistrates' Court; medical, 5,566*l.* for the maintenance of coolies, equipment of hospitals, and larger importation of drugs; constabulary, 1,257*l.*, for the importation of valise equipment, handcuff cases, and great coats; prisons, 1,231*l.*, due to the increase of prisoners; printing office, 2,852*l.*, an addition to the staff, and importation of a stereotype machine, and a general reorganization of the office; census, 6,148*l.*, the amount expended during the year for taking the census.

The expenditure of 4,476*l.*, on the main roads recently taken over under Law 17 of 1890, appears for the first time in the accounts for this year: as the work of reconstruction and taking over these roads progresses the expenditure will of course increase.

JAMAICA. 1891-2.

The expenditure from parochial revenues shows an increase of 5,231*l.*, chiefly for expenditure from the surplus fund for parochial municipal objects, 2,586*l.*, and for sanitary purposes, 1,267*l.*

Pensions.

During the year pensions, amounting in all to 1,425*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pension Law 34 of 1885, and the resolution of the Legislative Council of the 23rd October 1885, while the pension list was reduced to the extent of 1,591*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.*, by deaths, &c.

Debt.

There were no loans raised during this year; but 2,526*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* of Savings Bank moneys was appropriated for the construction of new telegraph lines under Law 1 of 1879.

600*l.* of debentures under Law 8 of 1871 was paid off from general revenue during the year, and the following amounts were redeemed from the sinking fund provided for the purpose, 5,800*l.* in all, namely: 3,000*l.* under 27 Vict. c. 24.; 1,100*l.* under Law 19 of 1880; 800*l.* under Law 8 and 17 of 1880; 500*l.* under Law 17 of 1884; 300*l.* under Law 12 of 1879; and 100*l.* under 28 Vict., c. 26.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1882 - - -	1,238,750	0	0
1883 - - -	1,257,916	2	1
1884 - - -	1,243,899	18	9
1885 - - -	1,427,458	14	2
1886 - - -	1,478,790	3	8
1887 - - -	1,491,993	3	9
1888 - - -	1,502,684	9	8
1889 - - -	1,506,883	6	0
1891 - - -	1,458,221	12	7
1892 - - -	1,520,088	4	3

Of the above amount of debt on 31st March last, 821,005*l.* was on account of the railway purchase, reconstruction and extension, and 82,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by the general revenue, raised on account of the several undertakings specified :—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

After the close of the Session, which had opened on the 24th February, 1891, and ended on the 29th of April, the Legislative Council did not meet again until the 5th November 1891, when a Special Session was convened to consider the modifications necessary in the tariff of the colony in view of the reciprocity clauses of the McKinley Act of the United States.

This Session lasted only two days, and the Council adjourned until the holding of its Annual Session, which took place on the 12th January, 1892, somewhat earlier than usual, in order that the aterations in the tariff consequent on the McKinley Act might be authorized by law before the 1st February, as required by the United States Government.

The Session continued beyond the close of the year under review, and the Council finally adjourned *sine die* on the 8th April 1892, after having met on 32 days.

As I was absent from the island on leave, Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., presided, as senior member, at the Special Session of the Council in November 1891.

Mr. Neale Porter, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, having returned from leave of absence, resumed his seat at the Council at this Session; and Mr. Richmond, Acting Director of Public Works, took his seat as an ex-officio member of the Council in the place of Mr. Bell, Director Public Works, who had been granted leave of absence.

Mr. W. B. Espeut, member for the electoral district of Portland and St. Thomas, was granted leave of absence from the Annual Session of the Council.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under all heads was 236,753*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, of which 152,117*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* was expended on main roads and bridges and parochial roads taken over as main roads, under Law 17 of 1890, and 84,636*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* for salaries, maintenance, &c., of public buildings, lighthouses, irrigation works, waterworks, telegraph construction and maintenance, &c.

The expenditure, excluding that under Law 17 of 1890, and on the bridges in Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary, was

117,516*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, and the cost of administration and supervision 13,067*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, or about 12 per cent. on the net cost of the work executed.

The cost of maintenance of main roads and bridges, and of new works thereon, exclusive of the cost of the roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890, was 48,935*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* This expenditure was due to the cost of constructing bridges, culverts, drains, retaining walls, purchasing lands for sites of bridges, and widening the roads, &c.

The average cost of the main roads was 41*l.* per mile, an increase of 2*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* over the cost of the previous year, when the average cost was 38*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* This increase was however justified by the more perfect condition in which the roads were put.

The length of parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 as main roads, up to the end of the year, was 896¾ miles, but the reconstruction of these was only to a small extent completed during the year.

The expenditure for maintenance and repairs of public buildings amounted to 7,949*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, and was, as usual, for the maintenance and repairs of churches and rectories, courthouses, public offices, prisons, police stations, hospitals and asylums, &c.

The sum of 28,855*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* was expended on new works on public buildings such as courthouses, public offices, prisons, reformatories, and on various other public buildings.

The telegraph lines throughout the Island, 618 miles in extent, were maintained in good order at an average cost of 2*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* per mile per annum, being 1*s.* 4*d.* per mile per annum more than in the previous year. The substitution of iron poles for old wooden ones where necessary is gradually being carried out. Several new lines were also erected.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, and Folly Point were maintained in good and efficient order.

The Public Works Department, at the request of the parochial authorities, and for the information of the Government, advised and reported on various parochial works.

Lands.

During the year 2,224 acres of land, all in the parish of Portland, were taken possession of under Law 32 of 1888, and proceedings for the forfeiture of 23,100 acres for non-payment of quit rent.

The amount realised by the sale of Government lands was 181*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

Surveys were made for various purposes, and 127 parcels of land for the railway track from Porus to Montego Bay were acquired. The acquisition of this land was attended with much difficulty, and demanded great care and knowledge of the value of land in the districts through which the railway passes.

No land was escheated to the Crown, nor any recovered from squatters during the year.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The cost of management and maintenance of the works for the year was 1,265*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* The average cost for the previous seven years was 1,498*l.* per annum.

The sum of 130*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was spent on new works and on extending subsidiary channels.

The amount collected during the year was 2,963*l.* 12*s.* 9¾*d.*; the average for the previous seven years was 2,304*l.*, which shows a considerable increase in favour of the collections for the year under review.

The works were maintained in good order, and are being improved by the substitution of concrete for wooden bridges, and in other ways.

Telegraphs.

The gross receipts during the year were 5,767*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, being 639*l.* 18*s.* less than the collections for 1890–91. This falling off is attributable to the depression in the fruit trade and business generally. The expenditure was 6,382*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, or 828*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* more than in the previous year, and is due to increased remuneration to telegraph clerks, the establishment of new stations, and the purchase of stores, etc.

The number of messages sent and received amounted to 102,925, or 9,884 less than in the preceding year.

Nine new stations were established during the year, making a total of 64 stations in operation at the close of the year.

Railway.

The Government Director of the Jamaica Railway Company reports that the gross revenue for the 12 months ended on 31st March 1892, was 71,486*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure 59,963*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 11,522*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

The expenditure includes 4,940*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, the value of stores purchased but remaining unissued at the close of the year.

The receipts were made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle - - -	38,551	9	11
Passengers - - - -	25,787	6	6
Prince's wharf - - -	6,656	3	9
Miscellaneous - - -	491	8	2
	£71,486	8	4

The number of train miles run amounted to 280,767, and the expenditure and revenue per train mile to 4*s.* 3·25*d.* and 5*s.* 1·11*d.*, respectively.

The number of passengers carried was 314,945, 22,138 of whom were 1st class and the remainder 3rd class. 12,390 passengers travelled with season tickets.

18 miles of the line on the Montego Bay section were completed and opened during the year, thus making 88 miles now actually open to traffic.

Interest was paid out of revenue on First Mortgage Bonds in December 1891, to the extent of 7,050*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

Botanical.

During the year the Department continued its work in connection with the propagation, sale and distribution of seeds and plants, and the diffusion of information, chiefly by means of printed "Bulletins," which are supplied free of cost to residents in the Island, as to the proper soil, climate, cutivation, &c., for useful plants.

The following figures show the sale and distribution of plants:—

Castleton—sold - - - -	4,266
Hill Garden—sold - - - -	786
Hope Gardens—sold - - -	33,319
Sugar cane tops - - - -	150
Total sold - - -	38,522
Sent to Hope Gardens for distribution -	12,495
Distributed free or in exchange - -	1,583
Total distributed - - -	14,078

A supply of cocoa pods was forwarded to the Hope Industrial School for the purpose of training the boys at that institution in the curing of cocoa: the services of an instructor were engaged to train the boys in the process, and the Director reports the result to have been satisfactory.

Besides the usual work in the up-keep of the gardens, many improvements were effected. At Castleton a walk was formed beside the river, and the former jungle cleared away. At the Hill Garden, a grass from Northern India (*pennisetum trifforum*) which grows to a height of from 3½ to 4 feet, and sends its roots deep into the soil, is being tried as a substitute for guinea grass (which is not so successful in the hills as in the lowlands) and the experiment is said to promise well. Onion seed is also being tried, but only a few varieties show signs of bulbing. The Jamaica plum, a fruit of great promise for export, as it keeps sound for a month, is also cultivated.

The *Hope Garden* is being gradually formed, as means allow, into a geographical garden, with patches of economic plants here and there, and the intervening spaces covered with Bahama grass. The total area is 212 acres, 38 of which have been left in wood. Besides the sugar-canes and other economic plants which have been established for several years, 47 acres, comprising 28,000

plants, have been planted with Sisal hemp. These plants are in good condition, growing freely and suckering.

The *Bhel* fruit which belongs to the orange family, has produced fruit during the year. It is stated to possess valuable medicinal properties.

Several hundreds of ferns have been planted out at the fernery, many improvements have been made at the orchid house, and the stock of ornamental plants in pots has been increased by over 2,000.

King's House.—The care and charge of the roads has been transferred to the Public Works Department.

Special attention is paid at this garden to the cultivation of the grape vine, and arrangements are on foot for demonstrations by the superintendent once a week on the care of this plant, which the Director states to be admirably adapted to the circumstances of many classes of people and the climatic conditions of several parts of the Island.

Kingston Public Garden.—A large number of plants from the exhibition grounds were transferred to this garden, and have added much to the appearance of the borders. Besides, 1,000 ornamental plants were received from the other gardens.

By arrangements with the City Council the garden has been kept open every night until 9 p.m. It is lit with the electric light, and the bands of the West India Regiment and Kingston Militia give regular weekly performances, which are much appreciated by the public.

Herbarium.—The services of Mr. C. Nicholls, who had spent some time in the Herbarium at Kew, were secured for the Department for five months and the specimens of plants arranged classified, and added to, to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Fawcett. Besides this work, Mr. Nicholls made investigations into the microscopic anatomy of the leaf of Sisal hemp, a work which the Director states to be of special importance in estimating the value of machinery for the extraction of the fibre.

The *Library* received several valuable additions during the year.

In March 1892 the authorities of the Botanic Gardens of Harvard University in the United States sent two representatives to make collections and to study at the Botanic Gardens of the Colony.

Education.

The following summary gives the results of the year as compared with the twelve months preceding:—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Percentage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Class of Schools.						Fees.	Grants in aid, including Building Grants.
						I.	II.	III.	E.	F.	Not examined.		
1891–92 - -	877	817	83,731	45,927	54·85	128	329	350	3	7	51	8,803	30,736
1890–91 - - -	836	822	80,199	44,410	55·4	115	339	357	6	5	9	8,363	29,379
Increase on 12 months, 1st April 1891 to 31st March 1892 - - -	41	*5	3,532	1,517	*·55	13	*10	*7	—	—	—	440	—
Calculated increase on 12 months, 1st April 1890 to 31st March 1891, being two-thirds of increase in 18 months	7	22	3,146	615	*·45	7	34	*20	—	—	—	279	—

* Decreases.

The Superintending Inspector of Schools, in comparing the results of the two years, points out that the increases in the number of scholars on books, of first class schools, and in average attendance, are greater in proportion than they were in the preceding year, while in the first two items they are greater, even in proportion to the population, than the average for the past 10 years.

The increase in average attendance of scholars was about 200 less than in the previous decade, the ratio of average attendance to the number on the books having again decreased, though to a less degree than in the year 1890–91. Mr. Capper considers that the fee system has been to some extent the cause of irregular attendance heretofore, for the reason that whenever Monday happened to be a wet day many schools have been compelled to close for the whole of the week, as parents would not pay a week's fees for three days' schooling (four being the ordinary number of school days in the week). When fees have been gradually abolished, under the Elementary Education Law, 31 of 1892, this motive for keeping children at home will be done away with.

Mr. Capper points out that as regards irregularity in attendance at school there is very little difference between any of the West Indian Colonies, that the increase in such irregularity during the year in Jamaica was only one-half per cent., and that in the Southern States of the American Union an apparently more regular attendance is considerably discounted by the fact that there are a far less number of school days in the year there, and by the fact that in proportion to population the number of attendances is also generally less. In making these comparisons, however, the Inspector of Schools points to the irregularity of attendance at our schools as one of the greatest evils we have to contend with.

The decrease in the number of schools inspected is attributed mainly to requests for postponement by managers, and to the difficulty, increasing with the number of schools, of adjusting the Inspectors' arrangements so as to provide for the inspection of postponed schools later on in the year. The appointment of an additional inspector of schools, who assumed his duties in July last, will, it is hoped, greatly remove this difficulty.

It is satisfactory to find that 13 schools of the second class were promoted during the year to the first class, and that the number of schools in these classes continues steadily to increase.

It is interesting to observe that by special efforts a considerable number of Coolie children were brought together at one of the schools in Westmoreland. Very few of the children of immigrants now attend the schools, and the example thus set is worthy of imitation, and would doubtless be successful in other instances.

The following table shows the results of the examinations of teachers and students in training colleges for the year 1891, as

compared with the three preceding years, and evidences steady improvement :—

Year.	Students Passed.	Third year Honours with Bonus.	Full Passes.	Partial Passes.	Failures.
			Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1888	134	7	62	15	23
1889	142	6	62	14	24
1890	149	3	66	13·4	20·6
1891	143	6	73·4	13·3	13·3

The work of the training colleges is stated by Mr. Hicks, the Senior Inspector, to be carefully and faithfully done. Special pains are taken to secure intelligent reading, a defective point in the elementary schools generally.

At the Female Training College, Shortwood, there was a very marked advance in the results of the December examination of students as compared with those of previous years; there were but four failures, two of second year and two of third year students, among 21 students sent up. Of 30 candidates at the preliminary examination only 13 passed, and of these but three came up to the required standard at the entrance examination, which is the one set for second year pupil teachers of elementary schools. Four candidates were admitted below the pass standard.

An industrial schools for girls, worked in connexion with this training college, was opened in April 1892.

Examinations of pupil teachers, and of pupils at elementary schools who voluntarily presented themselves for examination, were held in July and December, in which latter month these examinations will in future be held, so as to provide for the final examination being taken just before the new students are admitted to the training colleges. The numbers who presented themselves in 1891, as compared with 1890, show an increasing appreciation of the examination among the volunteers. Of a total of 358 pupil teachers examined 282 passed, a percentage of 78; and of 404 volunteers examined 136 passed, a percentage of 36.

Mr. Capper was appointed during the year to be Inspector of Industrial Schools under Law 13 of 1891, and the following institutions were placed under his charge:—(1) the Boys Industrial School at Hope. (2) The Girls Industrial School at Shortwood (not opened until April 1st, 1892). These institutions are maintained by the Government. Lastly (3) the Industrial School at Alpha Cottage, maintained by the Roman Catholic body.

Thirty boys, as many as could be accommodated, received instructions at the Hope School at the close of the year,

the boys, besides being taught in the school, practise gardening at the Hope Gardens, and carpentering, and some of the best boys have had plots of land allotted to them.

The industrial school at Alpha Cottage fully maintained its position during the year as one of the best managed institutions in the Island. A boys' school has recently been started, and the girls' school much enlarged. The elementary school is remarkably successful, especially when the mental condition of nearly all the children on admission is considered, whilst needle-work, &c. and the cultivation of flowers and vegetables, receives due attention. Mr. Capper considers that this institution should be visited by everyone who desires to see what may be done with the most unpromising material.

Immigration.

During the year ended on 31st December 1891, two Laws were passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony, with the object of promoting the steady supply of labour for estates, by (a), under Law 20 of 1891, instituting a system under which native labourers could enter into yearly contracts with employers, subject to the supervision of the Immigration Department, the labourers, on completing their term of contract satisfactorily to receive each a bonus of 2*l.*, and (b), under that Law and Law 14 of 1891, supplementing such employment of native labour by the introduction of East Indian immigrants, but on more favourable terms for employers than heretofore. These terms are in accordance with the recommendations of the Select Committee of the Council, mentioned in the report on the Blue Book for 1889–91, under "Immigration." It may be mentioned here that all employers of immigrants under the new system, with one exception, have chosen the method of paying 17*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* per immigrant, by instalments spreading over a period of 5 years, instead of the alternative one of a cash payment of 15*l.*

No native labourers avail themselves of the provisions of Law 20 of 1891. The terms on which East Indian immigrants could be obtained under the new system were advertised in July 1890, and applications for 1,842 immigrants were received, but this demand could be satisfied to the extent of only 1,000 immigrants, the Secretary of State's Despatch of the 24th June 1890 having limited the number to be introduced, in the first instance, to that number. In response to a second advertisement in April 1891, 1,112 were applied for, making 2,112 statute adults. Three vessels, the "Erne," "Moy" and "Belgravia," were chartered by the Crown Agents for the Colonies to bring the immigrants, and landed in April, June, and October respectively, 2,135 souls in all, equal to 1,907 adults. Of these 2,135 persons, 32 died during the year, while no births occurred among the immigrants introduced, leaving 2,099 alive on the 31st December 1891. On the same date, the number of East Indians who had served their indentures as immigrants, but had not completed a residence of

10 years in the Colony, was 2,191, while 10,263 had completed such residence, making in all 14,553 East Indians in the Colony on that date.

Of the 2,135 persons landed, 31 had to be sent to the hospital forthwith. Of the 1,055 landed from the "Belgravia," four died shortly after admission to hospital and five persons were rejected as labourers by the examining surgeons, who found them to be suffering from incipient phthisis. The other Coolies were allotted to estates in various parishes, and all the employers have expressed themselves as highly satisfied with them.

The three ships referred to brought to the Colony, in addition to the 2,135 immigrants, 49 repatriated immigrants; 18 of these were from Jamaica, and 15 from St. Lucia.

During the year only 106 Coolies claimed return passages to India, and as it was not found feasible to make arrangements with sister Colonies for the repatriation of so small a number during the year, their repatriation was postponed till 1892, when, by effect of time, a larger number would be able to claim return passages.

It was found that under the new scheme of immigration, the services of the Junior Assistant Inspector could be dispensed with, and that officer was accordingly retired on a pension. The Protector and the one Inspector remaining on the staff now divide the duty of inspection between them, making quarterly visits to the properties employing Coolies, instead of monthly visits as heretofore.

Dr. Comins, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, made a tour of inspection, during the latter part of the year, of the estates in the Island employing immigrants, as part of a mission to ascertain the working of the immigration system in the West Indies.

There were no murders committed during the year by immigrants under the protection of the Department, but three time-expired immigrants, with a Jamaican, were executed on the 15th September 1891, for the murder of four East Indians.

Emigration.

During the year 549 Jamaicans emigrated to, and 1,389 returned from, the places shown below:—

Emigrated to Carthagena - -	1
" Colon - - -	525
" Port Limon - -	24
	550
Returned from Colon - - -	1,365
" " Port Limon - -	24
	1,389

The corresponding numbers during the previous 18 months were 1,088 and 2,726, and during 1889, when work ceased on the Panama Canal, 11,671, and 3,184. The tendency to return rather than emigrate still continues therefore, but in a lessened degree.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows for the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1881-82	9,543	324,847
1882-83	11,925	325,705
1883-84	13,601	350,546
1884-85	15,511	360,190
1885-86	16,320	363,292
1886-87	17,047	363,481
1887-88	18,510	393,250
1888-89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891-92	22,824	428,348

showing an increase of 5,337*l.* in the amount of the deposits and of 1,077 in the number of depositors.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
Immigration return passage fund -	470	12	0
Constabulary reward fund - -	534	1	4
Sinking funds - - - -	2,536	8	2
Constabulary pension fund - -	2	0	2
Smith and Beckford's Charity - -	98	4	0

There were also 254 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, Administrator General and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 30,940*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* The remaining 22,565 accounts, representing 392,344*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, are all ordinary and legitimate savings bank deposits.

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Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 15,216 were for 5*l.* and under, and 1,142 were for over 100*l.*

The assets of the bank at 31st March last were distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Consols, $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.				20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock:—						
Canada, 3 per cent.				27,908	0	8
" $3\frac{1}{2}$ "						
Cape of Good Hope, 4 per cent.				47,766	6	8
Ceylon, 4 per cent.				14,400	0	0
New South Wales, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.				31,558	11	3
Victoria, 4 per cent.				12,015	0	0
Jamaica, 4 per cent.				9,900	0	0
				163,952	15	10
Debentures:—						
Canada, 4 per cent.	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales, 4 per cent.	60,997	10	0			
New South Wales, 4 per cent.						
South Australia, 4 per cent.	53,531	2	6			
South Australia, 4 per cent.						
Victoria, 4 per cent.	47,308	12	6			
" $4\frac{1}{2}$ "						
Jamaica, 5 per cent.	28,357	5	0			
" $4\frac{1}{2}$ "						
				244,185	2	6
				408,137	18	4
Cash on deposit in Colonial Bank				20,210	10	3
Total				£428,348	8	7

During the year 3,703 accounts were opened and 2,647 closed, resulting in an increase of 1,077 in the number of accounts open at the end of the year, as compared with the number in the year before.

The number of deposits amounted to 27,321, and withdrawals to 33,785, representing respectively 211,175*l.* and 225,730*l.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 14,529*l.*, while the revenue realised was 15,929*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,400*l.* on the year's transactions.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows:—

	£
1881–82 - - - -	1,321,962
1882–83 - - - -	1,625,411
1883–84 - - - -	1,568,639
1884–85 - - - -	1,487,833
1885–86 - - - -	1,325,603
1886–87 - - - -	1,322,336
1887–88 - - - -	1,695,605
1888–89 - - - -	1,597,600
1890–91 - - - -	2,188,937
1891–92 - - - -	1,759,890

showing a decrease in the year of 429,047*l.*, on comparison with the value of imports in the year 1890–91.

This decrease is of a general character, and although the falling off is large when compared with the previous year, which owing to various influences was much above the average, the result is satisfactory when a comparison is drawn with the results of the preceding years.

The value of goods entered for home consumption amounted to 1,762,999*l.*, a decrease of 390,181*l.*, and is classed thus:—

——	1891–92.	1890–91.
	£	£
Ad valorem goods - - -	716,379	1,001,691
Rated goods - - -	826,462	865,104
Free goods - - - -	220,158	286,385

The larger decreases occur in the following articles, namely:—ale, beer and porter, beef wet salted, bread and corn, butter, cattle neat, clothing, building materials, articles of household furniture, spirits, tobacco, corn; while only rice, fishstuffs, soaps, salt, gunpowder, and horses and mules show an increase.

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The operations of the McKinley Tariff are responsible for a falling off in some items; but, as has already been indicated, the comparison of the results of the year with a period in which abnormally large collections were received has the effect of making these returns appear unsatisfactory, while in reality they are in many instances a decided improvement on preceding years.

The imports were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions:—

——	1891-92.	1890-91.
United Kingdom - - -	49·0	56·0
United States - - -	37·2	34·0
Canada - - - -	10·4	7·0
Other countries - - -	3·4	3·0

Showing a decrease in the trade with the United Kingdom, and an increase with that of the United States and Canada. The importations from the latter country have been gradually increasing and this no doubt is to some extent due to the representation of that country at the Jamaica Exhibition.

The following table shows the value of imported articles which were freed from duty in the tariff under Law 11 of 1867, and is given in continuation of similar tables in previous Reports:—

——	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	10,380	14,199	12,604	9,268	10,704
Mills - - - -	2,203	1,563	2,516	862	257
Other machinery - - -	3,260	5,324	6,618	2,509	3,553
Pans for boiling sugar - -	809	2,025	1,067	—	201
Pipes for fluids - - -	2,600	3,512	4,358	2,365	8,205
Stills - - - -	1,777	1,489	312	72	1,102
Shooks of all sorts - -	12,424	13,724	13,520	11,588	7,149
Staves - - - -	10,645	6,148	10,590	9,052	3,375
Wood hoops - - -	1,932	1,923	1,047	1,107	855
Iron, galvanized - - -	3,595	9,469	8,649	4,758	3,132
„ other manufactures -	14	433	1,109	—	—
Miscellaneous - - -	5,015	7,118	5,242	4,854	4,339
	54,354	66,927	67,632	46,435	42,872

(*continued.*)

——	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	4,287	4,569	13,389	13,772	10,370
Mills - - - -	564	722	1,756	1,714	2,640
Other machinery - -	2,442	12,569	5,570	20,761	13,624
Pans for boiling sugar - -	435	203	415	254	795
Pipes for fluids - - -	3,472	3,028	2,531	8,395	3,748
Stills - - - -	998	345	277	443	868
Shooks of all sorts - -	13,649	17,974	9,973	4,296	7,863
Staves - - - -	3,822	4,952	983	150	3,606
Wood hoops - - -	978	1,841	797	159	385
Iron, galvanized - - -	3,036	3,147	5,582	8,238	9,868
„ other manufactures -	—	683	659	1,271	857
Miscellaneous - - -	2,608	4,443	4,961	9,037	9,313
	36,291	54,476	46,893	58,490	63,937

showing not much change as compared with last year.

The following table gives the value of the exports in each of the last 10 years :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1880-81 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881-82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,058
1882-83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883-84 - -	1,350,900	33,089	1,483,989
1884-85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885-86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886-87 - -	1,334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887-88 - -	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888-89 - -	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890-91 - -	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814
1891-92 - -	1,628,777	93,319	1,722,096

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This shows a decrease of 178,307*l.* in Island produce, and 2,411*l.* in British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce, on comparison with the previous year.

The falling off occurred chiefly in the banana and orange trade and is attributable to a lack of demand from America owing to a large yield of home fruit there. Other articles, such as cocoa, cocoanuts, pimento, lancewood spars, and logwood have also produced unsatisfactory returns, from lack of demand and unsuitable weather. There has, however, been a decidedly satisfactory result from sugar and rum during the year, the former having exceeded the exports of the previous year by 47,891 cwt. or 19,288*l.* in value, and the latter by 111,335 gallons or 56,640*l.* Coffee, ginger, lime juice, cigars, and beeswax, also exhibit an increase.

The value of the several articles of produce bear the following percentage proportion to the total export value :—

—	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1890–91.	1891–92.
Sugar - - -	19·8	17·3	16·3	13·1	15·6
Rum - - -	22·6	12·2	9·1	11·0	15·7
Coffee - - -	15·4	19·3	19·4	15·7	20·7
Dyewoods - ..	14·4	21·2	25·0	21·3	18·7
Fruit - - -	16·2	21·6	20·3	29·4	17·7
Pimento - -	3·4	2·7	3·2	4·5	3·1
Other produce - -	8·0	5·7	6·7	5·0	8·5

The export of the principal staples in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.	1885–86.
Sugar - - hhds.	38,392	30,783	29,427	24,986	16,460
Rum - plns.	22,742	20,085	20,364	20,805	14,763
Coffee - - lbs.	7,418,638	9,448,100	4,295,994	9,033,606	6,150,960
Pimento - - lbs.	8,514,517	9,551,630	12,372,863	6,794,078	6,919,087
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	33,409	33,108	46,724	57,533	65,082
Ginger - - lbs.	608,384	836,889	1,359,321	9,379,056	1,193,158
Arrowroot - lbs.	5,116	2,515	3,655	1,008	1,010
Fruit, value - £	124,269	132,962	253,021	181,650	231,522

(*continued.*)

—	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.
Sugar - - hhds.	23,043	24,524	16,163	20,994	29,210
Rum - - phns.	24,126	18,684	13,749	15,936	17,049
Coffee - - lbs.	6,337,742	11,084,080	9,485,960	8,476,160	9,739,712
Pimento - - lbs.	7,335,712	7,454,608	5,172,153	10,120,544	7,137,648
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	63,114	103,364	116,247	110,994	87,352
Ginger - - lbs.	1,111,926	1,144,864	1,002,653	1,219,197	1,823,531
Arrowroot - lbs.	1,693	3,092	836	370	1,200
Fruit, value - £	215,583	337,403	303,910	531,726	288,159

The exports from the Colony during the past ten years were distributed among the different countries in the following proportion :—

—	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.
United Kingdom	62·5	54·46	43·4	37·2	39·7	38·6	40·2	37·3	32·4	32·7
United States -	17·8	10·07	31·1	42·2	44·0	43·9	43·2	50·2	55·3	50·9
Dominion of Canada	12·9	16·66	13·4	5·4	3·5	1·3	1·6	2·3	2·1	3·5
Other Countries	6·8	6·81	12·1	15·2	12·8	16·2	15·0	10·2	10·2	12·9

The decrease in the amount of our trade to the United States of America is due to the decrease in the export of fruit already referred to, and may, it is hoped, be only temporary.

Agriculture.

The most noticeable agricultural features of the year 1891–92, were the serious check experienced in the hitherto steady development of the fruit trade, and the decided increased in the crops of sugar and output of rum.

The decrease in exportations of fruit is attributable chiefly to the abundant yield of home fruit in America, which circumstance both checked exportation and brought down prices. The cause of the decrease, being an exceptional one, affords no ground for apprehension.

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The most serious decrease in export of fruit occurred on oranges, the export of which was less than one-half of that in 1890-91, with a loss in value of 33,751*l.* There were also heavy decreases in the output of bananas, 1,344,384 bunches less that in 1890-91, with a loss in value of 181,623*l*; of pimento, 26,633 cwt. less, at a comparative loss in value of 30,342*l.* Of cocoanuts, 698,962 less were exported, and of cocoa, 932 cwt.

The falling of in the output of pimento was due to a want of suitable rains at the proper juncture, and it may be remarked also that there was an exceptionally heavy yield in the previous year. Cocoa also suffered from a want of proper seasons.

Sugar and rum showed a decided advance. Compared with the previous year, the export of sugar was 47,891 cwt. greater, with an enhanced value of 19,288*l.*; while 111,355 more gallons of rum were shipped, at a gain in price of 56,540*l.* This promising state of things still continues, and the stocks held in the several warehouses at and since the close of the year are reported by the Collector General to have been unprecedented.

The steady prices obtained for coffee in the previous year still continued in 1891-92; the increase in quantity exported being 11,246 cwt., and in value obtained 53,040*l.* The acreage was 1,100 over that of 1889-90, and 2,792 over the average of the five preceding years; during which period there has been a decided increase of the cultivation in every parish except St. James.

The exports of ginger during the year went up by 5,387 cwt., and the value by 16,188*l.*, results attributable to better prices and greater demand. The same causes led to an improvement in lime juice exported. An increase on cigars exported of 7,966 lbs. quantity and 3,983*l.* value appears to indicate the development of a taste for Jamaica-made cigars, most of which were, it seems, shipped to order.

The following table shows the relative value in 1891-92 and in 1890-91 of products exported:—

	1891-92.	1890-91.
Sugar	15·6	13·1
Rum	15·7	11·0
Coffee	20·7	15·7
Dyewoods	18·7	21·3
Fruit	17·7	29·4
Pimento	3·1	4·5
Minor products	8·5	5·0

Police.

The police force on the 31st of March 1892 consisted of one inspector-general, 14 inspectors, four sub-inspectors, 123 non-commissioned officers, and 573 men, being a total of 715 of all ranks, or 16 below the allowed strength for the year. The strength of the rural police was 927, giving an effective police establishment of 1,642 at the close of the year. 137 men were enlisted during the year, and 119 discharged or dismissed from the force, and 10 died. Pensions and gratuities, amounting to 793*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, were granted to 45 of the men discharged.

The regular police were distributed during the year as follows: —181 in Kingston, 452 in the 13 other parishes and 63 at the depôt at Spanish Town.

The services rendered by the police as compared with the four preceding years are as follows:—

——	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-91.	1891-92.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information - -	4,849	5,334	4,218	9,624	6,558
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,729	1,674	1,873	2,499	1,645
Number of search warrants executed -	82	75	102	153	116
Number of persons summoned - -	12,956	14,297	14,018	25,427	17,588
Number of persons subpœnaed - -	17,832	22,472	21,702	27,540	28,267
Number of seizures under revenue laws - -	393	465	225	665	325
Number of post-mortems ordered - -	338	319	388	627	460
Number of prisoners escorted - -	9,081	8,050	8,796	15,312	9,638

The criminal returns show 13 cases of murder, including three cases of child murder. Of this number six were convicted, one was reduced to manslaughter, five were discharged for want of evidence or prosecution, and one was acquitted. There were 14 cases of manslaughter, of which two were acquitted, four convicted, seven discharged, and the remaining case was undisposed of at the close of the year.

Of other offences against the person the returns show six cases of concealment of birth, the same number as in the two previous years.

There were 541 cases of cutting and wounding, or 93 more than in 1890-91; 317 of these were convicted. Of the five cases of shooting with intent, three were acquitted, one was discharged

for want of evidence and one remained undisposed of at the close of the year. Assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm and common assaults numbered 25 and 5,379 respectively, 18 of the former and 2,413 of the latter were convicted.

Of offences against property committed with violence, burglary, breaking into dwelling-houses and stealing, and breaking into shops, warehouses, counting-houses, and stealing, were the most serious, the figures for the year for these offences being 305, or 77 more than in the period which ended on 31st March 1891.

Ten persons were arrested for highway robbery during the year; of this number nine were discharged and one was convicted.

Greater attention was paid by occupiers of houses, &c. to the duty of securing their places at night, but there is still room for improvement; 44 places were found by the police left open at night, or 162 less than during the preceding period of 18 months.

Offences against property committed without violence show an increase as compared with last year; larceny in dwelling-houses, shops, and warehouses, larceny of ground provisions, simple and prædial larceny being the most prominent.

The crimes of arson, feloniously wounding stock, and wilful damage to property also show an increase.

The returns show 18 cases of forgery and offences against the currency, of which 16 were convicted.

Of the 44 persons arrested for practising obeah, 36 were convicted. This is a most serious offence, and a large number of undiscovered crimes are no doubt due to its practice.

The constabulary rendered the usual service in connexion with the Birds and Fish Protection Sugar Mills, Agricultural Produce Dealers, Spirit License, and Weights and Measures Laws, &c. 829 cases of cruelty to animals were brought up during the year, of which 644 were convicted. 172 owners and drivers of hackney carriages were summoned for infringing the regulations.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols of the Island on the 31st of March 1892 was 988. A comparison of the numbers in custody on the undernoted dates shows a gradual decrease until 30th September 1888, and a considerable increase thereafter:—

30th September	1886	803
"	1887	795
"	1888	749
"	1889	890
31st March	1891	893
"	1892	988

Comparing the results in other respects for the year 1891–92 with that of the previous 12 months we find :—

—	Year ended 31st March, 1892.	Year ended 31st March, 1891.
Commitments :—		
To prison - - - -	4,259	3,942
To lock-ups - - -	265	—
Total - - -	4,524	—
Re-convictions - - - -	1,572	1,536
Deaths :—		
General Penitentiary - - -	14	22
Other prisons - - -	30	34
Total - - - -	44	56
Executions - - - -	5	1
Daily average number of prisoners in custody - - - -	940	879
FINANCIAL.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure - - -	18,623 2 11¾	17,292 9 10
„ earnings - - -	5,058 15 4	3,930 2 9½
Leaving a net cost of - - -	13,564 7 7¾	13,362 7 0½
Or, per prisoner - - -	14 8 7	15 4 0½
Estimated value of labour yielding no return - - - -	4,510 3 2	5,458 16 8
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried - -	4,164 16 8	2,796 19 0½
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary) - - -	895 11 1	723 13 7

In regard to the commitments the Inspector-General points out that their increase is becoming very marked, and that the prison accommodation throughout the Island for 1,083 prisoners would probably be severely tested, should this increase continue. It may be remarked that 200 extra cells will be provided at the St. Catherine's District Prison, of which 100 have been erected, and that additional cells for females are being provided at the General Penitentiary.

Of the fourteen deaths in the General Penitentiary, three were of persons in an impaired state of health on admission, and two of infants (the offspring of female prisoners). The death-rate at the institution, based on a daily average number of 512 prisoners, was 27·34 per 1,000.

The male prisoners throughout the Colony were, as usual, employed in making bricks, tiles, &c. burning lime and quarrying stone, and the female in washing and repairing clothing for the prisons and other public institutions, as well as for private parties.

Religious services were conducted regularly at the General Penitentiary by the chaplains of the different denominations attached to the institution, as well as in the St. Catherine, Hanover, and Falmouth District Prisons, and the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol. No regular provision exists for the religious instruction of the prisoners in the short term prisons at Black River and Port Antonio, but they are visited occasionally by the local clergy.

School was regularly held in the General Penitentiary, and in the St. Catherine, Falmouth, and Hanover District Prisons.

Discipline was well maintained in all the prisons, and the prison staff have performed their duties efficiently, although, owing to the disagreeable nature of those duties, there has been considerable difficulty in procuring suitable men, and a great number of resignations and dismissals have occurred.

The mark system continues to work satisfactorily.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population on the 31st March 1892 was 649,524, and the mean population for the year under report is estimated at 645,829. It is on these latter figures that the marriage, birth, and death rates are calculated.

The natural increase by excess of births over deaths for the year was 10,033, or 15·6 per 1,000 persons living.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 3,405, being 5·2 per 1,000 of the population, showing a decrease of 155 marriages as compared with the previous year.

The percentage of illiterate persons among those married was 53·6, being a lower rate than in any previous year.

The births registered numbered 24,744, showing an increase on the preceding year of 237, and giving a rate of 38·3 per 1,000 of the population.

The percentage of illegitimate births was 60·6, a slight increase as compared with the year 1890–91.

The deaths registered were 14,711, or 22·7 per 1,000 of the population, a result slightly below the average for the past 10 years—11,388 or 77·4 per cent. of the deaths were recorded without medical certificate or cause of death being shown.

The total number of births in the Cayman Islands was 166, of deaths 57, and of marriages 21, the proportion to 1,000 of the population being of births 39·4, of deaths 13·6 and of marriages 5·3.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 74.

JAMAICA
(TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS).

(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 43.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
April 19, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1892, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1892.

1.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The Revenue collected in 1892 was 7,836*l.*, as compared with 7,354*l.* in 1891, and exceeded the estimate by 785*l.* The balance carried forward from the previous year was 2,536*l.*, giving a gross revenue of 10,372*l.* The increase was chiefly due to the larger export of salt.

The total expenditure amounted to 7,596*l.*, being less by 400*l.* than the sum expended in 1891. Of this amount, 6,926*l.* was ordinary expenditure, against 6 84*l.* in 1891, and 670*l.* was for special works, the sum so spent in 1891 having been 1,012*l.*

The revenue collected within the year was in excess of the total expenditure within the same period, and left a sum of 240*l.* to be added to the balance to carry forward to 1893. The sum so carried forward was 2,776*l.* and the Dependency has also to its credit the sum of 1,000*l.* invested, making a total credit balance of 3,776*l.*

Statements showing the details of revenue and expenditure for the last two years are attached :—

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS). 1892.

Revenue.

1891.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1890		—		3,177	5	9
Import duties	3,019	4	5			
Royalty on salt exported (1,569,460 bushels)	2,288	18	0			
Do. on cave earth	20	14	0			
Light dues	676	13	4			
Sales of Crown Land	7	5	0			
Rents and leases	195	4	9			
Auction dues	21	13	0			
Liquor licenses	75	0	0			
Wine do.	72	10	0			
Dog tax	15	3	7			
Postage	186	3	1			
Commission on money orders	33	4	4			
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	26	12	0			
Fees of office	80	1	0			
Wharfage and storage	32	9	4			
Grant in aid of mail service	250	0	0			
Interest on money funded	40	0	0			
Miscellaneous Revenue	313	8	9			
				7,354	4	7
To Balance brought down, 2,535*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*				10,531	10	4

1892.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1891		—		2,535	16	8
Import duties	3,038	19	11			
Royalty on salt exported (1,788,334 bushels)	2,608	0	10			
Light dues	764	15	8			
Sales of Crown Lands	12	18	5			
Rents and leases	197	2	7			
Auction dues	23	7	2			
Liquor licenses	75	0	0			
Wine do.	87	0	0			
Dog tax	15	3	9			
Postage	176	2	7			
Commission on money orders	45	11	4			
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	42	0	2			
Fees of office	70	1	4			
Wharfage and storage	19	1	4			
Grant in aid of mail service	250	0	0			
Interest on money funded	40	0	0			
Miscellaneous Revenue	371	1	1			
				7,836	6	2
To Balance brought down, 2,776*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*				10,372	2	10

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Expenditure.

1891.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commissioner's Department - - -	2,094	5	7			
Judicial do. - - -	546	5	3			
Medical do. - - -	384	6	8			
Jail do. - - -	347	2	1			
Police do. - - -	260	14	5			
Light House do. - - -	219	14	4			
Pensions - - - - - -	942	3	0			
Public works - - - - -	271	2	1			
Education - - - - -	524	13	2			
Registration of births and deaths - -	13	6	0			
Vaccination - - - - -	5	5	0			
Inquests - - - - - -	9	16	0			
Printing - - - - - -	100	0	0			
Stationery - - - - -	27	11	4			
Grant in aid of public library - - -	50	0	0			
Poor relief - - - - -	194	7	11			
Mail service - - - - -	500	0	0			
Maintenance of lunatics - - - -	69	18	6			
Post Office expenses - - - -	16	16	0			
Agriculture at the Caicos - - -	18	5	0			
Salary of Clerk of Market and Wharf Lightkeeper	18	0	0			
Grant in aid of maintenance of buoys, C. harbour	30	0	0			
For taking the Census - - - -	63	11	6			
Relief of distress at the Caicos - - -	60	19	8			
Unforeseen contingencies - - -	215	4	9			
				6,983	8	3
Expenditure from Surplus Revenue.						
North tank and catch, Grand Turk - -	229	17	2			
Wall at catch, North Tank do. - -	59	19	0			
Roof do. do. - -	148	12	7			
Pump house do. do. - -	10	0	0			
Pump do. do. - -	12	5	4			
Wharf extension do. - -	325	11	3			
Removals of shoals do. - -	5	0	9			
Repairs to roads do. - -	70	0	0			
Opening channel to South Creek, Salt Cay -	18	3	9			
Landing wharf - - - - -	75	12	7			
Expenses on account of T.I.'s Court at Jamaica Exhibition - - - - -	57	3	0			
				1,012	5	5
				7,995	13	8
Balance - - - - - - - - -				2,535	16	8
				10,531	10	4

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS). 1892.

1892.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commissioner's Department - - -	2,090	0	9			
Judicial do. - - -	569	4	0			
Medical do. - - -	200	0	0			
Jail do. - - -	331	0	1			
Police do. - - -	264	16	8			
Light House do. - - -	240	4	3			
Pensions - - - - - -	942	3	0			
Public works - - - - -	401	2	8			
Education - - - - -	562	17	5			
Registration of births and deaths - -	14	13	0			
Inquests - - - - - -	11	16	0			
Printing - - - - - -	100	0	0			
Stationery - - - - -	20	10	11			
Grant in aid of public library - - -	50	0	0			
Poor relief - - - - -	142	8	0			
Mail service - - - - -	478	6	8			
Maintenance of lunatics - - - -	55	3	0			
Post Office expenses - - - -	24	19	6			
Agriculture at the Caicos - - -	18	6	10			
Salary of Clerk of Market and Wharf Lightkeeper	18	0	0			
Grant in aid of maintenance of buoys, C. harbour	30	0	0			
Relief of distress at the Caicos - - -	116	19	8			
Drawbacks on imports - - - -	13	1	8			
Quarantine expenses - - - -	8	7	11			
Sanitary do - - - -	134	13	6			
Unforeseen contingencies - - -	87	6	8			
				6,926	2	2
Expenditure from Surplus Revenue.						
North tank and catch, Grand Turk - -	55	15	3			
Wall at catch, North Tank, do. - -	20	17	0			
Repairs to roads do. - -	140	0	0			
Extension of wharf do. - -	209	8	11			
Removal of shoals do. - -	18	19	8			
Landing wharf, Salt Cay - - -	73	7	1			
Catch for Public Tank do. - - -	49	19	10			
Tank, Cockburn Harbour - - -	101	7	7			
				669	15	4
				7,595	17	6
Balance - - - - - - - - -				2,776	5	4
				10,372	2	10

2.—*Public Works.*

The only new work of importance undertaken during the year was the construction of a tank and catch at Cockburn Harbour, in the Caicos Islands, estimated to cost 450*l.* Good progress was made on this work, which it is hoped may be completed within the current year and confer a substantial benefit on the community at that port.

The North Tank and catch at Grand Turk was finished, the total expenditure on it from commencement in 1890, inclusive of surrounding wall, being 833*l.*

The extension of the wharf at Grand Turk, commenced in the middle of 1891, was completed, the full sum laid out being 535*l.*, as was also a new wharf at Salt Cay at a total cost of 149*l.*

3.—*Legislation.*

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year :—

No. 1—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 3—The Superannuation Amendment Ordinance.
No. 4—The Wreck and Salvage Amendment Ordinance.
No. 5—The Retail Liquor and the Sale of Wine and Retail Beer and Cider Amendment Ordinance.
No. 6—To explain the Superannuation Amendment Ordinance.

4.—*Legislative Board.*

Mr. H. Higgins, the Commissioner and President of the Board, went on leave of absence in June, and his place as President was taken by the Acting Commissioner, Mr. E. H. Johnson, Judge of the Supreme Court, the vacancy on the official side thus created being filled up by the appointment of Mr. J. C. Crisson, Postmaster and Treasury Accountant.

5.—*Civil Establishment.*

Mr. H. Higgins left the Dependency on leave of absence on the 19th of June, and did not return during the year, his post as Commissioner being filled by Mr. E. H. Johnson, Judge of the Supreme Court and Auditor, the duties of the latter office being performed by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. A. W. Harriott.

Dr. A. W. Thompson, Government Medical Officer, was absent on leave from 20th October to 23rd December, his place being taken during that period by Dr. W. O. F. Bascome, of Bermuda.

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS). 1892.

Mr. E. C. Harriott, Commissioner's Clerk, and Mr. C. P. Stamers, Assistant Commissioner at Salt Cay, were each absent on vacation leave during the year, their respective posts being filled by Messrs. H. F. Harriott and G. D. Jones.

6.—*Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented in the Dependency:—

United States of America.
Sweden and Norway.
Denmark.
France.
Spain.
Dominican Republic.
Haytian Republic.

7.—*Pensions.*

There is no change to report under this head. The total sum paid in pensions was 942*l.*

8.—*Education.*

The following remarks and table are taken from the report of the Chairman of the Board of Education :—

Both the number of scholars on the books and the average attendance have increased, and are much larger than they have been for several years. The former shows an increase of over 20 per cent. on that shown by the last report, and the latter has increased over 25 per cent. All the schools have been in operation throughout the year, and there have been no changes among the teachers.

Summary of School Returns for 1892.

School.	Teacher.	Average Number on Books.	Average Attendance.	Number of Days in operation.	Cost of School. £ s. d.
Grand Turk	R. G. Wint	265	103	222	158 19 9
Salt Cay	N. W. Astwood	53	27	220	72 16 2
C. Harbour (Boys)	T. T. Godet	43	32	224	70 13 4
" (Girls)	Mary Tatem	64	30	226	55 13 3
Kew	G. C. Thomas	82	65	223	75 1 0
Blue Hills	S. Irons	125	61	217	73 17 0
Lorimers	J. J. Tucker	97	65	218	55 16 11
Total	—	729	383	—	562 17 5

9.—*Imports and Exports.*

The import duties are about the average, being within a few pounds of last year's figure.

The export of salt was large, being 1,788,334 bushels, or about 200,000 above the average.

The dry season was favourable for the salt industry. In addition to the 350,000 bushels remaining on hand at the commencement of the year a very large crop was reaped, and an ample stock, 640,000 bushels, was left on hand to meet the present year's demand. At the time of writing nearly half of this has been exhausted, and the raking of the new crop is about to commence.

Comparative tables, showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency, are attached.

COLLECTION of IMPORT DUTY for the Year 1892, in comparison with the preceding Year, 1891.

Imports.	1891.			1892.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alcohol	0	0	0	20	8	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	6	8	6	7	8	2
Bay water	5	19	0	12	18	0
Bread	21	18	9	18	18	9
Butter	65	0	9	59	18	8
Cheese	29	10	0	23	9	11
Cigars	16	4	3	3	13	9
Flour, wheat	483	15	1	518	3	2
Lard	73	10	5	83	0	6
Lumber and shingles	162	7	4	125	13	3
Meat, salted and cured	215	4	7	215	15	4
Oils	48	17	5	35	2	10
Paint in oil	17	2	2	12	3	0
Rice	65	8	0	74	5	9
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	625	14	6	622	8	2
Soap	28	7	5	43	4	6
Sugar	283	5	10	306	11	7
Tea	35	6	6	41	6	0
Tobacco	40	17	7	48	6	2
Wine	38	0	7	21	14	8
Ad valorem duties	756	5	9	744	9	9
	3,019	4	5	3,038	19	11

VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1890, 1891, and 1892.

1890.	1891.	1892.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
42,107 15 11	26,891 17 4	25,387 12 2

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1890, 1891, and 1892.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cave earth - - -	—	414 0 0	—
Salt - - - -	30,007 14 0	23,017 0 5	26,113 1 0
Sponge - - - -	181 6 7	1,250 0 1	939 12 6
Str'w, shells - - -	17 5 0	—	—
Sisal hemp - - -	49 10 10	10 15 3	25 0 5
Timber - - - -	—	5 15 0	—
Turtle shell - - -	30 0 0	37 0 0	77 10 0
Total - - -	30,285 16 5	24,734 10 9	27,155 3 11

VALUE OF IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each Country for the years 1890, 1891, and 1892.

Imports.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	10,145 16 8	4,868 4 3	4,168 13 5
British North America - -	954 5 6	1,851 5 9	1,070 10 6
British Colonies - - -	847 14 2	1,158 9 11	1,468 18 1
United States, America - -	24,083 7 3	17,049 3 9	16,635 6 6
Other foreign countries - -	6,076 12 4	1,964 13 8	2,044 3 8
Total - - -	42,107 15 11*	26,891 17 4	25,387 12 2

* Including wrecked goods.

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Exports.

—	1890.			1891.			1892.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	1,498	14	0		—			—	
British North America - -	7,144	6	0	6,091	19	4	6,283	15	4
British Colonies - - -	4,106	11	0	629	18	2	347	19	3
United States of America -	21,404	4	11	17,057	13	2	19,478	2	1
Other foreign countries - -	8,496	14	1	2,787	10	4	1,226	5	7
Total - -	42,650	10	0*	26,567	1	0	27,336	2	3

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1884 to 1890, and actual EXPORT for 1891 and 1892.

Ports.	1884 to 1890.	1891.	1892.
Grand Turk - -	608,108	533,706	366,366
Salt Cay - - -	500,483	355,994	517,522
Cockburn Harbour -	565,661	679,760	634,446
Total Bushels -	1,674,252	1,569,460	1,788,334

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1889 - 370,000 bushels.
" " " 1890 - 600,000 "
" " " 1891 - 350,000 "
" " " 1892 - 640,000 "

* Including wrecked goods.

10.—*Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below :—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1890 - - -	365	52,441	370	50,457	735	102,898
1891 - - -	307	40,590	313	40,421	620	81,011
1892 - - -	294	45,887	299	45,364	593	91,251

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1890 - - -	55	56,265	55	56,265	110	112,530
1891 - - -	60	61,190	60	61,190	120	122,380
1892 - - -	57	66,515	57	66,515	114	133,030

No visit was paid to the Dependency by Her Majesty's ships.

Agriculture.

The distress among the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands, mentioned in the previous year's Blue Book Report, was heightened in 1892 by the long spell of dry weather, and relief had again to be given.

The Government further undertook to purchase as much lime and wood from the people as they should bring, by which means material assistance was afforded to the working population at a comparatively trifling cost, the lime being stored for use on public works and the wood resold at a small profit. The two fibre companies at the Caicos also gave employment to a large number of hands during the distress.

The cultivation of the Pita (Sisal) plant continues to make progress, and the report of the Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour on the subject is encouraging. A large extent of fresh

ground has been planted out during the year, and several new buildings have been erected in connexion with the industry.

Both companies, it is expected, will be in a position to make small shipments of fibre during 1893.

A plantation of Sea Island cotton has also been started on one of the adjacent Cays.

12.—*Gaols and Prisoners.*

The total number of prisoners committed during 1892 was 29, of whom three were for safe keeping and 26 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was six.

13.—*Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1892 was 169, against 129 in 1891.

Of the offences reported in 1892 :—

49 were for offences against the person.
2 „ „ prædial larceny.
28 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
90 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1892 was 112, against 85 in 1891.

These convictions are classified as follows :—

33 for offences against the person.
1 „ prædial larceny.
18 „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
60 „ other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

5 for offences against the person.
4 „ „ „ property.
2 „ other offences.

The acquittals were as follows :—

In the inferior courts - - - - - -	43
In the Supreme Court - - - - - -	2

In 1892 each prisoner dealt with is treated as a separate case. In the previous years, where more than one prisoner was dealt with for the same offence, they were taken as constituting only one case. The apparent increase is thus accounted for.

14.—*Hospitals and Asylums.*

There is no hospital or asylum. Cases of lunacy are very rare, but when occurring, the patient is placed in the gaol and ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica.

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS). 1892.

15.—*Meteorological Observations.*

Table showing maximum, minimum, and mean temperature taken at 10 a.m. during each month of the year:—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	80	76	74
February	80	76	77
March	78	76	77
April	80	75	77
May	82	76	79
June	83	79	82
July	83	82	83
August	86	83	84
September	86	80	84
October	85	80	83
November	82	76	80
December	80	76	78

RAINFALL for the Year 1892 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	·76	·40	·82	1·50
February	1·84	·65	1·66	2·25
March	1·35	·90	1·80	1·52
April	·32	—	·03	·30
May	·71	1·20	·81	2·37
June	·23	·76	1·83	·84
July	1·20	·71	·57	1·05
August	·66	1·34	1·79	2·81
September	3·30	2·02	4·00	4·82
October	4·71	5·15	6·27	4·84
November	5·03	5·64	3·82	2·49
December	·14	·68	·11	·68
Total inches	20·25	19.45	23·51	25·47
Average for seven years, 1885 to 1891	26·06	23·74	23·17	45·88

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1.—*Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statements show its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	34	42	138 8 6	188 11 2	157 0 2	122 11 7	243 15 7	309 15 2
Salt Cay -	32	38	51 0 0	75 9 1	56 12 11	72 19 3	85 0 8	87 10 6
Cockburn Harbour -	17	18	59 6 7	70 3 0	24 0 0	19 3 5	193 4 9	244 4 4
Total -	83	98	248 15 1	334 3 3	237 13 1	214 14 3	522 1 0	641 10 0

Number of depositors in sums of—

—	Under 1*l.*		1*l.* to 10*l.*		10*l.* to 20*l.*	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Grand Turk -	12	17	16	17	—	4
Salt Cay - -	19	21	11	14	1	3
Cockburn Harbour	8	7	5	6	1	2
Total - -	39	45	32	37	2	9

—	20*l.* to 50*l.*		50*l.* to 100*l.*		Over 100*l.*	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Grand Turk -	5	2	1	2	—	—
Salt Cay - -	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cockburn Harbour	2	1	1	1	—	1
Total - -	8	3	2	3	—	1

17.—*Postal Statistics.*

The mail service was performed throughout the year by the contract s.s. "Alpha," of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line, plying

JAMAICA (TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS). 1892.

monthly between Halifax and Jamaica, calling at Bermuda and Grand Turk.

The steamers of the Clyde line, from New York monthly to Hayti and San Domingo, also make Grand Turk a port of call on both the outward and inward voyage, and carry a mail.

A direct parcel post with the United States and Canada is much desired by the community, and it is hoped that this want may be supplied during the current year.

General Remarks.

A visit was paid to the Dependency in June last by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Sir Henry Blake, accompanied by Lady Blake and suite, who remained a day at Grand Turk and subsequently visited the outlying settlements of Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour in the Caicos.

The visit was greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

The extension of the cable by the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company, from Bermuda to the West Indies viâ Grand Turk, has not yet been undertaken, but is still hoped for.

There are no other matters of importance that call for remark.

The general condition of the Islands appears to be satisfactory, and to give fair promise for the future, so far as my short residence of two weeks has enabled me to observe.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Acting Commissioner.

Grand Turk, March 18, 1893.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1892-3.

(For Report for 1891-92 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 65.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1894.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
65	Jamaica	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago	1891
67	Newfoundland	"
68	British New Guinea	1891–92
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	"
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891
73	British Honduras	"
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	"
76	Bahamas	"
77	Leeward Islands	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago	"
79	Malta	"
80	Gambia	"
81	Straits Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Coast	"
86	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	"
102	Newfoundland	1892

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 103.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1891-92 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 65.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
December 23, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year which ended on the 31st March last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1892-93.

Legislation.

During the Session of 1893 the Legislative Council passed 40 laws, of which the following are the most important:—

Law 2 of 1893—"A Law to amend a Law entitled a Law to provide a sound and uniform system for the giving of security by Officers of the Crown." Law 45 of 1872 provided that every person in the employment of the Government who was required to give pecuniary security might do so by personal bond, and the guarantee of any public company or association accustomed, as part of their regular business, to guarantee the fidelity of any person, which company or association was generally approved by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. That provision, however, became inoperative by reason of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury refusing to continue the practice of approving any company or association for the purpose, and it became necessary to enact this law, under which certain societies may be approved of by the Governor in Privy Council.

JAMAICA. 1892-3.

Law 3 of 1893—"A Law to empower inspectors of the poor to oppose the making of certain Orders charging Parochial Funds." The office of inspector of the poor in a parish was created by Law 6 of 1886. It is the duty of this officer, under the parochial board, and subject to the control of the board of supervision, to protect the paupers on the one hand, and the parochial board on the other. In the matter of sending waifs and strays to the industrial school, or lunatics found at large and in destitute circumstances to the asylum, the parochial board, though chargeable with the maintenance of the children or the lunatics, had no locus standi before the magistrate or any means of protecting the funds of which they are the legal custodians and administrators. This law entitles the inspector of the poor of any parish to have notice given to him that a case is coming on, the possible result of which may be to impose a serious charge on the pauper fund of the parish, and to accord to him a locus standi to appear in protection of that fund.

Law 4 of 1893—"The Attorneys Admission Law, 1869 Amendment Law 1893." Under this law no solicitor of less than seven years' standing is permitted to take articled clerks.

Law 5 of 1893—"The Sureties of the Peace Law, 1893,"—was introduced by a private member, and is taken from the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879 (42 & 43 Vict. c. 49).

Law 6 of 1893—"A law to authorize a Loan for the construction of certain Public Buildings."—This law provides for the erection of new prisons at Port Antonio and Montego Bay, for a new lunatic asylum, and for the enlargemeut of the Kingston Public Hospital at a cost of 100,000*l*.

Law 7 of 1893—"A Law to amend a Law entitled, a Law for regulating Hawking and Peddling." Law 41 of 1867 made the municipal (now the parochial) boards the licensing authority and the license extended solely within the limits of the parish in which it was issued. The present law empowers the collector of taxes, or the assistant collector, to issue licenses on production of a certificate, signed by the inspector of police, to the effect that the applicant is a proper person to be licensed. It also enables the hawker to carry on his business beyond the limits of the parish in which it is granted.

Law 10 of 1893—"The Telephone Law 1893"—which gives facilities for the establishment of telephonic communication in various districts of the Islands, under licenses to be granted by the Governor in Privy Council, with proper restrictions to provide for the safety of the public. Provision is also made for the supply of telephonic facilities by the Postmaster for Jamaica on arrangements for payment.

Law 11 of 1893 provides for the payment of taxes in half-yearly moieties, thus affording great convenience and relief to the poorer classes of taxpayers.

Law 12 of 1893 has for its object the more speedy acquisition of lands for the railway track.

Law 13 of 1893 exempts certain articles imported for Foreign Consulates from payment of Customs Duty, provided that the similar concession is allowed to British Consulates in that country.

Law 14 of 1893 repeals the Mountain and River Reserves Laws of 1889 and 1892, which it was found would entail very great expense if strictly carried out, from which not much may be derived.

Law 20 of 1893 empowers the Governor to raise a special force of coast defence volunteers for service in connection with submarine mines or the management of steamers, &c., which may be required for the purpose of the defence of the Island.

Law 23 of 1893—"The Hotels Law, 1893." This Law empowers the Governor to enter into a contract with Mr. A. W. Farquharson to carry into effect a scheme for the purpose of acquiring, on behalf of a company, the interest of the Government and of the American Hotels Company and the Kingston Hotels Company in the Constant Spring Hotel and the Myrtle Bank Hotel. The issue by the latter Company of further debentures to the extent of 1,900*l.* to meet certain expenses of construction is also authorized.

Law 26 of 1893—"The Public Tanks Law, 1893," authorizes the construction of tanks in certain parishes of the Island, if the funds raised under Law 17 of 1890 for the re-construction of parochial roads are in excess of the amounts required for that purpose.

Law 30 of 1893 provides for payment of any expenses attendant on the holding of the Jamaica Exhibition which may not be recovered from the amounts paid by the guarantors.

Law 31 of 1893 enables the Mayor and Council of Kingston to take over, in certain cases, streets and roads which have been laid out and left for, and dedicated to, the use of the public, and to make and complete such streets and roads by means of advances from the Treasury, to be repaid by instalments from their regular road revenues.

Law 32 of 1893—"The Bills of Exchange Law, 1893," is an adaptation of the Bills of Exchange Act (45 & 46 Vict. c. 61).

Law 34 of 1893—"The School Tax Law, 1893" substitutes a rating which was considered more equitable than that imposed by the Law of 1892, especially in regard to the higher classes of houses.

Law 36 of 1893 provides for the establishment of certain public holidays in the Island. The operation of the law is limited to two years.

Law 37 of 1893—"The Cayman Islands Government Law, 1893." This law is the outcome of a visit paid by me to the

Cayman Island in 1892, and of a report made on the laws of those Islands by Mr. Brandford Griffith, Resident Magistrate, who accompanied me.

Since the passing of the Imperial Act relating to the Cayman Islands (26 & 27 Vict. c. 31), great slackness had prevailed in the conduct of legislation, and the justices and vestry passed laws and acts which were assented to by successive Governors, but which were in excess of the powers conferred by the Act. A most important law, 3 of 1889, for regulating the courts of the Islands was recently held void as *ultra vires* by the Supreme Court of Jamaica.

As the laws, though made without legal authority, appeared to be judicious and suitable to the circumstances of the Islands, it was thought best to enumerate them and to declare them valid.

The Governor is also authorized by this law to appoint a person qualified as a Resident Magistrate in Jamaica to be Judge of the Grand Court, to visit the Islands twice a year.

Law 38 of 1893 consolidates the several laws relating to quarantine with some minor additions which experience has shown to be desirable for the more efficient carrying out of quarantine arrangements.

Law 39 of 1893—"The Franchise Regulation Law, 1893." This law is a return to the provisions of Law 9 of 1886, and of Her Majesty's Order in Council.

The right of a person now on the register to have his name retained is saved; but for the future no fresh voter shall be able to vote unless he can, with his own hand, subscribe his name to a notice of claim to be registered, and write the date thereon. It was Law 22 of 1886 that first departed from the rule laid down in the Order in Council that at least this small modicum of education should be required.

Law 40 of 1893—"The Elections Law, 1884, Amendment Law, 1893." This Law was passed in pursuance of a Resolution of the Legislative Council to the effect that the facilities afforded to illiterate voters did away with the secrecy of the ballot, and reduced secret voting to a mere sham. It was considered by the Council that a man, even if unable to read and write, who could not master the simple rules laid down in the Elections Law for recording his vote was hardly fit to be entrusted with the franchise.

Finance.

The year commenced with a surplus of 194,733*l.*, and the revenue realized was 559,163*l.*, making together a sum of 753,896*l.* The expenditure, including 32,905*l.* for Sinking Funds, and 50,200*l.* for Redemption of Debt, amounted to 662,865*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of 91,031*l.*

The parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary, and other local services, and are administered

by the several parochial boards, produced 123,610*l.*, a decrease of 514*l.* on the receipts in 1891–92, while the revenue specially appropriated for the reconstruction and maintenance of main roads under Law 17 of 1890 gave 30,986*l.*, or 1,027*l.* less than in 1891–92.

The revenue for immigration only realized 675*l.* against 31,838*l.* in 1891–92, there not being now any export duties. This sum represents the interest received on the balance at credit of the immigration fund. There were not any receipts from the proceeds of notes, as there was no immigration during the year.

The usual comparative table, showing the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report, and those of the previous year, is given below :—

Revenue.	1892–93.	1891–92.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	298,718	319,810	—	21,092
Export duties - - -	—	654	—	654
Light dues - - -	2,357	2,201	156	—
Harbour master's fees - -	2,582	2,467	115	—
Rum duties - - -	120,003	123,418	—	3,415
Licenses - - - -	785	1,263	—	478
Stamps - - - -	20,814	19,317	1,497	—
Tax on stock - - -	134	4,753	—	4,619
Education Tax - - -	10,270	—	10,270	—
	—	—	12,038	30,258
Tax revenue -	455,663	473,883	—	18,220
Postal revenue - - -	19,095	18,278	817	—
Telegraph revenue - -	5,734	5,687	47	—
Court fees - - -	8,547	8,442	105	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	4,359	4,614	—	255
Interest on securities, sinking fund	10,433	9,955	478	—
Interest from savings bank after paying depositors - -	4,362	3,935	427	—
Interest other than above - -	6,293	7,361	—	1,068
Interest, Jamaica railway bonds -	4,557	23,545	—	18,988
Reimbursements for expenditure -	30,508	24,468	6,040	—
Miscellaneous - - -	9,612	10,442	—	830
	—	—	7,914	21,141
Non-tax revenue -	103,500	116,727	—	13,227
Total general revenue -	559,163	590,610	—	31,447

JAMAICA. 1892-3.

Revenue.	1892-93.	1891-92.	Increase.	Decrease.
Specially appropriated Revenue—Main Roads Law, 17 of 1890.	£	£	£	£
Land tax - - -	340	296	44	—
Draft H. Stock tax - -	936	978	—	42
Holdings tax - - -	14,076	14,045	31	—
Spirit licenses - - -	15,634	16,694	—	1,060
	—	—	75	1,102
	30,986	32,013	—	1,027
Parochial Revenue.				
Parochial road revenues - -	48,520	44,845	3,675	—
Kingston street tax - -	4,346	7,437	—	3,091
Parochial municipal revenues -	11,650	11,068	582	—
Parochial general purposes -	1,977	1,875	102	—
Poor rates - - - -	40,756	38,748	2,008	—
Sanitary rates - - -	7,190	6,621	569	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,550	1,771	—	221
Gas rates - - - -	3,511	2,612	899	—
Miscellaneous - - -	4,110	9,177	—	5,067
	—	—	7,835	8,379
	123,610	124,154	—	544
Immigration Revenue.				
Export duties - - -	—	448	—	448
Proceeds, Planters' notes :—				
Law 7 of 1878 - -	6	701	—	695
Law 14 of 1891 - -	—	29,673	—	29,673
Miscellaneous - - -	36	52	—	16
Interest - - - -	633	964	—	331
	—	—	—	31,163
	675	31,838	—	31,163
Totals.				
General revenue - - -	559,163	590,610	—	31,447
Specially appropriated revenue -	30,986	32,013	—	1,027
Parochial revenue - -	123,610	124,154	—	544
Immigration revenue - -	675	31,838	—	31,163
	—	—	—	64,181
Grand total - -	714,434	778,615	—	64,181

The yield of the general revenue shows a net decrease of 31,447*l.* This decrease is almost entirely accounted for by the falling off in import duties, the effect of the operation of the McKinley Tariff Law; a smaller yield under rum duties; the abolition of the tax on stock, and the small amount of interest on the Jamaica Railway Second Mortgage Bonds received during the year. A sum of 10,270*l.* was realized from the new tax in lieu of education fees imposed by Law 31 of 1892 "The Elementary Education Law."

The receipts from revenues specially appropriated show a small decrease of 544*l.* Parochial Road Taxes shows an increase of 3,675*l.* due to the expiry of the law under which the quit rent was reduced for one year as a means of refunding the payments made for the Cadastral Survey Tax, which was repealed. Poor Relief shows an increase of 2,008*l.* On the other hand, the suspension of the Kingston Streets Improvement Tax caused a falling off of 3,091*l.*, and Miscellaneous shows a decrease of 5,067*l.* the receipts in the previous year having been exceptionally large. The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1891–92.

Expenditure.	1892–93.	1891–92.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt - - -	77,650	77,314	336	—
Pensions - - - -	13,393	13,227	166	—
Administrative departments -	53,246	86,355	—	33,109
Revenue departments - -	35,407	34,363	1,044	—
Postal service - - -	23,402	23,862	—	460
Telegraph service - - -	6,629	6,382	247	—
Judicial - - - -	41,210	39,764	1,446	—
Ecclesiastical - - -	4,402	5,562	—	1,160
Medical - - - -	57,162	55,068	2,094	—
Constabulary - - -	51,474	51,390	84	—
Prisons - - - -	20,164	19,619	545	—
Reformatories - - -	4,836	5,336	—	500
Education - - -	56,033	40,790	15,243	—
Harbours and pilotage - -	2,214	1,802	412	—
Industrial schools - - -	1,272	634	638	—
Military - - - -	9,530	8,595	935	—
Coasting service - - -	1,800	1,800	—	—
Steam communication with Halifax	708	350	358	—
Telegraph subsidy - - -	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration department - -	3,346	3,338	8	—
Island record office - -	1,503	1,663	—	160
Registrar of titles department -	627	513	114	—
Government printing office -	8,741	9,386	—	645
Jamaica institute - - -	1,774	1,832	—	58
Board of supervision - -	446	436	10	—
Public plantations and gardens -	5,479	5,057	422	—
Railway - - - -	—	673	—	673
Census, 1891 - - -	—	6,232	—	6,232
Miscellaneous - - -	11,596	15,245	—	8,649
Public works - - -	82,666	90,478	—	7,812
Lighthouses - - -	1,051	1,181	—	130
	—	—	24,102	54,588
Total general expenditure -	579,761	610,247	—	30,486
Expenditure from specially appropriated Revenues.				
Roads Law 17 of 1890 -	18,666	4,476	14,190	—
On Loan - - - -	3,576	—	3,576	—
-	22,242	4,476	17,766	—

Of the above amou
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and 82,500*l.* on accoun

Expenditure.	1892-93.	1891-92.	Increase.	Decrease.
Parochial Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	52,402	59,552	—	7,150
Kingston streets - - -	905	860	45	—
Parochial municipal objects -	10,553	11,729	—	11,176
Parochial general purposes -	5,089	3,963	1,126	—
Relief of poor - - -	45,204	43,908	1,296	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	8,960	6,791	2,169	—
Fire appropriation, Kingston -	1,405	1,863	—	458
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,901	2,854	47	—
	—	—	4,683	18,784
	127,419	131,520	—	4,101
Immigration Expenditure.				
Immigration department - -	5,103	709	—	—
Introduction of immigrants -		33,783		
Return passages - - -		1,148		
Pensions - - - -		—		
	—	—	—	30,537
Total immigration - -	5,103	35,640	—	30,537
General expenditure - -	579,761	610,247	—	30,486
Expenditure from specially appropriated revenues - -	22,242	4,476	17,766	—
Parochial expenditure - -	127,419	131,520	—	4,101
Immigration expenditure - -	5,103	35,640	—	30,537
	—	—	17,766	65,124
Grand total - -	734,525	781,883	—	47,358

The general expenditure of the Colony shows a decrease of 30,486*l.*, of which the following are the chief items, namely, Administrative departments 33,109*l.*, Ecclesiastical 1,160*l.* due to the death of state-paid clergymen, census 6,232*l.* which was fully paid for in the previous year; Public Works 7,812*l.*, and Miscellaneous 3,649*l.* The following are items of increase: Education 15,243, due to additional grants in aid; Medical 2,094*l.*, for increase of the Staff and payments of fees to District Medical Officers who were appointed Visiting Officers during the threatened approach of the cholera epidemic.

Parochial expenditure shows a small decrease of 4,101*l.* c' under Parochial Roads, the result of the passing of La 1890, and Parochial Municipal Objects 11 [illegible] the being for Sanitary services 2,169*l.*, Poor [illegible] Parochial General Purposes 1,126*l.*

Pensions.

During the year, pensions amounting to 976*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pension Law 34 of 1885, and the resolution of the Legislative Council of the 23rd October 1885, while the pension list was reduced to the extent of 649*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, by deaths, &c.

Debt.

Loans to the extent of 97,871*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* were raised during the year, including a sum of 1,698*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* of Savings Bank moneys borrowed for the construction of new telegraph lines under Law 1 of 1879, namely, 61,400*l.* under Law 7 of 1881, "The St. Thomas and Portland Bridges Loan Law"; the premiums ranging from 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent. to 3*s.* per cent.; 3,913*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* under Law 13 of 1885, the Inscribed Stock Law, to cover expenses of converting Debentures; 30,860*l.* under the Local Inscribed Stock Law for Bridges the rates paid being from 95 to 97½.

Debentures representing 50,200*l.* under Law 37 of 1887, "A "Law to grant temporary aid to the revenue," were paid off, and 5,700*l.* was redeemed from the sinking funds provided for the purpose under the following laws, namely, Law 12 of 1879, 200*l.*; Laws 8 and 17 of 1880, 900*l.*; Law 17 of 1884, 900*l.*; Law 14 of 1886, 800*l.*; and Law 19 of 1880, 2,900*l.*

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last 10 financial years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

		£	s.	d.
September 30,	1883	1,257,916	2	1
"	1884	1,243,899	18	9
"	1885	1,427,458	14	2
"	1886	1,478,790	3	8
"	1887	1,491,993	3	9
"	1888	1,502,684	9	8
"	1889	1,506,883	6	0
March 31,	1891	1,458,221	12	7
"	1892	1,520,088	4	3
"	1893	1,523,944	2	11

Of the above amount of debt on the 31st March last, 821,005*l.* was on account of the railway purchase, reconstruction, and extension, and 82,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by the general revenue raised on account of the several undertakings specified :—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

After adjournment on the 8th April the Council met again on the 2nd August 1892, when the Honourable Joseph Henry Levy was sworn in as member for the electoral district of St. Mary and St. Ann in succession to the late Honourable Michael Solomon, C.M.G.

The session of 1892, which opened on the 12th January, closed on the 4th August 1892, and the Council was prorogued on the 28th December of that year.

Under proclamation of date the 10th of February 1893, the Council was summoned to meet on the 28th of that month, on which occasion an Order in Council, issued by Her Majesty the Queen, was read, under the provisions of which the Governor ceased to preside over the meetings of the Council and the following members were added thereto, that is to say :—

(1.) A President, to be appointed from time to time, either by Her Majesty by warrant under Her sign manual and signet or by the Governor by an instrument under the broad seal of the Island of Jamaica under instructions from Her Majesty through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State.

(2.) The person for the time being lawfully exercising the functions of the Office of Collector General.

The Order in Council also provides that the Council elect one of its members as Vice-President.

The Honourable James Cecil Phillippo, M.D., was appointed by Her Majesty as President of the Council, and sworn in as such accordingly.

Robert Batten, Esq., Collector General, was sworn in as an ex-officio member of the Council.

The Honourable William Andrews was sworn in as member for the electoral district of St. Thomas and Portland in succession to the late Honourable W. B. Espeut.

The Honourable John Pringle, M.B., Acting Superintending Medical Officer, was sworn in on the 6th March 1893, as a nominated member of the Council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Honourable Dr. C. B. Mosse, C.B.

On the 14th of March 1893, the Honourable George Solomon was sworn in as a member for the Parish of Clarendon in the room of the Honourable Robert Craig, resigned.

The Session continued beyond the close of the year under review, and the Council finally adjourned *sine die* on the 26th April 1893, having sat on 27 days.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under all heads was 170,854*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, of which 38,207*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* was expended on main roads and bridges, 62,475*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* on parochial roads taken over as main roads, under Law 17 of 1890, 18,351*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for salaries, travelling allowances, printing, stationery, postage and office expenses, and 21,806*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* for maintenance, &c., of public buildings, and for new works, while the balance of 29,993*l.* 16s. 8*d.* was for lighthouses, irrigation works, waterworks, telegraph maintenance, and construction, &c.

The average cost per mile for maintenance of the 840 miles of main roads was 40*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, a decrease of 12*s.* 8*d.* per mile on the rate for the previous year. This rate includes not only the maintenance of the roads proper, but also the repair and rebuilding of bridges and culverts, regulating gully courses, and many other special and minor works of improvement on the roads. The average cost per mile for maintenance proper was 34*l.* 11*s.*

No flood damage of any extent occurred during the year, and the roads throughout the Island were generally in good order. Attention was paid to the important matter of drainage, and a considerable portion of the maintenance money was expended in cutting water-tables in rock where none had previously existed.

The total length of parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 as main roads up to the end of the year was 955 miles, and the total cost of reconstruction and maintenance amounted to 181,183*l.* 8*s.*

The expenditure for maintenance and repairs of public buildings amounted to 8,165*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and was for the usual maintenance and repairs of churches, court-houses, prisons, police stations, reformatories, industrial schools, &c.

A sum of 13,641*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* was spent on new works and alterations to public buildings during the year.

The telegraph lines throughout the Island, 651 miles in extent, were maintained in a fair state of efficiency at a cost of 1,657*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

The three lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, and Folly Point were maintained with regularity and efficiency throughout the year.

The work on the St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary bridges was completed during the year, the last and greatest of them, the Rio Grande Bridge, a structure of six spans of 76 feet clear water-way each, having been opened by me in May 1892. With the completion of this bridge the road from Kingston to Port Antonio is now in all weather uninterrupted by floods, the only possible source of interruption being landslips on the Annotto Bay Junction Road.

The important work of constructing the interior main road in St. Thomas was commenced, and a sum of 9,135*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* was expended on it during the year.

A considerable number of parochial works, such as the construction and reconstruction of roads and bridges, the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates, and the making of surveys, &c., were carried out by the Public Works Department.

Lands.

The acreage of Crown lands at the end of the year was 98,513. In 1890 the West India Improvement Company selected 64,000 acres under Article 35 of the Agreement embodied in Law 12 of 1889. Of this reserve 8,000 acres had been conveyed, and 8,692 acres were in course of conveyance, to the Company, besides 2,640 acres not of the original selection.

Much of the Crown land is good, but generally inaccessible owing to the want of roads.

206,425 acres of land are now forfeitable to the Crown for non-payment of quit-rent, but final judgment was given during the year with respect to only one property. Proceedings for the acquisition of such land are necessarily slow, and the delay prevents terms being arranged with would-be purchasers, of whom there are many.

The greater portion of the forfeitable land is in the heart of the Island, and badly served by roads, but thousands of acres are of good and accessible land.

One property was recovered from a squatter during the year. 19½ acres of land, besides the premises of the Old Short Term Prison at St. Anns Bay, were sold or conveyed during the year, and 1,234¾ acres leased.

The income derived from the sale and rental of Crown lands during the year was 1,339*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, while that for the past twenty years averaged 2,400*l.*, the income diminishing with the gradual sale of the lands.

A detailed survey was made at Appleton of lands adjoining the railway, and another at Negril Point, where a lighthouse will be erected, of four square miles of country.

On the recommendation of the Surveyor-General, and of a Commission of Inquiry, the laws establishing mountain and river reserves were repealed as impracticable.

Lands for Railway Track.

Out of 344 owners of land acquired for the railway extension to Montego Bay, terms were arranged in 1891-92 with 197, and in 1892-93 with 128, leaving 19 cases still under dispute, most of them with large landowners.

So far as the promoters are concerned, however, they received possession of all lands on this extension last February with a single exception.

The number of acres taken for this extension is 723, an average of 11 per mile; 475 of these have been paid for at an average cost per acre of 36*l.* 11*s.* or of 400*l.* per mile. It is anticipated, however, that when the larger and more valuable properties remaining to be acquired are settled for, this figure will be exceeded by 25 or 30 per cent., and that 60,000*l.* at least will have to be expended on the lands along both extensions of the railway.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The cost of management and maintenance of the works for the year was 1,177*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, whilst 161*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* was spent in extending subsidiary channels and on other new works, making a total expenditure of 1,339*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*

The revenue earned was 3,425*l.* 5*s.*, or 1,173*l.* greater than the average 2,250*l.*, of the past six years; 3,304*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.* was actually collected of the 3,425*l.* 5*s.* earned, against 2,963*l.* 12*s.* 9¾*d.* collected in the previous year. The decided increase in earnings is attributed to Law 39 of 1889, which imposes a small irrigation rate on all lands within the area controlled by the canals.

During the past two years a large land owner has grown bananas on two pens under irrigation with, it is understood, very satisfactory results, and he has therefore taken steps along with several others to extend the area under this cultivation.

The Director of Public Works reports that there are thousands of acres of suitable land within reach of the canals the extension of cultivation on which, under irrigation might, in a few years, double the revenue of the works without appreciably increasing the cost of maintenance.

Post Office and Telegraphs.

The collections under these heads show an increase of 865*l.* 15*s.* 1¼*d.* on the previous year's figures, as detailed in the following comparative table :—

Period.	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1890-91 -	16,833 10 11¼	344 10 8	207 17 6	6,407 17 3	253 3 6	24,046 19 10¼
1891-92 -	17,437 6 1¼	335 9 8	335 18 9	5,767 19 3	224 5 11	24,100 19 8¼
1892-93 -	18,260 5 8¼	307 6 6	401 13 3	5,813 11 0	183 18 4	24,968 14 9¼

The Postmaster for Jamaica regards the continued increase under postages as highly satisfactory, looking to the substantial reductions of 50 per cent. and 37 per cent. which were made in the Inland and Packet Letter Rates of Postage from the 1st January and 1st June 1890 respectively. The actual loss consequent on these reductions for the year under review amounts

to only 1,429*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*, or 8 per cent., as against 2,252*l.*, or 12¾ per cent., the ascertained loss for the previous year, and 5,000*l.* the estimated probable loss, when the change was about to be brought into operation, results which are considered as satisfactory evidence of the resiliency of the Postal Revenue, and justify the hope that in the near future there will not be any loss resulting from these reductions.

The slight decrease under "Commissions on Money Orders" is attributed to the existence of greater banking facilities for the remittance of funds; and the steady increase of "Commission on Postal Orders" to the growing appreciation by the public of the system, which is assuming large proportions.

The receipts on account of telegraphs, it will be seen, show an increase of 43*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* over the amount received for the previous year, the number of messages sent and received being 103,803, as against 102,925 in the previous year, or an increase of 878.

The expenditure of the Postal Department, which amounts to 20,398*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, is a decrease of 659*l.* 17*s.* 7¼*d.* on that of 1891-92, principally under the heads of salaries (due to changes in the staff consequent on the retirement of the late Postmaster) and inland mail conveyance. On the other hand, telegraph expenditure has increased by the sum of 252*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.*, the result of the establishment of new stations in the previous year, and of an increase in the wages of the assistant telegraph operators in accordance with the wishes of the Legislative Council.

Another telegraph station was opened during the year, and the lines generally have been efficiently maintained by the Public Works Department without anything like a serious or prolonged interruption.

The Ocean Mail Service has continued to be satisfactorily performed by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company under contract, while mails have also been exchanged with places abroad by means of the various steamship lines communicating with the Island, and similar testimony is borne as to the manner in which the conveyance of the inland mails has been carried out.

The total estimated number of letters and post cards, inland and foreign, which were circulated during the year, exceeds the circulation of the previous year by 115,016, an increase which may be regarded as continued evidence of the appreciation by the public of the facilities afforded them by the Department.

Railway.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March 1893, amounted to 70,891*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure to 52,600*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 18,290*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*

Coal and stores to the value of 2,355*l.* 5*s.* have been used out of the stock remaining on hand at the close of the year 1891-92, and the expenditure for the period under review has been credited with that sum.

The receipts were made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle - - -	39,126	13	1
Passengers - - - -	25,749	6	4
Prince's wharf - - -	5,593	16	0
Miscellaneous - - -	421	5	4
	£70,891	0	9

The number of train miles run amounted to 269,709, and the expenditure and revenue per mile to 3*s.* 10·81*d.* and 5*s.* 3·08*d.* respectively, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 4·27*d.* per mile.

The number of passengers carried was 290,415, 20,437 of whom were 1st class and the remainder 3rd class. 9,218 passengers travelled with season tickets.

Seven miles of the line on the Montego Bay section were completed during the year, although not actually opened to traffic. The mileage actually open to traffic is now 95.

Interest was paid out of Revenue on First Mortgage bonds in June 1892, to the extent of 5,434*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, and in December 1892, to the extent of 6,871*l.* 12*s.*, making a total payment of 12,306*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Agriculture.

The fruit trade, which was referred to in last year's report as being in a depressed state, has somewhat recovered its former healthy condition, and the increase there spoken of in the crops of sugar and output of rum has been fairly maintained during the year under review.

The export of cocoa shows an increase of 3,010 cwt. in quantity and 8,896*l.* in value, coffee an increase of 10,378 cwt. in quantity and 3,726*l.* in value, bananas 676,280 bunches and 76,843*l.* in value, oranges 3,806,526 in number and 11,526*l.* in value.

The following table shows the relative value in 1892–93, 1891–92 and 1890–91 of products of the Island exported:—

—	1892–93.	1891–92.	1890–91.
Sugar - - -	14·3	15·6	13·1
Rum - - -	11·3	15·7	11·
Coffee - - -	20·1	20·7	15·7
Dyewoods - -	21·1	18·7	21·3
Fruit - - -	23·1	17·7	29·4
Pimento - - -	3·5	3·1	4·5
Minor products - -	6·6	8·5	5·

The area of land in the island, under cane and coffee cultivation, has varied very little in recent years. There were during the year under review 32,466 acres in cane and 21,450 in coffee.

The cultivation of bananas has increased to 14,860 acres from 9,959 in the year 1890–91.

The total area under cultivation in the Island was 666,741 acres, of which 499,053 was in guinea grass, pimento, and common pasture against a total area of 1,958,678 acres of the whole Island on which the property tax was collected.

Botanical.

The useful work annually performed by this Department has continued during the year under review, and it will be seen from the following figures, showing the sale and distribution of plants at the different gardens, that the advantages offered by the Department to the general public are availed of to a considerable extent:—

Hope Gardens, plants sold - - -	20,356
Castleton - - - - -	3,868
Hill Garden - - - -	760
Total sold - - -	26,984
Distributed free or in exchange - -	6,693
Sent to Hope Gardens for distribution -	7,494
	37
Total distributed - - -	14,224

The issue of the usual monthly Bulletins, which are supplied free of cost to residents in the Island, and form a most useful means for the dissemination of information relating to plants, has been regularly carried out by the Department, the number distributed in the Island being 675, while the circulation abroad amounts to 178.

The work of maintaining the gardens generally has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

At the *Hope Gardens* it was not found possible to continue the work of extension during the year owing to want of funds, but the area under cultivation has been considerably improved. Trees have been planted in the different sections according to the geographical arrangement on which the plan of the garden has been laid down, and in the tropical African section a commencement has been made towards putting the whole place under Bahama grass, while the fern house, the rosery, the sugar cane plantation, and the economic section have all received careful attention at the hands of the superintendent.

Experiments are being carried out with potatoes, onions, and fodder plants, and the budding of oranges on a small scale has been partially successful.

The sisal hemp plantation is flourishing.

The *Hill Garden* (*Cinchona*).—Experiments in the cultivation of Peas have been carried on with generally satisfactory results, and the important question of suitable fodder plants for the higher elevations has been engaging the attention of the Department for some time, and it is to be hoped that the experiments now being carried out will have successful results.

The garden at *Castleton* has been maintained in its customary satisfactory condition, and, as usual, has been much frequented by visitors. Most of the plants in the rosery having become worn out by continuous cutting, a new bed has been prepared and planted. The stock of plants in the fern house and on the rockeries has also been considerably increased.

The *Kingston Public Garden* has continued to afford a means of pleasant recreation to the people of the city, who appreciate the weekly performances by the excellent band of the West India Regiment. Gates have been erected on the east and west sides of the garden, as was intended in its original design.

The plants from the exhibition grounds have done well, and more have been brought from the Hope Gardens, still further improving the appearance of the grounds.

At *King's House* several improvements have been effected during the year, of which the formation of a vinery may be mentioned as the principal feature.

A large number of cuttings of the best English vines were obtained, through the kind offices of the Director of Kew Gardens, from the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick, and from these 34,350 cuttings were produced and planted out for distribution later. Vines were also obtained by myself, and from Madeira by Dr. Grabham, who kindly presented them to the Department.

The plan proposed last year for instruction in the cultivation of the vine has been carried out, and demonstrations have been frequently given by the Superintendent.

The *Library* has been added to during the year, and work in the Herbarium has been continued.

Education.

The results of the year under review, as compared with the preceding period of 12 months, are shown in the following summary :—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Percentage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Class of Schools.						Fees.	Grants in aid, including Building Grants.
						I.	II.	III.	E.	F.	Not examined.		
												£	£ s. d.
1892–93 - - -	912	867	92,135	52,983	57·50	143	389	379	—	1	44	6,649	34,724 11 0
1891–92 - - -	872	817	83,731	45,927	54·85	128	329	350	3	7	53	8,803	30,736 0 0
Increase - - - -	40	50	8,404	7,056	2·65	15	60	29	*3	*6	*9	*2,154	5,345 11 0

* Decrease.

The superintending inspector of schools attributes the large increase in the number of scholars on books and in average attendance, as well as (to a less degree), in the number of schools on the list, to the abolition of fees under the Elementary Education Law (31 of 1892), which took effect from the 1st of July, although the attendance was not appreciably affected by the change for some time, and a further increase may, therefore, be expected in the future.

A satisfactory increase of nearly 3 per cent. is also shown in the "Percentage in average attendance of number on books," which Mr. Capper regards as justifying the hope expressed by him last year, that improvement in regularity of attendance would follow the abolition of fees.

The superintending inspector also considers the increase in the number of first and second class schools very satisfactory, considering the great mass of raw material thrown on the hands of teachers by the large influx of new scholars into the schools, and he is of opinion that it will be still more creditable to the teachers if anything like the same general level of efficiency is maintained next year.

Mr. F. E. Reed, B.A., London, was appointed to the staff of inspectors during the year, but so rapid has been the increase in the number of schools and the average number of children that the work of the inspectors has been in no way lessened by this addition to the staff.

The annual examination of teachers and students in training colleges took place in December, with result showing a steadily continued improvement, there being a slight increase in the number obtaining honours and a bonus, and a transfer of 3 per cent. from the partial passes to the full passes, while the proportion of failures remained the same.

Mr. Capper attributes the small number of teachers, who present themselves at these examinations to a want of confidence on the part of would-be candidates who dread the supposed discredit and reproach attaching to failure at the examination.

The high standard of work which has been reached by the training colleges of late years has been fully maintained during the period under review, with one exception, due to the inadequacy of the staff of the college, a defect which has since been rectified, and the inspector states that there is no reason to doubt that the college in question will soon recover its old position.

It was unfortunately found necessary, owing to an outbreak of fever, to close the Bethlehem Moravian Female Training College during a considerable period of the year, but under the circumstances the usual bonuses were allowed to the college, and concessions made with regard to the students' examinations.

At the Government Female Training College, Shortwood, the work again shows an improvement on the previous year; and altogether the training colleges are doing good work in turning

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out teachers for the elementary schools, the demand for which still considerably exceeds the supply.

The usual examination of pupil teachers and pupils at elementary schools who voluntary present themselves for examination was held in December with a total number of 672 candidates as against 520 in July 1891, the largest number ever previously examined.

Of the 261 teachers examined, 135 passed, or a percentage of about 50, which is not equal to the standard of last year, but, on the other hand, 148 volunteers succeeded in passing out of 411 examined, giving a percentage of over 36, an improvement on former results. Candidates for the training colleges are included under second year pupil teachers and volunteers, of whom, out of a total of 182 at the examination, 69 successfully passed, or a percentage of about 37.

In reviewing the work of the schools for the year, most of the inspectors coincide in the opinion that intelligent reading on the part of pupils is still a marked defect in their tuition, and it is to be hoped that the constant attention which is directed to this deficiency may result in some improvement in the future.

One result of the abolition of school fees by Law 31 of 1892 is shown in the inadequacy of the present accommodation for the increased number of pupils entering the schools, in some cases classes having to be taken outside the buildings, and the provision of enlarged accommodation will have to be considered in the immediate future, but in this direction the people will have to take action on their own behalf, as the already overburdened general revenue will be unable to bear any addition to the large amount now provided for building grants, and in view of the relief to their pockets by the abolition of fees, this should not prove any cause for complaint by parents who have benefited so considerably by the change.

The Board of Education established by the Elementary Education Law of 1892 was appointed in May, and held the first of its meetings in the following July, performing useful work during the year in a very necessary revision of the Code for Teachers, an amending law being passed to carry out several of its recommendations.

To the number of industrial schools placed under the charge of the Superintending Inspector by Law 13 of 1891, has been added during the year an orphanage for girls, which was opened at Belmont, Stony Hill, in October last, under the auspices of the Bishop of Jamaica, and although the institution has been too short a time in existence to show much in the way of results, these will no doubt correspond in the near future with the excellent arrangements made for the training of the children.

At the Hope Industrial School for Boys, between 20 and 30 inmates have been provided for during the year, receiving the usual instruction in carpentry and gardening, as well as instructions in the school, but the system of management has not been regarded as altogether satisfactory, and a proposal is receiving

consideration by which the school will be placed under the charge of the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, with a view to imparting a thorough agricultural training to all the pupils.

The schools at Alpha Cottage, under the management of the Roman Catholic Clergy, have continued to be conducted as admirably as heretofore, an excellent feature of the boys' school (a comparatively recent addition) being the drum and fife band, which is very popular with the boys.

The girls Industrial School at Shortwood was opened on the first day of the year under review, and has been in successful operation ever since, an interesting change in the employment of the girls being the successful experiments in hat and basket making.

Altogether the work of the industrial schools promises to become an important factor in the training of the juvenile population of the Island.

Immigration.

During the calendar year 1892, no immigrants were introduced, the number applied for—263—being too small to warrant the chartering of a vessel for their conveyance.

The ship "Jumna" was despatched for Calcutta on the 7th September 1892, with return coolies from Jamaica and St. Lucia, the number from Jamaica being 375, equal to 327 statute adults. They took with them Government bills to the amount of 1,748*l.* 5*s.*, besides gold and a considerable quantity of jewellery. Three time-expired coolies, with their families, numbering together 13 persons, also returned to India viâ England and at their own cost. They took 933*l.* in Government bills alone.

The number of passports issued to time-expired immigrants leaving the Island was 33.

The birth rate for the year was 1·62, and the death rate 2·49 per cent., among indentured coolies a high per-centage, that for the previous year being 1·50. The deaths were chiefly due to bowel and chest affections and fever, and are attributed by the protector, in a great measure, to chills contracted by the people uncovering their bodies after working hours and reverting to the native wrapper round the loins, and turban.

The number of coolie depositors in the Savings Bank during 1891–92 was 667, with a total at credit of 14,054*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, against 745 with 16,758*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* in the previous year.

The percentage of the East Indian population in prison was 0·14 per cent., while 0·28 per cent. were in the lunatic asylum.

The protector represents the indentured coolies now in the island to be, generally speaking, of a much superior class to many of the batches introduced in former years, good labourers and an acquisition to the Colony. He instances, however, two cases of women specially unfitted for immigration; one, a person of

comparatively refined appearance, and with delicate hands, stated herself to be the daughter of an Indian Prince, and refused to do any work. On inquiry it was found that her statement was false.

Emigration.

During the year under review 563 labourers left Jamaica for the Isthmus of Panama, 16 for Port Limon, and the remainder for Colon; and 953 returned from the Isthmus by way of those ports, only 21 being from Port Limon.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amounts of deposits in the bank have been as follows in the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1882–83	11,925	825,705
1883–84	13,601	850,546
1884–85	15,511	860,190
1885–86	16,820	363,292
1886–87	17,047	363,481
1887–88	18,510	393,250
1888–89	19,444	408,913
1890–91	21,747	423,011
1891–92	22,824	428,348
1892–93	23,902	417,978

showing a decrease of 10,370*l.* in the amount of deposits, but an increase of 78 in the number of depositors.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit amounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
Immigration return passage fund -	586	14	0
Constabulary reward fund - -	546	1	4
Sinking funds - - - -	1,108	5	6
Constabulary pension fund - -	2	1	4
Smith and Beckford's Charity - -	101	2	9

There were also 271 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, Administrator General and bankrupt estates, amounting to

a total deposit of 30,519*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The remaining 22,642 accounts, representing 383,653*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, are all ordinary and legitimate savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 16,075 were for 5*l.* and under, and 1,159 were for over 100*l.*

The assets of the bank on 31st March last were distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Consols, 2¾ per cent.				20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock:—						
Canada, 3 per cent.				27,908	0	8
" 3½ "						
Cape of Good Hope, 4 per cent.				47,766	6	8
Ceylon, 4 per cent.				14,400	0	0
New South Wales, 3½ per cent.				31,558	11	3
Victoria, 4 per cent.				12,015	0	0
Jamaica, 4 per cent.				9,900	0	0
				163,952	15	10
Debentures:—						
Canada, 4 per cent.	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales, 5 per cent. / New South Wales, 4 per cent.	60,997	10	0			
South Australia, 4 per cent. / South Australia, 6 per cent.	53,531	2	6			
Victoria, 4 per cent. / " 4½ "	47,308	12	6			
Jamaica, 5 per cent.	5,055	19	3			
				220,883	16	9
				384,836	12	7
Cash on deposit in Colonial Bank				33,141	8	3
Total				£417,978	0	10

During the year 3,416 accounts were opened and 2,345 closed, resulting in an increase of 1,062 in the number of accounts open

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at the end of the year, as compared with the number in the year before.

The number of deposits amounted to 26,037, and withdrawals to 29,481, representing respectively 197,613*l.* and 219,682*l.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 14,359*l.*, while the revenue realised was 16,065*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,706*l.* on the year's transactions

Trade.

The following table shows the value of the imports in each of the last 10 years :—

	£
1882-83	1,625,411
1883-84	1,568,639
1884-85	1,487,833
1885-86	1,325,603
1886-87	1,322,336
1887-88	1,695,605
1888-89	1,597,600
1890-91	2,188,937
1891-92	1,759,890
1892-93	1,941,481

There has thus been an increase during the year under review of 181,591*l.* compared with the year before, and the value is higher than in any year of the decade, with the exception of 1890-91, which was exceptional, owing to the impetus to trade given by the Jamaica Exhibition.

The value of goods entered for home consumption was 1,928,556*l.*, an increase over 1891-92 of 165,557*l.*

The principal items in which the returns show a marked increase are cattle 13,106*l.* as against 7,154*l.*, refined sugar 524,898 lbs. valued at 6,561*l.* as against 98,874 lbs. valued at 1,186*l.*; bread and biscuit 14,128*l.* as against 13,104*l.*; corn 29,766 as against 26,735*l.* The value of beef and pork imported as compared with 1891-92 has increased by 1,343*l.*; of condensed milk by 3,753*l.*; of oils for food by 6,490*l.*; of tea by 307*l.*; and of tobacco by 3,025*l.*

The increase in the value of tobacco is very remarkable, being 20,207*l.* as against 16,764*l.* last year. It occurs principally under the head of cigarettes, which show an increase in the number imported of 50 per cent.

Taking 400 cigarettes to the lb., the increase represents 7,000,000 cigarettes, and this notwithstanding the fact that there has been no diminution in the imports of either manufactured or leaf tobacco, but an increase in both.

There have been decreases in the value of butter, cheese, lard, provisions, rice, and salt.

In manufactured articles other than those included under the head of food and drink, increases are shown in the following:—Apparel and slops, 9,199*l.*; cottons of all kinds, 62,651*l.*; hats, 7,185*l.*; silks, 6,047*l.*; woollens, 7,801*l.*; and medicines and medicinal preparations, 5,382*l.* Among those which show a decrease are, haberdashery and millinery, 4,317*l.*, and pitch pine lumber, 2,820*l.*

The imports into the Colony during the year were drawn from the sources named in the following proportion:—

United Kingdom, 1,001,769*l.*, or 52 per cent. of the whole.
United States, 671,376*l.*, or 34 per cent.
British Colonies, 228,418*l.*, or 11·8 per cent.
Other countries, 26,994*l.*, or 1·4 per cent.

Last year's corresponding figures were:—

United Kingdom, 875,045*l.*, or 49·6 per cent.
United States, 653,279*l.*, or 37·2 per cent.
British Colonies, 217,781*l.*, or 12·3 per cent.
Other countries, 16,894*l.*, or 1 per cent.

The following return of goods relieved from duty under the tariff is given in continuation of similar information in former years:—

——	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	14,199	12,604	9,268	10,704	4,287
Mills - - - -	1,593	2,516	862	257	564
Other machinery - - -	5,324	6,618	2,509	3,553	2,442
Pans for boiling sugar - -	2,025	1,067	—	201	435
Pipes for fluids - - -	3,512	4,358	2,365	8,205	3,472
Stills - - - -	1,489	312	72	1,102	998
Shooks of all sorts - -	13,724	13,520	11,588	7,149	13,649
Staves - - - -	6,148	10,590	9,052	3,375	3,822
Wood hoops - - -	1,928	1,047	1,107	855	978
Iron, galvanised - - -	9,469	8,649	4,758	3,132	3,036
" other manufactures -	483	1,109	—	—	—
Miscellaneous - - -	7,118	5,242	4,854	4,339	2,608
	66,927	67,682	46,435	42,872	36,291

(*continued.*)

——	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Steam engines - - -	4,569	13,389	13,772	10,370	12,577 7 6
Mills - - - -	722	1,756	1,714	2,640	
Other machinery - -	12,569	5,570	20,761	13,624	6,265 15 7
Pans for boiling sugar - -	203	415	254	795	342 1 10
Pipes for fluids - - -	3,028	2,531	8,395	3,748	10,020 19 8
Stills - - - -	345	277	443	868	683 16 8
Shooks of all sorts - -	17,974	9,973	4,296	7,863	19,078 18 5
Staves - - - -	4,952	983	150	3,606	1,514 0 8
Wood hoops - - -	1,841	797	159	385	514 0 11
Iron, galvanized - - -	3,147	5,582	8,238	9,868	7,330 2 7
„ other manufactures -	683	659	1,271	857	131 6 8
Miscellaneous - - -	4,443	4,961	9,037	9,313	10,364 1 4
	54,476	46,893	58,490	63,937	68,822 11 10

The following table gives the value of the exports in each of the last 10 years :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1882-83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883-84 - -	1,350,900	33,089	1,483,989
1884-85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885-86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886-87 - -	1,334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887-88 - -	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888-89 - -	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890-91 - -	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814
1891-92 - -	1,628,777	93,319	1,722,096
1892-93 - -	1,690,637	69,170	1,759,807

This shows an increase on the total value for the year of 37,711*l.* Of Island produce the increase was 61,860*l.*, but the value of other exports fell off to the extent of 24,149*l.*

The increase in the value of Island produce exported is due to the recovery of the fruit trade, which during the previous 12 months had suffered from the large yield of fruit in America. Cocoa, coffee, honey, pimento, fustic, and logwood spars were also

exported this year in larger quantities, but there has been a smaller output of cocoanuts, ginger, rum, sugar, and cigars. With regard to exports other than Island produce, it may be explained that they are practically confined to such imports as are reshipped, and there is but little scope for this class of trade.

The following table shows for five years the percentage proportion which each of the several articles mentioned bears to the total export value :—

—	1887–88.	1888–89.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Sugar - - -	17·3	16·3	13·1	15·6	14·3
Rum - - -	12·2	9·1	11·0	15·7	11·3
Coffee - - -	19·3	19·4	15·7	20·7	20·1
Dyewoods - ..	21·2	25·0	21·3	18·7	21·1
Fruit - - -	21·6	20·3	29·4	17·7	23·1
Pimento - -	2·7	3·2	4·5	3·1	3·5
Other produce - -	5·7	6·7	5·0	8·5	6·6

The export of the principal staples in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sugar - - hhds.	30,783	29,427	24,986	16,460	23,043
Rum - - phns.	20,085	20,364	20,805	14,763	24,126
Coffee - - lbs.	9,448,100	4,295,994	9,033,606	6,150,960	6,337,742
Pimento - - lbs.	9,551,630	12,372,863	6,794,078	6,919,087	7,335,712
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	33,108	46,724	57,533	65,082	63,114
Ginger - - lbs.	836,889	1,359,321	9,379,056	1,193,158	1,111,926
Arrowroot - lbs.	2,515	3,655	1,008	1,010	1,693
Fruit, value - £	132,962	253,021	181,650	231,522	215,588

(continued.)

—	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Sugar - - hhds.	24,524	16,163	20,994	21,210	18,591
Rum - - phns.	18,684	13,749	15,936	17,049	16,982
Coffee - - lbs.	11,084,080	9,485,960	8,476,160	9,739,712	11,298,084
Pimento - - lbs.	7,454,608	5,172,153	10,120,544	7,137,648	7,711,645
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	103,364	116,247	110,994	87,352	99,083
Ginger - - lbs.	1,144,864	1,002,653	1,219,197	1,823,531	1,526,776
Arrowroot - lbs.	3,092	836	370	1,200	336
Fruit, value - £	337,403	303,910	531,726	288,159	375,860

JAMAICA. 1892-3.

The exports from the Colony during the past 10 years were distributed among the different countries in the following proportion:

——	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
United Kingdom	54·46	43·4	37·2	39·7	38·6	40·2	37·3	32·4	32·7	29·1
United States -	10·07	31·1	42·2	44·0	43·9	43·2	50·2	55·3	50·9	54·2
Dominion of Canada	16·66	13·4	5·4	3·5	1·3	1·6	2·3	2·1	3·5	2·6
Other Countries	6·81	12·1	15·2	12·8	16·2	15·0	10·2	10·2	12·9	14·1

From this it will be seen that exports to the United States have resumed the position temporarily lost last year, and the fact is due to the revival of the fruit trade already referred to. The large exports of logwood to Germany, France, and Russia, account for the improved position of the exports to "other countries."

Police.

The strength of the regular police force on the 31st of March 1893, was 735 officers and men, including one inspector-general, 13 inspectors, four sub-inspectors, 119 non-commissioned officers, and 598 men, being 27 below the allowed strength for the year.

The rural headmen and police at the same date numbered 923, thus giving a total effective police establishment of 1,658 of all ranks.

The enlistments during the year were 100, while 74 men were discharged or dismissed, and five died. Pensions were awarded during the year to 16 of the men discharged, and gratuities granted to 12—the amounts reaching in the case of the former to 303*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, and in the case of the latter to 227*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

Two new stations have been established—one at Clarke's Town, in Trelawny, the other at Darliston, in Westmoreland, and an increase of the Kingston division by 26 men was sanctioned.

The following table shows the services rendered by the police, as compared with the preceding four years:—

——	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information - -	5,354	4,218	9,624	6,558	6,923
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,674	1,873	2,499	1,645	1,802
Number of search warrants executed -	75	102	153	116	102
Number of persons summoned - -	14,297	14,018	25,427	17,588	18,896
Number of persons subpœnaed - -	22,472	21,702	27,540	28,267	28,766
Number of seizures under revenue laws - -	465	225	665	325	440
Number of post-mortems ordered - -	319	388	627	460	432
Number of prisoners escorted - -	8,050	8,796	15,812	9,638	10,570

The Criminal Returns show eight cases of murder as against 13 last year. Of the eight cases two were convicted, two discharged for want of evidence, and the remaining four remained undisposed of at the close of the year under review.

There were 16 cases of manslaughter, seven of which resulted in convictions, four being acquitted, and the rest either abandoned for want of evidence or undisposed of at the close of the year.

Cutting and wounding show the large total of 652 cases, of which 383 were convicted. The cases of concealment of birth have gone up from 6 in 1892 to 10 in 1893. Six convictions were obtained, three were discharged by the magistrates, one was acquitted, and one remained undisposed of.

Of offences against property committed with violence, breaking into dwelling-houses, and breaking into shops, furnish the greatest numbers, being 166 and 109 respectively. The total number of offences under this head is 306.

Offences against property without violence have risen from 4,352 in 1891–92 to 4,416 in 1892–93; this increase is attributable rather to the increased facilities afforded by the Resident Magistrates' Courts for bringing offenders to justice than to any actual increase of crime.

The offences which principally contribute to the total are, larceny of small stock, 264 cases; larceny in dwelling-houses, 278; simple larceny, 1,612; prædial larceny, 1,357.

Under the head of malicious injury to property there has been a regrettable increase of arson cases, which are 49 as against 34 last year. In 20 cases the prisoners arrested were discharged for want of evidence. Of the 28 cases that went for trial 16 were convicted.

The Police have rendered the usual services in connection with Municipal Laws and Regulations, Revenue and Sanitary Laws, and the general preservation of order.

Prisons.

The prisoners in all the prisons and gaols of the Island on the 31st of March 1893 numbered 964, a decrease of 24 compared with the numbers on the same date in the previous year. The number in custody in each of the last six years has been :—

On 30th September	1887	795
"	1888	749
"	1889	890
31st March	1891	893
"	1892	988
"	1893	964

JAMAICA. 1892-3.

The following is a return showing the results of the year under review in other respects compared with the previous year :—

—	Year ended 31st March, 1893.	Year ended 31st March, 1892.
Commitments :—		
To prison - - - -	4,566	4,259
To lock-ups - - -	361	265
Total - - - -	4,927	4,524
Re-convictions - - - -	1,553	1,572
Deaths :—		
General Penitentiary - - -	16	14
Other prisons - - -	21	30
Total - - - -	37	44
Executions - - - -	1	5
Daily average number of prisoners in custody - - - -	1,004	940
FINANCIAL.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure - - -	18,613 6 8½	18,623 2 11¾
„ earnings in cash - - -	4,890 2 10½	5,058 15 4
Net cost of maintaining prisons -	13,723 3 10	13,564 7 7
Cost per prisoner - - -	13 13 4¼	14 8 7
Estimated value of labour yielding no return - - - -	5,098 14 2	4,510 3 2
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried - - -	3,340 14 1¾	4,164 16 8
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary) - - -	1,375 8 7	895 11 1

The new works in progress during the year under convict labour supervised by master tradesmen, were 20 additional cells to be provided for female prisoners at the General Penitentiary, and 200 additional cells at the St. Catherine District Prison, the bricks and lime being supplied by the General Penitentiary. These works are still progressing.

Sixteen prisoners died in the General Penitentiary; of these two were prisoners who were in ill health when they were admitted, and one an infant, the offspring of a female prisoner. The death rate at this institution, based on a daily average population of 542 prisoners, was 29·52 per 1,000.

The male prisoners in each of the prisons pursued their usual occupations, which include brickmaking, lime burning, and quarrying, and the female prisoners of washing and repairing clothing for the prisons and other public institutions and private individuals.

Religious services have been conducted regularly at the General Penitentiary by the chaplains of the various denominations

attached to the institution, and in the St. Catherine, Hanover, and Falmouth District Prisons, and the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol. Provision is not made at the short term prisons at Port Antonio, and Black River for regular religious ministration, but prayers are read by the prison officers.

School was held regularly at the General Penitentiary, the St. Catherine, and the Falmouth, District Prisons.

The discipline at all the prisons has been well maintained.

The mark system in force at the General Penitentiary continues to work satisfactorily.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population on the 31st March 1893 was 660,282, and the mean population for the year under notice is estimated at 655,595. It is on this estimate that the marriage, birth, and death rates are calculated.

The increase by excess of births over deaths for the year was 10,758, or 16·8 per 1,000 persons living, against a rate of 15·6 for the preceding year.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 3,349, being 5·1 per 1,000 of the population, and a decrease of 56 marriages compared with the year 1891–92, when the rate was 5·2 per 1,000.

The percentage of illiterate persons married was 52·6, being a slight decrease when compared with previous years.

The births registered numbered 24,475, showing a decrease of 269, when compared with the figures of the preceding year, and a rate of 37·3 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 24,475 births registered 14,724 were illegitimate, the proportion per each 100 births being 60·1.

13,717 deaths were recorded during the year, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 20·9.

The total number of births in the Cayman Islands was 198, of deaths 51, and of marriages 39.

General.

The general prosperity of the Colony during the year under review has been fully maintained, as is shown by the Trade and Stamp returns; and important steps have been taken towards insuring its future progress; the large rivers of Portland, whose sudden floods after heavy rain made travelling in that parish so dangerous, have all been bridged. Several bridges have been constructed in the parishes of St. Mary and St. Thomas, and of the 89 bridges authorised to be built by Law 20 of 1892 one has been finished, 10 begun, and the plans completed and iron work ordered for two important bridges, one of 250 feet span, and one of 100 feet.

955 miles have been taken over from the parochial roads, and added to the main road system at the cost of 181,183*l.*, thus increasing the mileage of driving roads under the Public Works

Department to 1,782 miles. When we add to this number 2,322 miles of driving roads still maintained by the parochial boards and 1,963 miles of bridle roads, with the rapid extension of the railway from the port of Kingston on the south-east coast to Montego Bay, on the north-west, a weekly coastal steamer service from port to port round the island, and a complete system of mail coaches, it will be seen that for internal means of communication Jamaica compares favourably with any island of its size in the world.

I emphasize these matters because abundant means of communication and cheap and ready access to the ports are of the first importance to small capitalists who may be induced to try their fortune in the Island, or to wealthy investors whose attention may be turned to a Colony whose soil, climate, and social condition offer many inducements for secure investment of capital.

The post office and telegraph systems are being steadily extended, there being now 107 post offices and 69 telegraph stations. The postal order system established in 1890 has rapidly developed, orders to the amount of 20,393*l.* have been issued during the year under review. These postal orders are payable at all parochial treasuries, and at the offices of assistant collectors of taxes as well as by district post-masters. They are found to be most convenient.

The consolidation of the quarantine laws, and the importation of the most approved form of disinfecting chamber, which has been erected at the excellent lazaretto at Green Bay, places the Government in a favourable position to combat the possible introduction of disease from outside, so far as efficient resistance may be hoped for from quarantine regulations. The question of internal sanitation has not been forgotten, and several parochial boards have made praiseworthy efforts to improve the sanitation of their districts. The Medical Department have made timely arrangements to meet the possible introduction of cholera by laying in a large supply of necessary drugs and disinfectants and arranging for the immediate forwarding of any further supply that might become necessary.

On the general question of sanitation, the drainage of Kingston, and removal of the sewage to the sea, where it can no longer pollute any portion of the fine harbour, with the general reconstruction of the streets, are of great importance. For this work Mr. Chadwick, C.M.G., whose successful drainage works in various parts of the world are so well known in the Colonial Office, has been chosen. He has visited Kingston and completed his plans, and within a few years Kingston will, I hope, rejoice in a perfect system of drainage.

The Victoria Jubilee Hospital, built as a memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee, partly by subscription partly by grant from public funds, was opened in April, 1892. Besides the benefits of the institution as a maternity hospital, it is being used as a training hospital for midwives, of which the various parishes

stand in sore need. It is hoped that as the numbers of qualified midwives increase the serious infant mortality may be checked.

The passing of elementary and secondary education laws, and placing the management of elementary education under a board of 13 members, with the abolition of school fees, has given a great impetus to education. The details of the report show a large increase in the number of schools and scholars, and a corresponding increase of 15,843*l.* spent upon education. The board of education have framed a code under which exceptional advantages are promised to teachers whose pupils can pass an examination in elementary practical agriculture. This proviso may be productive of most excellent results.

Having recapitulated the steps taken by the Government during the year under review to pave the way for the moral and material progress of the people, it remains to be seen what the people have endeavoured to do for themselves, either individually or through their local representatives in the parochial boards; and no unprejudiced man can withhold a full meed of acknowledgment of the practical energy shown throughout the Island. Of the 13 chief towns of the parishes nine have already established water works, imposing upon themselves local rates for the purpose. In one the works are in progress, and of the remaining three, one has all but completed the necessary arrangements, and two are prevented by exceptional engineering difficulties. Excellent markets with every necessary accommodation have been, and are still being, erected in the various parishes.

Among the people the valuable lessons taught by the Jamaica Exhibition of 1891 have begun to bear fruit. The value of co-operation has been demonstrated, and local capitalists have invested large sums in two companies formed to push more vigorously the fruit trade of the Island. A new building society has been added to those existing before, and are all doing prosperous business. An agricultural society has been formed in one of the parishes, and a proposal is under consideration for the formation of a local agricultural loan bank. All this points to a beginning of activity and effort.

Nor have the people individually been backward. A request has been received for the services of a trained instructor to teach the cultivators of one of the central districts how to improve the preparation of their cocoa, and arrangements have been made by the Botanic Department to meet their wishes. Dairy farming has begun, and promises to become a large and paying industry that will materially increase the value of grazing pens. A large number of cheap and effective labour-saving, steel sugar-mills, of a kind exhibited at the exhibition, have been imported and purchased by small sugar-growers, replacing the old and wasteful wooden "John Crow" Mills, reducing to a vanishing point the accidents to incautious attendants hitherto common, and enabling the owners to grow remunerative corps for local consumption.

Several inquiries have been made by small owners for the sisal plants imported by my direction, as reported in my last Blue Book

Report. To these inquiries I have discouraged the undertaking of sisal cultivation until it was demonstrated that the soil and climate were suitable. Colonel Ward, C.M.G., a wealthy gentleman, ever ready to venture any experiment that may assist the progress of the Island, has made a large plantation on the plains of Vere, and I am informed that these plants, as well as those planted in the Botanic Gardens, have grown extremely well.

These plants are of the same kind as those planted, by my advice, in the Bahamas in 1885–86, the cultivation of which has since grown to such large proportions in that Colony. My observation shows me that we have in Jamaica a far larger area of suitable land than exists in the Bahamas, while the expense of getting the fibre to the port of export will be much less. I am of opinion that the cultivation will be largely extended in the near future, and will be a most valuable addition to the products of Jamaica. These facts justify the financial instinct of the London money-market, in which Jamaica 4 per cent. stock holds a position inferior only to that of Canada and the Cape.

I have received many letters asking for information as to the climate, soil and possibilities of Jamaica from intending settlers with moderate capital. These inquiries have been answered by the Secretary of the Jamaica Institute, who had a list of several owners of sugar and other estates who have stated their readiness to employ for a time intending settlers with capital, on conditions to be settled between the parties. This is for the purpose of enabling such people to learn something practically of the country before they proceed to invest their capital. I understand that the system is being tried in one or two cases.

With the exception of an epidemic of influenza of a mild type, the health of the community has been good. The climate is excellent for such Europeans as realize that in the tropics alcohol is not a cooling drink. The vital statistics speak for themselves, and in considering them it must always be remembered that in a black population the mortality of young children is always abnormally high.

The beauty of the island and its value as a health resort is now becoming widely known on both sides of the Atlantic; and as an instance of the law-abiding character of the people, the police reports show that in the parish of St. Catherine, containing a population of 65,000, and including the old capital, Spanish Town, with 5,000 inhabitants, there was not, during the Christmas week of 1892, a single person in custody for disorderly conduct or common assault. In this resumé of the general condition of the Island I hope I have demonstrated to those who may take an interest in the Colony the solid progress made in the immediate past and the great possibilities in store for the future.

King's House,
27th December, 1893.

HENRY A BLAKE,
Governor

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 111.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 74.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1894.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
75	Gibraltar	1892
76	Bahamas	"
77	Leeward Islands	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago	"
79	Malta	"
80	Gambia	"
81	Straits Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Coast	"
89	Basutoland	"
90	Ceylon	1892–93
91	Zululand	1892
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	"
101	British Guiana	1892–93
102	Newfoundland	"
103	Jamaica	1892
104	Victoria	1892–93
105	Bermuda	1892
106	Gambia	1893
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 111.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 74.)

Acting Governor BENGOUGH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
May 25, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1893, with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. BENGOUGH,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1893.

1.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The Revenue collected in 1893 was 7,434*l.*, as compared with 7,836*l.* in 1892, and exceeded the estimate by 372*l.* The balance carried forward from the previous year was 2,776*l.*, giving a gross revenue of 10,210*l.* The export of salt, though slightly above the average, was less than in 1892, with a corresponding decrease in the revenue total.

The total expenditure amounted to 7,817*l.*, being more by 221*l.* than the sum expended in 1892. Of this amount, 7,095*l.* was ordinary expenditure, against 6,926*l.* in 1892, and 722*l.* was for special works and services, the sum so spent in 1892 having been 670*l.*

The revenue collected within the year was less by 383*l.* than the total expenditure within the same period, and the balance to carry forward to 1894 was consequently reduced. The sum so carried forward was 2,393*l.* and the Dependency has to its credit a further sum of 1,000*l.* invested, making a total credit balance of 3,393*l.*

Statements showing the details of revenue and expenditure for the last two years are attached :—

Revenue.

1892.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance from 1891 - - - -	—	2,535 16 8
Import duties - - - - -	3,038 19 11	
Royalty on salt exported (1,788,334 bushels) -	2,608 0 10	
Light dues - - - - -	764 15 8	
Sales of Crown Lands - - - -	12 18 5	
Rents and leases - - - -	197 2 7	
Auction dues - - - - -	23 7 2	
Liquor licenses - - - - -	75 0 0	
Wine do. - - - - -	87 0 0	
Dog tax - - - - - -	15 3 9	
Postage - - - - - -	176 2 7	
Commission on money orders - - -	45 11 4	
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts - -	42 0 2	
Fees of office - - - - -	70 1 4	
Wharfage and storage - - - -	19 1 4	
Grant in aid of mail service - - -	250 0 0	
Interest on money funded - - -	40 0 0	
Miscellaneous Revenue - - - -	371 1 1	
		7,836 6 2
To Balance brought down, 2,776*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*		10,372 2 10

1893.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance from 1892 - - - -	—	2,776 5 4
Import duties - - - - -	2,886 4 5	
Royalty on salt exported (1,650,907 bushels) -	2,407 13 4	
Light dues - - - - -	721 10 4	
Sales of Crown Land - - - -	0 15 0	
Rents and leases - - - -	207 19 2	
Auction dues - - - - -	23 7 6	
Liquor licenses - - - - -	75 0 0	
Wine do. - - - - -	72 10 0	
Beer do. - - - - -	9 0 0	
Dog tax - - - - - -	15 3 9	
Postage - - - - - -	145 15 8	
Commission on money orders - - -	39 5 5	
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts - -	20 8 4	
Fees of office - - - - -	61 12 3	
Wharfage and storage - - - -	19 13 0	
Grant in aid of mail service - - -	250 0 0	
Interest on money funded - - -	40 0 0	
Miscellaneous Revenue - - - -	437 18 8	
		7,433 16 10
To Balance brought down, 2,393*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*		10,210 2 2

Expenditure.

1892.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commissioner's Department - - -	2,090	0	9			
Judicial do. - - -	569	4	0			
Medical do. - - -	200	0	0			
Jail do. - - -	331	0	1			
Police do. - - -	264	16	8			
Light House do. - - -	240	4	3			
Pensions - - - - - -	942	3	0			
Public works - - - - -	401	2	8			
Education - - - - -	562	17	5			
Registration of births and deaths - -	14	13	0			
Inquests - - - - - -	11	16	0			
Printing - - - - - -	100	0	0			
Stationery - - - - -	20	10	11			
Grant in aid of public library - - -	50	0	0			
Poor relief - - - - -	142	8	0			
Mail service - - - - -	478	6	8			
Maintenance of lunatics - - - -	55	3	0			
Post Office expenses - - - -	24	19	6			
Agriculture at the Caicos - - -	18	6	10			
Salary of Clerk of Market and Wharf Lightkeeper	18	0	0			
Grant in aid of maintenance of buoys, C. harbour	30	0	0			
Relief of distress at the Caicos - - -	116	19	8			
Drawbacks on imports - - - -	13	1	8			
Quarantine expenses - - - -	8	7	11			
Sanitary do. - - - -	134	13	6			
Unforeseen contingencies - - -	87	6	8			
				6,926	2	2
Expenditure from Surplus Revenue.						
North tank and catch, Grand Turk - -	55	15	3			
Wall at catch, North Tank, do. - -	20	17	0			
Repairs to roads do. - -	140	0	0			
Extension of wharf do. - -	209	8	11			
Removal of shoals do. - -	18	19	8			
Landing wharf, Salt Cay - - -	73	7	1			
Catch for Public Tank, do. - - -	49	19	10			
Tank, Cockburn Harbour - - -	101	7	7			
				669	15	4
				7,595	17	6
Balance - - - - - - - - -				2,776	5	4
				10,372	2	10

1893.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commissioner's Department - - -	2,187	8	2			
Judicial do. - - -	431	4	1			
Medical do. - - -	200	0	0			
Jail do. - - -	304	6	6			
Police do. - - -	254	5	0			
Light House do. - - -	223	12	6			
Pensions - - - - - -	910	1	4			
Public works - - - - -	761	14	6			
Education - - - - -	550	8	10			
Registration of births and deaths - -	14	6	0			
Vaccination - - - - -	8	17	0			
Inquests - - - - - -	3	12	0			
Printing - - - - - -	100	0	0			
Stationery - - - - -	25	10	7			
Grant in aid of public library - - -	50	0	0			
Poor relief—ordinary - - £ 142 s. 3 d. 3						
at the Caicos - 18 16 3						
	160	19	6			
Mail service - - - - -	500	0	0			
Maintenance of lunatics - - - -	54	15	0			
Post Office expenses - - - -	51	17	2			
Agriculture at the Caicos - - -	3	2	0			
Salary of Clerk of Market and Wharf Lightkeeper	18	0	0			
Grant in aid of maintenance of buoys, C. harbour	30	0	0			
Sanitary expenses - - - -	118	3	10			
Unforeseen contingencies - - -	132	8	1			
				7,094	12	1
Expenditure from Surplus Revenue.						
Removing shoals near wharf, Grand Turk -	42	9	0			
Range lights at do. do. - -	25	13	9			
Repairs to roads, Hawk's Nest do. - -	50	0	0			
"Taylor's Folly," Salt Cay - - -	6	0	0			
Tank, do. - - -	140	12	0			
Do. Cockburn Harbour - - -	261	7	1			
Contribution to St. John's Fire Relief Fund -	50	0	0			
Government yacht - - - -	145	16	11			
				721	18	9
				7,816	10	10
Balance - - - - - - - - -				2,393	11	4
				10,210	2	2

2.—*Public Works.*

Much useful work was accomplished in this Department, a larger sum than usual having been wisely voted by the Legislative Board to meet the cost of very necessary repair and general upkeep and improvement of Public buildings and other Government property. The more important works under this head were a substantial wall enclosing the catch of Matthew Tank (76*l.*), general repairs and painting of the Public offices (54*l.*), re-roofing, ceiling, and painting the Court House (158*l.*)

There was also considerable expenditure on special works, of which the chief items were a new tank at Salt Cay (141*l.*) and 146*l.* paid for the purchase and conveyance to Grand Turk of a small yacht obtained by my predecessor, Mr. Higgins, at New York, for use principally at the Caicos Islands. The new tank and catch at Cockburn Harbour, the construction of which was commenced in 1892, was also nearly completed.

A brief memorandum of the expenditure at the three ports of the Dependency is attached:—

—	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Public roads and abutments.	42 5 0	34 5 10	66 7 6
Tanks and wells - -	91 10 7	8 14 10	2 4 0
Public buildings - -	287 11 7	10 16 2	55 0 8
Miscellaneous (including materials).	138 17 7	1 19 8	22 1 1
	560 4 9	55 16 6	145 13 3

	£ s. d.
Grand Turk - - -	- 560 4 9
Salt Cay - - - -	- 55 16 6
Cockburn Harbour - - -	- 145 13 3
	£761 14 6

Special Works.

	£ s. d.
Removing Shoals, Grand Turk - -	42 9 0
Range Lights do. - -	25 13 9
Hawks Nest Road do. - -	50 0 0
"Taylor's Folly," Salt Cay - - -	6 0 0
Tank do. - - -	140 12 0
Do. Cockburn Harbour - - -	261 7 1
Contribution to St. John's Fire Relief Fund	50 0 0
Government Yacht - - -	145 16 11
	£721 18 9

3.—*Legislation.*

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year :—

No. 1—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 3—The Parcels Post Collection of Duties Ordinance.
No. 4—The Dog License Ordinance.

A general revision, amendment, and simplification of the laws of the Dependency is much needed, and is now being gradually proceeded with.

4.—*Legislative Board.*

Mr. H. Higgins, the Commissioner and President of the Board, went on leave of absence in 1892, and remaining absent, the post of President continued to be filled by the Acting Commissioner, Mr. E. H. Johnson, until the arrival in the Dependency on the 2nd March of Mr. E. J. Cameron, who was appointed to take Mr. Higgins's place.

Mr. Johnson, who was, as Judge of the Supreme Court, an *ex officio* member of the Board, died on the 4th May, the vacancy thus created remaining unfilled until the arrival in December of the newly appointed Judge, Mr. W. E. Cleaver.

5.—*Civil Establishment.*

Mr. H. Higgins obtained an extension of his leave of absence to the 12th December, on the ground of ill-health, at the expiration of which time he resigned. Mr. E. J. Cameron, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, arrived in the Dependency on the 2nd March, having been appointed to act as Commissioner, and he was subsequently confirmed in that office.

Mr. Cameron also acted from May to November as Judge of the Supreme Court, which office became vacant by the death of Mr. E. H. Johnson.

Mr. W. E. Cleaver, a District Commissioner of the Gold Coast Colony, who was appointed to fill Mr. Johnson's place, arrived and took up his duties as Judge on the 1st December.

Mr. L. S. Leslie, Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour, died on the 6th October, at New York, where he had proceeded on leave of absence, his place being filled temporarily by Mr. W. A. Astwood, the boarding and Revenue officer of that settlement.

Mr. J. A. Gardiner, Corporal of Police and Foreman of Works, died on the 26th September, and was succeeded by Mr. F. E. Todd.

6.—*Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented:—

United States of America.
Sweden and Norway.

Denmark.
France.
Spain.
Dominican Republic.
Haytian Republic.

7.—*Pensions.*

Mr. T. Graham, late Crown Commissioner, who was in receipt of a pension of 48*l.*, died at Belize on the 10th May. There were no other changes. The total sum paid in pensions was 910*l.*

8.—*Education.*

The following remarks and table are taken from the Report of the Chairman of the Board of Education :—

The average number of scholars on the books at the usual six schools, excluding the one at Bottle Creek, which has only been recently opened, is lower than that of the previous year, though the figures are in excess of those for 1890 and 1891. The average attendance has also fallen considerably, being nearly 25 per cent. smaller than in 1892, the chief falling off being at Grand Turk and Blue Hills, where the figures are 75 and 32 respectively as against 103 and 61.

I cannot regard this as a satisfactory state of things, and in view of the comparatively large sum which the Dependency annually sets aside for educational purposes, I think better results should be obtained. The matter is one to which I hope to be able to devote some attention at a later date, when the state of public business permits of my doing so.

Summary of School Returns for the year ended 31*st December,* 1893.

School.	Teacher.	Average Number on Books.	Average Attendance.	Number of Days in operation.	Cost of Schools. £	s.	d.
Grand Turk	R. G. Wint	238	75	226	140	8	2
Salt Cay	N. W. Astwood	49	26	221	69	1	6
Cockburn Harbour	T. T. Godet	94	56	227	105	1	0
Kew	G. C. Thomas	68	45	226	66	0	0
Blue Hills	S. Irons	99	32	19*	66	0	0
Bottle Creek	J. E. Clark	109	71	57	18	18	0
Lorimers	J. J. Tucker	112	59	214	48	0	0
Total	—	769	364	—	†513	8	8

* Sic.
† Exclusive of 23*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.* expended for inspection and 13*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* for school books, &c.

The existing condition of things is far from satisfactory. A comparatively large sum of money is being spent, with, I fear, very little to show for it. In Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour especially, parents seem to be entirely indifferent as to their children going to school, and make no effort to enforce attendance or punctuality, but rather the reverse; the result is an average attendance of 75 and 56 respectively, whereas the figures should, at a low estimate, be about 200 and 100.

In view of the sparse attendance at Grand Turk, the Assistant Teacher there was removed by me and sent to Bottle Creek in the Caicos, where the people had petitioned for a school, and given proof of being in earnest by building a teachers' dwelling; he has, I am glad to say, succeeded in getting together a school of some 80 odd children, who were previously running wild, without any kind of discipline or training.

This is, however, the only encouraging feature that I can report, and the subject is one which will require to be taken up and dealt with as a whole, as soon as circumstances permit.

With this end in view, the Superintending Inspector of schools from Jamaica is, at the time of writing, making an inspection of the schools throughout the Dependency.

9.—*Imports and Exports.*

The import duties are slightly below the average, being 153*l.* less than the last year's figures. Two-thirds of this falling off are in the item of lumber, of which there was a comparatively large stock in hand from wrecks in the two previous years.

The export of salt was fair, being 1,651,000 bushels, of which more than one quarter was ground fishery salt for British North America.

The season was a favourable one for the salt industry, especially at Cockburn Harbour, and a large crop was reaped; the stock on hand at the three ports, at the commencement of 1894, was unusually large—700,000 bushels

Unfortunately the price of salt throughout the year was down to a very low figure, and up to the time of writing there has been no improvement in this respect, while the demand has not been brisk.

It is hoped that the "Wilson Bill" in the United States, by which salt is placed on the free list, may become law, as it would benefit the trade by causing an increased demand, even if it did not directly influence prices.

Comparative tables, showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency, are attached.

COLLECTION of IMPORT DUTY for the Year 1893, in comparison with the preceding Years, 1891 and 1892.

Imports.	1891.			1892.			1893.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alcohol		—		20	8	0		—	
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	6	8	6	7	8	2	10	5	2
Bay water	5	19	0	12	18	0	4	18	0
Bread	21	18	9	18	18	9	21	5	0
Butter	65	0	9	59	18	8	60	19	0
Cheese	29	10	0	23	9	11	21	19	8
Cigars	16	4	3	3	13	9	2	19	3
Flour, wheat	483	15	1	518	3	2	528	0	1
Lard	73	10	5	83	0	6	78	19	7
Lumber and shingles	162	7	4	125	13	3	17	8	11
Meat, salted and cured	215	4	7	215	15	4	200	13	9
Oils	48	17	5	35	2	10	40	10	1
Paint in oil	17	2	2	12	3	0	11	3	3
Rice	65	8	0	74	5	9	73	8	9
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	625	14	6	622	8	2	568	9	4
Soap	28	7	5	43	4	6	54	16	6
Sugar	283	5	10	306	11	7	274	13	8
Tea	35	6	6	41	6	0	36	13	6
Tobacco	40	17	7	48	6	2	41	17	6
Wine	38	0	7	21	14	8	28	12	1
Ad valorem duties	756	5	9	744	9	9	808	11	4
	3,019	4	5	3,038	19	11	2,886	4	5

VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1891, 1892, and 1893.

1891.			1892.			1893.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
26,891	17	4	25,387	12	2	24,888	4	6

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1891, 1892, and 1893.

—	1891.			1892.			1893.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cave earth	414	0	0	—			—		
Salt	23,017	0	5	26,113	1	0	22,410	19	5
Sponge	1,250	0	1	939	12	6	618	2	8
Str'w, shells	—			—			—		
Sisal hemp	10	15	3	25	0	5	—		
Salt fish	—			—			19	8	0
Timber	5	15	0	—			—		
Turtle shell	37	0	0	77	10	0	175	14	6
Total	24,734	10	9	27,155	3	11	23,224	4	7

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each Country for the Years 1891, 1892, and 1893.

Imports.

—	1891.			1892.			1893.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	4,868	4	3	4,168	13	5	4,116	5	10
British North America - -	1,851	5	9	1,070	10	6	1,112	18	10
British Colonies - - -	1,158	9	11	1,468	18	1	1,507	10	0
United States of America -	17,049	3	9	16,635	6	6	15,645	13	0
Other foreign countries - -	1,964	13	8	2,044	3	8	2,505	16	10
Total - - -	26,891	17	4	25,387	12	2	24,888	4	6

Exports.

—	1891.			1892.			1893.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	—			—			—		
British North America - -	6,091	19	4	6,283	15	4	7,724	2	1
British Colonies - - -	629	18	2	347	19	3	105	2	5
United States of America -	17,057	13	2	19,478	2	1	14,513	12	8
Other foreign countries - -	2,787	10	4	1,226	5	7	1,022	17	5
Total - - -	26,567	1	0	27,336	2	3	23,365	14	7

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1885 to 1891, and actual EXPORT for 1892 and 1893.

Ports.	1885 to 1891.	1892.	1893.
Grand Turk - -	595,332	636,366	707,629
Salt Cay - - -	447,824	517,522	313,633
Cockburn Harbour -	572,823	634,446	629,645
Total Bushels -	1,615,979	1,788,334	1,650,907

Salt in the Colony on 31st December			1890	- 600,000	bushels.
,,	,,	,,	1891	- 350,000	,,
,,	,,	,,	1892	- 640,000	,,
,,	,,	,,	1893	- 700,000	,,

10.—*Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below:—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1891 - - -	307	40,590	313	40,421	620	81,011
1892 - - -	294	45,887	299	45,364	593	91,251
1893 - - -	341	43,291	350	43,979	691	87,270

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1891 - - -	60	61,190	60	61,190	120	122,380
1892 - - -	57	66,515	57	66,515	114	133,030
1893 - - -	63	68,103	63	68,103	126	136,206

H.M.S. "Partridge" passed by Grand Turk in the month of March, en route to Nassau, but was prevented from communicating with the shore by bad weather. The only other visits from men-of-war were from gun-boats belonging to the neighbouring Republics of Hayti and Santo Domingo.

11.—*Agriculture.*

The year was a dry one in the Caicos Islands, and there was the usual recurrence of distress among the inhabitants, which, however, was tided over with but a trifling expenditure on actual relief, assistance being chiefly given by the purchase of lime for public works.

publishing company inc

The two fibre companies at the Caicos continued to extend their operations, and the money laid out by them in the employment of labour is a material aid to the people in the hard times consequent on failure of crops by drought.

No shipment of fibre was made during 1893, but machinery was imported and set up, and since the commencement of the present year the work of extraction has been actually proceeding.

12.—*Gaols and Prisoners.*

The total number of prisoners committed during 1893 was 24, of whom five were for safe keeping and 19 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was four.

13.—*Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1893 was 121, against 169 in 1892.

Of the offences reported in 1893:—

39 were for offences against the person.
10 „ „ prædial larceny.
10 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
62 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1893 was 68 against 112 in 1892.

These convictions are classified as follows:—

23 for offences against the person.
2 for prædial larceny.
5 for offences against property other than prædial larceny.
38 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—

1 for offences against the person.
1 „ „ „ property.
1 „ other offences.

The acquittals were as follows:—

In the inferior courts - - - - - -	40
In the Supreme Court - - - - - -	8

14.—*Hospitals and Asylums.*

There is no hospital or asylum. Cases of lunacy are very rare, but when occurring, the patient is placed in gaol, and if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica.

15.—*Meteorological Observations.*

Table showing maximum, minimum, and mean temperature taken at 10 a.m. during each month of the year:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	80	74	79
February	79	75	77
March	80	75	74
April	80	76	78
May	83	78	81
June	85	81	82
July	85	82	83
August	85	82	83
September	86	82	83
October	85	81	83
November	85	80	82
December	81	76	78

RAINFALL for the Year 1893 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	·85	·88	1·47	2·59
February	1·65	1·40	·23	3·56
March	—	·17	·44	·67
April	·45	1·30	1·61	·64
May	·77	·60	·43	4·90
June	·71	·33	·02	1·20
July	8·63	5·13	1·30	1·83
August	1·79	3·37	·73	5·60
September	2·04	2·20	3·50	1·90
October	2·89	1·39	1·71	6·99
November	·20	·37	·31	2·16
December	2·20	1·40	2·28	2·85
Total inches	22·18	18·54	14·03	34·89
Average for seven years, 1886 to 1892	26·08	24·54	24·23	43·53

16.—*Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statements show its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	42	47	188 14 11	260 2 9	122 11 7	156 6 6	369 18 11	413 15 2
Salt Cay -	38	30	75 10 2	27 6 10	72 19 3	47 7 6	87 11 7	67 10 11
Cockburn Harbour -	18	20	70 3 0	36 8 10	19 3 5	20 5 3	244 4 4	260 7 11
Total -	98	97	334 8 1	323 18 5	214 14 3	223 19 3	641 14 10	741 14 0

Number of depositors in sums of—

—	Under 1*l.*		1*l.* to 10*l.*		10*l.* to 20*l.*	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Grand Turk -	17	22	17	13	4	7
Salt Cay - -	21	20	14	7	3	3
Cockburn Harbour	7	8	6	7	2	1
Total - -	45	50	37	27	9	11

—	20*l.* to 50*l.*		50*l.* to 100*l.*		Over 100*l.*	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Grand Turk -	2	2	2	2	—	1
Salt Cay - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cockburn Harbour	1	2	1	1	1	1
Total - -	3	4	3	3	1	2

17.—*Postal Statistics.*

The mail service was performed throughout the year by the contract s.s. "Alpha," of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line, plying monthly between Halifax and Jamaica, calling at Bermuda and Grand Turk.

The steamers of the Clyde line, from New York monthly to Hayti and San Domingo, also make Grand Turk a port of call on both the outward and inward voyage, and carry a mail, but owing to the uncertainty of their sailing dates, no regular communication with England by this route can be arranged for.

Direct parcel post communication with the United States and Canada was obtained and came into operation on 1st January of the current year.

18.—*General Remarks.*

There are no events of importance to chronicle for the period covered by this report.

So far as is known, the position of affairs as regards the extension of the telegraph cable from Bermuda to Jamaica, viâ Grand Turk, is the same as reported last year.

The general outlook in the Dependency is not perhaps as bright as could be wished, owing to the continued low price of salt, but better times in this respect are looked for.

The fibre industry has been, so far, in its infancy, from which it will now shortly emerge, and the result will be awaited with much interest. The ground taken up by the two companies in the Caicos Islands represents only a very small portion of the area available for such cultivation, and the land is apparently eminently suited to the growth of the plant. It is hoped that the results obtained from these first ventures may be of such a nature as to attract more capital and lead to a further development.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, May 18, 1894.

No. 134.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893-4.

(For Report for 1892-3 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 103.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 2, 1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–94
131	British New Guinea	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–4

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 134.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA. 1893–4.

[For Report for 1892–3 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 103.]

Acting-Governor BENGOUGH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
October 29, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year which ended on the 31st March last.

I have, &c.
H. BENGOUGH,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK, 1893–4.

Legislation.

During the Session of 1894, the Legislative Council passed 41 laws, of which the following are the most important:—

Law 1 of 1894—"A Law to amend the Rum Duty Laws, 1878—1890." This Law, which was passed through all its stages in one day (6th March) was given duration until the 1st of April, 1894, so as to enable the Legislature to fully consider the question involved before making the change permanent. Its objects were to alter the mode of computing the duty on Rum by levying it on the proof, instead of the liquid, gallon, and to increase the Revenue derived from the Duty. Law 12 of 1894 re-enacts Law 1 of 1894 without any limitation of time.

Law 2 of 1894—"The Customs Tariff Amendment Law, 1894." This was also a temporary measure and was passed on the first day of the Session of the Council to raise the Customs

JAMAICA. 1893-4.

Duty on Ale, Beer, Porter, Wine, Spirits and Tobacco. Law 13 of 1894 re-enacts this Law, with certain amendments, without limitation of time.

Law 5 of 1894—" The Bankruptcy Unclaimed Estates Law, 1894," repeals Law 11 of 1871, and makes it the duty of the Treasurer to report to the Governor when any moneys of an Insolvent or Bankrupt Estate have remained in the Treasury for 20 years or upwards, without claim having been made thereto. Under this Law any unclaimed moneys in the Treasury are to become part of the general assets of the Island after being duly advertised as directed.

Law 14 of 1894 —Confers on a purchaser of land the right of requiring a vendor to grant him a title under the provisions of the Registration of Titles Law of 1888, the corresponding right of the vendor to oblige a purchaser to accept a title under that Law having been provided for in the Registration of Titles Law, 1888.

Law 15 of 1894 amends the local Act 25 Vic. c. 10 on the subject, and enables a Magistrate to adequately deal with cases of cruelty to animals without empowering him to sentence to imprisonment, except in so far as the general Law authorizes imprisonment in default of payment of a penalty. A new feature of the Law is the provision that it shall apply to cases of cruelty to animals other than domestic animals.

Law 17 of 1894—" The United Kingdom Probates Law, 1894," provides for the recognition in Jamaica of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom.

Law 18 of 1894—as regards Civil Procedure, is an adaptation of the Resident Magistrate's Law of Jamaica, as a Code of Civil Procedure to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

As under Law 37 of 1893 the Judge of the Grand Court (one of the Resident Magistrates in Jamaica) only visits the Islands twice a year to hold the half-yearly sessions of the Grand Court, provision is made by this Law for the Custos carrying on the work of the Court during the intervals between the sessions.

As regards the Criminal Jurisdiction of the Grand Court, it is put on the same footing as that of the Jamaica Courts. It is a Court of unlimited jurisdiction.

Law 20 of 1894—"The Public Cemetery Management and Regulation Law, 1894," empowers the Governor in Privy Council, at the request of the parochial board of any parish, to make the provisions of such Law applicable to any place selected as a cemetery in such parish.

Law 31 of 1894—" The Land Surveyors Law " repeals a previously existing Law on the subject and re-enacts many of its

provisions. A noticeable new feature is a provision for previous examination, before indenture, in general subjects and in mathematics. The age for entering into indentures is raised to 18 and the period of servitude reduced from five to three years. The Stamp Duty is also lowered on an Indenture from 30*l.* to 1*l.* and on a Commission from 60*l.* to 30*l.* The old Law, after laying down elaborate rules as to the making of surveys in order to establish boundaries, was silent as to the legal effect of a survey made under such conditions—the present Law deals with this point and lays down the course to be pursued to settle a disputed survey.

Law 34 of 1894—"The Sale of Drugs and Poisons Law, 1894" repeals Law 10 of 1881 and 11 of 1885, which were defective, and re-enacts them with amendments.

Law 35 of 1894 enables the Governor to remit in whole or in part any sum of money imposed as a penalty on an offender, although such money may be payable to some party other than the Crown. It is a copy of the Imperial Act 22 Vict. Chap. 32.

Law 36 of 1894 restores to the illiterate voter the privilege to have the assistance of the Returning or Presiding Officer in recording his vote, a privilege which was conferred on him by Section 21 of Law 21 of 1884, but which was withdrawn by Section 1 of Law 40 of 1893.

Law 37 of 1894 repeals the Agricultural Produce Buyers Law of 1890, which, it was found, had tended to fetter trade but had failed in its object to put a stop to prædial larceny by a system of licensing buyers of produce.

Law 11 of 1894 abolishes the tax on huts which the peasantry build on their provision grounds, at a distance from their dwellings, as places of temporary shelter and occasional occupation.

Finance.

The year commenced with a surplus of 91,031*l.*, and the revenue realized was 597,129*l.*, making together a sum of 688,160*l.* The expenditure, including 33,521*l.* for Sinking Funds, and 2,400*l.* for Redemption of Debt, amounted to 628,332*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of 59,829*l.*

The parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary, and other local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced 128,719*l.*, an increase of 5,109*l.* on the receipts in 1892–93.

The revenue specially appropriated for the reconstruction and maintenance of main roads under Law 17 of 1890 amounted to 31,800*l.* or 814*l.* more than in 1892–93.

The revenue on account of immigration realized 1,371*l.*, an increase of 696*l.* on the previous year's receipts.

JAMAICA. 1893–4.

The usual comparative table, showing the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report, and those of the previous year, is given below :—

Revenue.	1893–94.	1892–93.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	315,941	298,718	17,223	—
Light dues - - -	2,259	2,357	—	98
Harbour master's fees - -	2,776	2,582	194	—
Rum duties - - -	127,479	120,003	7,476	—
Licenses - - - -	779	785	—	6
Stamps - - - -	22,394	20,814	1,580	—
Tax on stock - - -	11	134	—	123
Tax in lieu of School Fees- -	12,478	10,270	2,208	—
Tax revenue -	484,117	455,663	28,681	227
	—	—	28,454	—
Non-Tax Revenue.				
Postal revenue - - -	20,285	19,095	1,190	—
Telegraph revenue - -	6,087	5,734	353	—
Court fees - - -	8,665	8,547	118	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	5,451	4,359	1,092	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds.	11,581	10,433	1,148	—
Interest from savings bank -	3,348	4,362	—	1,014
Interest other than above - -	6,969	6,293	676	—
Interest, Jamaica railway bonds -	6,774	4,557	2,217	—
Reimbursements -	32,078	30,508	1,570	—
Miscellaneous - - -	11,775	9,612	2,163	—
	113,013	103,500	10,527	1,014
	597,130	559,163	9,513	—
	—	—	37,967	—

Revenue.	1893–94	1892–93.	Increase.	Decrease.
Specially appropriated Revenue.				
Main Road Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Land tax, Law 17 of 1890 -	363	340	23	—
Draft Horned Stock tax of 1890 -	915	936	—	21
Holdings tax - - -	14,388	14,076	312	—
Spirit licenses - - -	16,134	15,634	500	—
	31,800	30,986	835	21
	—	—	814	—
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	105,995	—	105,995	—

Expenditure.	1893–94.	1892–93.	Increase.	Decrease.
Parochial Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Parochial road tax - -	50,169	48,520	1,649	—
Kingston streets tax - -	3,054	4,346	—	1,292
Parochial municipal revenues -	12,290	11,650	640	—
Parochial general purposes -	2,948	1,977	971	—
Poor rates - - - -	42,189	40,756	1,433	—
Sanitary rates - - -	9,151	7,190	1,961	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,466	1,550	—	84
Gas rates - - - -	2,523	3,511	—	988
Miscellaneous - - -	4,929	4,110	819	—
	128,719	123,610	7,473	2,364
	—	—	5,109	—
Immigration Revenues.				
Law 7 of 1878. Amended Law 14 of 1891.	824	6	818	—
Miscellaneous - - -	158	36	122	—
Interest - - - -	389	633	—	244
	1,371	675	940	244
	—	—	696	—
Summary.				
General revenue - - -	597,130	559,163	37,967	—
Specially appropriated revenue -	31,800	30,986	814	—
Immigration revenue - -	1,371	675	696	—
Appropriated revenue - -	128,719	123,610	5,109	—
Reimbursements of Loans Expenditure.	105,995	—	105,995	—
	865,015	714,434	150,581	—

The yield of general revenue shows a net increase of 37,967*l.*, and this is due to larger returns, chiefly in import duties, rum duties, stamps, tax in lieu of education fees, under tax revenue; and postal revenue, fines and forfeitures, interest on securities held for sinking funds, interest on Jamaica railway bonds, reimbursements, and miscellaneous, under non-tax revenue. Import duties and rum duties show respectively an increase of 17,223*l.* and 7,476*l.*, which is ascribed to a general activity in commerce; tax in lieu of education fees, an increase of 2,208*l.*, due both to the alteration in the incidence of the tax made by Law 34 of 1893, and to a large number of houses having been brought under collection, while the increase of 2,217*l.* in interest on railway bonds is due to payments made during 1893–94 which properly belonged to the preceding year. The only item showing a decrease of any importance is savings bank interest, which is merely apparent, the interest on certain investments not having been brought to account during the year.

JAMAICA. 1893–4.

Main road revenues, specially appropriated under Law 17 of 1890, exhibit a net increase of 814*l.*, due to large collections in respect of the holdings tax and spirit licenses.

Parochial revenues show a decrease in the collections of the Kingston street-tax of 1,292*l.*, due to the suspension of the special tax for streets improvement, under Law 34 of 1892. Fire-rates and gas-rates of Kingston also show small decreases, but every other source of revenue under this head shows a greater or lesser increase.

Immigration revenues are increased in consequence of payments made by proprietors of estates on account of two lots of East Indian immigrants received from transport vessels "Volga" and "Jumna."

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1892–93 :—

Expenditure.	1893–94.	1892–93.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt	79,661	77,650	2,011	—
Pensions	14,438	13,393	1,045	—
Administrative departments	49,181	45,899	3,288	—
Revenue departments	37,026	35,407	1,619	—
Postal service	23,520	23,402	118	—
Telegraph service	6,909	6,629	280	—
Judicial	43,829	41,210	2,619	—
Ecclesiastical	3,824	4,402	—	578
Medical	57,445	57,162	233	—
Constabulary	51,255	51,474	—	219
Prisons	20,751	20,164	587	—
Reformatories	4,772	4,836	—	64
Education	70,329	56,033	14,296	—
Industrial schools	1,237	1,272	—	35
Harbours and pilotage	1,755	2,214	—	459
Military	9,527	9,530	—	3
Coasting service	1,800	1,800	—	—
Steam to Halifax	292	708	—	416
Telegraph subsidy	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration department	4,191	3,346	845	—
Registration titles department	844	627	217	—
Island record office	1,367	1,503	—	136
Government printing department	7,550	8,741	—	1,191
Jamaica institute	1,784	1,774	10	—
Board of supervision	417	446	—	29
Public gardens	5,401	5,479	—	78
Miscellaneous	25,655	11,596	14,059	—
Public works	56,201	82,666	—	26,465
Railway extension track	7,191	7,347	—	156
Lighthouses	1,166	1,051	115	—
Lighthouse Construction	1,092	—	1,092	—
	592,410	579,761	42,478	29,829
	—	—	12,649	—

Expenditure.	1893–94.	1892–93.	Increase.	Decrease.
Main road expenditure, Law 17 of 1890.				
Maintenance - - -	33,274	18,666	14,608	—
Interest on Loan - - -	—	3,576	—	3,576
	33,274	22,242	14,608	3,576
	—	—	11,032	—
Appropriated expenditure.				
Parochial roads - - -	50,070	52,402	—	2,332
Kingston streets - - -	1,110	905	205	—
Parochial municipal objects -	11,501	10,553	948	—
Parochial general purposes -	5,816	5,089	727	—
Relief of poor - - -	42,975	45,204	—	2,229
Sanitary appropriation - -	9,054	8,960	94	—
Fire appropriation, Kingston -	1,468	1,405	63	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,981	2,901	80	—
	124,975	127,419	2,117	4,561
	—	—	—	2,444
Immigration expenditure - -	7,677	5,103	2,574	—
Expended from Loans.				
Charges on conversions - -	—	3,913	—	3,913
Portland bridges - - -	16,598	12,432	4,166	—
Telegraph construction - -	21	233	—	212
Main road reconstruction - -	16,926	46,937	—	30,011
Jamaica bridges, Law 20 of 1892 -	20,853	2,647	18,206	—
	54,398	66,162	22,372	34,136
	—	—	—	11,764
Summary.				
General expenditure - -	592,410	579,761	12,649	—
Special expenditure - -	33,274	22,242	11,032	—
Immigration expenditure - -	7,677	5,103	2,574	—
Appropriated expenditure - -	124,975	127,419	—	2,444
Loan expenditure - - -	54,398	66,162	—	11,764
	812,734	800,687	26,255	14,208
	—	—	12,047	—

The general expenditure of the Colony shows a net increase of 12,649*l.* The cause of this increase is to be found under Education, which alone is responsible for an excess of 14,296*l.*, due to the operation of Law 34 of 1893; and under Miscellaneous to the extent of 14,059*l.* caused by the payments on account of the expenses connected with the Jamaica and Chicago Exhibitions. Other items represent small increases and decreases. Public Works, however, shows a large decrease, when compared with the expenditure of the year before, of 26,465*l.* owing, in a degree, to

less actual work performed and to the purchase in the previous year of Desnoes' wharf in Kingston at a cost of 14,441*l.*

Main road expenditure under Law 17 of 1890 shows an increase of 14,608*l.* for maintenance and a saving of 3,576*l.* on account of interest on loan money the incidence of which has been transferred to charges of debt and paid from General Revenue.

Appropriated expenditure shows a decrease under Parochial Roads and Poor Relief of 2,322*l.* and 2,229*l.* respectively while all other heads show small increases from 80*l.* to 948*l.*, the result being a net decrease of 2,444*l.*

Immigration expenditure shows an increase of 2,574*l.*, due to the expenses connected with the transport of Immigrants by the "Volga" and "Jumna," but these expenses have been in great part refunded by the notes given by the planters under Law 14 of 1891.

Pensions.

During the year, pensions amounting to 1,869*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pension Law 34 of 1885, and the resolution of the Legislative Council of the 23rd October 1889, while the pension list was relieved by the deaths of pensioners to the extent of 389*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Debt.

During the year 180,000*l.*, raised in 1892–3 under the Inscribed Stock Law, for the reconstruction of parochial roads under Law 17 of 1890, was transferred to the General Debt of the Colony, and 50,000*l.* of the loan of 140,000*l.* authorised under the Kingston Streets Improvement Law 31 of 1890 was raised as a first instalment.

The Public Debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1884 - - - -	1,243,899	18	9
1885 - - - -	1,427,458	14	2
1886 - - - -	1,478,790	3	8
1887 - - - -	1,491,993	3	9
1888 - - - -	1,502,684	9	8
1889 - - - -	1,506,883	6	0
1891 - - - -	1,458,221	12	7
1892 - - - -	1,520,088	4	3
1893 - - - -	1,523,944	2	11
1894 - - - -	1,672,299	14	6

Of the above amount of debt on the 31st March last, 777,002*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* was on account of the railway purchase, reconstruction and extension, and 126,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by the general revenue raised on account of the several undertakings specified :—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

The meeting of the Legislative Council, convened by Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, took place on the 28th February and closed on the 26th of April, 1893.

A new Session commenced on the 7th March, 1894, and continued beyond the end of the financial year.

Upon the death of the Honourable James Cecil Phillippo, the President of the Legislative Council, it was considered desirable that the office which he had filled should be resumed by the Governor of the Colony, and an Order of Her Majesty in Council dated 29th January, 1894, amending the constitution in this respect was issued accordingly.

As the result of the last General Election, the following gentlemen were returned as Members of the Council, and were duly sworn in on the 7th March, 1894 :—

Mr. S. C. Burke for Kingston and St. Andrew.
Mr. J. T. Palache for Manchester.
Mr. J. M. Farquharson for St. Elizabeth.
Mr. J. H. Levy for St. Mary and St. Ann.
Rev. Henry Clarke for Westmoreland and Hanover.
Mr. W. Andrews for St. Thomas and Portland.
Mr. R. H. Jackson for St. Catherine.
Mr. J. E. Kerr for St. James and Trelawny, and
Mr. T. H. Sharpe for Clarendon.

The Council met 30 times during the period from 4th April, 1893, to the end of March, 1894.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on Public Works of all kinds, including the cost of administration and supervision, was 158,720*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

The 870 miles of main-roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the Island were maintained in good order and many improvements effected.

A new main-road in the interior of the Parish of St. Thomas was opened for traffic. This road affords an alternative route

from Kingston to Morant Bay and the East end of the Island, unobstructed by dangerous rivers, and has also opened up an important and rapidly improving district. It passes through an exceedingly picturesque country and forms an attractive drive for tourists.

Another important new road was constructed and opened during the year. It is the first carriage road opened between the fertile districts of Ulster Spring and the Black Grounds in the parish of Trelawny and the south side of the Island, and gives those districts access to the Railway at Balaclava.

The reconstruction of parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was continued during the year, and a total of 972 miles of road have now been taken over as main roads since the coming into operation of the Law, and during next year the work of reconstruction will probably be completed throughout the Island.

The construction of bridges on the country roads, authorized by Law 20 of 1892, was actively pursued, over 20,000*l.* having been spent on these works, 17 bridges having been opened for public traffic and several others being in progress during the year. These bridges are of the greatest use in the rainy seasons.

Waterworks for the town of Montego Bay were completed and handed over to the Parochial Authorities.

The 666 miles of telegraph lines in the Island were maintained in fair order. No new lines were erected during the year. The Lighthouses at Morant Point and Plumb Point on the South side, and Folly Point on the North side of the Island were maintained with regularity and efficiency throughout the year.

Lands.

During the year under review, 175 acres of land in St. Thomas and one residence in Kingston were sold, at a total price of 112*l.*, and 9 new leases were effected, the rental realized amounting to 158*l.* 10*s.* per annum. No lands were escheated to the Crown or recovered from squatters, although interiocutory judgment was obtained in respect of 50,000 acres forfeitable for non-payment of quit-rent.

11,332 acres of land were conveyed to the West India Improvement Company under Law 12 of 1889. The total acreage of Crown Lands at the end of the year was 77,901 acres. These lands are situated in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny, St. Catherine, and St. Ann, and a great portion are fertile and well watered. Portions are well suited to the cultivation of coffee, chocolate, bananas, ginger, cinchona, annotto, &c., and mineral indications have been discovered in some places.

Most of these lands are unfortunately not now well supplied with roads.

Rents from Government lands during the year amounted to 1,120*l.* and 90*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* was realized from the sale of lands.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The revenue earned during the year was 3,302*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, 183*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* of which sum was on account of Banana plantations. The success which has attended the irrigation of bananas has induced largely extended cultivation, and a considerable increase of revenue from this source may be expected.

The cost of management and maintenance was 1,238*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance of 2,064*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* No new works of importance were required during the year, but an extension of one of the channels was commenced which will supply numerous small settlers with water.

Post Office.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the receipts under this head again show an increase on those of the previous year, as will be seen on reference to the following statement:—

Period.	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891-92 - - -	17,437 6 1¼	335 9 8	335 18 9	224 5 11	24,100 19 8¼
1892-93 - - -	18,260 5 8½	307 6 6	401 13 3	183 18 4	24,966 14 9½
1893-94 - - -	19,429 3 1	354 6 6	431 14 4½	219 1 0	26,687 10 11¼

This continued increase is further evidence that the Revenue of the Department has not been permanently affected by the material reductions in the letter-rates of Postage which were made in the year 1890, the rates on inland letters being then reduced by 50 per cent., and on packet letters by 37 per cent., and being now 1*d.* and 2½*d.* respectively. The loss of revenue from these reductions for the year under review, as compared with the similar period before the changes were made, amounts only to 260*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* or 1·45 per cent., a result which justifies the wisdom of the reductions. These figures, it must, moreover, be pointed out, include the loss occasioned by other changes, as the revenue for the year has been also affected by the reductions which were made on the 1st of June, 1893 of the Registration Fee on Inland and Foreign Correspondence, the Re-direction and Detention Fees, and by the adoption of the minimum scale of charges fixed by the Postal Union Treaty on 2nd class mail-matter, *i.e.* post-cards, printed papers, &c.

The first-mentioned reduction has already resulted in an increase in the number of registered articles transmitted through the post, but not to a sufficient extent to satisfy the Postmaster that the

general public appreciate the safety afforded them by this system.

The value of inland postal-orders sold to the public during the year amounted to 21,623*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*, exceeding by the sum of 1,431*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*, the sales of the previous year, and now shows an increase of 11,130*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* on the amount of orders sold in the year of inauguration of the system, an increase which goes to prove the usefulness of the system to the public.

The expenditure of the Postal Department amounts to 20,504*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of 105*l.* 10*s.* 2¾*d.* on that of 1892–93, caused by the increase in the amount of the proportion of ocean postage payable to the United Kingdom.

Two additional post-offices have been established, and measures are being taken to open a number of others in districts where the want of postal facilities is found to exist. The total number of offices throughout the Island amounted to 109 at the close of the year.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have continued to carry out the mail service with the United Kingdom and the British and Foreign West Indies in a highly satisfactory manner. Postal communication with places abroad has also been maintained by means of the steamers of the different lines represented in the Island.

The Inland mail service has also been efficiently maintained, a regrettable incident in the year's record, however, being the murder of the mail courier and the robbery of the mail in a country district. The perpetrator of the deed unfortunately remains undiscovered.

The mail-coach lines and the coastal steam service have been regularly carried on during the year.

It is estimated that the total number of letters and post-cards which were circulated during the year amounted to 3,292,029, an increase of 416,396, which is no doubt attributable to the reduced rates of postage, as well as a result of extended education.

Telegraphs.

The receipts from Telegraphs in each of the last three years have been as noted below :—

	£	s.	d.
1891–92 - - - -	5,767	19	3
1892–93 - - - -	5,813	11	0
1893–94 - - - -	6,253	6	0

Thus showing a progressive increase, the number of messages having been 111,812 against 103,803 in the previous year, or an increase of 8,009.

The expenditure also exceeds that of last year by the sum of 269*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, due to increases under the head of salaries of operators, travelling charges, and printing and stationery.

A new station has been opened at Green Island in the parish of Hanover; and the service generally has been carried out satisfactorily throughout the year without serious interruption.

Railway.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March, 1894, amounted to 74,923*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to 56,431*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 18,492*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

The receipts were made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Goods and Cattle - - -	39,772	3	8
Passengers - - - -	28,718	10	0
Wharf - - - -	5,902	10	0
Miscellaneous - - -	530	15	3

The number of train miles run amounted to 264,404, which gave an expenditure per mile of 4*s.* 3·22*d.* and receipts equal to 5*s.* 8*d.* per mile, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 4·78*d.* per mile.

The number of passengers carried amounted to 336,270.

Interest was paid out of revenue on First Mortgage Bonds to the extent of 15,814*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

Twenty-one and a half miles of Railway extension were completed during the year. There are at present 117 miles actually open to traffic.

Lands for Railway Track.

The track of the Montego Bay Extension comprises 724½ acres, of which 687 acres or 62½ miles have been acquired at an average cost of 38*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, per acre; that of the Port Antonio Extension (the acquiring of which commenced in October, 1893,) comprises 457 acres, of which 263 acres or 31 miles have been acquired at a cost of 45*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per acre. There remains a total of 27 miles on both tracks to be bought and paid for.

Agriculture.

The total acreage of the Island may be taken at 2,692,587, of which 1,945,635 are returned as paying taxes to the Government, which may be divided into 177,497 under tillage, 499,655 pasture, 1,268,483 wood and ruinate. The acreage under canes continues to decrease, and is now less by 911 acres than in 1893, but the quantity of sugar exported during 1893–94 was 282,244*l.*, in value, as against 241,683*l.* in 1892–93, and the proportion of sugar

to the total exports of the Colony for the year shows a very slight decline, the figures being 14·3 in 1892–93 and 14·2 in 1893–94.

The acreage under coffee, on the other hand, has advanced by 973 acres, the total under cultivation being now 21,763. It is gratifying to be able to state also that the cultivation of ginger is again extending, the acreage under cultivation of that product being nearly double that of the former year.

Cocoa has been bringing good prices lately, and the cultivation of this useful product has thus been stimulated. There is an increase of the acreage by 315 acres.

In last year's report an advance of 1,700 in the number of acres under bananas was noticed. This year there has been a further increase of 2,300 acres, the total area under that fruit being now 16,929 acres. Fruit now holds the highest percentage of any of the products exported, as the table under the head of "Trade," which affords a comparison with former years, will show.

"Ground provisions," which form the staple food of the people of the Island, and are almost entirely consumed within its borders, have been more largely cultivated during the past year than at any previous period. In 1893, 87,936 acres were under cultivation against 82,777 in 1892.

Botanical.

The following figures, showing the sale and distribution of plants at the different gardens during the year under review, give some idea of the work annually performed by this department in the way of assistance to horticulturists:—

Hope Gardens, plants sold - - -	42,981
Castleton - - - - -	4,541
Hill Garden - - - -	992
Total sold - - - -	48,514
Hope Gardens, distributed free - -	4,094
Sent to Hope Gardens for distribution (from Castleton) - - - - -	15,070
Sent to Hope Gardens for distribution (from Hill Garden) - - - -	1,249
Hill Garden, distributed free - - -	932
Total distributed - - -	21,345

These figures show a considerable increase on those of the preceding year, and must be regarded as evidence of the growing appreciation of the advantages afforded to the public by the department.

Monthly bulletins, with a circulation of 1,035, convey information of a general character, and are supplied free of cost to all who apply for them.

The work of extending the limits of Hope Gardens has progressed very favourably, a considerable extent of land having been added to the area of the gardens, which has been laid out in walks and beds of ornamental plants.

Considerable alterations have also been carried out in the other parts of the gardens. The boys of the Hope Industrial School, which is now under the care of the Director of Public Gardens, have worked in the gardens, receiving instruction from the superintendent.

At Castleton the gardens have been maintained in good order throughout the year, and have been much patronised by visitors.

The elevation of the gardens is 580 feet above sea-level, and the average annual mean temperature is 76·2° F.

The main roads at the Hill Garden (Cinchona) have been cleaned out and kept in good order, and the gardens themselves have received careful attention at the hands of the superintendent.

Experiments in fodder plants and growing potatoes have been continued during the year, and practical demonstrations in the grafting of orange trees have been given by the superintendent to the peasantry in the neighbourhood.

An attempt is being made at these gardens to propagate the Assam Indigo plant, which may prove of value, now that a chemical dye factory has been established in the Island.

The preparation of rubber from the trees at Cinchona of Assam rubber (*Ficus Elastica*) it also receiving attention, but it has not so far been attended with such success as to justify its extensive cultivation.

The gardens at King's House have been carefully attended to during the period under review, and have been maintained in good order.

Vine culture is still receiving much attention at these gardens, 1,200 vine cuttings having been sent to various parts of the Island, and 1,800 been propagated. A course of demonstration was also given by the superintendent in the vicinity.

The Kingston Public Garden is also in good condition, although the lawns suffer considerably from the trampling of visitors who frequent the garden.

A large number of seeds and plants has been imported by the Director of Public Gardens during the year, and experiments in the cultivation and propagation of various products have been carried on.

The Library has received numerous additions during the year, and work in the Herbarium has also been carried on.

Education.

The following table shows the results of the past year as compared with those of the year before :—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Percentage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Class of Schools.					Fees.	Grants in aid, including Building Grants.
						I.	II.	III.	F.	Not examined.		
											£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893-94 - - -	957	918	97,456	64,695	66·38	169	367	380	28	13	45 15 0	41,378 4 6
1892-93 - -	912	867	92,135	52,983	57·50	143	389	379	1	44	6,649 0 0	34,724 11 0
Increase - - - -	45	51	5,321	11,712	8·88	26	*22	1	27	*31	*6,603 5 0	6,653 13 0

* Decrease

The increase in the number of scholars on the books, while again very considerable, is not so great as in the previous year, the first after the abolition of fees, but this cannot be a matter of surprise. The Superintending Inspector of Schools, however, regards the increase in the average attendance of scholars as both "surprising and gratifying." This is nearly double last year's increase, while the percentage in average attendance of the number on the books (which is the measure of regularity of attendance throughout the entire Island) has increased by very nearly nine, rising to 66·38 per cent., or almost exactly two-thirds of the total number of scholars enrolled, a percentage higher than in any other of the British West Indies, and only 11 below the average in England and Wales. The predictions of schoolmasters and other persons that the abolition of school fees would result in the more irregular attendance of the children have been signally falsified and, as has been pointed out, the reverse has been the result.

The increase in the number of first-class schools, only partially counterbalanced by the decrease in second-class schools, may be regarded as very satisfactory in a year of transition like that under review. It is no doubt a correct surmise that the more regular attendance of scholars has enabled the teachers to do better work.

The results of the annual examination of teachers and students in training colleges show that the colleges have not been so successful as in previous years, only three students in the third year obtaining honours, as against seven last year. The percentage of those obtaining full passes, last year called partial passes, remains the same. The number of teachers who have passed the examination has largely increased, the percentage being 47½ against 27 last year.

The Government Female Training College at Shortwood continues its promising career and it forms an important and valuable part of our educational system. On the 31st March, 1894, the end of the financial year, there were 22 pupils in residence, which is the full complement of the college period. Arrangements have been completed during the year under review for the removal at an early date of the Mico Training Institution to a more suitable site outside Kingston, where proper attention can be given to instruction in agriculture, and the present premises have been purchased by the Government for the purposes of an elementary school to be established under the auspices of the Board of Education, in which manual training will form a prominent feature and it is intended that it shall be a model school in every respect.

At the usual examination of pupil teachers and pupils at elementary schools who voluntarily presented themselves for examination, 735 candidates were examined, or an increase of 63 on the previous year, and the percentage of passes was 51, as against 42 last year.

The revised code prepared by the Board of Education took effect on the 10th August, and although a good deal of alarm was

at first felt by teachers at its probable effect on their positions and income, experience of its working has apparently convinced most of them that their apprehensions were groundless.

The Board of Education, under the Elementary Education Law of 1892, held its meetings regularly throughout the year, and in addition to the revision of the code of regulations of the Education Department already mentioned, other useful work has been the outcome of their labours.

A change in the age limit of children attending school was made by the Legislature during the period under review, and scholars under the age of 16 (of the same sex as the teacher) may now, up to the end of 1897, be admitted to, and retained in elementary schools, but they are in no way recognized by the Government. Provision was also included in the same law to enable children attaining the maximum age limit more than six months after any inspection to remain in the school till the next inspection, provided that takes place at the usual time.

The industrial schools under the charge of the Superintending Inspector have been satisfactorily carried on during the year.

The proposal, referred to in last year's Report, to place the Hope Industrial School under the care of the Botanical Department has been carried out, instruction in carpentry being abandoned, and attention wholly devoted to the training of the boys (who now number 32) in practical agriculture and gardening, in addition, of course, to ordinary school-work.

The Shortwood Industrial School for Girls, which numbered 28 children on its books at the end of the financial year, continues to do well. The training of the children is mainly devoted to useful domestic work.

The Roman Catholic Industrial Schools at "Alpha Cottage" maintain their reputation for excellent and successful management The course of instruction at the schools (which provide for 42 boys and 49 girls) embraces garden and field labour for the former, and washing, cooking, and other domestic work for the latter, while the Superintending Inspector speaks highly of the result of the schools' examination.

The Belmont Orphanage, which was opened in the year preceding that under review, providing accommodation for a dozen young children, is also doing good work in its necessarily limited sphere.

Immigration.

Applications were received for 500 immigrants, but owing to an unfavourable recruiting season in India, the full complement could not be obtained; 486 souls were, however, collected and embarked for Jamaica *viâ* St. Lucia in the ship "Volga" which also carried immigrants for that Colony. Unfortunately the vessel suffered shipwreck in entering Castries in St. Lucia, happily without loss of life, and the immigrants for Jamaica were shipped in the "Jumna," which arrived here at the end of 1893.

The number of immigrants landed here was :—

320 males,
128 females,
11 boys,
12 girls,
13 infants,

484 souls.

Of these six were rejected by the Medical Board as unfit for agricultural labour and the remainder were allotted to estates in St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, and Clarendon. Thirteen of the persons landed were immigrants who had returned to India from other Colonies and emigrated a second time.

One hundred and twenty-three births and 40 deaths occurred among immigrants in the Colony during the year, a percentage respectively of 5·97 and 1·94. Of the 40 deaths, two were due to suicide, the only instances known for many years, and three to accidents.

No coolies returned to India during the year, and only six passports were issued.

On the 1st January, 1893, 19 coolies were in prison, being 1·3 per 1,000 ; 3 or 2·1 per 10,000 in the Lepers' Home and 51 or 3·6 per 1,000 in the Lunatic Asylum. In regard to this large percentage of insane, the Protector of Immigrants remarks that many had been in the Asylum for a long time unable to return to India, and that, as several of their shipmates had gone back, the calculations are based on the diminished number of permanent colonists.

The deposits by East Indians in the Government Savings Bank on the 1st April, 1893, amounted to 10,705*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, a decrease of 3,348*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* on the deposits for 1892. The Protector attributes this decrease to (*a*) the withdrawal of a considerable amount by the coolies who left for Calcutta in September, 1892, and (*b*) to the utilization of a good deal of capital by coolies in more profitable investments in land, stock, rice cultivation, &c. Of rice cultivation these people possess hundreds of acres, and an estate of 1,437 acres is owned by one of them.

The prejudice amongst the coolies against having their children educated in the native schools seems, the Protector states, to be gradually dying out, and a fair number of them are now being taught. The Protector adds that the children are trained to industry and are growing up generally to be expert and reliable workmen of better physique than their parents.

The average wages earned by coolies during the year have been in excess of the sums mentioned in their agreements and during the reaping of the crops good hands earn not infrequently from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per week.

The relations between employers and employes continue satisfactory.

JAMAICA.
1893-4.

Emigration.

During the year under review, 396 labourers emigrated from Jamaica to Colon and Port Limon, and 826 returned to the Island.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows in the last ten years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1883-84	13,601	350,546
1884-85	15,511	360,190
1885-86	16,320	363,292
1886-87	17,047	363,481
1887-88	18,510	393,250
1888-89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891-92	22,824	428,348
1892-93	23,902	417,978
1893-94	25,533	457,924

showing a very large increase both in the number of depositors and the amount of deposits, the largest, in fact, since the bank has been in existence.

In the above amount of deposits are included eleven deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
Immigration return passage fund -	769	4	2
Constabulary reward fund - -	558	1	4
Constabulary pension fund - -	2	2	6
Sinking funds (6) - - -	965	5	4
Smith and Beckford's Charity - -	104	3	4
Turks Islands - - - -	388	19	8

There were also 275 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, Administrator-General and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 36,578*l.* The remaining 2,247 accounts, representing 418,558*l.* are all ordinary savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 17,393 were for 5*l.* and under, and 1,206 only were for over 100*l.* The large increase, 1,318, in the number of the small accounts for whose object the bank may really be said to exist is very satisfactory, as showing that the bank is appreciated by the class by whom it is most needed.

During the year 3,734 accounts were opened and 2,098 closed, resulting in an increase of 1,636 in the number of accounts open at the end of the year, as compared with the number in the year before.

The number of deposits amounted to 29,676, and withdrawals to 30,239, representing 235,943*l.* and 208,192*l.* respectively.

The expenses of management and interest credited to depositors amounted to 15,311*l.*, while the revenue realised was 15,777*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 466*l.* on the year's transactions. The decrease of 287*l.* in the revenue this year as compared with the year before is only apparent and is due to the interest on some investments not having been received in time to be credited in this year's accounts.

Trade.

The volume of trade has been well maintained during the year under review. The total value of goods imported has risen by 216,313*l.* and now nearly reaches the figures for the Exhibition year 1890–91 when the imports were naturally exceptionally large.

The following table shows the gradual advance which is being made in the value of imports :—

	£
1883–84	1,568,639
1884–85	1,487,833
1885–86	1,325,603
1886–87	1,322,336
1887–88	1,695,605
1888–89	1,597,600
1890–91	2,188,937
1891–92	1,759,890
1892–93	1,941,481
1893–94	2,157,794

Of the sum shown for 1893–94, 2,136,113*l.* was the value of goods imported for home consumption, the corresponding figures in 1892–93 being 1,928 556*l.* or 207,557*l.* less than during the present year.

The items in which increase is most marked are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Beer and ale - - - - - -	57,059 gallons -	11,412
Bread and Biscuits - - -	446,313 lbs. - -	3,682
Butter substitutes - - - -	164,820 lbs. - -	4,120
Alewives - - - - - -	3,131 barrels -	2,770
Fish, dried - - - - - -	440,163 lbs. - -	4,401
Beef - - - - - - -	971 barrels - -	5,424
Condensed milk - - - -	223,367 lbs. - -	4,208
Refined sugar- - - - -	143,174 lbs. - -	397
Cigarettes - - - - - -	3,843 lbs. - -	800
Wines - - - - - - -	5,423 gallons -	7,262

On the other hand, there has been a decrease in the importations of the following :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Flour - -	6,022 barrels - -	22,494
Meal - -	6,939 barrels - -	7,408
Butter - -	52,594 lbs. - - -	(the value has, however increased by 4,818*l.*)
Corn - -	But the quantity is 26,565 bushels more.	1,800

The continued increase in the quantity and value of condensed milk shows that the local milk supply is not yet successfully competing with the imported article.

With regard to the decrease in the importation of meal and rice, it may be observed the fact of smaller importations of these articles gives evidence of greater plenty in the supply of local

products, such as yams and other food stuffs, while the increases shown by the Collector-General's Returns in the quantities imported of ales, wines, spirits, tobacco, refined sugar, cheese, and hams, show increased ability on the part of the community to indulge in the luxuries of life.

An increase of 5,722*l.* in the value of carriages imported for pleasure points to the same conclusion.

The following table shows the proportions in which, during the past three years, the imports have been drawn from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and other countries, respectively :—

—	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
United Kingdom -	49·0	51·9	55·1
Canada - - -	10·4	9·6	8·8
United States - -	37·2	34·8	33·2
Other Countries - -	3·4	3·7	2·9

The following table shows the value of certain goods relieved from duty under the Tariff of 1867, and is given in continuation of former similar statement :—

—	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - - -	12,604	9,268	10,704	4,287	4,569
Mills - - -	2,516	862	257	564	722
Other machinery - - -	6,618	2,509	3,553	2,442	12,569
Pans for boiling sugar - -	1,067	—	201	435	203
Pipes for fluids - - -	4,358	2,365	8,205	3,472	3,028
Stills - - - -	312	72	1,102	998	345
Shooks of all sorts - -	13,520	11,588	7,149	13,649	17,974
Staves - - - -	10,590	9,052	3,375	3,822	4,952
Wood hoops - - -	1,047	1,107	855	978	1,841
Iron, galvanised - - -	8,649	4,758	3,132	3,036	3,147
„ other manufactures -	1,109	—	—	—	683
Miscellaneous - - -	5,242	4,854	4,339	2,608	4,443
	67,632	46,435	42,872	36,291	54,476

(continued.)

——	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines	13,389	13,772	10,370	12,577	15,337
Mills	1,756	1,714	2,640		
Other machinery	5,570	20,761	13,624	6,265	9,023
Pans for boiling sugar	415	254	795	342	894
Pipes for fluids	2,531	8,395	3,748	10,020	2,461
Stills	277	443	868	683	1,376
Shooks of all sorts	9,973	4,296	7,863	19,078	21,163
Staves	983	150	3,606	1,514	12
Wood hoops	797	159	385	514	616
Iron, galvanized	5,582	8,238	9,868	7,330	8,814
„ other manufactures	659	1,271	857	131	1,222
Miscellaneous	4,961	9,037	9,313	10,364	10,622
	46,893	58,490	63,937	68,822	71,540

It is matter for congratulation that, while the imports of the Colony have risen by a considerable sum, the value of exports has increased by an even larger amount, and is higher by 315,882*l.* than in 1892–93, and even surpasses the figures for 1890–91 which have hitherto held the first place.

The following table gives the value of the exports in each of the last ten years :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1883–84	1,350,900	33,089	1,483,989
1884–85	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885–86	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886–87	1,334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887–88	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888–89	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890–91	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814
1891–92	1,628,777	93,319	1,722,096
1892–93	1,690,637	69,170	1,759,807
1893–94	1,982,596	93,093	2,075,689

Of the increase noted above, 291,959*l.* is the increase in the value of Island produce and manufactures exported, the remainder being the increased value of British and Foreign produce and manufactures re-shipped.

The items under which increases are most marked are :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoa - - - -	1,817 cwts. - -	5,832
Banana - - - -	983,243 bunches -	133,669
Cocoanuts - - - -	2,192,359 (in number)	9,966
Ginger - - - -	1,301 cwts. - -	17,533
Pimento - - - -	18,009 cwts. -	17,502
Sugar - - - -	38,716 cwts. -	40,561
Cigars - - - -	3,513 lbs. -	1,756

There has, however, been a smaller exportation of the following :—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Oranges - - - -	10,788,701 - -	16,183
Lime Juice - - - -	16,653 galls. -	694
Rum - - - -	237,052 gallons -	44,933

The increased export of cocoa and ginger is peculiarly satisfactory, and may be accepted as indicating that the cultivation of the smaller products is being carried on not only to a greater extent, but with greater care, and consequently to the increased material prosperity of the grower.

The prosperity of the fruit trade still advances, although in oranges the out-put has been comparatively small.

With regard to the decrease in the export of rum, it should be observed that this does not necessarily indicate a smaller production, but may be due to an inactive market, in which case the rum is bonded in the island, awaiting improved prices, instead of being warehoused at the docks in European countries, where the dues are relatively higher.

The Island's exports were taken during the past three years by the countries named below in the following proportions :—

—	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.
United Kingdom -	22·7	29·1	26·7
United States - -	50·9	54·2	57·3
Canada - - -	3·5	2·6	1·7
Other Countries - - -	12·9	14·1	14·3

JAMAICA. 1893–4.

The following table shows, for five years the percentage proportion which each of the several articles mentioned bears to the total export value :—

—	1888–89.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.
Sugar - - -	16·3	13·1	15·6	14·3	14·2
Rum - - -	9·1	11·0	15·7	11·3	7·4
Coffee - - -	19·4	15·7	20·7	20·1	17·3
Dyewoods - ..	25·0	21·3	18·7	21·1	24·3
Fruit - - -	20·3	29·4	17·7	23·1	26·6
Pimento - -	3·2	4·5	3·1	3·5	3·8
Other produce - -	6·7	5·0	8·5	6·6	6·4

So far as the past five years are concerned, the falling off in the percentage of sugar to the total export is not great, but at the present rate fruit and the minor products will in a few years occupy a still more prominent place in the list, while there is little present prospect that the out-put of sugar will increase to very great extent.

Police.

The actual strength of the Police Force on the 31st March, 1894, was 765 officers and men, being only five below the allowed strength. Of this number, 18 were inspectors, including the Inspector-General, 125 sub-officers, and 622 men.

The rural police at the same date numbered 811, of whom 214 were rural headmen, and 697 rural policemen.

The total strength of the regular force and rural police combined thus reached 1,676 men of all ranks.

Ninety-six men enlisted during the year, 43 were discharged, 18 were dismissed, and five died.

Pensions, amounting in the aggregate to 168*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, were granted to eight of the 43 men discharged, and gratuities amounting to 282*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* to 19.

Charitable allowances were also granted to widows of deserving men, and these amounted to 35*l.*

The water police established during the year at Montego Bay to discharge similar duties to those performed by the corresponding force in Kingston, have proved of value.

A new station has been established at Cave Valley in the far interior of the Island, where a thriving populace has sprung up.

The following table shows the services rendered by the police as compared with the preceding four years :—

——	1888–89.	1889–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information.	4,218	9,624	6,558	6,923	8,237
Number of persons apprehended on warrants.	1,873	2,499	1,645	1,802	
Number of search warrants executed.	102	153	116	102	122
Number of persons summoned.	14,018	25,427	17,588	18,896	19,212
Number of persons subpœnaed.	21,702	27,540	28,267	28,766	29,808
Number of seizures under revenue laws.	225	665	325	440	399
Number of post-mortems ordered.	388	627	460	432	594
Number of prisoners escorted.	8,796	15,312	9,638	10,570	8,599

Turning to the criminal returns, it is to be regretted that the number of murder cases has gone up from eight last year to 13 this year; of this number, however, nine only of the arrests occur in this year, the remaining four being remanents from the previous year. Manslaughter has decreased from 16 to 10, but there is again a lamentable increase in the number of cases of cutting and wounding. Last year the figures were 652, this year they are 684. This offence is attributed by some of the Inspectors to jealousy, while one officer considers that the somewhat free use of the knife or other lethal weapon is the result of the visit of so many of the male population to Colon during the attempted construction of the Panama Canal. To the same fact is attributed two disturbances which took place at Old Harbour and Cumberland Pen races, respectively, in which the authority of the police was defied.

It is gratifying to note that there has been a marked decrease in the more serious forms of offences against property. Of burglary there have been 14 cases in 1893 to 1894 as against 25 in 1892–93; of breaking into dwelling houses and stealing therein, 108 cases in 1893–94 as against 141 in 1892–93, and of breaking into shops, warehouses, &c., 89 cases in 1893–94, as against 109 in 1892–93.

There is also a decrease in the number of cases of offences against property committed without violence, though in the case of larceny of dyewoods and in simple larceny the figures are somewhat higher. Last year it was necessary to call attention to the increase of arson cases, under the head of malicious injury to property. It is matter for congratulation that in 1893–94, the number is 36 against 49 last year.

The police have at present under supervision no less than 1,060 habitual criminals, and it is to the credit of the force that so

large a number of persons is carefully watched; to their vigilance in this respect no doubt may be attributed the decrease in breaches of the law with regard to property of which note is made above.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in all the prisons and gaols of the Island on the 31st of March 1894 amounted to 943, or a decrease of 21 as compared with the number in prison on the same date in the preceding year. The following has been the number in custody in each of the last seven years :—

On 30th September	1887	795
"	1888	749
"	1889	890
31st March	1891	893
"	1892	988
"	1893	964
"	1894	943

The return given below shows the results of the year under review in comparison with those of the previous year :—

—	Year ended 31st March, 1894.	Year ended 31st March, 1893.
Commitments :—		
To prison	3,935	4,566
To lock-ups	445	361
Total	4,380	4,927
Re-convictions	1,397	1,553
Deaths :—		
General Penitentiary	21	16
Other prisons	29	21
Total	50	37
Executions	1	1
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	1,008	1,004
FINANCIAL.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	19,344 1 7	18,613 6 8½
Gross earnings in cash	5,264 18 2½	4,890 2 10½
Net cost of maintaining prisons	14,079 3 4½	13,723 3 10
Cost per prisoner	13 19 4	13 13 4¼
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	5,086 7 7	5,098 14 2
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried.	4,235 7 11½	3,340 14 1¾
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,808 17 4	1,375 8 7

The prison buildings are all in good order. During the year 20 additional cells for female prisoners have been completed at the General Penitentiary, and there is now accommodation in that prison for 98 females. The average daily number during the year was 81.

There were 21 deaths in the General Penitentiary during the year, of which eight were those of prisoners who were in ill-health when admitted to the prison, and three were the infant children of female prisoners. The death-rate was 37·84 per 1,000, based on an average daily population of 555. An epidemic of influenza prevailed in this institution during the months of July and August, but fortunately without loss of life.

There were 29 deaths in the other prisons.

The prisoners have been employed in the usual tasks, including brick-making, quarrying, lime-burning, and trade handicrafts, as well as the washing and repairing of clothes for the prisons and the outside public.

Religious services have been conducted regularly in the General Penitentiary by the chaplains of the various denominations attached to the prison, and in the St. Catherine, Falmouth, and Hanover District Prisons, and also in the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol. In the Port Antonio and Black River Short Term Prisons no regular provision for this service exists, but prayers are read by the officers of the institutions.

School was held regularly in the General Penitentiary and the St. Catherine and Falmouth District Prisons.

Discipline has been well maintained in the Prisons, and the mark system continues to work satisfactorily at the General Penitentiary.

Vital Statistics.

The natural increase of population during the year under notice was 12,480, being a rate of increase of 19·5 per 1,000 persons living. The corresponding rate during the previous year was 16·8 per 1,000. Calculating from this basis, the estimated population at the 31st March 1894 was 672,762, while the mean population for the year is estimated at 667,554, which are the figures on which the marriage, birth, and death-rates are based.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 3,734 or 5·5 of the population. The rate last year was 5·1, the number of marriages being 385 less.

The marriage returns show that there is a continued decrease in the number of illiterate persons signing the register. Last year the percentage was 52·6; this year it is 52.

The number of births during the year was 27,365 or 2,890 more than during last year. The percentage is 40·6 to each 1,000 of mean population. Of the 27,365 births 16,596 were illegitimate, the rate per 100 births being 60·6—figures which, it is to be regretted, show no improvement in this respect.

The deaths recorded were 14,885 in number, the rate per 1,000 of mean population being 22·1. Infant mortality continues

abnormally high. Of the number of deaths given above 6,355 were those of children under five years of age, or 42·7 per cent.

In the Cayman Islands, with a population of 3,725, the number of births was 187, of marriages, 41, and of deaths, 54.

General.

The material welfare of the people of this Colony continues to improve and the Customs returns for the year under review show evidence of this in the increase in the consumption of what may be regarded in the West Indies as the luxuries of life.

From the reports of the collectors of revenue in the several parishes it is gratifying also to learn that the houses of the peasantry seem to have more attention from their owners, and in one parish it is thought worthy of remark that "the small flower garden which "is seen before almost every house in the country tends to show "that civilization is on the increase." And the people are said to be steadily improving in the erection of a better kind of house.

A side light is thrown on the educational progress of the masses by consulting the statistics of the Public Library in Kingston, the capital of the Island. The record of the readers in the library shows in 1892–93 an increase of 36 per cent. over 1891–92, this year an increase of 44 per cent. over 1892–93 and an increase of 97 per cent. over 1891–92. In the year 1892–93 there were 16,030 readers and this year 23,101 readers, an increase of 7,071.

As the Jamaica Militia has been referred to in previous reports, it may be mentioned here that an important step towards increasing its efficiency and usefulness was taken during this year by placing the force for the purposes of training and discipline under the Senior Military Officer. The force now consists of 560 men of all ranks and the General Officer commanding the troops in his last annual report stated that he "has personally inspected the several companies "and considered that they are in a fair state of efficiency."

The general prosperity of the Colony has been fully maintained during the year, the value of property has much increased and the financial reputation of the Island is shown by the high price at which its securities are quoted in the London Money Market. That the great advantages and attractions which Jamaica offers as a winter resort are becoming year by year better known and appreciated is shown by the increasing number of visitors to the Island.

The health of the community has continued excellent during the year.

H. BENGOUGH,
Administering the Government of Jamaica.

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No. 141.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 111.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
15 *August* 1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
109	Gibraltar	1893
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–94
131	British New Guinea	1892–3& 1893–94
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–94
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 141.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 111.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

King's House, Jamaica,
May 28, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1894, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1894.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, &c.*

The inhabitants of the Dependency pay no direct taxes.

The sources of revenue are import duty, collected in accordance with a tariff prepared on very liberal lines, royalty on all salt exported, at the rate of one tenth of the statutory value, which is at present $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per bushel, port dues paid by vessels entering, at the rate of $4d.$ per ton registered tonnage, and the usual internal and miscellaneous receipts.

There was no alteration in these sources of revenue during the year under review.

2.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The finances of the Dependency are in a satisfactory condition.

The Revenue collected in 1894 was 8,840*l.*, as compared with 7,434*l.* in 1893, and exceeded the estimate by 1,587*l.*

The bulk of this excess is due to the heavy export of salt with accompanying increase in dues from shipping. Import duties also brought in more than the average figure, and nearly all the minor heads of revenue show some slight rise.

The balance carried forward from the previous year was 2,394*l.*, giving a gross revenue of 11,234*l.*

The total expenditure amounted to 7,459*l.*, being less by 358*l.* than the sum expended in 1893. Of this amount, 7,127*l.* was ordinary expenditure, against 7,095*l.* in 1893, and 332*l.* was for works and services of a special nature, the sum so spent in 1893 having been 722*l.*

The revenue collected within the year exceeded by 1,381*l.* the total expenditure within the same period. Of the sum so in excess, 1,000*l.* was invested by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Government, leaving the working balance to carry forward to 1895 to be increased by 381*l.* The whole sum so carried forward was 2,775*l.*, making, with the investment of 1,000*l.* above mentioned, and a further sum of 1,000*l.* which the Dependency had already to its credit invested, a total credit balance of 4,775*l.*

A proper and usual system of account books, with a duly balanced ledger and monthly balance sheet, was instituted from the commencement of the year, which conduces to greater accuracy and facility in the keeping and rendering of the accounts of the Dependency.

3.—*Assets and Liabilities.*

There was a balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1894 of 4,774*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

4.—*Public Debt.*

The Dependency has no Public Debt.

5.—*Municipalities.*

There are local boards, established by various legislative enactments, to deal with the following subjects, namely, Health, Quarantine, Prisons, Pilotage, Salt Ponds, Education, and Medical Relief.

6.—*Public Works.*

Good progress was made with the work of bringing into a state of proper repair and efficiency the various public buildings and other property of the Government at the three ports.

A brief memorandum of the expenditure at the three settlements is attached:—

—	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Public roads and abutments.	75 2 7	26 11 1	62 0 7
Tanks and wells - -	25 5 3	4 14 6	6 12 0
Public buildings - -	246 14 8	3 0 6	104 3 5
Miscellaneous (including materials).	232 2 10	5 4 11	38 19 11
	579 5 4	39 11 0	211 15 11

	£ s. d.
Grand Turk - - - -	579 5 4
Salt Cay - - - - -	39 11 0
Cockburn Harbour - - - -	211 15 11
	£830 12 3

Special Works.

	£ s. d.
Removing shoals, Grand Turk - -	7 7 0
Hawk's Nest Road, „ - - -	105 0 0
Tank, Cockburn Harbour - - -	94 8 1
Government Yacht - - -	125 8 6
	£332 3 7

7.—*Legislation.*

The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 3—(Not assented to).
No. 4—The Interpretation Ordinance.
No. 5—(Not assented to).
No. 6—The Medical Service Ordinance.
No. 7—The Salt Pond Ordinances Short Continuance Ordinance.
No. 8—The Notary Public Ordinance.
No. 9—The Liquor License Ordinance.
No. 10—The Superannuation (Abolition of Office) Ordinance.
No. 11—The Wint Retiring Allowance Ordinance.
No. 12—The Salt Ponds Ordinances Further Continuance Ordinance.

8.—*Legislative Board.*

There was no change in the composition of the board during the past year.

9.—*Civil Establishment.*

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Commissioner, was absent on vacation leave from the 24th August to the 29th September, his duties being performed during that period by Mr. W. E. Cleaver, Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. A. W. Harriott, Assistant Commissioner and Police Magistrate at Grand Turk, was on vacation leave from the 7th October to the 10th November, the several duties of his office being distributed between Mr. J. C. Crisson, Accountant and Clerk, and Mr. E. C. Harriott, clerk to the Commissioner.

Mr. E. C. Harriott was absent on vacation leave from the 29th June to the 23rd September, Mr. L. Lea Smith being appointed to act for him in his absence.

10.—*Pensions.*

Mr. A. C. Lowe, late Colonial Secretary, who was in receipt of a pension of 198*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum, died at Nassau, Bahamas, on the 20th February. Mr. F. Ellis, late Queen's Advocate, who drew a pension of 175*l.* 10*s.* 0*d*, died in England on the 24th November, and Mr. H. Higgins, late Commissioner, who was granted a pension of 9*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* from 1st February 1893, died also in England on the 19th December, making a total reduction in the pension vote of 383*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

The total sum paid in pensions was 708*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*

11.—*Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented:—

United States of America.
Sweden and Norway.
Denmark.
France.
Spain.
Dominican Republic.
Haytian Republic.

12.—*Population and Vital Statistics.*

The population of the Dependency at the last census in 1891 amounted to 4,744, of whom 2,211 were males and 2,533 females. Of these, 369, or about 8 per cent. were white, the remainder coloured.

Grand Turk and Salt Cay, the two Turks Islands proper, provided 1,883 and 485 of this population respectively, in all 2,368, while the Caicos Islands furnished the remainder, 2,376.

From the return* of births and deaths since 1891, it appears that the number is on the increase, but, on the other hand, it must be borne in mind that there is a steady emigration of labourers to the neighbouring Republics of Hayti and St. Domingo, of whom there is always a certain small percentage who become permanent absentees.

The death-rate for last year is noticeably high, being 135, or 28·4 per 1,000, against 94, or 19·8 per 1,000, in 1893. It is probable that the unusually heavy rainfall is accountable to some extent for this result, especially in the Caicos Islands, where malarial fever is prevalent in wet seasons.

The Medical Officer reports a good deal of infant mortality at Grand Turk. With a view to better this state of things, an arrangement has recently been made by which suitable persons from here will be sent for a course of training as midwives in the Lying-in-Hospital at Jamaica, under bond to practise for a certain term in the Dependency on their return, at a rate of remuneration within the means of the poorer class of patients.

13.—*Ecclesiastical.*

As is usually the case in these smaller and more remote West Indian possessions, by far the larger number of the people belong to the Wesleyan and Baptist persuasions. These have large chapels at Grand Turk, and have also places of worship at the other towns and in all the settlements of the Caicos.

The Church of England was disestablished and disendowed in 1873. It at present supports two clergymen and has a church in each of the townships, but does not extend its operations to the Caicos Islands beyond Cockburn Harbour.

The Dependency is for ecclesiastical purposes in the Diocese of the Bahamas, and is visited from time to time by the Bishop of Nassau. One of these visits was paid during the past year.

14.—*Education.*

The following remarks are taken from the annual Report of the Board of Education: they show briefly what the work of the year has been and that there is an improvement in the conditions since my last report.

* * * *

2. The total average attendance of children at the seven schools is 6 per cent. higher than the total of the previous years. All the schools have done better except at Grand Turk and Kew, at

* Not printed.

which there is a considerable decrease in attendance, the figures being 65 and 31 respectively, as against 75 and 45 for 1893.

3. The unsatisfactory condition of these two last-mentioned schools has been a subject of anxious consideration by the Board. They have now both been placed under new teachers, who arrived from Jamaica at the end of December last and entered upon their duties with the new year. These gentlemen have been specially selected by the Superintending Inspector of Schools at Jamaica, and will, the Board trusts, succeed in producing a material improvement at their respective stations.

4. The school at Bottle Creek, opened at the close of 1893, has been in good working order throughout the year, and is proving a distinct factor for civilization and moral progress in that district.

* * * *

15.—*Newspapers.*

There are two newspapers published weekly at Grand Turk, one of which, the "Royal Standard and Gazette," has been issued regularly from the same office, without a break or change, for a period of over 40 years. Few West Indian publications can show such a record.

16.—*Currency, Banking, &c.*

The currency of the Dependency is English gold and silver, American gold and Jamaica nickel coin.

Mexican silver passes outside at 2*s.* to the dollar, but is not received at all by the Government.

Mercantile accounts are for the most part kept in dollars and cents, at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar.

There is no banking establishment. Remittances are made by bills of exchange drawn on firms in England and New York by merchants in payment of salt cargoes, and the public also avails itself to a considerable extent of the money-order system.

17.—*Imports and Exports.*

The Import duties are above the average, and 287*l.* more than the previous year's figures. The principal item of increase is on Spirits, which brought in close on 200*l.* more than in 1893. The receipts under the heads of Alcohol, Lumber, Salt-meats, and Sugar are also higher, while *ad valorem* duties, on the other hand, show a net falling off of 80*l.*, the deficiency being under the heads, Materials of Wrecks and Textile Fabrics.

The export of salt was the largest yet recorded, being 2,116,779 bushels, bringing in to Government a royalty of 3,087*l.* Of this quantity, 465,114 bushels were ground-fishery salt for British North America.

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The export has previously exceeded 2,000,000 bushels on only two occasions, in the years 1876 and 1889, the figures being 2,030,258 and 2,108,506 respectively.

Except at Cockburn Harbour, the season for salt-raking was not a favourable one, owing to the unusually heavy rains, and the salt gathered scarcely amounted to as much as three-quarters of an average crop. This, however, with the large stock on hand at the commencement of the year, enabled all demands to be met, but there only remained 130,000 bushels at the three ports at its close, so that the prospects for 1895 are altogether dependent on a good season.

The price of salt continued for the greater part of the year at the same low figure, 5½ to 6 cents a bushel, but an increased demand and an immediate rise in price to 7 cents and more followed the passing into law of the new Tariff Bill in the United States, by which Turks Islands salt passes into that country free of duty.

As over three-fourths of the whole export trade is with that country, and the duty thus taken off amounts to, as nearly as possible, six cents on a bushel, the importance of the event to this community is immense.

Comparative tables showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency are attached :—

—	1892.	1893.	1894.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value of imports -	25,387 12 2	24,888 4 6	28,525 14 10
Import duties collected -	3,038 19 11	2,886 4 5	3,173 14 9

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1892, 1893, and 1894.

—	1892.	1893.	1894.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	26,113 1 0	22,410 19 5	29,686 10 3
Sponge - - - -	939 12 6	618 2 8	217 11 8
Sisal-hemp - - -	25 0 5	—	419 13 2
Salt-fish - - -	—	19 8 0	—
Turtle-shell - - -	77 10 0	175 14 6	62 2 0
Total - - -	27,155 3 11	23,224 4 7	30,385 17 1

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each Country for the Years 1892, 1893, and 1894.

Imports.

—	1892.			1893.			1894.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	4,168	13	5	4,116	5	10	3,666	14	0
British North America - -	1,070	10	6	1,112	18	10	1,126	12	8
British Colonies - - -	1,468	18	1	1,507	10	0	1,973	14	6
United States of America -	16,635	6	6	15,645	13	0	18,408	2	1
Other foreign countries - -	2,044	3	8	2,505	16	10	3,350	11	7
Total - - -	25,387	12	2	24,888	4	6	28,525	14	10

Exports.

—	1892.			1893.			1894.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	—			—			—		
British North America - -	6,283	15	4	7,724	2	1	8,697	13	5
British Colonies - - -	347	19	3	105	2	5	132	10	6
United States of America -	19,478	2	1	14,513	12	8	20,933	6	1
Other foreign countries - -	1,226	5	7	1,022	17	5	3,010	15	10
Total - - -	27,336	2	3	23,365	14	7	32,774	5	10

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the seven Years 1886 to 1892, and actual EXPORT for 1893 and 1894.

Ports.	1886 to 1892.	1893.	1894.
Grand Turk - -	599,892	707,629	735,353
Salt Cay - - -	469,111	313,633	446,054
Cockburn Harbour -	569,850	629,645	935,372
Total Bushels -	1,638,853	1,650,907	2,116,779

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Salt in the Colony on 31st December			1891	- 350,000	bushels.
,,	,,	,,	1892	- 640,000	,,
,,	,,	,,	1893	- 700,000	,,
,,	,,	,,	1894	- 130,000	,,

18.—*Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below:—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1892 - - -	294	45,887	299	45,364	593	91,251
1893 - - -	341	43,291	350	43,979	691	87,270
1894 - - -	311	55,030	320	54,215	631	109,245

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1892 - - -	57	66,515	57	66,515	114	133,030
1893 - - -	63	68,103	63	68,103	126	136,206
1894 - - -	62	71,185	62	71,185	124	142,370

Totals British and Foreign.

—	1893.			1894.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British - -	46,935	24,672	71,607	51,071	24,672	75,743
Foreign - -	40,335	111,534	151,869	58,174	117,698	175,872
Total - -	87,270	136,206	223,476	109,245	142,370	251,615

In connection with these shipping returns, I may perhaps mention that, taking the figures of the Board of Trade Statistical Abstract, the average total tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared in the Dependency is larger than at any port in the West Indies except Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad, and that the average total of the foreign tonnage is only exceeded in the Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad.

H.M.S. "Canada" called at Grand Turk in the month of April and remained a few hours, subsequently visiting Cockburn Harbour.

There were no other visits by men-of-war.

There were four vessels stranded at the Caicos Islands during 1894, two of which were a total loss, the remaining two being got off with the assistance of the islanders and ultimately proceeding on their respective voyages. No lives were lost. The total salvage awarded on vessels and cargoes in these four cases was 2,048*l.*

19.—*Agriculture.*

I am glad to be able to report that, for the first time for several years, there was an absence of any distress among the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands such as to call for the distribution of the usual annual dole.

This result is attributable to the abundant rain, which enabled fair crops to be reaped in most of the settlements, coupled with some remunerative wrecks and also the regular employment afforded by the two fibre companies at East and West Caicos.

The companies referred to have steadily continued their operations. The first appreciable shipments of fibre were made by the East Caicos Company during the year, the quantity shipped being about 31 tons, valued at 420*l.*

20.—*Mines, Manufactures, &c.*

The production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation is the one occupation and dependence of three-fourths of the inhabitants of this group of Islands. This production is by no means the simple matter that the above sentence would seem to imply, but involves constant care and watchfulness on the part of the salt pond proprietor to secure the existence of such of the conditions essential for the reaping of a thoroughly good quality of the article as are within his control. For the rest Nature has to be relied on, and no efforts of the salt-raker will avail anything unless she is favourable. An unseasonable spell of rain at the critical period of the "making" will upset all calculations and work dire disaster, but an examination of the recorded shipments of a series of past years will show that a fair amount of reliance may be placed on the constancy of the weather.

A description of the process of salt-making is outside the scope of this report, but the subject is not without interest, which has a

tendency to increase as one begins to grasp the different points of it.

At the present time, only a small proportion of the "salinas" (as the tracts of ground adapted for this industry are called) in the Dependency are worked. Considerable outlay is necessary for placing new ground under "cultivation," and the price of salt of late years has been too low to justify any such expenditure. With salt, however, selling at from 7 to 8 cents a bushel, and a steady demand, the result of the present fiscal policy of the United States, there is a fair profit to be made, and it might be worth the while of practical persons, with capital at their command, to investigate the possibilities.

Turks Island is in a good and convenient position for supplying the United States and Newfoundland markets, and the quality of the article which it sends out is, owing to the specially favourable climatic conditions, undeniable.

The annual crop might easily be half again what it now is, even on the salina area at present laid out, if worked more systematically and with the appliances for economizing labour, both of man and beast, which capital would probably enable to be introduced.

There are, however, no local capitalists, and any expansion such as I have briefly shadowed can only be looked for by the introduction of new blood.

21.—*Grants of Land.*

The dealing with Crown Lands in the Dependency has been much hampered during the past few years by the absence of any qualified surveyor in the country whose services could be obtained to measure out lands for sale. The provisions of the existing law regulating the subject cannot indeed be conformed to without the presence of such a person to carry out the formal preliminaries required. The land question generally, both in regard to the above particulars and especially the important point of title, is a very tangled skein, the unravelling of which is a matter of some difficulty. A new enactment, however, having for its object the provision of more simple procedure in acquiring land and for obtaining a legal title and the regulation of the succession, has been drafted and is now under the consideration of the Executive.

22.—*Gaols and Prisoners.*

The total number of persons committed during 1894 was 23, of whom six were for safe keeping and 17 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was five.

23.—*Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1894 was 188, against 121 in 1893.

Of the offences reported in 1894:—

53 were for offences against the person.
4 „ „ prædial larceny.
15 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
116 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1894 was 115, against 68 in 1893.

These convictions are classified as follows:—

27 for offences against the person.
1 for prædial larceny.
4 for offences against property other than prædial larceny.
83 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—

2 for offences against the person.
2 „ „ „ property.

The acquittals were as follows:—

In the inferior courts - - - - - -	40
In the Supreme Court - - - - - -	3

The increase in the number of cases dealt with is, I think, attributable to a better performance of their duty on the part of the police.

24.—*Hospitals and Asylums.*

There is no hospital or asylum. Cases of lunacy are very rare, but, when occurring, the patient is placed in gaol, under medical supervision, and, if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica.

25.—*Charitable and Literary Institutions.*

There has been no Poor-house in the Dependency since 1879, but a system of outdoor relief is in force which meets all cases of actual want, at a much less cost than would suffice to maintain any such institution.

The only Literary Institution is a Public Library and Free Reading Room at Grand Turk, established in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, partly by public subscription and partly by a Government grant. The Government contributes to its upkeep by a vote of 50*l.* a year. The institution is in every way a most creditable one to the place, providing an unusually ample selection of the leading newspapers and magazines, English and American, and also a generous supply of good and wholesome book literature, which is much appreciated.

26.—*Meteorological Observations.*

The rainfall during the year 1894 was the highest recorded since 1884.

One hurricane passed in unpleasant proximity to Grand Turk during the season, causing considerable anxiety, but I am

thankful to be able to record another year's immunity from these destructive visitations.

Tables of temperature and rainfall are appended :—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	80°	75°	77°
February	79	75	76
March	80	74	77
April	82	77	77
May	83	76	80
June	84	80	82
July	84	82	83
August	86	82	84
September	86	83	84
October	86	81	83
November	84	78	82
December	81	75	77

RAINFALL for the Year 1894 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
January	·79	1·13	1·46	1·32
February	·20	·20	·50	·61
March	·05	·35	·53	3·12
April	·75	·83	·80	1·70
May	7·76	5·42	2·95	15·91
June	3·67	6·86	6·11	3·81
July	·93	·31	·52	1·87
August	1·47	1·09	1·03	·85
September	7·35	2·70	2·51	1·56
October	5·15	6·20	2·63	3·37
November	3·08	3·07	1·92	2·34
December	6·72	5·73	4·85	3·13
Total inches	37·92	33·89	25·81	39·59
Average for seven years, 1887 to 1894	24·72	22·62	21·36	40·52

27.—*Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	47	68	260 2 9	338 9 6	156 6 6	145 0 8	413 15 2	607 4 5
Salt Cay -	30	33	27 6 10	39 13 0	47 7 6	36 8 10	67 10 11	70 15 1
Cockburn Harbour -	20	20	36 8 10	55 5 6	20 5 3	54 11 1	260 7 11	261 2 4
Total -	97	121	323 18 5	433 8 0	223 19 3	236 0 2	741 14 0	939 1 10

28.—*Post Office.*

The mail service was performed throughout the year by the contract s.s. "Alpha," of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line, plying monthly between Halifax and Jamaica, calling at Bermuda and Grand Turk.

The steamers of the Clyde line, from New York twice a month to Hayti and San Domingo, also continue to make Grand Turk a port of call on both the outward and inward voyage. This connection is of much convenience and advantage to the place, and arrangements have latterly been made with the postal authorities which enable a portion of the English mail to come by this route and thus to reach quicker than it would otherwise do.

A direct parcel-post with the United States and Canada was established during the year.

The Post-office revenue for the year was 196*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

29.—*General Remarks.*

The year 1894 was marked by an event of special importance to this community, namely the removal of the duty levied in the United States on its one staple export, salt. There was at first some doubt as to whether the connection with Jamaica, a colony which levies an import duty on American salt, would not debar the Dependency from participating in the privileges accorded by the Wilson Bill, and much alarm was occasioned here by the news of the first official rulings by the United States authorities, that Turks Islands salt was still liable to the duty. On proper representation however being made as to the true position of the Dependency, which is financially on an entirely separate and distinct footing and governed by its own code of laws, with its own tariff, by which American salt is admitted free, these rulings were reversed.

With the exception of fibre, there would seem to be no other marketable commodity which the Turks and Caicos Islands are capable of producing in any appreciable quantity but salt, and it is hardly too much to say that their continuance as an inhabited possession of the Crown depends on the existence of a trade in salt under conditions that will leave a moderate margin of profit to the producer. This margin has been steadily decreasing of late years, owing to the growing competition with salt from the Mediterranean and elsewhere, and also in some measure to the large increase in the American domestic product. The removal of the duty should exercise a decided influence in favour of the Turks Islands article, though to what extent the trade will really be benefited can hardly be accurately judged till the present year's transactions are in full progress.

A small shipment of fibre was made during the year. No new land has been taken up for this industry, and the present low figure at which the article is quoted must naturally militate against any immediate further development.

There are no other matters calling for special remark.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, April 4, 1895.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 161.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894-5.

(For Report for 1893-4, *see* No. 134 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
127	Fiji	1893
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–4
131	British New Guinea	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–4
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Lagos	1894
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	"
160	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 161.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA. 1894–5.

(For Report for 1893–4 *see* No. 134.)

SIR H. A. BLAKE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,
October 11, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended 31st March last.

I have, &c.
HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK, 1894–5.

Legislation.

During the session of 1895, the Legislative Council passed 27 laws, of which the following are the most important:—

Law 4 of 1895—"The Banker's Books Evidence Law, 1895," is a transcript of the English Law 42 and 43 Victoria, Chapter II., and facilitates the giving of evidence in regard to entries in banker's books.

Law 11 of 1895—"The Public General Holidays Law, 1895," provides for the establishment and observance of public general holidays.

Law 12 of 1895—"The Sale of Goods Law, 1895." This law is an adaptation of the Imperial Act, 56 and 57 Victoria, Chapter 71, codifying the law bearing on the most important class of contracts.

Law 13 of 1895—Empowers the Governor to raise 100,000*l.* for the construction of driving roads in the mountainous districts of the parishes of St. Andrew, Portland, and St. Thomas, as a means of assisting in the development of the resources of those districts.

Law 21 of 1895—"The Constabulary Pension Law, 1895." A law to relieve the Constabulary Pension Fund and to secure

to constables the payment of the pensions promised on their enlistment.

Law 24 of 1895—"A Law to regulate and restrict the wearing of Naval and Military Uniforms." This law is an adaptation of the English Uniforms Act, 1894, and was introduced by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Law 26 of 1895—"A Law to secure a Civil List for Her Majesty and for other purposes." This law was enacted as a preliminary to an amendment of the Constitution of the Island granting extended representation in the Legislative Council.

Law 27 of 1895—"The Tramways Law, 1895." This law is founded in great measure on the Imperial Act, 33 and 34 Victoria, Chapter 78. It empowers the Governor in Privy Council to grant licenses for any tramway drawn or propelled by any motive power except steam generated by fire on the line; and provides generally the conditions under which tramways may be constructed and worked.

Finance.

The year commenced with a surplus general revenue of 59,830*l.* and yielded 624,024*l.*, making together a sum of 683,854*l.*, while the expenditure, including 36,747*l.* for sinking funds and 2,300*l.* for redemption of debt, amounted to 619,850*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of 64,004*l.*

The parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced 127,551*l.*, a decrease of 1,168*l.* on the receipts in 1893-4.

The revenue specially appropriated for the reconstruction and maintenance of certain main roads under Law 17 of 1890 amounted to 32,234*l.* or 434*l.* more than in 1893-4, and the revenue on account of immigration realized 2,139*l.*, an increase of 768*l.* on the previous year's receipts.

The usual table showing the whole of the revenue receipts in the year under report compared with those of the previous year is given below:—

—	1894-5.	1893-4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	341,360	315,941	25,419	
Light dues - - -	2,330	2,259	71	
Harbour master's fees - -	2,839	2,776	63	
Rum duties - - -	138,923	127,479	11,444	
Licenses - - - -	776	779	—	3
Stamps - - - -	20,133	22,394	—	2,261
Tax on stock - - -	4	11	—	7
Tax in lieu of education fees -	12,260	12,478	—	218
Tax revenue -	518,625	484,117	36,997	2,489
			34,508	—

—	1894–5.	1893–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Postal revenue - - -	21,886	20,285	1,601	
Telegraph revenue - -	5,783	6,087	—	304
Court fees - - -	9,048	8,665	383	
Fines and forfeitures - -	4,432	5,451	—	1,019
Interest on securities for sinking funds.	12,442	11,581	861	
Interest on Savings Bank investment after paying depositors.	3,995	3,348	647	
Interest other than as above -	6,189	6,969	—	780
Interest, Jamaica railway bonds -	—	6,774	—	6,774
Reimbursements - -	32,442	32,078	364	
Miscellaneous - - -	9,183	11,775	—	2,592
Non tax revenue -	105,400	113,013	3,856	11,469
Total - - -	624,025	597,130	—	7,613
			26,895	
Revenue Specially appropriated.				
Main Road Revenue.				
Land tax, Law 17 of 1890 -	388	363	25	
Draft Horned Stock law - -	958	915	43	
Holdings tax - - -	14,021	14,388	—	367
Spirit licenses - - -	16,867	16,134	733	
	32,234	31,800	801	367
			434	
Reimbursements of loan expenditure.	19,266	105,995	—	86,729
Parochial Revenue.				
Parochial road tax - -	47,111	50,169	—	3,058
Kingston streets tax - -	3,415	3,054	361	
Parochial municipal revenues -	13,181	12,290	891	
Parochial general purposes -	3,318	2,948	370	
Poor rates - - - -	42,923	42,189	734	
Sanitary rates - - -	8,327	9,151	—	824
Fire rates - - - -	956	1,466	—	510
Gas rates - - - -	3,446	2,523	923	
Miscellaneous - - -	4,874	4,929	—	55
	127,551	128,719	3,279	4,447
			—	1,168
Immigration Revenues.				
Law 7 of 1878. Amendment Law 14 of 1881.	1,930	824	1,106	
Miscellaneous - - -	75	158	—	83
Interest - - - -	134	389	—	255
	2,139	1,371	1,106	338
			768	

—	1894–5.	1893–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
Summary.	£	£	£	£
General revenue - - -	624,025	597,130	26,895	
Specially appropriated revenue -	32,234	31,800	434	
Reimbursement of loan expenditure.	19,266	105,995	—	86,729
Appropriated revenues - -	127,551	128,719	—	1,168
Immigration revenue - -	2,139	1,371	768	—
	805,215	865,015	28,097	87,897
				59,800

The yield of general revenue shows a net increase of 26,895*l.*, which is due to larger returns in import duties and rum duties under tax revenue, and in postal and interest on securities held for sinking funds, and for Savings Bank, under non-tax revenue. Of these, import duties and rum duties are the most important, showing an increase of 25,419*l.* and 11,444*l.* respectively, which is the result of increased duties imposed by Laws 12 and 13 of 1894. The other items of increase are small and do not call for any remarks.

Of the decreases, the more appreciable are: in stamps 2,261*l.*; fines and forfeitures, 1,019*l.*; interest on Jamaica railway bonds, 6,774*l.*; and miscellaneous, 2,592*l.* The revenue from stamps has to bear a comparison with the exceptionally large return in the previous year. The decrease occurs chiefly in legacy and probate duties.

No interest was paid on Jamaica railway second mortgage bonds and the decrease is the amount of the interest paid in 1893–4. There is no particular cause to be ascribed to the falling off on other heads of the revenue.

Reimbursements of loan expenditure shows a large decrease of 86,729*l.*; and parochial revenue a small decrease of 1,168*l.* The latter is due to a falling off in receipts from the parochial road tax, and the sanitary and fire rates. These two latter rates are fixed annually and the receipts therefore fluctuate with the rate assessed.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with 1893–4:—

—	1894–5.	1893–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt - - -	80,946	79,661	1,285	
Pensions - - - -	16,259	14,438	1,821	
Administrative departments -	43,706	45,235	—	1,529
Government Savings Bank -	2,904	2,889	15	
Revenue departments - -	38,025	37,026	999	
Postal service - - -	25,060	23,520	1,540	
Telegraph service - - -	7,073	6,909	164	
Judicial - - - -	43,000	43,829	—	829
Ecclesiastical - - -	3,885	3,824	61	
Medical - - -	57,822	57,445	377	
Constabulary - - -	53,140	51,255	1,885	

—	1894–5.	1893–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Prisons - - - -	20,045	20,751	—	706
Reformatories - - -	4,618	4,772	—	154
Education - - -	67,546	70,329	—	2,783
Industrial schools - -	969	1,237	—	268
Harbours and pilotage - -	1,860	1,755	105	
Military - - - -	11,652	9,527	2,125	
Coasting service - - -	1,800	1,800		
Steam communication with Halifax	—	292	—	292
Telegraph subsidy - - -	2,000	2,000		
Registrar-General's Department -	4,175	4,191	—	16
Registrar of Titles' Department -	855	844	11	
Island Record Office - -	1,482	1,367	115	
Government Printing office -	7,569	7,550	19	
Jamaica Institute - - -	2,102	1,784	318	
Board of Supervision - -	432	417	15	
Public gardens and plantations -	5,061	5,401	—	340
Railway - - - -	1,917	1,057	860	
Miscellaneous - - -	9,253	21,016	—	11,763
Public works - - -	63,316	56,201	7,115	
Railway extension track - -	—	7,191	—	7,191
Lighthouses - - -	991	1,166	—	175
Lighthouse construction - -	1,340	1,092	248	
	580,803	587,771	19,078	26,046
				6,968
Main Road Expenditure under Law 17 of 1890.				
Maintenance - - -	29,557	33,274	—	3,717
Tanks - - - -	4	—	4	
	29,561	33,274	4	3,717
				3,713
Appropriated Expenditure.				
Parochial roads - - -	44,499	50,070	—	5,571
Kingston streets - - -	2,022	1,110	912	
Parochial municipal objects -	11,381	11,501	—	120
Parochial general purposes -	7,500	5,816	1,684	
Relief of the poor - - -	45,886	42,975	2,911	
Sanitary appropriation - -	8,004	9,054	—	1,050
Fire appropriation, Kingston -	1,503	1,468	35	
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	3,097	2,981	116	
Kingston Streets Fund - -	22,300	—	22,300	
	146,192	124,975	27,958	6,741
			21,217	
Immigration expenditure - -	11,135	7,677	3,458	
Expenditure from Loans.				
Portland bridges - - -	3,324	16,598	—	13,274
Telegraph construction - -	—	21	—	21
Main road reconstruction - -	16,678	16,926	—	248
Jamaica bridges, Law 20 of 1892 -	25,525	20,853	4,672	
Public Buildings, Law 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894.	8,785	—	8,785	
	54,312	54,398	13,457	13,543
				86

—	1894–5.	1893–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
Summary.	£	£	£	£
General expenditure - -	580,803	587,771	—	6,968
Main road expenditure - -	29,561	33,274	—	3,713
Appropriated expenditure - -	146,192	124,975	21,217	
Immigration expenditure - -	11,135	7,677	3,458	
Expenditure from loans - -	54,312	54,398	—	86
	822,000	808,095	24,675	10,767
			13,912	

The expenditure of the Colony from general revenue shows a net decrease of 6,968*l.*

The chief cause of the decrease will be found under Miscellaneous, which shows 11,763*l.* less than in the previous year. This is due to the exceptionally large payment made to the railway company on the judgment of the Supreme Court, in the matter of stores; and the writing off of the balance of the loan made from general revenue towards the Jamaica exhibition. On the other hand, the largest increase (7,115*l.*) occurs in public works, and is due to the larger vote under this head which the state of the finances permitted; other items of increase being under 'Debt," owing to the payment of interest due on account of the previous year; "Pensions," due to additional pensions and the payment of an accumulated pension; "Postal Service," due to extension of the department "Constabulary," for increase of staff and purchase of uniforms, a boat, ammunition and articles for repairing arms; and 'Military," due to an increase of the rates of import duty allowances under Law 2 of 1895, as well as to an increase in the number of men.

Main road expenditure under Law 17 of 1890 shows a decrease of 3,713*l.* due to diminution of the operations of Law 17 of 1890.

Appropriated expenditure shows a net increase of 21,217*l.*, due especially to a transfer of 22,300*l.* to the Kingston Streets Improvement Fund.

Immigration shows an increase of 3,458*l.*, due to the expenses connected with the transport of immigrants by the "Volga" and "Jumna."

Pensions.

Pensions amounting to 1,235*l.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the resolution of the Legislative Council, dated the 23rd October 1887, while the pension list was relieved by the deaths of pensioners to the extent of 994*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

Debt.

42,240*l.* was raised under Laws 7 of 1881, 1 of 1891, and 7 of 1894 by the issue of local inscribed stock under Law 33 of 1894 for the construction of bridges in St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary. The amount realized from premiums was 2,555*l.*, the minimum rate being 106.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	s.	d.
1885	1,427,458	14	2
1886	1,478,790	3	8
1887	1,491,993	3	9
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2

Of the above amount of debt on the 31st March last 765,871*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* was on account of the railway purchase, reconstruction and extension, and 126,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by the general revenue raised on account of the several undertakings specified:—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea Water Works	128,200
Kingston markets	20,000
Kingston gasworks	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house	10,000

Legislative Council.

The Council was in session when the year opened; that session closed on the 2nd May 1894.

A new session opened on the 12th February 1895, and continued beyond the close of the year under review.

Major-General Hallowes, Commander of the Forces, and Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, were sworn and took their seats as exofficio members of the Council on 12th February 1895.

The Council met 55 times during the period from the 3rd April 1894, to the end of the year 1894–5.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works of all kinds including the cost of administration and supervision, was 163,628*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

The main roads, the bridges, and public buildings throughout the island were maintained in good order and many works of improvement effected.

Since 1889 the length of main roads has been increased from 752½ miles to 1,839¾ miles, upwards of 100 new bridges have been built, many of them of considerable dimensions—such as the bridge over the Rio Grande in Portland with 6 spans of 80 feet each, and the bridge over the Rio Minho in Vere with a single span of 240 feet; many miles of additional telegraph lines have been erected and numerous public buildings have been built.

The average cost per mile for maintenance of main roads was 36*l.* 4*s.*, being 2*l.* 9*s.* more than last year. This is mainly due to heavy flood damages. The Public Works Department now effects an appreciable saving of expenditure by having its own carts and mules for work on the roads instead of hiring as was formerly the practice.

The reconstruction of parochial roads taken over from the parishes under Law 17 of 1890 was continued during the year, and the actual length taken over as main roads up to the close of the year under review was 982 miles, 10½ chains.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892, was also continued and the expenditure on this item was 25,537*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* At the close of the year 47 out of the 89 bridges authorised by the law were completed and 23 were in course of construction.

The extension of the St. Thomas interior main road from the Johnson river at Serge Island, in the Blue Mountain Valley, to Bath was commenced, and satisfactory progress was made with the work. When completed, this road will open up a very fertile and well populated district.

Considerable progress was made in the work of enlarging the St. Catherine District Prison.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point and Folly Point were maintained with regularity and efficiency, and the work of constructing the lighthouse at Negril Point was proceeded with, and was nearing completion at the end of the year under report. It is now in operation.

The telegraph lines throughout the island were maintained in fair order. The lines are generally being remodelled and provided with poles of a more durable nature than those originally used.

Crown Lands.

Two notifications of 20,772 acres of lands liable to forfeiture for non-payment of quit rent and land tax have been issued. 18,274 acres were forfeited in the same period.

There are about 200,000 acres of forfeitable land in the island, the forfeiture of which the Surveyor General estimates will occupy about 10 years, the proceedings in respect of each notification taking about two years to complete.

The total rents received from Government lands and buildings amounted to 1,242*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, and the total sales to 421*l.*

Railway Lands.

A great portion of the year was occupied in lawsuits with dissatisfied claimants for compensation for land being acquired along the railway extension to Port Antonio. Of 505 cases, 476 were amicably settled, five cases were settled in court, and 19 compromised, in most cases at or near the amounts previously offered by the Government. There are now only five unsettled cases on this track.

On the Montego Bay extension, 373 cases have been settled by agreement and 15 cases are still unsettled.

The cost of both tracks to date is 49,936*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* an average of 46*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* per acre, the Port Antonio track costing 60*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* per acre, and the Montego Bay track 38*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* per acre.

The Port Antonio track passed through 5 towns and numerous villages and settlements besides large properties, almost the whole being either good cultivated or building land.

The Surveyor-General estimates that the total cost of both tracks will probably not exceed 65,000*l.*

The expenditure on railway lands during the year was more than double that of any previous year, owing to the great number of claims on both tracks actually settled for.

Between the 7th October 1893, and the 28th February 1894, the West India Improvement Company were authorised to enter upon 37½ miles and by the 1st January 1895, they were actually in possession of the whole 54½ miles.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The revenue earned during the year was 3,341*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.*, and the cost of management, including salaries, was 1,434*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* leaving a balance of 1,906*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.*

Extensions of channels amounting to about two miles were carried through, the total length of the canals maintained by the Public Works Department being now about 37 miles.

There was an increase in the supply of water of about 20 per cent. during the year, with a prospect of a still further large demand. The revenue from this increase will not, however, come in till next year. The increased supply was mostly for the cultivation of bananas. At the end of the year nearly 800 acres of bananas were under irrigation, and the Director of Public Works considered it probable that 400 or 500 acres more would be planted within the ensuing 12 months.

Post Office and Telegraphs.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Postal and Telegraph Department for the year 1894-5, compared with the two preceding years:—

Year.	Postal Revenue.					Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total
	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1892–3 - - - - -	18,260 5 8½	307 6 6	401 13 3	183 18 4	19,153 3 9½	5,813 11 0	24,966 14 9½
1893–4 - - - - -	19,429 3 1	354 6 6	431 14 4½	219 1 0	20,434 4 11½	6,253 6 0	26,687 10 11½
1894–5 - - - - -	20,974 2 9	400 10 5	450 7 6½	228 16 9	22,053 17 5½	5,908 16 6	27,962 13 11½

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Postal Expenditure.						Telegraph. Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total Postal Expenditure		
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1892–3 - - - - -	4,626 15 7	2,304 14 10	8,424 10 11	1,666 6 1½	3,376 6 8¾	20,398 14 2¾	6,634 7 10½	27,033 2 0¾
1893–4 - - - - -	4,446 5 0	2,301 4 6	8,354 1 3	1,869 12 11	3,533 0 9	20,504 4 5	6,904 15 9	27,409 0 2
1894–5 - - - - -	4,715 6 3	2,422 6 6	8,419 6 9	2,028 10 8	4,612 12 6¾	22,198 3 1¾	7,075 12 9	29,273 15 1¾

Taking the items of revenue seriatim, it is satisfactory to note that the large increase of 1,565*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, under postages over the previous year, has taken place notwithstanding the reduction in 1893–94 of the registration fee from 4*d.* to 2*d.* and the adoption of the minimum scale of charges fixed by the Postal Union Treaty on second class mail matter, *i.e.*, post-cards, printed papers and commercial documents.

The temporary loss of revenue which had resulted since 1890 owing to the reduction in that year of the inland letter rate from 2*d.* to 1*d.*, and of the packet letter rate from 4*d.* to 2½*d.* has not only been recovered, but there was an increase in 1894–95 of 1,284*l.* 16*s.* 8*d* over the collections of the year 1889, which preceded that in which the reduction of rates came into force.

The other items of postal revenue show increases over the preceding year.

Postal expenditure in 1894–5 exceeded that of 1893–4 by 1,693*l.* 18*s.* 8¾*d.* This increase is chiefly attributable to the establishment of 14 new district post offices, the number of which at the end of the year under review was 123 as against 109 at the end of the previous year; the extension of the mail services by train; and the extension of house delivery of letters in Kingston, and generally to an increase in postal business, the estimated number of letters and post-cards which passed through the General Post Office and district post offices having been 2,197,256 in 1893–4 and 2,527,132 in 1894–5, an increase for the year of a little over 15 per cent. in business, while the increase in expenditure was only a little over 8 per cent.; much of this increase in business is attributed, as that of the previous year, to the reduced rates of postage.

Telegraphs.

Both ocean and inland mail services were performed during the year in a satisfactory and efficient manner. There was not a single delay in the arrival or departure of the Royal Mail steamers, while the steamers of other lines afforded many opportunities for exchanging mails, chiefly with the United States of America and the mother-country. The several inland mail services were performed without any interruption.

The railway extension to Montego Bay across the island was completed in February, 1895, and daily mail service by train was established between all offices on the line.

Mail Coach Service.

The earnings, 2,616*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.*, show a decrease of 101*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* on the receipts of the previous year, chiefly in respect of passenger fares attributed to the extension of railway facilities above referred to, and of those afforded by the coasting steamers.

JAMAICA.
1894–5.

Money Orders.

The number issued increased from 13,470 in 1893–4 to 14,294 in 1894–5 for amounts totalling 48,310*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* in the former, and 50,445*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* in the latter year.

Postal Orders.

The following figures evidence a continuous increase in postal order business:—

—	1892–3.	1893–4.	1894–5.
No. of orders issued -	115,340	127,465	131,825
Face value - -	£ s. d. 20,393 2 6	£ s. d. 21,567 10 0	£ s. d. 22,286 17 6

The sales of the year under review show the satisfactory increase of 11,793*l.* 10*s.* over those of 1890–1, when the system was inaugurated.

Parcels Post.

The following figures indicate a steady increase in this service:—

Number of Parcels.	1892–3.	1893–4.	1894–5.
From other countries -	9,860	9,923	10,548
To other countries -	2,439	2,651	2,764
	12,299	12,574	13,312
Declared value:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From other countries -	12,629 8 4	14,094 8 2	14,890 17 9
To other countries -	2,355 2 9¾	2,189 17 2	2,752 15 9
Total -	14,984 11 1¾	16,284 5 4	17,643 13 6

This steady increase has obtained since the inauguration of the system, and, notwithstanding the large number of parcels handled and distributed by each mail, the postmaster for Jamaica does not recollect a single instance of loss or miscarriage occurring in this island.

Telegraphs.

The revenue under this head shows a falling off of 347*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and the expenditure an increase of 170*l.* 17*s.*, compared with the previous year. The falling off in revenue was due to a decrease in the number of messages sent and received during the year, viz: 105,719 as against 111,812 during 1893-4. The former number was, however, greater than that for 1892-3—103,803. The increase in expenditure was due almost entirely to an increase in the salaries of operators and of wages of messengers at the out-stations.

Railway.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March 1895, amounted to 80,791*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, and the expenditure to 58,043*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 22,748*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

The receipts were made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Goods and cattle - - -	43,953	19	3
Passengers - - - -	30,605	4	11
Wharf - - - -	5,718	6	1
Miscellaneous - - -	513	15	9

The number of train miles run amounted to 281,655, which gave an expenditure per mile of 4*s.* 1·46*d.* and receipts equal to 5*s.* 8·84*d.* per mile, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 7·38*d.* per train mile.

The number of passengers carried amounted to 356,713.

Interest was paid out of revenue on First Mortgage Bonds to the extent of 21,273*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

The line between Kingston and Montego Bay was completed during the year and the whole line opened for traffic.

Agriculture.

Much intelligent interest in this important subject has been aroused during the last eighteen months, and especially amongst the small settlers who hold so large a proportion of the cultivated land other than grazing land, and there is reasonable ground for hope that a more skilful and profitable cultivation of the soil and curing of crops will be the result. A further decrease of the area under canes has occurred during the year to which the present reports refer. In 1893, 31,555 acres were under cultivation, while in 1894 there were 31,284—a decrease of 271 acres.

The area under coffee has increased by 1,100, and the Director of Public Gardens reports that Liberian coffee is being

extensively planted. Cocoa shows also an increased cultivation of 239 acres, while the acreage under bananas has risen by 1,231. This latter fruit now occupies an area of 18,160 acres. It should be explained that in addition to the land given in as being under cultivation in bananas, large quantities of this fruit are grown in provision grounds and other places not returned as land under bananas. The same remark applies to several of the minor products such as ginger, arrowroot, corn, &c. Without taking this fact into consideration it might be difficult to account for the now large value of the fruit exported from the Colony which was considerably over half a million in 1894–5, and the proportion it bears to the total exports, viz., 27·9 per cent. Orange growers in Jamaica have greatly benefited by the severe blizzard which made such havoc among the orange groves of Florida in the latter part of 1894. The value of this fruit exported from Jamaica in 1894–5 was 30,109*l.* more than in the preceding year Nor must the fact be overlooked that not a few orange growers of Florida, hopeless of restoring their plantations there, or dreading the recurrence of a disaster similar to that referred to above, are turning their attention to Jamaica and making enquiries with regard to the cost of land, &c., with the view of transferring their interests to the Colony.

The area under ground provisions—the principal article of food of the population—increased by only 461 acres during the year, or less than one half per cent. This is much below the average annual increase, and is attributed to the fact that a large number of the male rural population have been employed in work on railway extensions and on the sewerage works in Kingston, and have thus for the time being abandoned the tillage of provision fields.

In matters more strictly pastoral the past year has been one of some anxiety, and, in the case of some districts of the Islands, of serious loss. In July or August 1894, a disease which had hitherto been unknown broke out among cattle and did great mischief before the remedies were discovered which would control it or at least lessen its ravages.

Jamaica has hitherto been almost free from the numerous diseases which affect stock in other countries, and while the disease referred to appears to have been stamped out for the present, the possibility of its re-appearance causes some natural anxiety.

Education.

The following is a summary of the results of the inspection of elementary schools during the year compared with the two previous years :—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Per-centage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First.	Second.	Third.	F.	Not examined.	Fees.	Grants-in-aid, including Building Grants.
											£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894–95 - -	962	923	104,149	62,587	60·09	160	345	394	37	26	—	47,823 12 11
1893–94 - -	957	918	97,456	64,695	66·38	169	367	380	28	13	45 15 0 Fee Grant	41,378 4 6 6,469 10 0
1892–93 - -	912	867	92,135	52,983	57·50	143	389	379	1	44	6,649 0 0 Fee Grant	34,734 11 0 7,947 9 0
Increase over 1893–4 -	5	5	6,693	*2,108	*6·29	*9	22	14	9	*13	*45 15 0	37 18 5
Increase over 1892–3 -	50	56	12,014	9,604	2·59	17	*44	5	36	*18	*6,649 0 0	5,203 12 11

* Decrease.

JAMAICA. 1894-5.

While the number of scholars enrolled has increased by nearly 7,000 it will be observed that the average attendance has diminished by over 2,000 and the percentage of the average attendance has fallen from 66 to 60. The superintending inspector calls attention, however, to the fact that this latter figure is higher than in any year since the inauguration of the present system, only excepting the year immediately preceding the one under review. Mr. Capper says, "to fairly judge of the results of the great "change in the system effected in 1892–3," (when the abolition of fees took place), "the figures for that year must be taken into "consideration as well as those of the following year in which the "attraction of novelty contributed so much to the enormous "increase in school attendance. It will then be seen that there "has been an increase in the two years of 18 per cent. in the "number of children at school: an increase which is quite "sufficient to justify a hopeful view of the situation and a belief "that the course pursued by the legislature has been judicious." Some part of the decrease must, however, be attributed to a failure of crops during the last few months and scarcity of employment in certain parts of the island.

A falling off will be observed in the number of 1st class schools as compared with last year; this is accounted for by the influx of large numbers of children coming under school influences for the first time and to the changes in the curriculum made by the code.

The annual examination of teachers held at the close of the year 1894 resulted in the passing of two teachers out of six who presented themselves; there are now 297 certified teachers employed in the elementary schools, whilst 42 more have passed their examinations and will receive certificates after the prescribed periods of probation. At the examination of students from the training colleges held at the same time 145 students competed, of whom 127 passed, 13 in honours.

The examination of pupil teachers and volunteers for the examination in connection with the general elementary educational system of the Colony also took place in December 1894.

There were 1,118 candidates of whom 389 passed or 35 per cent.

A feature of interest in connection with the work of the Department is an educational Bulletin which was established during the year, dealing with subjects of general educational interest and serving as a medium of communication on many matters between managers and teachers.

During the year, the education code has been further revised on the recommendation of the Board of Education.

The report on the training college for girls at Shortwood shows a satisfactory measure of progress during the year. The students numbered 22 on the 1st April, 1892, and they were all presented for examination in December of that year. Of these 4 passed in the 1st class, 8 in the 2nd class, 7 in the 3rd class, and 3 failed.

The third year students passed out in December and found employment at once.

Industrial Schools.

The Hope Industrial School.

At the beginning of the year under review there were 32 boys in the institution and at the close of the year 27 boys. The main occupation of these children, especially the older ones, is working in the botanical garden at Hope, where they receive practical lectures daily. The elementary school in which the boys are educated was rated second class at its examination.

Shortwood Industrial School.

This is a school for girls. At the commencement of the year the inmates numbered 28 and at the end of the year 35, one of whom was on license. Of these, 20 were under 12 years of age. The girls are employed in washing, baking, light field labour, and house work.

Alpha Cottage.

These schools for boys and girls, are exclusively for members of the Roman Catholic faith. It is reported of them that they have fully maintained their high local reputation for efficiency and good management.

At the beginning of April 1894 there were 42 boys in the institution and 49 girls, at the end of the year the numbers were 45 and 43 respectively. In these schools great attention is paid to garden and field labour on the boys' side and to laundry and domestic work on the girls.

The boys' school on examination passed first class with 61 marks and the girls' school also passed in this class with 68 marks.

Belmont Orphanage.

This is a small school of 12 children, the number not having varied during the year, and is mainly supervised by the family of the Bishop of Jamaica. The children's school education is provided for at a school in the neighbourhood of Stony Hill which obtained at the last examination a place just short of first class. Their industrial employment includes straw-plaiting and needle-work, but they are also trained for domestic situations.

Botanical.

The Department has continued the valuable work of distributing plants and seeds throughout the Colony, sixty-four thousand five hundred and eighteen of the former having been sent out. The

principal descriptions of seeds distributed have been those of teak, kola, Liberian coffee, nutmeg, cocoa, tea, lemon and cinchona.

In the nursery at Hope there is always in stock a supply of several thousand plants. The Director of the Botanic Department reports that there is a collection of 90 varieties of sugar cane. The value of this collection is lessened by the absence of any means for testing the saccharine qualities of the various canes. I have requested the Director to take measures to procure the necessary instruments. All the plants in the economic section of the garden are doing well. The demand for plants is rapidly increasing and has been doing so for three years past.

The monthly bulletin issued by the Department serves to assist the persons who receive plants to grow them successfully. The publication is becoming yearly more popular and its usefulness is consequently extending.

The condition of all the gardens in charge of the Department has been well maintained during the year, but owing to lack of funds it has not been feasible to extend operations.

Useful work is being done by the Department in sending out instructors into the country districts to give demonstrations and lessons in planting and curing crops to the small settlers. This practical and simple method of conveying instruction to those who are unable to vist the public gardens is calculated to greatly improve the quality of our minor products.

Immigration.

The coolies who arrived in the "Volga" during the year 1893 have not proved satisfactory, being, the Protector of Immigrants reports, very deficient in stamina and inferior as labourers, while the amount of sickness and mortality amongst them has been proportionately high, compared with those who arrived by the "Erne," "Moy" and "Belgravia."

The Protector considers that an unusually large number of those shipped were not of the best class for field work.

Six hundred and seventy statute adult immigrants were applied for during the year 1894, but did not arrive till after its close.

No coolies returned to India during the year and only three passports were issued.

Fifty-six births occurred amongst immigrants and 48 deaths, being per-centages respectively of 2·67 and 1·83 as against 5·97 and 1·94 in 1893.

One death was due to murder by an indentured immigrant of his concubine; the murderer was executed.

There were four other cases of serious crime among East Indians, two of arson and two of wounding.

On the 1st January 1895, 25 East Indians were in prison, being 1·8 per 1,000 of the East Indian population, 46 in the Lunatic Asylum, or 3·3 per 1,000, and one in the Lepers' Home.

The balance at credit of the Immigration Fund on the 31st March 1894, was 12,770*l.* 13*s.* 3¾*d.*, and at credit of the Return Passage Fund, 3,486*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, making together 16,257*l.* 8*s.* 5¾*d.* This amount will be considerably reduced in the year 1895 by repatriating coolies.

The number of Savings Bank depositors increased from 619 in 1893 to 793 in 1894, and deposits from 10,705*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, to 13,958*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*—57 remittances, aggregating 205*l.* 9*s.*, were made to relatives in India.

In addition to correspondence through the Post Office, 184 letters were despatched, and 172 received, by the Immigration Department on behalf of coolies, making together 356 letters.

Wages have been generally in excess of the amounts stipulated for in the agreements, and no serious disputes of any kind have taken place between employers and coolies.

Emigration.

574 labourers left Jamaica for the Isthmus of Panama and 752 returned therefrom.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows in the last ten years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1884–85	15,511	360,190
1885–86	16,820	363,292
1886–87	17,047	363,481
1887–88	18,510	393,250
1888–89	19,444	408,213
1890–91	21,747	423,011
1891–92	22,824	428,348
1892–93	23,902	417,978
1893–94	25,533	457,924
1894–95	27,045	453,875

The year under review shows an increase of 1,512 in the number of depositors; but a decrease of 4,049*l.* in the amount of deposits as compared with 1893–4. That year, however, having been a remarkably prosperous one in which the deposits were much larger than those of any previous year since the establishment of the bank, the amount of deposits for 1894–5 are nevertheless satisfactory, specially in view of the steady increase in the number of accounts for 50*l.* and under.

JAMAICA. 1894–5.

In the above amount of deposits are included thirteen deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
1 Immigration Return Passage Fund -	1,005	4	11
1 Constabulary Reward Fund - -	570	1	4
1 Constabulary Pension Fund - -	2	3	8
8 Sinking Fund - - -	920	11	2
1 Smith and Beckford's Charity -	107	5	9
1 Turks Island - - -	514	19	10

There were also 299 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery, Administrator-General and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 32,744*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, the remaining 26,733 accounts, representing 416,461*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* are all ordinary savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 18,712 were for 5*l.* and under, while only 1,207 were for over 100*l.*, the increase in the number of small accounts being 1,319.

3,801 accounts were opened and 2,343 closed, resulting in an increase of 1,458 in the number of accounts open at the end of the year as compared with the number in the year before.

The number of deposits amounted to 31,009 and withdrawals to 32,456, representing 220,983*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* and 237,645*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* respectively.

The expenses of management and interest credited to depositors amounted to 15,569*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, while the revenue realised was 16,660*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,091*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* on the year's transactions. The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of 884*l.*

Trade.

Notwithstanding complaints of commercial depression the statistics of the Revenue Department do not show that there has been any diminution in the volume of trade.

The difference between the value of the imports of 1894–5 and those of 1893–4 as compared with that between the value in 1893–4 and 1892–3 has certainly been considerably less, but, as the following table will show, the figures for the year under review are higher than those of any previous year—

Value of Imports.

	£
1884–5 - - - -	1,487,833
1885–6 - - - -	1,325,603
1886–7 - - - -	1,322,336
1887–8 - - - -	1,695,605
1888–9 - - - -	1,597,600
1890–1 - - - -	2,188,937
1891–2 - - - -	1,759,890
1892–3 - - - -	1,941,481
1893–4 - - - -	2,157,794
1894–5 - - - -	2,191,745

Of the sum shown for 1894–5, 2,190,712*l.* was the value of goods imported for home consumption, the corresponding figures in 1893–4 being 2,136,113*l.* or 54,599*l.* less than during the present year.

The imports are classified under the following heads :—

I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.
II. Raw materials.
III. Manufactured articles.
IV. Coin and bullion.

The value of the imports under Head I. in the past year was 845,079*l.* as against 825,952*l.* in 1893–4 or about 2·3 per cent. more; under Head II. 67,432*l.* as against 49,680*l.* in 1893–94 or 35.7 per cent more; and under Head III. 1,249,676*l.* as against 1,219,405*l.* or 2·4 per cent. more, while under Head IV. there has been a decrease from 41,076*l.* to 28,525*l.*—equal to 30·8 per cent. Under the first head the principal items in which increase is most marked are :—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cattle neat	2,045	4,956
Horses	488	3,518
Mules	85	939
Bread and Biscuits	602,426 lbs.	4,970
Butter	19,323 lbs.	966
Butter substitutes	6,277 lbs.	157
Corn	36,424 bushels	5,882
Cornmeal	3,107 barrels	1,682
Pease and beans	2,910 bushels	1,091
Beef in tins	—	1,833
Hams	14,097 lbs.	528
Cotton seed oil	21,548 gallons	2,060
Rice	974,603 lbs.	2,591
Sugar (refined)	421,946 lbs.	2,124

In the case of flour, alewives, dried or salted fish, herrings, and one or two other articles the quantities imported have been greater, while the values, owing to low prices at the country of origin, have decreased.

One reason assigned for the increase in the importation of articles of food is the fact that there are large numbers of American labourers at present in the Colony brought out for the purpose of carrying on the construction of the railway extensions, and to the further fact that native labourers who are working on the line have meanwhile abandoned their provision fields and live by the wages they earn and expend largely on the purchase of imported articles of food.

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Of articles included in the second class the increase has been chiefly in—

	£
Coal - - - - - -	13,065
Natural manures - - - -	1,941
Tallow and natural greases - - -	595
Trees and plants - - - -	483

While under Class III. increased importations have chiefly been made of the following—

	£
Steam engines, other than locomotives or agricultural - - - -	12,513
Galvanised iron for roofing - - -	3,409
Iron or steel rails - - - -	5,021
Iron or steel tubes and pipes - - -	10,969
Cement - - - - -	3,224
Boots and shoes - - - -	4,296
White pine lumber - - - -	3,216

On the other hand there has been a marked falling off in most descriptions of clothing fabrics, the importations of cotton piece goods alone being 57,512*l.* less than last year, and of haberdashery 9,748*l.* less. The Collector-General attributes the falling-off in fabrics to the existence of large stocks in hand at the commencement of the year.

The imports of the Colony have been drawn during the past three years from the various countries in the following proportions:—

—	1892-3.	1893-4.	1894-5.
United Kingdom -	51·9	55·1	40·4
Dominion of Canada -	9·6	8·8	8·5
United States - -	34·8	33·3	36·8
Other countries - -	3·7	2·9	4·3

The increase of the proportion of imports from the United States is due to the large increase in food stuffs imported of which an explanation has been given above, and the increase in the proportion drawn from other foreign countries is accounted for by the importation of cattle from the States of Colombia, and to the fact that direct trade with Germany has been established by a line of steamers from Hamburg having included Jamaica in its itinerary.

The value of the exports has been considerably less during the past year than in 1893-94, but with that exception is higher than

in any previous year. The falling-off has amounted to 154,268*l.* as will appear from the following table:

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1884–85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885–86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886–87 - -	1.334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887–88 - -	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888–89 - -	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890–91 - -	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814
1891–92 - -	1,628,777	93,319	1,722,096
1892–93 - -	1,690,637	69,170	1,759,807
1893–94 - -	1,982,596	93,093	2,075,689
1894–95 - -	1,848,877	72,544	1,921,421

The decrease has occurred principally under the head of raw material, which is 140,419*l.* less than in the previous year, and is accounted for by the diminished export of woods—of bitterwood there were 1,227 tons less and 3,774*l.* in value exported, of fustic 7,500 tons and 27,167*l.* in value, and of logwood 13,397 tons and 105,152*l.* in value. In the case of the two first of these the falling-off is attributed to bad prices and lack of demand, while in the case of logwood, lower prices have ruled and growers who have been accustomed to remarkably high prices lately seem unwilling to accept lower rates.

An interesting feature of the exports of the Colony during the year under review is the appearance for the first time of dye extracts. The value of this export during the year was 3,126*l.*, and represents the first output of chemical works which have recently been established for the purpose of extracting dyes from logwood and other dyewoods.

The following articles have also been exported in decreased quantities, viz.:—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoa - - - -	979 cwt.	6,535
Bananas - - - -	394,047 bunches.	44,371
Sugar - - - -	11,854 cwt.	43,034

while the export of the following has improved—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoanuts - - - -	972,153	2,378
Coffee - - - -	6,836 cwt.	14,598
Oranges - - - -	17,574,604	30,109
Rum - - - -	495,071 gallons.	41,355
Cigars - - - -	3,722 lbs.	1,951

The large increase in oranges is the result of the damage to many of the orange groves in Florida and the consequent increased demand for Jamaica fruit.

The following table shows the proportions in which the Island's exports have been taken by the several countries named, during this year, as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1892–3.	1893–4.	1894–5.
United Kingdom -	29·1	26·7	27·1
United States - -	54·2	57·3	58·1
Canada - - -	2·6	1·7	1·5
Other countries - -	14·1	14·3	13·3

The following table shows, for 5 years, the percentage proportion which each of the several articles of produce mentioned bears to the total export value:—

—	1890–1.	1891–2.	1892–3.	1893–4.	1894–5.
Sugar - - -	13·1	15·6	14·3	14·2	12·9
Rum - - -	11·	15·7	11·3	7·4	10·1
Coffee - - -	15·7	20·7	20·1	17·3	19·3
Dyewoods - -	21·3	18·7	21·1	24·3	19·
Fruit - - -	29·4	17·7	23·1	26·6	27·9
Pimento - -	4·5	3·1	3·5	3·8	4·5
Other produce - -	5·	8·5	6·6	6·4	6·3

Police.

The allowed strength of the Constabulary Force at 31st March 1895, was 776, while the actual strength was 772.

The number is made up of 19 officers, 122 sub-officers, and 631 men.

In addition to the regular constabulary there were at the date mentioned 212 rural headmen of police and 742 rural policemen, the total effective strength of regular and rural police being thus 1,726 of all ranks. This is an increase of 50 on the preceding year and of 68 on the year 1892–93.

The enlistments numbered 84, while 55 men were discharged, 21 dismissed, one deserted, and one died.

Of the 55 men discharged 12 were granted pensions, and 14 received gratuities.

Musketry practice has been more general in the force during the past year, 475 trained constables and 55 recruits having fired the course, as against 321 trained men and 89 recruits in the year before.

The following table, given in continuance of similar returns in previous years, shows a portion of the services of the police :—

——	1889–1.	1891–2.	1892–3.	1893–4.	1894–5.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information.	9,624	6,558	6,923	8,237	7,781
Number of persons apprehended on warrants.	2,499	1,645	1,802		
Number of search warrants executed.	153	116	102	122	150
Number of persons summoned.	25,427	17,588	18,896	19,212	19,249
Number of persons subpœnaed.	27,540	28,267	28,766	29,808	30,673
Number of seizures under revenue laws.	665	325	440	399	437
Number of post-mortems ordered.	627	460	432	594	603
Number of prisoners escorted.	15,312	9,638	10,570	8,599	8,224

There were ten arrests for murder (including infanticide) during the year as against 13 the year before. Of these, however, three only resulted in convictions for that offence, two were discharged by the magistrates, the prosecution of two was abandoned in the upper court, and three remained undisposed of.

Of other offences against the person it is satisfactory to note that of manslaughter there were three cases only as against ten last year; of concealing birth, 5 as against 11, and of bestiality, 14 as against 27.

On the other hand the arrests effected for assaults occasioning bodily harm have risen from 21 last year to 80 during 1894–95, cutting and wounding from 684 to 694. Assaults with intent to commit rape from 27 to 36 and rape from 35 to 39.

The number of offences against the police and against their authority go far to measure the regard for law and order which the community possess.

In 1892–3 there were 288 cases of assaults on the police, 353 in 1893–94 and 349 in 1894–95. In 1892–93 there were 109 cases of obstructing the police in their duty, 132 in 1893–94 and 75 in 1894–5.

The increase last year over the year before in this class of offence has thus been checked.

Turning to offences against property, the police effected 26 arrests for the serious crime of burglary, of which number 17 resulted in conviction while eleven persons where either discharged for want of sufficient evidence or acquitted on trial. It is to be regretted that this offence has increased during the past year. In 1893–94 there were only 14 arrests and 8 convictions.

There has also been an increase of cases of breaking into dwelling-houses and shops and stealing therein, of larceny of small stock and of simple larceny.

JAMAICA. 1894–5.

The Inspector-General's report shows no marked change in the figures of malicious injury to property and of minor offences.

At the end of 1893-4 there were 1,060 habitual criminals under police surveillance. Of these, 252 were re-convicted during 1894-5, while the number under police surveillance at 31st March last had risen to 1,307.

During the year the police have regularly performed their ordinary and border patrols. They have afforded the usual aid—apart altogether from prosecutions—in the preservation of order, and the protection of the revenue, and have efficiently discharged numerous minor services which, though they cannot be shown in figures, form no inconsiderable proportion of their important duties.

Prisons and Reformatories.

At the end of the financial year under report there were 957 prisoners in custody in all the prisons of the Island as compared with

943 on 31st March 1894
964 " " 1893
988 " " 1892
893 " " 1891

The following return gives some of the main statistics of the Department for the year under review in comparison with those of the previous year:—

—	Year ended 31st March	
	1895.	1894.
Commitments:—		
To prison	3,654	3,935
To lock-ups	575	445
Total	4,229	4,380
Re-convictions	1,210	1,397
Deaths:—		
General Penitentiary	10	21
Other prisons	15	29
Total	25	50
Executions	1	1
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	916	1,008
FINANCIAL.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	18,531 15 1	19,344 1 7
Gross earnings in cash	5,688 8 7	5,264 18 2½
Net cost of maintaining prisons	12,843 6 5	14,079 3 4½
Cost per prisoner	14 0 5	13 19 4
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	4,667 13 2	5,086 7 7
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	4,238 15 0	4,235 7 11½
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,742 14 5	1,808 17 4

Discipline has been well maintained in the prisons, and the mark system continues to work satisfactorily at the General Penitentiary. The several prison buildings are in good order, and the extensions at the St. Catherine district prison have satisfactorily progressed. When completed the closing of the remaining district and short term prisons in the island will follow. This very desirable concentration, facilitated by recent railway extension, cannot but be productive of improved prison discipline and may be favourable, it is hoped, to economy in this branch of the public service.

The health of the prisoners generally during the year was satisfactory. The deaths per 1,000 in the General Penitentiary were 19·0, and in the other prisons 38·2 as against 37·8 and 61·8 respectively for last year.

School has been held regularly in the General Penitentiary and in the St. Catherine and Falmouth District prisons, while religious services have also been held there and in the Hanover District prison and the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaols. In the two short term prisons at Port Antonio and Black River no regular provision exists for such services, but prayers are read by the officers of the institution.

As will be seen from the foregoing statistical return the labour of the penitentiary is largely employed in brick-making and quarrying; trades are also exercised and taught to a considerable extent. In the other prisons, quarrying and breaking stones, mat making, mattress making, picking coir, &c. is carried on according to local circumstances. Penal labour in the form of work on the treadmills is in force in the General Penitentiary and in the form of shot-drill in the district prison.

Reformatories.

On the 31st March 1895, there were 200 boys in the Stony Hill Institution; of these, 115 were Reformatory boys and 85 were boys in the Industrial School. During the year there was an increase of five in the number of Industrial School boys and a decrease of a like number in the Reformatory boys. There were nine boys out on license in private employment at the end of the year.

At Stony Hill, agriculture and trades of various sorts continue to be taught, such as carpentry, tailoring, blacksmith's, mason's and bricklaying work, and boys on discharge are given a set of tools to enable them to earn a living.

The sanitary condition of this institution continues satisfactory.

On the 1st April 1894, there were 26 Reformatory children and six Industrial School children in the Girls' Reformatory, total 32. On the 31st March 1895, there were 25 children, of whom three were Industrial School children. The majority of these children were of the ages of between 12 and 16 years.

In the Girls' Reformatory employment is found for the inmates in making, mending, washing and ironing their own clothes, and in

making up clothing for the boys at Stony Hill Reformatory and for the Immigration Department, cooking, cleaning dormitories, preparing cassava starch, and washing for private customers.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population of the Colony on 31st March 1895 was 683,739, and the mean population, taking the natural increase to the middle of the year, is estimated at 678,786. On these latter figures the island marriage, birth, and death-rates are based. The net gain of population during the year is placed at 10,977, or 17·1 per 1,000 living persons, against a rate in last year of 19·5.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 3,629, or a rate of 5·3 per 1,000 of the population. Last year showed 3,734 marriages with a rate of 5·5.

Of the 7,258 persons married, 50·33 per cent. were unable to sign their names in the proportions of 43·56 per cent. males to 57·09 per cent. females. These figures show an improvement over past years, especially in the case of the women, where the rate of illiteracy has fallen from 68·8 per cent. in 1883–4 to 57·0 per cent. in 1894–5.

The births registered in the island during the year numbered 25,298, or at the rate of 37·2 per 1,000 of the mean population. Compared with last year a decrease of 2,067 births is shown. Of the births 60·8 per 100 were illegitimate, or a little more than the average of the past ten years.

The deaths recorded in the year numbered 14,321, the rate per 1,000 of mean population being 21·0.

43·4 per cent. of the deaths were those of children under five years of age. There seems no ground for an assumption that this heavy mortality among children is to be attributed to the prevalence of illegitimate births; and the Registrar-General is arranging to give reliable statistics on this point in his next annual report.

DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA.

Grand Cayman.

There were 33 marriages during the year, an annual rate of 8·8 to each 1,000 of the inhabitants.

The total births in the year were 169, or an annual rate of 45·3 to each 1,000 of the population. Of these, 7·1 in each 100 were illegitimate.

Total deaths 16, or an annual rate of 4·2 to each 1,000 of the population.

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Marriages during the year, 8. Total births, 40; 2 births illegitimate. Total deaths, 11.

General.

From May to November 1894, I was absent from the Colony on leave of absence and the Government was administered by the Senior Military Officer Commanding the Troops.

During the year severe drought was experienced in several districts, and a disease hitherto unknown broke out amongst the cattle which for a time baffled the efforts of local veterinary skill. A commission was appointed which visited the various districts affected and accumulated all the available information. On my return in November I forwarded a copy of the report of the Commission, with the evidence, to the Governor-General of Canada with a request that His Excellency would obtain for me a report and advice from the best veterinary authorities. The report has since been received and promulgated, and I have reason to believe that the disease, which appears to have arisen to a great extent from drinking polluted water from almost exhausted ponds, has now nearly disappeared.

Early in January 1895, the extension of the railway to Montego Bay was completed, since which time the passenger traffic between Kingston, Montego Bay, and other towns along the line has been considerable. The fertile country opened up by the railway is capable of great development, which will be retarded or accelerated in proportion to the inducements offered by the railway company by the cheap carriage of produce.

A satisfactory evidence of general progress is afforded by the investment of local and foreign capital—a factory for the extraction of logwood and other dyes has been established at Spanish Town, giving employment to a large number of people. Ice factories are increasing in number, and electric light and power works are established in Kingston and other towns in the Island. Nor have the parochial authorities of the island been backward in effecting improvements. With the exception of Mandeville and Brown's Town, where, from their elevation, peculiar difficulties exist, every town in the island has now a constant house-to-house supply of pure water, and wherever markets are held excellent market buildings have been erected.

Since the failure of the orange crop in Florida there have been many inquiries for suitable land from persons who have seen the results of years of labour destroyed by frost in two or three days. I have reason to hope that there will be in the near future a considerable influx of orange growers from Florida who will undertake the regular cultivation of oranges as it has never been carried out heretofore in Jamaica. I am sure that those who, with proper training, embark in the business will receive an amply remunerative return for their capital and labour, and I see no reason why, with a soil and climate so peculiarly well suited for the cultivation, the export of oranges should not rival in value that of bananas or of sugar.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

King's House,
October 10, 1895.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 174.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894 *see* No. 141 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
140	Barbados	1894
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	"
160	Sierra Leone	"
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	"
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	"
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 174.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 141.)

Sir H. A. BLAKE to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,
June 18, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1895, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

There is no alteration to report under this head.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue collected in 1895 was 7,312*l.*, as compared with 8,840*l.* in 1894, and fell short of the estimate by 150*l.*

The deficiency is to be explained by the small export of salt, due to unusually small shipments at Grand Turk and other contributing causes, the proceeds from royalty and light dues on vessels entering being 1,882*l.* and 548*l.* respectively, against 3,087*l.* and 950*l.* in the previous year, which was, however, an exceptional one.

The balance carried forward from 1894 was 2,775*l.*, giving a gross revenue of 10,087*l.*

The total expenditure amounted to 7,547*l.*, being larger by 88*l.* than the sum expended in 1894. Of this amount, 6,849*l.* was ordinary expenditure, against 7,127*l.* in 1894, and 698*l.* was for works and services of a special nature, the sum so spent in 1894 having been 332*l.*

The revenue collected within the year was less by 235*l.* than the total expenditure within the same period, and the balance to carry forward to 1896 was consequently reduced. The sum so

carried forward was 2,540*l.*, and the Dependency has to its credit a further sum of 2,000*l.* invested, making a total credit balance of 4,540*l.*

3. *Assets and Liabilities.*

There was a balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December 1895 of 4,540*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*

4. *Public Debt.*

The Dependency has no public debt.

5. *Municipalities.*

There are local boards, established by various legislative enactments, to deal with the following subjects, namely, health, quarantine, prisons, pilotage, salt ponds, education, and medical relief.

6. *Public Works*

There was much quiet but useful general work done during 1895, at a cost of 646*l.*, which covers a stock of lumber, cement, paint, &c., remaining on hand. I am glad to report that, after the present year, the work of bringing into a state of proper repair and efficiency the various public buildings and other property of the Government will be fairly complete, when expenditure will return to its more normal level.

In addition to the above, the following works of a special nature were undertaken :—

	£	s.	d.
Clearance of bush and weeds and opening up of roads in the south-east suburbs of Grand Turk, inhabited chiefly by the labouring class.	116	18	4
Breakwater, Salt Cay - - - -	264	6	9
Enlargement of public offices, Cockburn Harbour	162	2	8
Survey of township, Cockburn Harbour -	154	10	2

7. *Legislation.*

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1.—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 3.—The Library (Trustees) Ordinance.
No. 4.—The Salt Pond Ordinances, Further Continuance Ordinance.
No. 5.—The Towns and Public Health Ordinance.
No. 6.—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance, 1896.

The Towns and Public Health Ordinance is an important enactment; it makes provision for dealing with nuisances and other matters of a kindred nature which found no place in the old Health Act, and also consolidates and amends the law as to slaughter yards and public markets. The much-needed work of general revision of the existing statutes has been unfortunately greatly retarded by the untimely death of the late Judge Cleaver.

8. *Legislative Board.*

Mr. W. E. Cleaver, who was, as judge of the Supreme Court, an *ex-officio* member of the Board, died on the 15th January, the vacancy thus created remaining unfilled until the arrival in May of the newly-appointed judge, Mr. J. B. Walker.

The Board and the Dependency generally also suffered another substantial loss by the death of Mr. Jeremiah D. Murphy, who had been a member since 1879, and was much esteemed. His place was filled by the appointment of Mr. Alfred Stubbs, of Cockburn Harbour.

9. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Commissioner, was absent on vacation leave from the 23rd October to the 3rd December, his duties being performed during that period by the Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. W. E. Cleaver, who succeded the late Mr. Johnson in the office of Judge in December 1893, died on the 15th January of fever. Mr. Cameron acted as Judge until the end of May, when Mr. John Bayldon Walker, Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone, who was appointed to fill Mr. Cleaver's place, arrived in the Dependency and took up his duties.

Dr. A. W. Thompson, Government Medical Officer, resigned that post on 1st May, and was succeeded by Dr. L. O. Crosswell.

10. *Pensions.*

There was no change in the pension list during the year.

The total sum paid in pensions was 519*l.* 5*s.*

11. *Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented :—

United States of America.
Sweden and Norway.
Denmark.
France.
Spain.
Dominican Republic.
Haytian Republic.

12. *Population and Vital Statistics.*

The population of the Dependency, according to the returns sent in, continues to increase, the births being nearly 50 per cent. more than the deaths. The increase is largest in the Caicos Islands. 1895 was a healthy year, with low death rate.

13. *Education.*

There has been satisfactory progress made in educational matters during the year, and the tone of the school at Grand Turk especially has been greatly improved since the advent of a specially selected teacher from Jamaica, who assumed his duties in January.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. 1895.

14. *Imports and Exports.*

The year's revenue from import duties is an average one, and presents no special features for remark.

The export of salt was the smallest of any year since 1888, being only 1,290,388 bushels, against 2,116,779 in 1894, the latter being the largest on record, while the average for the last 10 years is 1,653,004.

The falling off was mainly confined to Grand Turk, and is attributable almost entirely to what was practically the cessation of the fishery salt trade with Newfoundland, presumably consequent on the financial disarrangement in that Colony.

This trade has been latterly the stand-by of Grand Turk. The number of bushels shipped in the years 1893 and 1894 was 46,000 and 480,000 respectively, whereas last year it dropped to 72,000, with the result of leaving almost the whole of the year's crop on hand. I am glad to say, however, that there has been a rapid revival and that the shipments for the present year are already 120,000 bushels.

The export of sisal or Bahama hemp is gradually on the increase, the value declared for 1895 being 620*l.* With the additional and improved machinery recently put up by each of the two companies engaged in this business, the output will probably be much larger.

Comparative tables showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency are attached.

—	1893.			1894.			1895.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of imports - -	24,888	4	6	28,525	14	10	26,734	18	0
Import duties collected -	2,886	4	5	3,173	14	9	2,958	13	2

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1893, 1894, and 1895.

—	1893.			1894.			1895.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salt - - - -	22,410	19	5	29,686	10	3	19,432	5	8
Sponge - - - -	618	2	8	217	11	8	552	5	5
Bahama hemp - - -	—			419	13	2	620	6	10
Salt fish - - -	19	8	0	—			69	0	0
Turtle shell - - -	175	14	6	62	2	0	150	0	0
Total - -	23,224	4	7	30,385	17	1	20,823	17	11

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each country for the Years 1893, 1894, and 1895.

Imports.

—	1893.			1894.			1895.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	4,116	5	10	3,666	14	0	3,317	12	2
British North America - -	1,112	18	10	1,126	12	8	1,777	7	6
British Colonies - -	1,507	10	0	1,973	14	6	1,423	2	8
United States of America -	15,645	13	0	18,408	2	1	18,103	9	8
Other Foreign Countries -	2,505	16	10	3,350	11	7	2,113	6	0
Total - -	24,888	4	6	28,525	14	10	26,734	18	0

Exports.

—	1893.			1894.			1895.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -				—			24	17	10
British North America - -	7,724	2	1	8,697	13	5	1,571	19	11
British Colonies - -	105	2	5	132	10	6	235	6	11
United States of America -	14,513	12	8	20,933	6	1	17,908	10	5
Other Foreign Countries -	1,022	17	5	3,010	15	10	1,947	2	7
Total - -	23,365	14	7	32,774	5	10	21,687	17	8

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the Seven Years 1887 to 1893, and actual EXPORT for 1894 and 1895.

Ports.	1887–93.	1894.	1895.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Grand Turk - - -	616,833	735,853	202,358
Salt Cay - - -	438,978	446,054	312,466
Cockburn Harbour - -	591,546	935,372	775,564
Total - - -	1,647,357	2,116,779	1,290,388

Salt in the Colony on 31st December	1892	-	640,000	bushels.
" " "	1893	-	700,000	"
" " "	1894	-	130,000	"
" " "	1895	-	490,000	"

15. *Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below:—

Sailing Vessels.

	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1893 - -	341	43,291	350	43,979	691	87,270
1894 - - -	311	55,030	320	54,215	631	109,245
1895 - - -	249	31,694	252	31,744	501	63,438

Steamers.

	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1893 - - -	63	68,103	63	68,103	126	136,206
1894 - - -	62	71,185	62	71,185	124	142,370
1895 - - -	66	88,343	66	88,343	132	176,686

Total British and Foreign.

	1894.			1895.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British - -	51,071	24,672	75,743	17,516	23,644	41,160
Foreign - -	58,174	117,698	175,872	45,922	153,042	198,964
Total -	109,245	142,370	251,615	63,438	176,686	240,124

Her Majesty's ship "Mohawk" called in for an hour in the month of October. There were no other visits from men-of-war.

16. *Grants of Land.*

A qualified surveyor from Jamaica was engaged for three months in laying out an extension of the township of Cockburn Harbour and making a complete re-survey of the old town and

neighbourhood, thus enabling a large number of house and plantation lots to be sold by the Crown and settling many vexed questions of boundaries. Owing to the somewhat strange provisions of the existing law, which allows a period of 18 months for the payment of the purchase money of Crown land, however small the sum may be, it will be some further time before grants for these lots are issued and the transactions finally settled.

Unfortunately the term of the surveyor's employment did not permit of any regular survey work in the outer Caicos. There is great need for this, and arrangements are now under consideration for meeting the want.

A new Ordinance will be passed during the present year, which I hope will render the dealing with Crown lands in the Dependency a little less difficult than it has hitherto been.

17. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

The total number of persons committed during 1895 was 21, of whom 4 were for safe keeping and 17 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was four.

18. *Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1895 was 193, against 188 in 1894.

Of the offences reported in 1895 :—

61 were for offences against the person.
3 „ „ prædial larceny.
37 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
92 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1895 was 132, against 115 in 1894.

These convictions are classified as follows :—

31 for offences against the person.
1 for prædial larceny.
21 for offences against property other than prædial larceny.
79 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

1 for offences against the person.
3 „ „ „ property.

The acquittals were as follows :—

In the inferior courts - - -	39
In the Supreme Court - - - -	6

and three cases in which a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

19. *Hospitals and Asylums.*

There is no hospital or asylum. Cases of lunacy are very rare, but, when occurring, the patient is placed in gaol, under medical supervision, and, if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica.

20. *Meteorological Observations.*

There is nothing unusual to record under this head.

The rainfall was not above the average, though somewhat unsuitably distributed for salt interests, and there was, I am glad to say, no hurricane or threatening of one to cause anxiety.

Tables of temperature and rainfall are appended.

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	79	74	76
February	80	74	77
March	80	75	78
April	82	77	80
May	84	80	81
June	85	82	83
July	86	83	84
August	86	82	85
September	86	82	84
October	86	83	84
November	84	79	82
December	80	74	77

RAINFALL for the Year 1895 compared with the average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	1·95	2·15	·38	1·91
February	·03	·66	·12	1·48
March	·69	·15	—	—
April	2·71	1·25	·53	2·96
May	4·89	2·32	3·24	—
June	—	·17	·11	·83
July	·88	·57	·69	·71
August	3·73	1·81	2·69	4·05
September	2·17	3·59	2·34	3·91
October	·92	1·97	·50	1·66
November	3·79	3·31	3·22	4·68
December	1·62	3·56	1·77	1·91
Total Inches	23·37	21·51	15·59	24·10
Average for seven years, 1886 to 1892	25·34	23·08	21·76	38·57

21. *Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time:—

Bank.	No of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	68	73	338 9 6	268 7 8	145 0 3	215 2 5	607 4 5	660 9 8
Salt Cay	33	45	39 13 0	83 1 10	36 8 10	95 8 0	70 15 1	58 8 11
Cockburn Harbour	20	26	55 5 6	77 12 4	54 11 1	66 1 7	261 2 4	272 13 1
Total	121	144	433 8 0	429 1 10	236 0 2	376 12 0	939 1 10	991 11 8

22. *Post Office.*

The Post Office revenue for the year was 199*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* In this sum there is included, as far as sales of stamps are concerned, only the value of stamps sold over the counter and more or less all for postal purposes.

The money derived from supplying the increasing demands of dealers and others abroad is brought to account under the head of Miscellaneous, and amounts to an appreciable sum.

A direct parcel post with Bermuda was established during the year, and negotiations entered into for the establishment of a direct money order exchange with the other West Indies, through the medium of Jamaica, instead of by the roundabout system through the General Post Office, London.

Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamer from Halifax and the Clyde line steamers from New York continued to run throughout the year.

23. *General Remarks.*

The year 1895 was an uneventful one.

The shipments of salt were small, for the reasons already given, but the price continued steady at not less than 7 cents a bushel, a great improvement on the past few years. A large stock has been brought over to 1896, and, with the revival in the Newfoundland fishery salt trade and what appears to be a moderately brisk demand otherwise, prospects are fair. It is to be regretted that, in disposing of their salt, the bulk of the producers are so entirely confined to the United States market, a market which can apparently take only so limited a quantity of the article.

The progress of the fibre industry has already been referred to.

There are no other matters calling for special remark.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, May 14, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 190.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895–6.

(For Report for 1894–5, *see* No. 161 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1897.

LONDON:
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1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
156	Mauritius	1894
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	1894–5
160	Sierra Leone	1894
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	"
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	"
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	1894–5
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1895
184	British Honduras	"
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 190.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1894–5 *see* No. 161.)

The ACTING GOVERNOR to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR, Trafalgar, November 14, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Governor's Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year which ended on the 31st March last.

I have, &c.
H. JARDINE HALLOWES, Major-General,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1895-6.

Legislation.

During the session of 1896 the Legislative Council passed 39 laws, of which the following are the more important:—

Law 4 of 1896, making members of parochial boards personally liable for unauthorised or illegal expenditure by drafts signed by them.

Law 5 of 1896—"The Trial of Lunatics Law, 1896," which is practically a copy of the Imperial Statute (46 & 47 Vict. cap. 38). The necessity for this Law was shown by the miscarriage which occurred last year, when a person charged with sedition was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Law 8 of 1896—"The Juvenile Offenders Law, 1896," which empowers a judge to order the whipping of a boy between the age of 10 and 16 years, on conviction of certain offences, instead of sending him to prison or to a reformatory.

Law 9 of 1896—"The Prevention of Cruelty to Children Law, 1896." This law is in substance a transcript of the Imperial Statute (57 & 58 Vict. cap. 41). It provides for the punishment by fine or imprisonment of any person convicted of cruelty to a child, and for the care and maintenance of children coming under the protection of the law.

JAMAICA. 1895-6.

Law 12 of 1896—"The Jury Law Amendment Law, 1896." This Law consolidates the Laws relating to juries, provides more effectively for the preparation and settlement of jury lists, the striking of panels of jurors, and regulates the service of jurors.

Law 13 of 1896—"Quit Rents Forfeiture Law, 1896." This Law consolidates Laws 14 of 1884 and 32 of 1888, and facilitates and simplifies the proceedings for forfeiture of land.

Law 15 of 1896—"The Leper Asylum Law, 1896." This Law repeals the former Leper Asylum Law, and makes fresh provision for the constitution of leper asylums and for the admission to, discharge from, and management of, such institutions. It also prohibits the employment of lepers in the preparation or sale of any articles of food or drink, and in certain trades, when their disease might be a source of danger to other members of the community.

Law 16 of 1896—"The Lunatic Asylum Laws Amendment Law, 1896." This Law is in aid of the existing Lunatic Ayslum Laws, and provides more fully than heretofore for dealing with persons of unsound mind. It also empowers the Governor to declare the new asylum premises to be a lunatic asylum within the meaning of the Law.

Law 17 of 1896—"The Marine Board Law, 1896." This Law abolishes the Pilotage and Harbour Boards and districts established under authority of Laws 36 of 1873 and 21 of 1891, and provides for the appointment of a Marine Board in their stead for the whole island, with extended powers, including the management and control, &c., of all lights and beacons, other than lighthouses, inquiries as to shipwrecks, casualties affecting ships, and charges of incompetency or misconduct on the part of masters, mates or engineers, inquiries as to the seaworthiness of ships, providing for examination of masters, mates, or engineers of coasting ships.

Law 19 of 1896—"The Brewers License Law, 1896," which imposes a small duty on beer brewed in the Island for sale, and regulates the brewing thereof.

Law 21 of 1896—"The Medical Laws, 1872-1885, Amendment Law, 1896." This Law makes more complete provision for the examination in the Colony of persons who desire to be registered as medical practitioners and who possess a medical qualification in a country whose diploma or license does not entitle a person to be registered as a medical practitioner here, and provides for the fees to be paid.

Law 22 of 1896—"The Indian Immigrants Marriage, Divorce, and Succession Law." Several murders have been committed during the last few years among the East Indian immigrants, the motive being apparently jealousy. It is hoped that the provisions of this law, which make better provision for the marriage or for the separation of coolies already married, if proper cause is shown, may tend to prevent this crime among these people.

Law 23 of 1896—"A Law to amend the Laws relating to the Bath of St. Thomas the Apostle." It was found that the affairs of this Bath were much neglected in consequence of the failure of the directors to meet regularly. This Law creates a new board of directors and gives them increased powers.

Law 24 of 1896—"The Trustee Law, 1896," which is based on the English Trustee Acts of 1893 and 1894, which regulate the investments to be made by trustees and other matters connected therewith.

Law 25 of 1896—"The Newspaper Libel Law, 1896," which is taken from the Imperial Statutes dealing with the subject of actions brought against proprietors or editors of newspapers.

Law 27 of 1896—"The Stamp Duty Law, 1868, Amendment Law, 1896," which reduces the duty on conveyances, agreements, mortgages, &c.

Law 28 of 1896—"The Spirit License Law, 1896." The question of improving the system under which these licenses are issued has been for some time before the Government and the Legislative Council. Under the present law, considerable safeguards have been introduced for the issue of licenses only to proper persons, and on suitable and convenient premises after inquiry.

Law 30 of 1896—"The Jamaica Street Car Company's Laws, 1875–84, Amendment Law, 1896." The Street Car Company obtained its first order under Law 23 of 1875, and the period of twenty years provided by that Law expired in respect of that order in April last. But for the passing of this Law there would, therefore, have been no legal powers for trams to be run in Kingston after the 21st April. This Law enables the Governor in Privy Council to extend the time provided for in the Law of 1875 for periods not exceeding three months at a time.

Law 31 of 1896—"The Public Buildings Law, 1896." This Law authorises the construction of a block of central public buildings in Kingston, and provides for a loan of 100,000*l.* being raised for the purpose.

Law 33 of 1896. This Law authorises the appointment of a Supernumerary Resident Magistrate, who will be able to act in any parish of the Island where his services may be required, and who it is intended should also act as a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court when necessary.

Law 34 of 1896—"The Customs Tariff Amendment Law, 1896," imposes a duty of 1*d.* on imported sugar. It also provides for payment of a drawback in the case of sugar used in preserving fruit, &c., for export.

Law 36 of 1896—"The Solicitors Law, 1896." This Law provides for the creation of a committee, consisting of the Attorney General, the Crown Solicitor, and five practising Solicitors, to be appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court. The committee will have charge of the examination of articled

clerks. It provides also for dealing with cases of complaint against a solicitor for professional misconduct.

Law 37 of 1896—"The Produce Protection Law, 1896." This Law is intended to check the larceny of such produce, and the facility with which such produce, when stolen, is at present disposed of. It restricts the sale of produce to certain hours of the day, and requires every person carrying on the business of buying and selling, or of buying and exporting, agricultural produce to take out a license. It also provides that certain produce when in transit shall be accompanied by a form of particulars, as well as of the owner and the property from which sent, &c.

* Law 38 of 1896—"The Prædial Larceny Law, 1896." This Law, which is intended to be worked with the Produce Protection Law just before referred to, gives power to any one to detain any person found in possession of any article of agricultural produce under suspicious circumstances, and enables a judge to inflict the punishment of flogging on habitual stealers of produce.

Law 39 of 1896—"The Jamaica Bar Regulation Law, 1896." The distinction between the two branches in the legal profession is maintained in this island. This Law enables solicitors of ten years' standing to be struck off the roll of solicitors and to become members of the Jamaica Bar, and thus secure a right of audience in the Supreme Court. It also provides that any member of the Jamaica Bar may become a solicitor instead of a barrister after he has been three years at the local bar.

Finance.

The surplus General Revenue brought forward at the commencement of the year was 64,005*l.*, and the revenue collected during the year amounted to 646,103*l.*, making together a sum of 710,108*l.*, while the expenditure (including 21,429*l.* for sinking funds) amounted to 626,934*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of 83,173*l.* Compared with the previous year, general revenue and expenditure show a net increase of 22,078*l.* and 24,703*l.* respectively.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced 129,602*l.*, an increase of 2,051*l.*, while expenditure amounted to 133,476*l.*, a decrease of 12,716*l.* on the previous year.

The revenue specially appropriated to main roads under Law 17 of 1890 amounted to 32,189*l.*, showing no appreciable change, while the expenditure was 31,201*l.*, or 1,640*l.* more than in 1894–95.

Immigration revenue was 10,793*l*, and expenditure 13,048*l.*

The whole revenue realised in the year under report compared with that in the previous year is as follows:—

* This Law has been disallowed.

—	1895-6.	1894-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	355,246	341,360	13,886	—
Light dues - - -	2,824	2,330	494	—
Harbour master's fees - -	2,816	2,839	—	23
Rum duties - - -	138,725	138,923	—	198
Licenses - - - -	759	776	—	17
Stamps - - - -	23,137	20,133	3,004	—
Tax on stock - - -	—	4	—	4
Tax in lieu of education fees -	12,414	12,260	154	—
Tax revenue - -	535,921	518,625	17,538	242
Net increase - -	—	—	17,296	—
Postal revenue - - -	23,594	21,886	1,708	—
Telegraph revenue - -	5,858	5,783	75	—
Court fees - - -	9,149	9,048	101	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	4,652	4,432	220	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds.	13,428	12,442	986	
Interest on Savings Bank investments after paying depositors.	4,103	3,995	108	—
Interest other than as above -	6,231	6,189	42	—
Interest, Jamaica railway bonds -	—	—	—	—
Reimbursements - -	33,594	32,442	1,152	—
Miscellaneous - - -	9,573	9,183	390	—
Non-tax revenue - -	110,182	105,400	4,782	—
Total - - -	646,103	624,025	22,078	—
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Main Road Revenue.				
Land tax, Law 17 of 1890 -	397	388	9	—
Draft Horned Stock Law - -	875	958	—	83
Holdings tax - - -	14,372	14,021	351	—
Spirit licenses - - -	16,545	16,867	—	322
	32,189	32,234	360	405
Net decrease - -	—	—	—	45
Reimbursements of loan expenditure.	6,447	19,256	—	12,809
Parochial Revenue.				
Parochial road tax - -	48,398	47,111	1,287	—
Kingston streets tax - -	3,727	3,415	312	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	13,804	13,181	623	—
Parochial general purposes -	4,179	3,318	861	—
Poor rates - - - -	42,600	42,923	—	323
Sanitary rates - - -	9,039	8,327	712	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,631	956	675	—
Gas rates - - - -	2,099	3,446	—	1,347
Miscellaneous - - -	4,125	4,874	—	749
	129,602	127,551	4,470	2,419
Net increase - -	—	—	2,051	

JAMAICA. 1895–6.

—	1895–6.	1894–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Law 7 of 1878.—Amendment Law 14 of 1891.	10,538	1,930	8,608	—
Miscellaneous - - -	166	75	91	—
Interest - - - -	89	134	—	45
	10,793	2,139	8,699	45
Net increase - -	—	—	8,654	
Summary.				
General revenue - - -	646,103	624,025	22,078	—
Specially appropriated revenue -	32,189	32,234	—	45
Reimbursements of loans expenditure.	6,447	19,256	—	12,809
Appropriated revenues - -	129,602	127,551	2,051	—
Immigration revenue - -	10,793	2,139	8,654	—
	825,134	805,205	32,783	12,854
Total net increase -	—	—	19,929	

The net increase in general revenue of 22,078*l.* is due to increases in the receipts for imports (13,886*l.*), chiefly in respect of food stuffs; for stamps (3,004*l.*), certain arrears and fines on account of legacy duties having been paid during the year; for postal and telegraphs (1,783*l.*), due to the extension of business; and for reimbursements generally (1,152*l.*). The items of decrease are few and small and do not call for any remarks.

The revenue devoted to main roads under Law 17 of 1890 shows but slight variation.

The parochial revenues show a net increase of 2,051*l.* The amounts vary with the rates imposed.

Immigration revenues gave an increase of 8,654*l.*, due to payments on the arrival of coolies by the "Volga" and "Jumna."

The following is a comparative statement of the disbursements:—

—	1895–6.	1894–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of debt - - -	81,111	80,946	165	—
Pensions - - - -	16,096	16,259	—	163
Administrative departments -	45,704	43,706	1,998	—
Government Savings Bank -	3,087	2,904	183	—
Revenue departments - -	40,018	38,025	1,993	—
Postal service - - -	25,887	25,060	827	—
Telegraph service - - -	7,589	7,073	516	—
Judicial - - - -	44,122	43,000	1,122	—
Ecclesiastical - - -	3,356	3,885	—	529
Medical - - - -	58,842	57,822	1,020	—
Constabulary -	55,468	53,140	2,328	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	3,682	—	3,682	—

—	1895-6.	1894-5.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Prisons	21,286	20,045	1,241	—
Reformatories	4,179	4,618	—	439
Education	65,270	67,546	—	2,276
Industrial schools	965	969	—	4
Harbours and pilotage	3,251	1,860	1,391	—
Military	11,053	11,652	—	599
Coasting service	1,800	1,800	—	—
Telegraph subsidy	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registrar-General's Department	4,470	4,175	232	—
Registrar of Titles' Department	1,102	855	247	—
Island Record Office	1,346	1,482	—	136
Government Printing Office	7,818	7,569	249	—
Jamaica Institute	1,915	2,102	—	187
Board of Supervision	508	432	76	—
Public gardens	5,654	5,061	593	—
Railway	1,996	1,917	79	—
Miscellaneous	10,715	9,253	1,462	—
Public works	65,831	63,316	2,515	—
Railway extension track	6,624	—	6,624	—
Lighthouses	1,722	991	731	—
Lighthouse construction	1,102	1,340	—	238
	605,506	580,803	29,274	4,571
Net increase	—	—	24,703	
Main Road Expenditure under Law 17 of 1890.				
Maintenance	30,709	29,557	1,152	—
Tanks	492	4	488	—
	31,201	29,561	1,640	—
Appropriated Expenditure.				
Parochial roads	54,170	44,499	9,671	—
Kingston streets	1,966	2,022	—	56
Parochial municipal objects	9,475	11,381	—	1,906
Parochial general purposes	7,072	7,500	—	428
Relief of the poor	45,754	45,886	—	132
Sanitary appropriation	9,683	8,004	1,679	—
Fire appropriation, Kingston	1,467	1,503	—	36
Gas appropriation, Kingston	3,136	3,097	39	—
Kingston Streets Fund	—	22,300	—	22,300
Kingston theatre	753	—	753	—
	133,476	146,192	12,142	24,858
Net decrease	—	—	—	12,716
Immigration expenditure	13,048	11,135	1,913	—
Expended from Loans.				
Contribution to Kingston streets, Law 28 of 1894.	25,000	—	25,000	—
Portland bridges	8,239	3,324	4,915	—
Telegraph construction	—	—	—	—
Main road reconstruction	9,946	16,678	—	6,732
Jamaica bridges, Law 20 of 1892	14,842	25,525	—	10,683

	1895–6.	1894–5.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expended from Loans—cont.	£	£	£	£
Public buildings, Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894.	6,608	8,785	—	2,177
Expenses in conversion of debentures.	372	—	372	—
Mountain roads, Law 13 of 1895 -	1,294	—	1,294	—
	66,301	54,312	31,581	19,592
Net increase -	—	—	11,989	
Summary.				
General expenditure - -	605,506	580,803	24,703	—
Main road expenditure - -	31,201	29,561	1,640	—
Appropriated expenditure - -	133,476	146,192	—	12,716
Immigration expenditure - -	13,048	11,135	1,913	—
Expenditure from loan - -	66,301	54,312	11,989	—
	849,532	822,003	40,245	12,716
General net increase -	—	—	27,529	

The net increase in general expenditure of 24,703*l.* is mainly due to increases in Legislative Council and Public Works under "Administrative" (1,998*l.*); in the Revenue Department, owing to its recent re-arrangement (1,993*l.*); in inquests, Crown witnesses, and other judicial services (1,122*l.*); in constabulary, due to an increase of the force and the paying of gratuities formerly met exclusively from the Constabulary Pension Fund. There are also increases in medical (1,020*l.*); and harbours and pilotage (1,391*l.*), for new works, buoys and beacons, &c.; miscellaneous—chiefly for the Jamaica Agricultural Society—1,462*l.*; public works, increase of new works on main roads (2,515*l.*); railway, for extension track (the expenditure having previously been met from deposits) (6,624*l.*).

The most important decrease is that of 2,276*l.* under education, owing to decrease in the grants earned, consequent on the falling off in the attendance of pupils. The other items of decrease are few and do not call for special comment.

Main road expenditure under Law 17 of 1890 shows an increase of 1,640*l.*

Parochial expenditure proper (exclusive of Kingston Streets Fund) shows a net increase of 9,584*l.* The funds which show increased expenditure are parochial roads and sanitary, while the only important decrease is in expenditure from the surplus fund.

Immigration expenditure shows an increase of 1,913*l.*

Pensions

During the year pensions amounting to 1,691*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the

resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the pension list was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of 511*l* 3*s*. 4*d*.

Debt.

The sum of 25,000*l*. was raised by loan under Law 28 of 1894, for the purpose of defraying the expense of certain works connected with the Kingston Improvements Scheme specified in section 37 of Law 31 of 1890, this arrangement having been substituted for the original one in the latter Law of paying the amount direct from the public Treasury.

8,400*l*. of the amount was raised in debentures at 4 per cent. and 16,600*l*. in 4 per cent. local inscribed stock. The premiums offered in respect of the former were at the rate of 2 per cent. and of the latter at rates varying from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	s.	d.
1886 - - - -	1,478,790	3	8
1887 - - - -	1,491,993	3	9
1888 - - - -	1,502,684	9	8
1889 - - - -	1,506,883	6	0
1891 - - - -	1,458,221	12	7
1892 - - - -	1,520,088	4	3
1893 - - - -	1,523,944	2	11
1894 - - - -	1,672,299	14	6
1895 - - - -	1,678,744	11	2
1896 - - - -	1,666,177	14	3

Of the above amount on the 31st March last 763,119*l*. 15*s*. 1*d*. was on account of the purchase, reconstruction, and extension of the railway to Ewarton and Porus; 126,500*l*. on account of the Rio Cobre Canal; 167,220*l*. for the erection of new bridges and 146,000*l*. for reconstruction and conversion of parochial roads into main road.

The following are the amounts due for debentures guaranteed by general revenue raised on account of the several undertakings specified:—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks -	78,020
Kingston gasworks - - - -	14,900
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000
Kingston improvement - - -	50,000

Legislative Council.

The Council as reconstituted by the Queen's Order in Council of 3rd October 1895, under which each parish of the island is separately represented by an elected member, the nominated

and official members being at the same time increased to a maximum of 10, opened on the 25th February and adjourned *sine die* on the 2nd April 1896.

During that period 27 meetings were held. Dr. C. B. Mosse, Dr. J. Pringle, Lieut. Col. C. J. Ward, Mr. P. C. Cork, and Mr. W. Fawcett were sworn in for the first time as nominated members of the new Council.

Public Works.

The total expenditure by the Public Works Department of all kinds, including the cost of administration and supervision, was 151,824*l.* 3*s.*, of which 65,400*l.* was expenditure from funds provided by loans for special purposes. The cost of administration and supervision was equal to about 14 per cent. of the cost of work executed.

The main roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the island were maintained in good order, and many improvements effected. The number of separate institutions or buildings, for the upkeep of which the Public Works Department is responsible, was 276, and the cost amounted to 11,394*l.*, including maintenance of telegraph lines. The new works on public buildings executed by the Department during the year cost 8,626*l.*, and consisted mainly of additional accommodation for police stations, prisons, court houses, parochial hospitals, and public offices.

The principal new road works undertaken at the cost of general revenue were the construction of the road from Grantham to Spaldings in Clarendon; the deviation of the steep portions of the road between Williamsfield and Mandeville in Manchester and of the road at "My Lady Hill" and at Barracks Hill near Port Maria in St. Mary.

The mileage of main roads, of which the upkeep is chargeable to general revenue, was 881 miles, an increase of 12 miles over last year, and the total average cost per mile for maintenance and repair and improvement of main roads and bridges was 36*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, being 2*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* less than in the previous year. The total cost for these works was 39,806*l.*

The work of reconstructing parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was continued during the year, and the actual length taken over as main roads up to the close of the year was 989 miles 70½ chains. The average cost of maintaining these roads was 21*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* per mile.

The maintenance of the greater portion of all the roads is directly undertaken by the Department; but at the end of the year there were 88 miles of main roads and 35 miles of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, and the expenditure during the year on this work was 14,846*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* At the close of the year 67 out of the 98 bridges authorised were constructed and 12 were in course of construction.

The construction of the interior main road in St. Thomas, from the Johnson River at Serge Island to Bath was almost completed at the end of the year. The grades of this road are easy and it has been much used ever since the track was cut.

The work of surveying and tracking out the first of the mountain roads in St. Andrew under Law 15 of 1895 was pushed forward. The survey as far as Hardware Hill Gap, 14½ miles, was completed.

The new lighthouse at Negril Point was completed, and the lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, and Folly Point were maintained with regularity and efficiency.

The telegraph lines throughout the island were maintained in fair working order.

Crown Lands.

A scheme for the benefit of small settlers was introduced during the year, under which Crown Lands can be bought in lots of from 5 to 50 acres, purchasers being permitted to pay down one-fifth of the purchase money, and given 10 years to pay up the remaining four-fifths without interest. Efforts have been made to explain the benefits of the scheme to the people, but no sales were effected during the year, though numerous applications were received. Most of the applicants did not fully understand the conditions of the scheme, and others made applications for the purchase of land not yet forfeited to the Crown.

Six notifications were issued with respect to 206 properties comprising 89,084¼ acres liable to forfeiture to the Crown for nonpayment of quit rent and land tax. It is anticipated that these lands will be finally forfeited during 1896–97 and 1897–98. 6,610 acres of land were forfeited during the year.

Law 13 of 1896 passed during the year simplifies the former procedure for the forfeiture of land and contains a provision intended to discourage squatting, by requiring that before the taxes tendered on lands five years in arrears can be received proof of ownership must be given by claimants tendering payment.

Ninety-six lots of land to the north-west of Kingston, in the possession of squatters without any title, were recovered under Law 43 of 1887, but were leased to the squatters in consideration of their having made certain improvements, at small rentals for seven years, at the end of which time the lessees will be given the preferential right to purchase.

During the year regulations were framed and published setting forth terms on which tracings from the cadastral maps of the parishes might be obtained by the public.

There has been a steady increase in the revenue of the department since its formation in 1890.

Lands for Railway Track.

5,155½ acres of land were conveyed to the West India Improvement Company under Law 12 of 1889. Up to the 31st March

1889, the Company had acquired under the Law 24,488 acres in all, situated mostly in the eastern extremity of the island. The land is generally well watered, virgin and fertile, but steep. On the completion of the railway the Company will be entitled to a further area of 52,312 acres.

All the important cases in connexion with the acquisition of land for the railway track have now been settled. The expenditure in acquiring these lands during the year was 15,312*l.*, and the total expenditure for the purpose from 1890 to the 31st March 1896 was 60,157*l.*

Rio Cobre Canal.

The revenue earned during the year was 3,700*l.*, and the cost of management, including salaries, was 1,652*l.*, leaving a balance of 2,048*l.*

The sale of water was increased by 15 per cent. during the year. The quantity supplied at the end of the year was 6,200 cubic yards per hour, and the Director of Public Works anticipates that 1,400 cubic yards per hour in addition will be taken during the year 1896–97.

At the end of the year 1895–96 about 1,200 acres of bananas were under irrigation, as compared with nearly 800 acres at the end of 1894–95. The Director of Public Works considers it probable that 500 or 600 acres more in bananas will be under irrigation within the ensuing 12 months.

Most of the new supplies of water during the year were given free for one year, and will not, therefore, show an increase of revenue till next year.

Post Office.

The total receipts under this head in 1895–96 amounted to 29,726*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.*, as compared with 27,962*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d* in 1894–95, showing an increase of 1,763*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure for 1895–96, compared with the two preceding years :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postal Revenue.					Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893-4 - - - - - -	19,429 3 1	354 6 6	431 14 4½	219 1 0	20,434 4 11½	6,253 6 0	26,687 10 11½
1894-5 - - - - - -	20,974 2 9	400 10 5	450 7 6½	228 16 9	22,058 17 5½	5,908 16 6	27,962 13 11½
1895-6 - - - - -	2,488 17 7	388 6 7	519 12 1½	173 0 6	23,569 16 9½	6,156 9 6	29,726 6 3½

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Postal Expenditure.						Telegraph. Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.		
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893-4 - - - - -	4,446 5 0	2,301 4 6	8,354 1 3	1,369 12 11	3,533 0 9	20,504 4 5	6,904 15 3	27,409 0 2
1894-5 - - - - -	4,715 6 8	2,422 6 6	8,419 6 9	2,028 10 8	4,612 12 6½	22,198 3 1½	7,075 12 0	29,273 15 1½
1895-6 - - - - -	4,923 16 4	2,535 9 0	9,020 2 2	1,962 1 1	4,471 15 5½	22,913 4 0½	7,618 16 8	30,532 0 8½

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From the above it will be seen that the collections under the head of "Postages" are 1,515*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* in excess of those for 1894–95, and under the head of "Telegraphs" an excess of 247*l.* 13*s.* is shown.

This increase in the collections is chiefly attributable to the increased postal facilities consequent on the cheapening of postage some years ago, the extensions of the railway and to the opening of several new district post offices.

Money Orders.

The following figures show how the transactions for 1895–96 compare with those of the preceding year:—

Jamaica Issue.

—	No.	Amount. £ s. d.
1894–95 - -	12,472	45,489 17 6
1895–96 - -	13,116	47,242 13 0

Issue of other countries payable in Jamaica:

—	No.	Amount. £ s. d.
1894–95 - -	1,822	4,955 12 10
1895–96 - -	2,194	5,441 1 1

Postal Orders.

The value of Inland Postal Orders sold to the public during the year amounted to 26,383*l.* 3*s.*, showing an increase of 4,285*l.* 19*s.* over the sales for 1894–95.

Postal Expenditure.

The expenditure of the Postal Department amounted in 1895–96 to 22,913*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.*, an increase of 715*l.* 0*s.* 10¾*d.* on that of 1894–95.

This increase is chiefly due to the annual increments to the salaries of the staff at the Head Office, the establishment of new district post offices, and to the increased payments to the Jamaica Railway Company for the extension of the daily mail service by train.

New Post Offices.

Seven new post offices have been opened during the year under review, bringing the total number of district post offices up to 130.

Mail Coach Service.

The earnings under this head (2,291*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*) show a decrease of 324*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* on the receipts for 1894–95. This decrease is largely due to the extension of the railway to Montego Bay.

Ocean Mail Service.

The ocean mail services have been performed in an efficient manner throughout the year.

Telegraphs.

The revenue under this head shows an increase of 247*l.* 13*s.* on that of the preceding year.

The number of messages sent and received was 110,715, as compared with 105,719 in 1894–95.

The expenditure for "working expenses" is in excess of the receipts by the sum of 1,462*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and also exceeds the expenditure for the previous year by the sum of 543*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

This increase is largely due to expense consequent on the opening of telegraph stations after hours, and to the employment of assistant operators at several of the principal stations.

Railway.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March 1896 amounted to 93,902*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to 64,533*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a net revenue of 29,368*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

The receipts were made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle - - -	52,278	19	2
Passengers - - - -	34,569	6	9
Wharf - - - -	6,196	0	8
Miscellaneous - - -	858	0	4

The number of train miles run amounted to 303,059, which gave an expenditure per mile of 4*s.* 3·10*d.* and receipts equal to 6*s.* 2·36*d.* per mile, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 11·26*d.* per train mile

The number of passengers carried amounted to 366,936.

Interest was paid out of revenue on first mortgage bonds to the extent of 27,990*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Agriculture.

The Colony seems now to be thoroughly roused to the importance of giving more attention to the intelligent cultivation of products. There is a growing desire not only to cultivate but to cultivate well and to improve the quality as well as increase the quantity of the several crops.

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The establishment of the Jamaica Agricultural Society has done much to encourage and foster this tendency, partly by the spreading of knowledge, partly by the importation of seed, and partly, and very practically, by the establishment of model farms, as object lessons of the results which may be obtained by the application of the principles of agriculture.

As the cultivation of the sugar cane—which had been for so long the principal product—decreases, it is most important that the production of other crops should be stimulated. It will be long, doubtless, before the loss of sugar can be compensated for by the gain in other products, but the rate of increase in the output of the latter is greater than the rate of decrease of the former, an encouraging circumstance for which fruit deserves the largest share of credit.

The decrease in the acreage of land under cane cultivation during the past year has been 313 acres as compared with the preceding year, and 477 as compared with the average of the four preceding years. The decline in the cultivation of the cane has been gradual but persistent. Thus 20 years ago the acreage was 48,246, 10 years ago it was 40,515, and now it is 30,971. The decrease in the period mentioned has thus been 35 per cent.

Coffee during the year was under cultivation to the extent of 23,643 acres, being 120 acres more than in the year before. In 1871 it was 17,626 acres, so that the area occupied by it has increased 34 per cent. in the quarter century.

Similarly large increases have taken place in the areas under cultivation in ginger, tobacco, cocoa, &c., and other minor products during the past 25 years, amounting, the Collector General reports, to 43 per cent., and he adds that if bananas be taken into account the increase has been no less than 61 per cent. —a very remarkable growth. Perhaps a simpler method of showing how steadily other products are compensating for sugar is to refer to the relative proportion which the export of that staple bears to the total exports of the Colony. Thus in 1875–76 the value of the island's exports was 1,440,080*l.*, sugar being 31·6 per cent. of the whole. In 1885–86 the value of the exports was 1,280,118*l.*, sugar being 15·9 of the whole, and in 1895–96 the total value of exports was 1,873,105*l.*, to which sugar contributed only 11 per cent.

One of the principal features of the year in the way of agriculture has been the large increase in the output of oranges. The number shipped was no less than 97,025,398, of the estimated value of 169,794*l.* This is said to be over 12 millions more than were shipped in the four preceding years put together. Jamaica thus continues to benefit by the blizzard which destroyed the Florida groves in 1894, but growers have much to learn yet in the way of cultivating the fruit, and in placing it in good condition on the market. The area under cultivation in bananas has increased by 319 acres during the year, and that under cocoa and ground provisions by 133 and 631 acres respectively. With regard to the last named, it is still remarkable that notwithstanding

the rapid increase of population the area under cultivation of the principal food of the people has so slightly increased. The cause is probably mainly attributable to the absence of many of the male members of the community from their homes working on the railway extensions. Possibly, too, it may be accounted for to some extent by the people acquiring a taste for imported foodstuffs, of which such large quantities have been imported during recent years.

The year has not been a prosperous one for those whose interests lie in the pastoral industries of the Colony. The disease among cattle, although not so destructive in particular places as it was last year—owing, perhaps, to the means for checking it becoming better understood—has been more widespread; and there is scarcely a parish which has not suffered more or less severely. It became increasingly evident during the year that some steps should be taken to endeavour to ascertain the precise nature of the disease and the means of eradicating it or, at least, of mitigating its ravages. Since the year under review closed, the services of an eminent veterinarian have been secured to examine into and advise on the subject, and the result of his inquiries are looked forward to with interest by all who have the welfare of the Colony at heart. That the industry specially affected by the disease is one of much importance to the Island may be judged from the fact that the lands devoted to pastoral purposes now extend to an area of considerably over half a million acres.

Education.

It has been customary hitherto in this Report to compare the results of the year under review with that of the preceding year only. As, however, it will be interesting to show as far as possible the effect of the passing of the Education Law of 1892 which abolished school fees, statistics are given in the following table for the last five years:—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Per-centage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Failure.	Not examined.	Fees.	Grants-in-aid, including Building Grants.
											£ s. d.	£
1895-96 - - -	932	890	100,352	59,617	59·41	154	355	378	36	9	—	47,906
1894-95 - - -	962	923	104,149	62,587	60·09	160	345	394	37	26	—	47,836
1893-94 - - -	957	918	97,456	64,695	66·38	169	367	380	28	13	45 15 0	47,848
1892-93 - - -	912	867	92,135	52,983	57·50	143	389	379	1	44	6,649 0 0	42,682
1891-92 - - -	877	817	83,731	45,927	54·85	128	329	353	7	51	8,803 0 0	30,736
Increase on 1894-95 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	20
Decrease on „ - -	30	33	3,797	2,970	·68	6	—	16	1	17	—	—
Increase on 1893-94 -	—	—	2,896	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	58
Decrease on „ - -	25	28	—	5,078	6·97	15	12	2	—	4	—	—
Increase on 1892-93 -	20	23	8,217	6,634	1·91	11	—	—	35	—	—	2,224
Decrease on „ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	1	—	35	—	—
Increase on 1891-92 -	55	73	16,621	13,690	4·56	26	26	25	29	—	—	17,160
Decrease on „ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—

It will be seen that the number of scholars on the books in 1895–96 has been less by nearly 3,800 than in 1894–5; that the average attendance has been less by 2,070; and that the per-centage of average attendance has fallen from 60·09 to 59·41.

These results show that, as was suspected, the rapid rise which took place on the inauguration of the new system in 1892 was not stable and that the eager desire at first displayed by parents to take advantage of free education has not been sustained.

The Superintending Inspector of Schools does not, however, attribute this change altogether to fickleness on the part of the people, and he considers that the reduction of the age limit, and drought and failure of crops in some parts of the island, have done much in the way of decreasing the attendance. While admitting the falling off in the last three years, Mr. Capper points out that the advance in the number of scholars enrolled and the average attendance recorded by this year's figures over those of four years ago show a much greater rate of advance than the previous 10 years, and that the regularity of attendance, which in 1891–92 showed no improvement over 10 years before, now shows an increase in the ratio of 59½ to 55, and he adds that, "so far as we "can judge from this year's figures, the legislation of 1892 has "on the whole considerably accelerated the rate of educational "progress."

The considerable decrease in the number of schools, which averages about 2½ to each parish, is mainly attributable to the falling off in the attendance below the number which would entitle them to Government aid. Some few schools have been struck off the list on account of inefficiency.

Although the number of first class schools has slightly fallen, it is satisfactory to note an increase in the number of those of the second class.

The annual examination of teachers and Training College students, held in December, 1895, resulted in the passing of five teachers out of 17 candidates, and of 136 students out of 152 who presented themselves, viz.:—

—	Presented.	Passed.
1st Year - - -	60	53
2nd Year - -	51	47
3rd Year - -	41	36

There are now 339 certificated teachers, while 38 more have passed and will receive certificates after the prescribed period of probation.

The examination of pupil-teachers and volunteers, in connection with the general elementary educational system, was also conducted, with the result that 664 passed, out of 1,525 presented, or 43 per cent., showing a decided improvement on last year, the

candidates being greater by 407, and the per-centage of passes 43 as against 35.

In January, 1896, the new buildings of the Mico Institution were opened and have proved satisfactory. The matter of introducing agricultural and industrial training there is engaging the attention of the Board of Directors. At the same time the old Mico buildings were taken over by the Government, where the previously existing boys' school is continued, but which will shortly be converted into a model school for hand and eye training. With this object the Board of Education is now taking steps to secure a manual teacher from England and a kindergarten mistress for the infant school.

Training College for Girls at Shortwood.

The report on this institution is satisfactory. There were 22 students on the 1st of April; the number was increased to 30 in October, 1895. Twenty-two were presented for the certificate examination in December; of these, one passed in the first class, ten in the second, nine in the third, and two failed. Altogether nine students passed out in December, and all found employment at once.

Industrial Schools.

Shortwood Industrial School.

This is a girls' school, at which there were 35 inmates at the commencement and 36 at the end of the year, one of whom was on license.

Of these, 24 were under 12 years of age. The employment includes making, mending, and washing of clothes, baking, light field labour, and house work.

Hope Industrial School.

There were 27 boys in the institution both at the commencement and end of the year. Their chief occupation is working in the Botanical Garden at Hope, where they receive practical lectures daily. The elementary school at which the boys are educated was rated second class at its examination. The examination included questions in agriculture and horticulture at the Gardens, including vine culture, budding, watering, pruning of cocoa, and those properties of shape, symmetry, &c., upon which much of the value of a tree depends. The Inspector expressed his gratification at the excellent results of the training received.

Alpha Cottage.

This institution, which is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church, is maintained for both boys and girls. At the commencement of the year there were 45 of the former and 43 of the latter, and at the end 49 and 44 respectively.

The employment is chiefly in garden and field labour on the boys' side, and in laundry and domestic work on the girls'.

At the examination both the boys' and girls' schools passed first class, with 64 and 68 marks each respectively.

Belmont Orphanage.

There were 12 children in this Home, which is under the direction of the Bishop of Jamaica and members of his family. Their education is provided for at a neighbouring school—St. Jude's day school. The employment of the children includes straw plaiting and needlework. The former is stated to have been in great demand, as many orders for hats and baskets having been received as could be supplied.

Botanical.

The increased interest which is being taken in agriculture and the growing desire to improve the quality of the island's products have naturally had their effect on the Botanical Department, increasing the demand for instruction and for plants. During the year an orange experimental garden has been started near the Hill Gardens at an elevation of about 3,700 feet, with the view of testing the result of proper cultivation of an orange grove in suitable soil and climate and of supplying the demand for plants. Other citrus fruits have also been planted out here. A large number of budded and grafted trees have been imported from Florida, and from Rivers, in England, who supplied growers in Florida and California when the cultivation of this fruit was beginning.

The distribution of economic plants has been continued with success throughout the year, the number reaching 31,605 to which Liberian coffee contributed over 17,000, and oranges 6,400. Of ornamental plants 6,955 have been sold, while the free grants of plants have amounted to 4,820. The total has thus been 43,380.

The services of the superintendent of the Hope Gardens for lectures on cultivation, with practical illustrations in the country districts, are more and more in demand. I wish it were possible to arrange for more of these demonstrations. They are much appreciated by the small settlers, and I am convinced will prove of value in adding to the income of the island much of the large sums that are annually lost by reason of the unintelligent methods of cultivation adopted and the imperfect curing of crops.

The several gardens and plantations have been maintained in a state of efficiency during the year. They are all situated in picturesque positions, and are a source of attraction both to residents in the Island and to visitors.

The Hill Garden, 5,000 feet above the sea, is at present difficult to reach, but the new system of mountain roads will make it more accessible.

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Good work is being done at the Hope Garden in training boys as gardeners and agriculturists. These lads have been committed to the Industrial School established there, and which is under the control of the Director of Public Gardens. It is hoped that when they leave the school they will be able to obtain situations as gardeners, and may also be able to impart to others of their own class the instruction they have received.

Immigration.

Two ships arrived during the year, bringing together 1,167 immigrants. Of this number 30 had previously served in this or other Colonies, and had returned to India. All but nine of the adults, one of whom died after arrival, were found fit for allotment as agricultural labourers.

348 souls, equal to 316¼ statute adults, left for Calcutta in the "Moy" on the 18th May 1895. 99 adults who had claimed and were entitled to free passages did not present themselves, and the ships had to be despatched short of the full complement. The amount of 3,139*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* was taken away in Treasury Bills by 89 families. A further instance of the prosperity and thrift of the East Indian population is shown in the increase of Savings Bank depositors compared with 1894 of from 793 to 1,029 and of deposits from 13,958*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* to 22,680*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, notwithstanding the closing of several accounts by coolies.

Remittances to India were 59 for a total of 185*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

194 letters by immigrants were despatched to India through the Immigration Office, and 146 received from India.

The births numbered 112, the deaths 77, being per-centages of 3·40 and 2·34 respectively, the rates for the previous year having been 2·67 and 1·83. Four deaths were due to murder, two to executions, one to an accidental burn, and two to suicide.

Of the four cases of murder, one, that of a coolie headman, had not been tried when the year closed. The other three were wife murders, two on account of jealousy, the other owing to the wife having told her mother the husband had stolen money belonging to her.

Of the two suicides, the motive of one was not ascertained, the other was due to jealousy of a concubine.

So many cases of homicide, four being directly traced to jealousy, had never occurred in the Protector's experience in any one year. As a preventive measure, a circular was issued to employers asking them to telegraph all cases of jealousy among their immigrants, so as to enable steps to be taken in time to prevent murders, and six coolies have been permanently removed to other estates and one temporarily. It is hoped that the recent Law 22 of 1896, to regulate immigrants' marriage, divorce, and succession, will also act beneficially in this direction.

At the close of the year 30 East Indians, equal to 1·81 per 1,000, were undergoing imprisonment, almost all for crimes of violence, one was in the Lepers' Home and 52 were in the Lunatic Asylum.

In other respects the condition of the East Indian population has been satisfactory, and the depression in the sugar industry has had little if any effect on their average wages, the greater number being now employed on fruit-growing properties.

It is interesting to note that a high caste East Indian, formerly an immigrant, is now the possessor of over 2,600 acres of land and has been elected a member of the Parochial Board of Trelawny.

Emigration.

During the year 743 labourers left Jamaica for the Isthmus of Panama and for Carthagena, and 714 returned therefrom.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows in the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1885–86 - -	16,320	363,292
1886–87 - -	17,047	363,481
1887–88 - -	18,510	393,250
1888–89 - -	19,444	408,213
1890–91 - -	21,747	423,011
1891–92 - -	22,824	428,348
1892–93 - -	23,902	417,978
1893–94 - -	25,533	457,924
1894–95 - -	27,045	453,875
1895–96 - -	28,385	464,737

The year under review shows an increase of 1,340 in the number of depositors and an increase of 10,862*l.* in the amount of deposits as compared with 1894–5.

In the above amount of deposits are included 14 deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
1 Constabulary Reward Fund - -	76	5	10
1 Constabulary Pension Fund - -	2	14	10
10 Sinking Funds - - -	1,829	15	10
1 Smith and Beckford's Charity -	110	9	11
1 Turks Island - - -	643	0	7

There were also 327 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery Administrator-General and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 33,739*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; the remaining 28,044 accounts representing 426,740*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* are all ordinary savings bank deposits; old savings bank balances, 1,585*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*; surplus fund, 9*l.* 16*s.*, making a total of 464,737*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 19,929 were for 5*l.* and under, while only 1,343 were for over 100*l.*, the increase in the number of small accounts of 5*l.* and under being 1,217.

The assets of the bank on the 31st March last were distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Consols, 2¾ per cent. - - -				20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock:—						
Canada, 3 per cent. -	27,908	0	8			
Cape of Good Hope, 4 per cent. - -	47,766	6	8			
Ceylon, 4 per cent. -	24,881	5	2			
New South Wales, 3½ per cent. - -	40,528	13	7			
Victoria, 4 per cent. -	32,043	1	0			
Jamaica, 4 per cent. -	9,900	0	0			
Queensland, 3½ per cent. -	9,974	14	0			
				193,002	1	1
Debentures:—						
Canada, 4 per cent. -	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales, 5 and 4 per cent. - -	60,997	10	0			
South Australia, 4 and 6 per cent. - -	52,431	2	6			
Victoria, 4 and 4½ per cent.	47,308	12	6			
Jamaica, 5 per cent. -	3,800	0	0			
				218,527	17	6
				431,934	15	10
Cash in Colonial Bank - -				32,802	9	10
				464,737	5	8

The accounts opened numbered 4,027 and those closed 2,709, the result being an increase of 1,340 in the number at the end of the year as compared with the number at the end of the preceding year.

The number of deposits amounted to 34,528 and withdrawals to 34,047, representing 240,542*l.* 12*s.* 6½*d.* and 242,251*l.* 8*s.* 4½*d.* respectively.

The expenses of management and interest credited to depositors amounted to 15,700*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, while the revenue realised was 16,716*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,015*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of 44*l.*

Trade.

If the prosperity of the Colony may be gauged by the increase or otherwise of the value of its business as indicated by its

importations, then it may be safely concluded that the prosperity of Jamaica has made considerable strides during the past year.

The value of the imports in 1894–5 was 2,191,745*l.*, while in 1895–6 it rose to 2,288,945*l.* 18*s.*, these figures being higher than in previous years, as will appear from the following table :—

Value of Imports.	£
1884–5	1,487,833
1885–6	1,325,603
1886–7	1,322,336
1887–8	1,695,605
1888–9	1,597,600
1890–1	2,188,937
1891–2	1,759,890
1892–3	1,941,481
1893–4	2,157,794
1894–5	2,191,745
1895–6	2,288,946

Of the total of 2,288,946*l.*, the value of imports for home consumption was 2,255,637*l.*, as against 2,190,712*l.* in 1894–95.

Taking the usual classification of imports under the heads of—

I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics;
II. Raw materials;
III. Manufactured articles; and
IV. Coin and bullion,

there appears under Head I. an increase of 51,197*l.*, and under Head III. an increase of 26,928*l.*; while under Heads II. and IV. there have been decreases as compared with the former year, in the case of the former to the extent of 2,525*l.*, and in the case of the latter to the extent of 10,675*l.* Food, drink, and tobacco, it may be stated, constituted 39 per cent. of the total entries for consumption; while manufactured articles were 57 per cent., raw materials 3 per cent., and coin and bullion less than 1 per cent.

The following statement shows the items of food supply which have principally contributed to the increased importations under this head as compared with 1894–95 :—

—	Increase in	
	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Bread and biscuit	916,054 lbs.	7,557
Butter and its substitutes	42,693 lbs.	1,810
Chese	30,032 lbs.	1,001
Flour	20,311 brls.	33,872
Corn	57,989 bush.	4,171
Corn meal	7,116 brls.	6,101
Peas and beans	2,661 bush.	998
Bacon	45,666 lbs.	1,903
Hams	31,674 lbs.	1,188
Rice	1,344,873 lbs.	2,771
Salt	767,595 lbs.	767

The importation of articles of drink has also been considerably above last year, and is shown by the following figures:—

—	Increase in	
	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Beer and ale - - -	27,614 galls.	5,523
Brandy - - -	385 „	192
Whiskey - - -	2,161 „	756
Wine - - - -	3,014 „	2,716
Tea - - - -	10,039 lbs.	1,004

The quantity of tobacco imported in the form of cigarettes increased by 24,983 lbs., but the value was less; of manufactured tobacco 1,325 lbs., and of unmanufactured 16,466 lbs. more was imported than in the year before.

The trade in live animals was not so brisk in the year under review as in 1894–5. Of horned stock only 955 were imported, as against 4,724 in the former year, the values being 5,158*l.* against 19,105*l.* Mules, however, increased from 101 to just double that number; sheep, on the other hand, fell from 302 to 27, the latter number being stock intended for breeding purposes.

The only item under Head I. in which there was marked decrease was refined sugar, the importation of which fell by 365,287 lbs. from the importation of 1894–95. This is said to arise from the fact that, anticipating an increase in the duty, larger quantities than usual were imported in 1894–95.

The decrease in the value of raw materials imported is principally caused by a decreased entry of coke and coals, which were 3,990 tons less than in the preceding year.

Of the various items coming under Head III.—manufactured articles—there are numerous instances of decreased importations as well as of increased entries, but the latter predominate, and the net increase mentioned in the earlier part of this report is the result. The following statement, however, shows the comparison with 1894–95:—

Manufactured Articles.	1895–96.	1894–95.
	£	£
Textile - - -	511,356	518,415
Metal - - -	198,339	185,897
Other - - -	566,909	545,364

The imports for the past three years were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions:—

—	1895–6.	1894–5.	1893–4.
United Kingdom - -	48·1	50·4	55·1
Dominion of Canada - -	7·5	8·5	8·8
United States - - -	41·8	36·8	33·3
Other countries - - -	2·6	4·3	2·9

The proportion from the United States continues to grow, and it may to some extent be accounted for, so far as the past five or six years are concerned at least, by the fact that an American firm of contractors engaged on the construction of an expensive line of railway have imported most of their supplies from America; but, even after allowing for that fact, there can be no doubt that the trade with the States is growing rapidly, and that American goods of many descriptions are gradually supplanting the English goods. This is to some extent due to greater enterprise on the part of the American manufacturers, but it is mainly the result of the greater facilities for trade with the United States, which, being so much the nearer market, enables traders here to carry on their business with a smaller capital, owing to cheap freight and frequent communication.

Turning now to the exports of the Colony, it is to be regretted that the value of these has again declined from the figures of former years, the difference as compared with 1894–95 amounting to 48,317*l.*

The following table gives the values of the exports for the past 10 years:—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1885–86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886–87 - -	1,334,465	174,542	1,509,010
1887–88 - -	1,661,601	166,989	1,828,590
1888–89 - -	1,501,660	113,164	1,614,824
1890–91 - -	1,807,084	95,730	1,902,814
1891–92 - -	1,628,777	93,319	1,722,096
1892–93 - -	1,690,637	69,170	1,759,807
1893–94 - -	1,982,596	93,093	2,075,689
1894–95 - -	1,848,877	72,544	1,921,421
1895–96 - -	1,775,016	98,089	1,873,105

Taking the now recognised official classification into—

I. Live animals, food, drink and narcotics;
II. Raw materials;
III. Manufactured articles; and
IV. Coin and bullion,

it is found that a decrease under Head I. has occurred of 116,552*l.* The other three heads show an increase, but not sufficient to make up for the deficiency in the first class.

The following are the principal articles of which diminished quantities and values as compared with 1894–95 have been exported:—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Coffee - - - -	10,738 cwts.	69,912
Bananas - - - -	457,965 bunches.	112,326
Sugar - - - -	7,765 cwts.	43,751
Rum - - - -	75,145 gallons.	22,878
Cigars - - - -	2,352 lbs.	1,176

The quantity of cocoa exported was 677 cwts. more than the preceding year, but a heavy fall of prices brought the value of the output down by 3,006*l.*

On the other hand the following articles improved:—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Oranges - - - -	67,046,503	121,079
Grape fruit - - -	12,679 packages.	5,122
Ginger - - - -	2,001 cwts.	5,753
Lime juice - - - -	39,673 gallons.	1,118
Pimento - - - -	13,392 cwts.	6,091

The value of cocoanuts exported rose by 1,004*l.*, although the number exported was 700,048 less. It may be interesting to state as regards oranges that the total export in 1895–96 was 97,025,398, of the estimated value of 169,794*l.*, these figures exceeding the sum of the exports in the four preceding years by 12,062,754 in number and 44,319*l.* in value. The island is thus continuing to reap the result of the misfortune which befel Florida in 1894. The exports of raw materials call for little remark. Annotto, hides, lancewood, spars, and logwood, have all improved, while the output of fustic has declined.

Last year I noticed the appearance in the list of exports for the first time of dye extracts. The value of the export in 1894–95 was 3,126*l.* During the past year it rose to 27,965*l.*, of which the greatest proportion went to the United Kingdom.

The countries named below took the island's exports in the proportions set opposite their names during the past three years:—

—	1895–6.	1894–5.	1893–4.
United Kingdom -	27·6	27·1	26·7
United States - -	57·	58·1	57·3
Dominion of Canada -	1·6	1·5	1·7
Other countries - -	13·8	13·3	14·3

and the several staples of export and minor products bore the following proportions to the total exports in each of the years named:—

—	1895–6.	1894–5.	1893–4.
Sugar - - -	11·0	12·9	14·2
Rum - - -	9·3	10·1	7·4
Coffee - - -	16·0	19·3	17·3
Dyewoods - -	20·4	19·	24·3
Fruit - - -	29·9	27·9	26·6
Pimento - -	5·1	4·5	3·8
Minor products - -	8·3	6·3	6·4

The following table shows the exports of the principal staples of the Colony during the past 10 years:—

—	1885–86.	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
Sugar	Hhds. 16,460	Hhds. 23,043	Hhds. 24,524	Hhds. 16,163	Hhds. 20,994	Hhds. 21,210	Hhds. 18,591	Hhds. 24,149	Hhds. 23,452	Hhds. 22,994
Rum	Puns. 14,763	Puns. 24,126	Puns. 18,684	Puns. 13,749	Puns. 15,936	Puns. 17,049	Puns. 16,982	Puns. 14,612	Puns. 19,562	Puns. 18,811
Coffee	Lbs. 6,150,960	Lbs. 6,337,742	Lbs. 11,084,080	Lbs. 9,485,160	Lbs. 8,746,960	Lbs. 9,739,712	Lbs. 11,398,084	Lbs. 8,888,844	Lbs. 10,654,460	Lbs. 9,451,870
Pimento	6,919,087	7,335,712	7,454,608	5,172,153	10,120,544	7,137,648	7,711,645	9,828,664	9,303,022	10,902,854
Dyewoods, fustic and logwood	Tons 65,082	Tons. 63,114	Tons. 103,364	Tons. 116,247	Tons. 110,994	Tons. 87,352	Tons. 99,083	Tons. 99,068	Tons. 78,172	Tons. 85,575
Ginger	Lbs. 1,193,158	Lbs. 1,111,926	Lbs. 1,144,834	Lbs. 1,002,653	Lbs. 1,219,197	Lbs. 1,823,531	Lbs. 1,526,776	Lbs. 1,672,410	Lbs. 1,736,460	Lbs. 1,960,590
Arrowroot	1,010	1,693	3,092	836	370	1,200	336	800	Nil.	Nil
Fruit	£ 231,522	£ 215,583	£ 337,403	£ 303,910	£ 531,726	£ 288,159	£ 375,860	£ 527,474	£ 515,412	£ 493,722

Police

The allowed strength of the constabulary force at the 31st March 1896 was 777, and this number also represents the actual strength at that date. It is made up of 20 officers, 131 sub-officers, and 626 men.

Besides the regular force there were also 218 rural headmen of police, and 745 rural policemen, the total effective police force of the Colony being thus 1,740 of all ranks.

The rural police are reported to be of much assistance to the regular force in the outlying districts.

Sixty-eight men were enlisted during the year, 40 were discharged, 16 were dismissed, and 8 died.

The year witnessed the inauguration of the system of strengthening the ranks of the sub-officers by the addition of men from the Royal Irish Constabulary. Three of these European sub-officers were selected for service here and have been stationed at important points. It is hoped that they will not only exercise an improved discipline over the men, but that they may be an example to native sub-officers as to the manner in which their duties as such should be discharged.

I am glad to observe considerable improvement among the police in their musketry practice. Four hundred and seventy-seven trained constables and 99 recruits fired the annual course during the year. The firing of the recruits is reported to have given the best average for the last five years. Forty-two sub-officers and men qualified for prizes during the year.

The following statement shows a portion of the duties performed by the police during the past five years:—

——	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information.	6,558	6,923	8,237	7,781	8,775
Number of persons apprehended on warrants.	1,645	1,802			
Number of search warrants executed.	116	102	122	150	151
Number of persons summoned.	17,588	18,896	19,212	19,249	20,279
Number of persons subpœnaed.	28,267	28,766	29,808	30,673	31,058
Number of seizures under revenue laws.	325	440	399	437	649
Number of post-mortems ordered.	460	432	594	603	610
Number of prisoners escorted.	9,638	10,570	8,599	8,224	9,911

The table shows an increased amount of duty performed, the most remarkable increase being under the head of seizures under the revenue laws. This is the result of special activity on the part of the police in detecting cases of rum-stealing. In order to

protect the revenue, the Law provides for the imposition of a penalty on any person found in illegal possession of rum on which the duty has not been paid. There has been good reason to fear that the offence—stimulated perhaps by an increased duty—has greatly increased, and the police have been warned to use all proper means to detect cases. The increased figures in the foregoing return may be taken as an indication that they are alive to their duties in this respect.

Turning now to offences against the person, with which the police have had to deal during the year, it is satisfactory to note that there were 7,040 arrests only as against 7,302 the year before. Of these 12 were charges of murder (including infanticide). This is two more than in the previous year. But under the head of accessory to, attempt to, and soliciting to commit murder, the figures have risen from 6 in 1894–5 to 19 in 1895–6, while the cases of manslaughter have risen in the same period from 3 to 20. Of the murder cases, seven resulted in convictions, two of them being reduced to the less grave charge of manslaughter. Five of the same were committed by coolies—jealousy, as usual, being the cause.

The crime of cutting and wounding has greatly increased, a feature of the criminal returns of the year which it is not agreeable to contemplate. For this offence the arrests in 1892–93 were 684, in 1894-95 they were 694, while in 1895-96 they were 847. The Inspector-General of Police attributes this increase to the dangerous fights which occur as the result of drink, or through jealousy or land disputes. As regards the first, it is probable that when the large gangs of labourers from different parts of the island engaged on the construction of the railway were paid, they indulged too freely in drink, and, as a usual consequence, engaged in fights. The second and third causes have always existed and they can scarcely be held to account for the large increase referred to. The resort of large numbers of labourers to Colon and other portions of Central America from time to time for work on the canal and elsewhere, and the bad habits they there acquire, has, no doubt, had much to do with the increase in cases of cutting and wounding. Whatever the cause, the fact is to be much regretted.

Assaults on the police were 351 against 349 in 1894–95, while cases of obstructing the police in their duty were 57 as against 75 the year before.

Of offences against property, committed with violence, the number rose from 326 in 1894–95 to 429 in 1895–6. The convictions were 245 this year as against 184 in the year before. Of offences against property, committed without violence, the number was 5,004 as against 4,079 in 1894–95. To this increase prædial larceny contributes no less than 1,560. It is hoped that the legislation dealing with this subject passed during the session of the Legislative Council in 1896 may go far towards checking this growing evil.

The number of habitual criminals under police supervision during the year was 1,250. Three hundred anl eighteen habituals were re-convicted in 1895–96. In 1894–95 the number was 252.

The Inspector-General reports that the discipline of the Force has been maintained, and he has written favourably as to the manner in which officers and men have discharged their duties. As legislation proceeds and as the population grows, these duties become heavier, and it is creditable to the Force, which gets less sympathy from the general public than it is entitled to, that so much good work is got through year by year with so little friction.

There are calls for new stations in many parts of the island, and it has become necessary to obtain the authority of the Legislative Council to increase the Force by 75 men. This will enable something to be done in the way of meeting the demand for police protection in parts of the island which are in need of it, and will tend, it is hoped, to an increased observance of law and order throughout the community.

Prisons.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years, and the number on the 31st March of each year, *i.e.*, the day on which the financial year ends, were respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily Average Number in Custody.	Number on 31st March of Year.
1892 - -	940	988
1893 - -	1,004	964
1894 - -	1,008	943
1895 - -	916	957
1896 - -	1,008	1,094

On the 31st March 1896 and 1895 there were also respectively 26 and 9 persons under detention in local lock-ups, for periods of 14 days and under.

The following Return gives some of the other main statistics of the Department for the year 1895–96 as compared with those the previous year :—

—	Year ended 31st March	
	1896.	1895.
Commitments :—		
To prison - - - -	4,289	3,654
To lock-ups - - - -	818	575
Total - - -	5,107	4,229

	Year ended 31st March	
	1896.	1895.
Re-convictions - - - -	1,717	1,210
Deaths :—		
General Penitentiary - - -	10	10
Other prisons - - -	12	15
Total - - -	22	25
Executions - - - -	5	1
FINANCIAL.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure - - -	19,292 4 10	18,531 15 1
Gross earnings in cash - -	5,606 11 0	5,688 8 7
Net cost of maintaining prisons -	13,685 13 10	12,843 6 5
Cost per prisoner - - -	13 11 6½	14 0 5
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	5,658 2 0	4,667 13 2
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	4,294 16 1½	4,238 15 0
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,086 11 1	1,742 14 5

The number of deaths per 1,000, reckoned on the basis of the average daily number of prisoners in custody was 18·48 in the General Penitentiary, compared with 19·08 last year. In the other prisons, 25·7 in 1896, 38·26 in 1895. The numbers in 1894 were 37·8 and 61·8, thus showing a continuous lessening of the death-rate for the three years in question. The greatest number of sick persons in the penitentiaries during 1896 who were treated in hospital on any one day was 16, and of persons treated outside the hospital 39. The average per-centages were 6·7 and 26·2 respectively.

Discipline has been well maintained in the prisons and the mark system at the penitentiary continues to work satisfactorily. Religious services have been regularly conducted at the several prisons, and school held at the General Penitentiary and St. Catherine and Falmouth district prisons.

The several prison buildings are reported as being in good order. Two new ranges of cells were completed at the St. Catherine's district prison, and the site for the further extension of that prison acquired. When completed, the closing of the few remaining district and short term prisons will follow (one short term prison was closed during the year) and prisoners hitherto committed to them will be sent to the St. Catherine district prison, the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol or the local lock-ups.

Reformatories.

Boys' Reformatory.—On the 31st March 1896 there were 207 boys in the reformatory at Stony Hill, as compared with 200 on

the 31st March 1895. Of these 207, 120 belonged to the Reformatory and 87 to the Industrial School section. The daily average number of boys in 1894 was 206; 1895, 199; and 1896, 203.

Of 169 boys discharged during the three years in question, as far as known, seven, or 4·15 per cent., were reconvicted and sent to prison during the year 1895–96.

There were three boys out on license at the end and nine at the commencement of the year.

The following are the other main statistics of the institution for the year:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure - - -				3,707	4	0
Less earnings by labour and sale of articles -	549	7	11			
Less reimbursement from parishes for Industrial School children -	1,148	14	9			
				1,698	2	8
Net cost - - -				2,009	2	2

	d.
Gross cost per head per diem - -	11·97
Net cost per head per diem - -	6·49
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem - - - -	5·15
Gross cost of diet per head per diem -	3·07

	£	s.	d.
Work done for customers and produce sold - - - -	462	19	9
Work bringing no money return -	999	13	2
	1,462	12	11
Rewards paid - - - -	38	3	0

Marks awarded school, 59, making it a good second-class one.

The usual religious services were conducted during the year.

The boys were actively employed during the year under trained superintendence in garden and field labour (part of which was for hire on neighbouring properties) and at carpenter's mason's, bricklayer's, blacksmith's and tailor's work. They also did the usual cooking, baking, &c., of the institution, and baked for the Girls' Reformatory and Hope Industrial School.

The boys on their discharge are provided with an outfit for the trades they have been taught.

With the exception of several mild cases of influenza, chicken-pox, measles and fever, which were also prevalent in the neighbourhood, the health of the inmates was generally satisfactory.

Girls' Reformatory.

On the 31st March 1896 there were 22 girls in the Reformatory at Admirals Pen, as compared with 25 at the commencement of the year. The daily average number was 23, against 27 in 1894-95. There are no girls out on license.

The gross cost of each child was 1*s.* 8*d.* per diem, in 1895 1*s.* 6½*d.*; the daily cost of superintendence 7·8*d.*, and of diet 4*d.*

The total cost of maintaining the institution was 701*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, but after deducting reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children, and the value of work done by the girls, the actual cost of the institution was only 415*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

The girls were employed as usual in cooking, preparing starch, making, washing, &c., their own clothes, making up underclothing for the boys at Stony Hill, and clothing for immigrants.

Divine service is regularly held, and prayers are read daily. The health of the girls during the year has been exceptionally good.

Vital Statistics.

There has been a net increase of population during the year of 11,126, being a rate of increase of 17·3 per 1,000 persons living, against an increase at the rate of 17·1 per 1,000 in the previous year. The total population at 31st March last is estimated at 694,865 souls, or an addition of over 55,000 since the census of of 1891.

The mean population for the year 1895-96 is taken at 690,667, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The number of marriages during the year was 3,242, equal to a rate of 4·6 marriages per 1,000 of population. Last year the rate was 5·3, while in the year before that it was 5·5. Indeed the rate has been lower in 1895-96 than in any one of the past five years.

Of the persons married 48·6 per cent. signed the marriage register by making their mark, more bridegrooms than brides being able to sign their names.

Ten years ago 55·8 per cent. signed by mark. In so far as this may be regarded as an indication of educational progress, it would show a slow rate, but the improvement has all been in the last five years only.

The births during the year have been 26,842, or a rate of 38·8 per 1,000 of the mean population. Of these no less than 16,331 were illegitimate, or a rate of 60·8 per 100 births. It is curious how the returns of illegitimacy vary in the different parishes; *e.g.*, in St. Andrew the rate is 53·8, while in St. Mary, the adjoining parish, it is 65·6, and in St. Thomas, adjoining it on the other side, it is 73·7. The influence of a less indulgent public opinion on this subject, which may be hoped for as a result of education, will ere long, I trust, have a beneficial result in bringing about a less discreditable state of things.

The deaths registered in the year numbered 15,716, the rate per 1,000 of mean population being 22·7. This is a somewhat heavier mortality than in 1894–95 when the deaths were 14,321. Of the total deaths 30·5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age, while 43 per cent. were of children under five years, or, to put the matter in another light, 17·8 of every 100 children born failed to reach one year, and 25·4 died before they were five years old.

The Registrar-General has endeavoured to test, from the statistics of his department, the correctness or otherwise of the impression that the prevalence of illegitimacy is a principal cause of high infant mortality. It is found that, so far as Kingston is concerned, the impression is not well founded. Of every 100 children born legitimate 27·5 died under one year, while of every 100 illegitimate 22·4 died under one year. Taking the rates for the whole island, however, 15 of every 100 legitimate births died under the age mentioned, while 19·6 of each 100 illegitimates died within a year.

The returns of deaths not medically certified show a strange apparent unwillingness on the part of the mass of the people to avail themselves of the medical aid now so easily obtainable. Of the 15,716 deaths in the year 11,688, or 74·3 per cent., were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death having been obtained.

DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA.

In the Dependency of the Cayman Islands the total births in Grand Cayman during the year were 45·6 per 1,000 and numbered 170, of which 12, or 7 per cent., were illegitimate.

The deaths were 26, being an annual rate of 6·9 per 1,000 of the population.

In Cayman Brac and Little Cayman the births were 33, seven being illegitimate, and the deaths five.

The marriages in Grand Cayman numbered 21, and in the smaller islands two.

General.

Although the year was not one of special prosperity it cannot be said to have been one of depression in the Island generally. No doubt some industries have not been so fortunate as in previous periods, but others have been prosperous. Trade has not declined, although it has not largely increased in volume. The value of the imports of the Colony has again risen above that of any previous year, showing that the purchasing power of the population has not diminished.

The construction of the railway to Port Antonio has been vigorously prosecuted, and a part of this extension was completed during the year. When the year closed (31st March 1896), the work was well advanced and nearing completion. The line to Montego Bay (which was finished early in 1895) has enabled the

postmaster to double the mail service between Kingston and the western part of the island, and private parties have, with commendable enterprise, initiated a coach service connecting with the railway the towns in the west which the line does not reach. The people are undoubtedly beginning to recognise the value, and to take increased advantage, of improved means of communication, and I have no doubt that in Jamaica as elsewhere postal facilities and conveniences for travel both by road and rail will tend to their moral as well as their material advancement. In the towns of the Island the municipal authorities are aiding in the general progress by the introduction, so far as their resources will allow, of those measures which tend either to the increase of comfort, the improvement of health, or the transaction of business. In some places the electric light and the telephone have been introduced. In Kingston these conveniences have long been available. Much attention is being given on all hands to sanitary matters, particularly in the provision of wholesome water. In Kingston the laying of the sewers in connexion with the sewerage scheme inaugurated some years ago was completed so far as the streets are concerned, and I had recently the pleasure of opening the pumping station in connexion with the works. The house connexions are now being rapidly made.

I regret that the hopes I expressed in my last report that the cattle disease had been checked and would shortly disappear, have not been realised. Although individual owners have not perhaps suffered so severely as in 1894, the disease has spread and most of the districts of the Island have been visited by it. Steps have been taken since the year closed to which this reports refers, to obtain the best veterinary opinion and advice on the subject. The result of the measures which may be adopted cannot, however, be now reported.

The demand for Jamaica oranges which has risen since disaster overtook the groves in Florida has been a great help to many of the country districts during the year. The number exported reached the considerable total of 97 millions, of an estimated value of 169,800*l.* The year before the value was only 48,700*l.*, while four years ago it was less than half that sum.

Persistent complaints of the prevalence of prædial larceny resulted in the passing last session of two Laws dealing with the subject, the enforcement of which will, I hope, check this long-standing evil.

The health of the Island was good during the year; the fears of an epidemic breaking out in Kingston by the turning up of the soil during the progress of the improvement works have proved groundless. We were fortunate, too, in escaping hurricane, earthquake, and other disasters which have not infrequently overtaken countries in these latitudes.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

King's House,
5th November 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 198.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 174.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
170	Sierra Leone	1895
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–6

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 198.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 174.)

GOVERNOR Sir H. A. BLAKE to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,
April 28, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1896, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

There is no alteration to report under this head.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue figure of 1896 is a long way the highest that has been reached since the Islands became part of the Colony of Jamaica 24 years ago, and the financial results of the year's working are very satisfactory.

The total sum collected was 9,707*l.*, as against 7,312*l.* in 1895 and 8,840*l.* in 1894, and exceeded the estimate by 1,921*l.*

This result is attributable to the large export of salt, with its correspondingly large return from royalty and light dues, and to increased importations, import duties having brought in the biggest sum as yet received in any one year under the existing tariff, while also the figures of most of the minor heads of revenue show an upward tendency.

The balance carried forward from the previous year was 4,540*l.* giving a gross revenue of 14,247*l.*

The total expenditure amounted to 7,383*l.*, being less by 164*l.* than the sum expended in 1895. Of this amount 7,125*l.* was ordinary expenditure (including an item of 796*l.* on Public Works),

against 6,849*l.* in 1895, and 258*l.* was for works and services of a special nature, the sum so spent in 1895 having been 698*l.*

The revenue collected within the year exceeded by 2,324*l.* the total expenditure within the same period. Of the sum so in excess, 500*l.* was invested by the Crown Agents in Victoria stock and 1,000*l.* advanced at bank rate, while 400*l.* was invested in Jamaica in Jamaica inscribed stock, and 600*l.* placed in the Government Savings Bank, leaving a working balance to carry forward to 1897 of 2,365*l.*, which, with the investments above mentioned and a further sum of 2,000*l.* which the Dependency had already to its credit invested, gives a total credit balance of 6,865*l.*

The attainment of such a result as the above, in a small barren group of islands like these, with a scattered West Indian population of under 5,000, who at the same time enjoy complete immunity from the payment of direct taxes, is a little notable.

3. *Assets and Liabilities.*

There was a balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December 1896 of 6,864*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

4. *Public Debt.*

The Dependency has no public debt.

5. *Municipalities.*

There are local boards, established by various legislative enactments, to deal with the following subjects; namely, health, quarantine, prisons, pilotage, salt ponds, education, and medical relief.

6. *Public Works.*

The total expenditure under this head was 1,053*l.*, divided as follows:—

	£
Department - - - -	64
Recurrent - - - -	731
Extraordinary - - - -	258
Total - - -	1,053

The office of Colonial Surveyor and Inspector of Public Works, which was done away with in 1881, was revived and filled at the close of the year by the appointment, for a fixed period of three years, of a gentleman from the Public Works Department of Jamaica, at a salary of from 250*l.* to 300*l.* per annum.

The recurrent vote was for the most part expended in general renovation and improvement of the Government property. Some portions of the roads outside the town of Grand Turk were also taken in hand and metalled for the first time in their history,

and the great general improvement in the condition of the roads within the township of Cockburn Harbour, which has been effected little by little during the past three years, was further continued.

Under the extraordinary vote the following new works were carried out:—

	£	s.	d.
Extension of warehouse premises, Grand Turk - - -	130	11	2
Latrines, Grand Turk - -	26	7	2
Completion of Custom House extension, Cockburn Harbour - -	23	13	3
Removal of shoals near the shipping place, Cockburn Harbour - -	50	0	0
Breakwater, Salt Cay - -	27	1	6

In view of difficulties that arose in course of construction, it was deemed wise to defer the continuance of work on the breakwater at Salt Cay until the Government could obtain professional advice on the spot. Now that a Colonial Surveyor has been appointed it will be again taken in hand.

7. *Legislation.*

Some important legislation took place during the year under review.

The following Ordinances were passed:—

No. 1.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2.—The Red Salina Improvement Ordinance.
No. 3.—The Crown Lands Ordinance.
No. 4.—The Salt Pond Ordinance.
No. 5.—The Public Officers' Securities Ordinance.
No. 6.—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance, 1897.
No. 7.—The Post Office (Offences) Ordinance.
No. 8.—The Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance.

Some little excitement was occasioned by the introduction of the Salt Pond Ordinance, which was at first viewed with great suspicion as constituting an infringement by the Government upon existing rights of proprietors. After due discussion and explanation, however, these suspicions were calmed, and the measure, I am glad to say, finally passed without dissent. The Ordinance effects a much needed consolidation and revision of the different enactments settling the tenure of Salt Ponds (which are a very peculiar kind of property), and providing for their management and improvement, and the satisfactory conclusion arrived at of this important and somewhat long pending question is matter for congratulation.

The Red Salina Improvement Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Committee who are empowered to undertake the cleaning out of the main reservoir of that salina, a work which was last done in 1857, five years before the responsibility of management and upkeep passed from the hands of the Crown to those of proprietors of allotments. The Government provides the

funds in the first instance, and the sum expended is to be repaid by the proprietors in instalments, under penalty of the sale of their allotments on failure to meet their obligations. This special Ordinance was rendered necessary by the refusal of the Salt Pond Board (the body in which the care of the salinas is legally vested) to take the matter in hand. The question has been a vexed one for some years, and it became necessary to deal thoroughly with it. The Ordinance met with determined opposition during its passage through the Legislative Board, but now that the chief part of the work has been satisfactorily done, and the beneficial results of it have been seen, I may, I think, say that its provisions are viewed with less disfavour.

The Crown Lands Ordinance is another important measure by which the law in regard to the disposal and acquirement of Crown property is consolidated and set out in a clear and simple form, and conditional rights are also given to parties who can prove a *bonâ fide* occupation of land for 20 years prior to the commencement of the Ordinance. Fifteen old Acts and Ordinances are repealed by the new law.

The Pilotage Ordinance is also a consolidation, having for its object the expression of the existing law in a less ambiguous form, and its amendment in certain necessary particulars.

There remains still, however, considerable work to be done before the laws of the Dependency can be said to be in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

8. *Legislative Board.*

There was no change in the composition of the Board during the past year.

9. *Civil Establishment.*

The Commissioner and the Judge of the Supreme Court did not leave the Dependency during the year.

Mr. A. W. Harriott, Assistant Commissioner at Grand Turk, was absent on vacation leave from 30th April to the 26th July, his duties being performed by Mr. E. C. Harriott, the clerk to the Commissioner, whose place was filled for the time by Mr. L. Lea Smith.

Mr. T. O'Connor, Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour, was also away on vacation leave from the 22nd May to the 29th June, the work of his office being carried on by Mr. W. A. Astwood, the Boarding and Revenue Officer of the settlement.

Mr. F. E. Todd, Corporal of Police and Foreman of Works, was also granted vacation leave for six weeks.

10. *Pensions.*

The pension list was reduced during the year by the sum of 88*l.* 16*s.*, in consequence of the death of the widow and one of the daughters of the Rev. J. Maxwell, formerly rector of the parish of St. Thomas at Grand Turk, and the marriage of a second

daughter, and increased by a pension of 20*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* to a retiring police constable, making a net reduction of 68*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

The total sum paid in pensions was 532*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

11. *Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented :—

United States of America.
Sweden and Norway.
Denmark.
France.
Spain.
Dominican Republic.

12. *Population and Vital Statistics.*

The population of the Dependency continues to increase, the births for the year being returned as 225 against 119 deaths. Of the births 60, or about 27 per cent., were illegitimate, two-thirds of which number are from the Caicos Islands. There were 61 marriages solemnized in 1896, as against an average of 39 for the five years 1891–5, a clear sign of the better times among the labouring population.

13. *Education.*

An inspection of all the Government schools was held during the year by an inspector from the Jamaica Education Department.

The school at Grand Turk, under the new teacher appointed in 1895, showed a great advance, and was ranked equal to a good first-class Jamaica school.

The results at the schools in the outlying districts were not so satisfactory, and some of the teachers employed have not turned out well. With, however, an improved teaching staff, which will be at work during the year, and the inspector's report, which goes carefully into all the weak points, as a guide, there is a hope of some progress being made. The great stumbling block to education here is, and always has been, the scanty and irregular attendance of the children, owing to carelessness on the part of the parents and their want of appreciation of the advantages offered them.

14. *Imports and Exports.*

The year's revenue from import duties is the largest that has as yet been collected under the lowered tariff in force since 1884, and exceeds the figure of the previous year by 743*l.* The principal increase is in spirits, which gave 293*l.* more than in 1895. The receipts under the heads of flour, sugar, salt meat, lumber, and ad valorem duties are also all noticeably higher, especially the two latter.

A further good feature in connexion with the return of imports for 1896 is that, with the exception of a small proportion of the

lumber, the whole are genuine importations in the regular way of business, and the figures are not swelled by any fortuitous entry of wrecked goods. Thus they may, I think, be fairly taken as denoting a pleasing state of well-being throughout the community.

The export of salt was well above the average, being 1,904,627 bushels, bringing in a royalty to Government of 2,778*l.*

The ground fishery salt trade with British North America, which is of great importance to Grand Turk, and latterly also Salt Cay, revived, 331,000 bushels going out in this form, as against 71,000 in 1895. The year was nearly a perfect one for the salt raker, and a large crop was gathered at each of the three ports, which leaves an abundant supply of the staple on hand to meet demands from the States before the new crop is gathered.

The price, too, for this full export remained firm at 7 cents a bushel, against the 5½ cents to 6 cents which obtained for so many years prior to the end of 1895, the cheering effect of which condition is very perceptible.

The export of sisal or Bahama hemp increases gradually each year, the value declared for 1896 being 1,047*l.*, and, in spite of low prices and unfavourable prognostications, the local parties engaged in this industry seem fairly well satisfied with their prospects.

There was nearly 1,000*l.* worth of sponge also exported from the Caicos Bank.

Comparative tables showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency are attached.

—	1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of imports - -	28,525	14	10	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4
Import duties collected -	3,173	14	9	2,958	13	2	3,701	3	4

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the Years 1894, 1895, and 1896.

—	1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salt - - - -	29,686	10	3	19,432	5	8	29,106	18	6
Sponge - - - -	217	11	8	552	5	5	957	7	0
Bahama hemp - - -	419	13	2	620	6	10	1,047	8	1
Salt fish - - -	—			69	0	0	6	0	0
Turtle shell - - -	62	2	0	150	0	0	230	0	0
Palmetto straw - - -	—			—			43	0	0
Total - -	30,585	17	1	20,823	17	11	31,390	13	7

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each COUNTRY for the Years 1894, 1895, and 1896.

Imports

—	1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	3,666	14	0	3,317	12	2	3,284	8	3
British North America - -	1,126	12	8	1,777	7	6	1,242	4	6
British Colonies - -	1,973	14	6	1,423	2	8	1,692	17	3
United States of America -	18,408	2	1	18,103	9	8	22,080	15	2
Other Foreign Countries -	3,350	11	7	2,113	6	0	1,944	19	2
Total - -	28,525	14	10	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4

Exports.

—	1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	—			24	17	10	240	0	0
British North America - -	8,697	13	5	1,571	19	11	6,266	6	3
British Colonies - -	132	10	6	235	6	11	597	0	6
United States of America -	20,933	6	1	17,908	10	5	23,278	18	9
Other Foreign Countries -	3,010	15	10	1,947	2	7	1,115	8	11
Total - -	32,774	5	10	21,687	17	8	31,497	14	5

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each PORT for the Seven Years 1888 to 1894, and the actual EXPORT for 1895 and 1896.

Ports.	1888–94.	1895.	1896.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Grand Turk - - -	673,775	202,358	769,068
Salt Cay - - -	449,885	312,466	513,109
Cockburn Harbour - -	661,480	775,564	622,450
Total bushels - -	1,785,140	1,290,388	1,904,627

Salt in the Colony on	31st	December	1893	- 700,000	bushels.
"	"	"	1894	- 130,000	"
"	"	"	1895	- 490,000	"
"	"	"	1896	- 770,000	"

15. *Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below:—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1894 - - -	311	55,030	320	54,215	631	109,245
1895 - - -	249	31,694	252	31,744	501	63,438
1896 - - -	296	48,138	294	47,604	590	95,742

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1894 - - -	62	71,185	62	71,185	124	142,370
1895 - - -	66	88,343	66	88,343	132	176,686
1896 - - -	62	82,968	62	82,968	124	165,936

Total British and Foreign.

—	1895.			1896.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British - -	17,516	23,644	41,160	39,925	24,672	64,597
Foreign - -	45,922	153,042	198,964	55,817	141,264	197,081
Total - -	63,438	176,686	240,124	95,742	165,936	261,678

Her Majesty's ship "Magicienne," from Jamaica, having on board his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, visited the Dependency for a few hours in the month of May, calling first at Cockburn Harbour and subsequently at Grand Turk. There were no other visits by men-of-war.

With the exception of a barque loading salt at Cockburn Harbour, which dragged her anchors and went ashore in a

south-west gale, there were, I am glad to say, no wrecks or strandings of any consequence on the coasts of the Dependency throughout the year.

16. *Agriculture.*

The year was a very dry one, and the provision crops in the outer Caicos settlements were proportionately scant. The "hard time" was, however, tided over with the assistance of only a few barrels of meal from Government to the old people and little children. I think the Caiconians are beginning to learn to be a little more resourceful on these occasions, and the regular employment by the fibre companies at East and West Caicos is, of course, a great help to them.

An effort in a small way was made to revive cotton cultivation, which was formerly a considerable industry in the Caicos, by the distribution of good seed through the different settlements, and information as to the proper times and method of planting and of gathering the crop. The people can find a modest barter market at Cockburn Harbour for any small quantities that they may bring, and I am in hopes they may take to it to some extent. One party from Grand Turk has planted out 50 acres of land, and is at present seeking to buy Crown land, with the view of a more extensive cultivation, which it is to be hoped he may make a success.

17. *Mines, Manufactures, &c.*

The production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation is, as is well known, the one dependence of these islands. There is little machinery used in the industry, but I may perhaps note under this head that at the Port of Salt Cay, within the last two years, American "aermotor" plant for crushing salt to produce what is called "ground fishery salt" has been successfully established and given much satisfaction, as being a good deal more cleanly than the steam engine and somewhat more economical.

There is also a move towards greater cleanliness of pans and reservoirs at Grand Turk, to which the Red Salina Improvement Ordinance may have to some extent contributed.

There has also, I am glad to say, been a step made towards the working of the undeveloped salinas of the Dependency, and I hope shortly to conclude a lease for one large salina at Cockburn Harbour, which should ultimately give a crop of over 250,000 bushels per annum.

18. *Grants of Land.*

A comprehensive Ordinance dealing with the subject of Crown lands in the Dependency was passed during the year, and the financial conditions have been happily such as to enable the office of Colonial Surveyor to be revived. It is thus now possible to arrange for systematic survey work, and for the prompt dealing with land applications, so that I trust in a few years' time the present condition of uncertainty as to area, boundaries, and title will no longer exist, and that the Government will possess accurate

plans of the chief towns and settlements, the need of which is much felt.

19. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

The total number of persons committed during 1896 was 27, of whom 9 were for safe keeping and 18 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was 2, a figure which speaks well for the general good behaviour of the population.

20. *Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1896 was 222, against 193 in 1895.

Of the offences reported in 1896 :—

67 were for offences against the person.
2 „ „ prædial larceny.
12 „ „ offences against property other than prædial larceny.
141 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1896 was 165, against 132 in 1895.

These convictions are classified as follows :—

39 for offences against the person.
1 for prædial larceny.
6 for offences against property other than prædial larceny.
119 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

1 for offences against the person.
1 „ „ „ property.

The acquittals were as follows :—

In the inferior courts - - -	- 48
In the Supreme Court - - -	- 1

21. *Hospitals and Asylums.*

There is no hospital or asylum. In cases of lunacy the patient is placed in gaol under medical supervision, and, if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica. These cases have been somewhat more frequent of late years, and there are now five patients from here under treatment at Jamaica, costing the Dependency 137*l.* per annum.

22. *Meteorological Observations.*

There is nothing special to record under this head.

The rainfall was a good deal below the average, and at both Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour there was for a short while some little fear of a scarcity of water.

There was, I am glad to report, no hurricane, and the hurricane months passed without any disturbance to cause anxiety.

The summer was, however, an exceedingly hot and trying one.

Tables of temperature and rainfall are appended.

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	80	74	77
February	80	74	77
March	80	75	78
April	80	75	77
May	82	70	80
June	85	81	83
July	84	81	83
August	86	84	85
September	87	84	86
October	87	82	85
November	84	78	81
December	82	76	79

RAINFALL for the Year 1896 compared with the Average for the previous Seven Years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	1·87	1·04	·76	3·31
February	·34	·47	·23	2·41
March	1·37	1·42	1·27	·42
April	3·40	1·08	·45	·16
May	·29	·24	·76	·36
June	·83	·47	·29	·31
July	2·96	2·35	1·95	3·61
August	·81	·51	·37	1·63
September	4·90	2·90	3·92	10·36
October	·28	1·40	·66	2·40
November	1·99	2·48	2·49	4·73
December	2·03	1·68	3·19	2·20
Total inches	21·07	16·04	16·34	31·90
Average for seven years, 1889 to 1895	26·26	23·78	20·47	34·80

23. *Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time:—

Bank.	No of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	73	88	268 7 8	430 7 8	215 2 5	194 13 5	660 9 8	896 3 11
Salt Cay	45	48	83 1 10	57 16 1	95 8 0	29 16 0	58 8 11	80 9 0
Cockburn Harbour	26	29	77 12 4	97 15 1	66 1 7	77 2 10	272 13 1	293 5 4
Total	144	165	429 1 10	579 18 10	376 12 0	301 12 8	991 11 8	1,269 18 3

The number of depositors and amount of deposits have nearly doubled within the last four years.

24. *Post Office.*

The Post Office revenue for the year was 230*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, an increase of 30*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* over the previous year's figure.

This sum does not include the value of stamps demanded by dealers and others abroad, which is brought to account under the head of Miscellaneous, and amounted to 947*l.*

A direct money order exchange with the other West Indies, through the medium of Jamaica, was established during the year.

Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamer from Halifax and the Clyde line steamers from New York continued to run throughout the year.

25. *General Remarks.*

The year 1896 was decidedly one of prosperity and progress.

A fine salt season gave an abundant crop of the staple, the price of which remained steady throughout the year at a figure that is acknowledged to be fairly remunerative.

The result was a good revenue, which has enabled the Government to strengthen its reserve and at the same time to meet two long felt wants by the appointment of a Colonial Surveyor and a second Medical Officer to be stationed in the Caicos Islands, which have never before been so favoured.

The greater attention to salt pond property, and the appearance in several directions of new buildings, with the execution of long delayed repairs to those already existing, is an indication of a revival of well-being which it is pleasant to witness.

The legislation of the year may also, I venture to say, be fairly pointed to as a step forward.

In closing this my fifth Blue Book report from here, it is a satisfaction to me to be able to record that the general condition of the Islands, which in 1893 I spoke of as seeming to me to give "fair promise for the future," has in the interval been so materially bettered.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
27th February 1897.

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Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 225.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-7.

(For Report for 1895-6, *see* No. 190.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896-7
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-7

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture

No. 225.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA, 1896–7.

(For Report for 1895–6, *see* No. 190.)

GOVERNOR SIR H. A. BLAKE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
29th December 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1896-7.

I have &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA FOR 1896-97.

LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1897 the Legislative Council passed 39 Laws, of which the following are the more important :—

Law 3 of 1897.—A Law to enable the Parochial Board for the Parish of Trelawny to buy out the Falmouth Water Company.

Law 4 of 1897.—A Law to provide against the unlicensed manufacture of explosives. This Law provides that no explosives shall be manufactured without a license from the Governor in Privy Council.

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JAMAICA. 1896–7.

Law 9 of 1897.—The Leper Asylum Law 1896, Amendment Law, 1897—which provides for the reception of lunatic lepers at the Lepers Home at Spanish Town instead of at the Lunatic Asylum.

Law 12 of 1897.—The Immigration Protection and Regulation Law, 1879, Further Amendment Law, 1897. This Law alters the terms upon which Indian immigrants shall in future be entitled to return passages. Instead of being entitled after the prescribed term of industrial service to an unconditional free passage back to the port from which he originally embarked, for himself, his wife and children, subject to the proviso that he claimed it within twelve months of the time when it was due, the Indian immigrant by this Law will be required to contribute one-fourth of such passage money in the case of males, and one-sixth in the case of females.

Law 14 of 1897.—The Military Telephone Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to enable the Governor within an area for which a license has been given already, to grant a special license to the officer commanding the troops and to the Colonial Secretary to erect a telephone for Government purposes.

Law 17 of 1897.—The Marine Board Law, 1896, Amendment Law, 1897. This Law was introduced to give effect to certain recommendations of the Board of Trade and under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Law 19 of 1897.—The Pound Law, 1897. This Law repeals the Law on the subject of Pounds. Many of the provisions of the repealed Law are obsolete and inapplicable. The present Law proceeds upon lines which are familiar amongst the people and effects requisite improvements.

Law 22 of 1897.—The Tramways Law, 1895, Amendment Law, 1897. This Law amends the Law of 1895 in some important particulars. It provides that if an extension of a license is refused at the termination of the period fixed in such license, the Government shall purchase the tramway, lands, buildings, &c. belonging to the licensees. It also gives authority to the Government of Jamaica as well as to the local authority to require the licensees to sell the undertaking at the termination of the license upon certain terms. It alters the basis of valuation which was in the principal Law estimated on the value of all lands, buildings, works, material, and plant, and provides that the valuation shall be arrived at by also estimating the value of the undertaking as a tramway, and by taking into consideration the cost of construction less depreciation. It also provides that the revocation of a license can only take place through the intervention of the Supreme Court, which is given the necessary power to deal with the matter.

Law 23 of 1897.—The Building Societies' Law, Amendment Law, 1897. Building societies in Jamaica are constituted under

and governed by the Act 28 Vict. cap. 17, which corresponds with the Imperial Statute 6 and 7 Will. IV. cap. 32, and the object of this Law is to place the Law in this Island on a similar footing to the Law in England.

Law 24 of 1897.—The Kingston General Commissioners' Law, 1897. This law abolishes five distinct sets of Commissioners, whose powers and duties were connected with the management of an equal number of public undertakings in Kingston and substitutes one body for the same.

Law 25 of 1897.—The Marriage Law, 1897. This Law amends and consolidates the existing marriage laws of the Colony, and removes the inconvenience of having to refer to several Statutes in order to ascertain the precise legal position upon the subject of marriage. Under this Law a marriage officer holds his appointment for the whole Island, and not for a particular parish, as has hitherto been the case.

Law 30 of 1897.—The Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks further Loan Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to increase and improve the water supply to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains. It empowers the Water Works Commissioners to raise by loan the amount required for the purpose of constructing additional filter beds and reservoirs and acquiring lands, &c.

Law 31 of 1897.—A Law to provide for the acquisition of lands for public purposes. Previous to the passing of this measure, there was no general law in the Colony enabling lands to be compulsorily acquired for public purposes. Each time land was required for any public undertaking a special law had to be passed embodying and incorporating with it the sections of the Lands Clauses Law, 1872, which might be considered necessary for the purpose.

Law 32 of 1897.—The Law Officers Law, 1897. This Law abolishes the offices of assistants to the Attorney-General, and in lieu thereof provides for the appointment of an officer to be called the Solicitor-General. Under this Law, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General will between them perform the duty of conducting all criminal prosecutions in the Circuit Courts, hitherto performed by the assistants to the Attorney-General.

Law 33 of 1897.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897. This Law provides for the incorporation of certain persons as a Limited Liability Company under the name of The West India Electric Company. One of the objects of the Company is to obtain a license under the Tramways Law to operate electric tramways through and in the neighbourhood of Kingston.

Law 39 of 1897.—The Vere Irrigation Law, 1897. The object of this Law is to constitute a commission with power to raise a certain amount of money on loan for the purpose of irrigating the fertile district of Vere in the Parish of Clarendon.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

FINANCE.

The surplus general revenue brought forward at the commencement of the year was £78,117 and the revenue collected during the year amounted to £591,864, making together a sum of £669,981, while the expenditure (including £34,458 for sinking funds) amounted to £664,222, thus leaving at the close of the year a surplus of £5,759. Compared with the previous year, general revenue shows a net decrease of £54,239 and general expenditure a net increase of £24,258.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several Parochial Boards, produced £116,774, a decrease of £1,018; this does not, however, include the advances from general revenue in aid of these funds, which amounted to £21,122. Parochial expenditure amounted to £135,842 or £7,260 in excess of the previous year, the repayment of advances from general revenue, which amounted to £17,104, not being taken into account.

The revenue specially appropriated to the construction and maintenance of main roads, parochial roads, and the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston amounted to £43,767, a decrease of £232, and the expenditure to £41,522, an increase of £5,919.

Immigration revenues were £1,681, a decrease of £9,112, and expenditure £979, a decrease of £12,069.

The following is a statement showing the whole revenue realised in the year under review compared with the previous year:—

General Revenue.

———	1896-7.	1895-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
TAX REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	318,251	355,246	—	36,995
Light Dues	1,952	2,824	—	872
Harbour Masters' Fees ...	2,577	2,816	—	239
Rum Duties	122,524	138,725	—	16,201
Beer Duty	211	—	211	—
Licenses	732	759	—	27
Stamps	23,947	23,137	810	—
Education Tax	11,243	12,414	—	1,171
Total Tax Revenue ...	481,437	535,921	1,021	55,505
Decrease	—	—	—	54,484

General Revenue—continued.

	1896-7.	1895-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	481,437	535,921	1,021	55,505
NON-TAX REVENUE.				
Postal Revenue	24,072	23,594	478	—
Telegraph Revenue ...	5,364	5,858	—	494
Court Fees	8,284	9,149	—	865
Fines and Forfeitures ...	4,412	4,652	—	240
Interest on Securities for Sinking Funds.	14,199	13,428	771	—
Interest from Savings Bank	3,927	4,103	—	176
Interest other than above	4,973	6,231	—	1,258
Interest Jamaica Railway Bonds.	208	—	208	—
Reimbursements	35,969	33,594	2,375	—
Miscellaneous	9,019	9,573	—	554
Total Non-Tax Revenue	110,427	110,182	3,832	3,587
Grand Total	591,864	646,103	4,853	59,092
Net decrease	—	—	—	54,239

Specially Appropriated Revenue.

MAIN ROAD REVENUE.				
Land Tax Law 17 of 1890	398	397	1	—
Draft Horned Stock do. ...	826	875	—	49
Holdings Tax	12,898	14,372	—	1,474
Spirit Licenses	13,969	16,545	—	2,576
Agricultural Produce Licenses Law 37 of 1896.	3,685	—	3,685	—
PAROCHIAL ROAD RESERVE FUND.				
Land Tax and Quit Rent...	7,637	8,083	—	446
Carried forward ...	39,413	40,272	3,686	4,545

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

Specially Appropriated Revenue—continued.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	39,413	40,272	3,686	4,545
KINGSTON STREETS RECONSTRUCTION.				
House Tax Laws 4 of 1883 and 31 of 1890.	6	31	—	25
Spirit Licenses	3,728	3,693	35	—
Other Receipts	620	3	617	—
Totals	43,767	43,999	4,338	4,570
				232
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	3,605	6,447	—	2,842
Decrease	—	—	—	2,842

Parochial Revenue.

Parochial Road Tax ...	37,901	40,315	—	2,414
Parochial Municipal Revenues.	13,271	13,804	—	533
Parochial General Purposes	4,503	4,179	324	—
Poor Rates	39,339	42,600	—	3,261
Sanitary Rates	7,862	9,039	—	1,177
Fire Rates	1,561	1,631	—	70
Gas Rates	3,793	2,099	1,694	—
Miscellaneous	8,544	4,125	4,419	—
Advances from General Revenues in aid of Parochial Funds.	21,122	—	21,122	—
Totals	137,896	117,792	27,559	7,455
Net increase	—	—	20,104	—

Immigration.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenues Laws 7, 1878, Amended Law 14, 1891.	1,476	10,538	—	9,062
Miscellaneous	205	166	39	—
Interest	—	89	—	89
Totals	1,681	10,793	39	9,151
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	9,112

Summary.

General Revenue	591,864	646,103	—	54,239
Specially Appropriated Revenue.	43,767	43,999	—	232
Immigration Revenue ...	1,681	10,793	—	9,112
Appropriated Revenue ...	137,896	117,792	20,104	—
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	3,605	6,447	—	2,842
Totals	778,813	825,134	20,104	66,425
Net decrease	—	—	—	46,321

The large net decrease in the General Revenue of £54,239 is almost entirely due to the falling-off in imports and rum duties caused by the depression in business to which allusion is made elsewhere in this Report. The only item showing an increase of any importance is Reimbursements, which amounted to £2,375 more than in 1895-96.

The revenue for parochial purposes, which generally varies according to the rates imposed, shews very little change; the increases are chiefly in the Gas Rates and Miscellaneous, and the decreases in Parochial Road Tax, Poor Rates, and Sanitary Rates.

The total of revenues specially appropriated for the construction and maintenance of main roads, parochial roads, and the reconstruction of the Kingston streets shews a very small increase. The new tax under the Agricultural Produce Licenses Law 37 of 1896 produced £3,685, while the Holdings Tax and Spirit Licenses together shews a decrease of £4,050.

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

The net decrease of £9,112 on account of Immigration Revenue is due to the fact that there was no importation of immigrants during the year.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure :—

General Expenditure.

———	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of Debt	82,417	81,111	1,306	—
Pensions	16,962	16,096	866	—
Administrative Departments.	45,085	45,704	—	619
Government Savings Bank	3,275	3,087	188	—
Revenue Departments ...	41,066	40,018	1,048	—
Postal Service	28,355	25,887	2,468	—
Telegraph Service... ...	7,555	7,589	—	34
Judicial	45,610	44,122	1,488	—
Ecclesiastical	2,927	3,356	—	429
Medical	59,307	58,842	465	—
Constabulary	57,122	55,468	1,654	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	3,767	3,682	85	—
Prisons	23,288	21,286	2,002	—
Reformatories	4,548	4,179	369	—
Education	67,540	65,270	2,270	—
Industrial Schools... ...	1,103	965	138	—
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,742	3,251	—	509
Military	12,814	11,053	1,761	—
Coasting Service	1,800	1,800	—	—
Telegraph Subsidy ...	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration Department...	4,432	4,407	25	—
Registration of Titles Department.	1,203	1,102	101	—
Island Record Office ...	1,410	1,346	64	—
Carried forward ...	516,328	501,621	16,298	1,591

General Expenditure—continued.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	516,328	501,621	16,298	1,591
Government Printing Establishment.	7,989	7,818	171	—
Jamaica Institute	2,404	1,915	489	—
Board of Supervision ...	431	508	—	77
Public Gardens	6,484	5,654	830	—
Railway	1,587	1,996	—	409
Miscellaneous	10,982	9,715	1,267	—
Jamaica Agricultural Society.	—	1,000	—	1,000
Public Works	78,515	65,831	12,684	—
Railway Extension Track	1,595	6,624	—	5,029
Lighthouses	1,719	1,722	—	3
Lighthouse Construction...	233	1,102	—	869
Contribution to Maintenance Kingston Improvement Works.	425	—	425	—
Cattle Disease Inquiry ...	1,072	—	1,072	—
Totals	629,764	605,506	33,236	8,978
Net increase ...	—	—	24,258	—

Special Appropriation.—Main Road Expenditure, Law 17 of 1870.

Maintenance	31,127	30,709	418	—
Parochial Road Reserve Fund Expenditure.	7,921	2,928	4,993	—
Kingston Streets Reconstruction.	2,421	1,966	455	—
Produce Protection Fund Expenditure.	53	—	53	—
Totals	41,522	35,603	5,919	—
Increase	—	—	5,919	—

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

Expenditure from Loans.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Portland Bridges	4,144	8,239	—	4,095
Public Tanks, Laws 17 of 1890 and 26 of 1893.	292	492	—	200
Reconstruction of Main Roads, Law 17 of 1890.	3,689	9,946	—	6,257
Contribution to Kingston Streets, Law 28 of 1894.	—	25,000	—	25,000
Mountain Roads	—	1,294	—	1,294
Expenses — Conversion of Debentures.	—	372	—	372
Jamaica Bridges, Law 20 of 1892.	—	14,842	—	14,842
Public Buildings, Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894.	—	6,608	—	6,608
Totals	8,125	66,793	—	58,668
Decrease	—	—	—	58,668

Appropriated Expenditure.

Parochial Roads	52,818	51,242	1,576	—
Parochial Municipal Objects	10,022	9,475	547	—
Parochial General Purposes.	7,860	7,072	788	—
Relief of Poor	46,898	45,754	1,144	—
Sanitary Appropriation ...	9,491	9,683	—	192
Fire Appropriation, Kingston.	1,647	1,467	180	—
Gas Appropriation, Kingston.	3,048	3,136	—	88
Kingston Theatre	4,058	753	3,305	—
Repayment of Advances from General Revenues in aid of Parochial Funds.	17,104	—	17,104	—
Totals	152,946	128,582	24,644	280
Net increase ...	—	—	24,364	—

Immigration Expenditure.

1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£
979	13,048	—	12,069
—	—	—	12,069

Summary.

———	1896–7.	1895–6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
General Expenditure ...	629,764	605,506	24,258	—
Special Appropriation ...	41,522	35,603	5,919	—
Loan Expenditure... ...	8,125	66,793	—	58,668
Appropriated Expenditure	152,946	128,582	24,364	—
Immigration Expenditure	979	13,048	—	12,069
Totals	833,336	849,532	54,541	70,737
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	16,196

The net increase in the General Expenditure was £24,258. The more important increases are to be found under the following heads, viz :—Charges of Debt (£1,306) due to increased interest under Law 33 of 1894 ; Revenue Departments (£1,048) due to changes in the staff and annual increments of salaries ; Postal Service (£2,468) for the manufacture of Postage Stamps and expenses of new daily mail service ; Judicial (£1,488) chiefly in the Resident Magistrates' Courts and for meeting Crown witnesses, expenses ; Constabulary (£1,654) for increasing the force and providing the necessary additional accoutrements and clothing ; Prisons (£2,002) for meeting the cost of an increased number of prisoners ; Education (£2,270) for meeting certain charges in respect of the previous year, an increase for grants-in-aid and for printing and stationery ; Military (£1,761) for providing new arms and increasing the force ; Public Works (£12,684) for new works on public buildings and taking over Myrtle Bank Hotel ; and Miscellaneous (£1,267) partially due to the charge to this head of the grant made towards the Local Agricultural Society.

PENSIONS.

During the year pensions amounting to £2,187 18*s.* 2*d.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the Resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the pension list was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £875 3*s.* 6*d.*

DEBT.

No loans were raised during this year.

The public debt directly secured on General Revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten financial years, after making allowance in each year for the Sinking Funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of the debt :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1887	1,491,993	3	9
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2
1896	1,666,177	14	3
1897	1,787,479	18	7

Of the total amount of debt on the 31st March 1897, £749,720 was on account of the purchase, reconstruction and extension of the railway to Ewarton and Porus, £126,500 on account of the Rio Cobre Canal, £167,000 for the erection of new bridges, and £33,900 for debentures on account of the Myrtle Bank Hotel, which has now been taken over by the Government.

In this sum of £1,787,479 18*s.* 7*d.* is included £146,000 raised for the reconstruction and conversion of parochial roads into main roads, and £102,680 raised under Law 19 of 1880 for the purposes of the several Kingston Commissions, which had been previously shown as part of the general debt of the Colony, but which it has now been decided to treat separately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A special Session of the Council was convened on the 16th June 1896, for the purpose of considering the question of obtaining the services of an expert to examine into and report upon the cattle disease then prevalent in the Colony.

This Session lasted only one day and the Council adjourned until the holding of its Annual Session, which took place on the 23rd February 1897.

The Session continued beyond the close of the year under review and finally adjourned on the 10th May 1897.

During that period the Council held 40 meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for all purposes, including the cost of administration and supervision was £164,337 1*s.* 4*d.* The cost of administration and supervision was equal to nearly 12¾ per cent. of the cost of the work executed.

The main roads, bridges and public buildings throughout the Island were maintained in good order and improvements effected. The number of separate institutions and buildings the upkeep of which devolved upon the Public Works Department was 286 and the cost amounted to £10,748 10*s.* 9*d.*, including the maintenance of telegraph lines. The new works on public buildings performed by the department during the year cost £17,201 19*s.* 5*d.*, and consisted mainly of additional accommodation for courts and public offices, police stations, prisons, hospitals, and asylums.

The mileage of main roads, of which the upkeep is chargeable to General Revenue, was 892 miles 36 chains, an increase of 10 miles 48 chains over the previous year, and the total average cost per mile for maintenance and repair and improvements of main roads and bridges was £36 9*s.* 11*d.*, being 8*s.* less than in the preceding year. The total cost of these works was £39,577 8*s.* 10*d.*

The work of reconstructing parochial roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was continued during the year; the total lengt' taken over was 987 miles 78 chains. The average cost of maintaining these roads was £21 15*s.* 1*d.* per mile.

At the end of the year there were 70 miles 54 chains of main roads and 61 miles 18 chains of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, and the expenditure during the year on this work was £12,155 3*s.* 10*d.* At the close of the year, 84 out of the 104 bridges authorised were completed.

The work of constructing the New Female Lunatic Asylum was proceeded with and extensive additions were made to the St. Catherine's District Prison.

During the year 7 miles 54 chains of the mountain road in St. Andrew under Law 13 of 1895 were practically completed.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point, and Negril Point, were maintained and worked with efficiency and regularity throughout the year.

The telegraph lines throughout the Island were maintained in a state of efficiency, and as far as funds were available the remodelling and the improving of the lines were continued.

RIO COBRE CANAL.

The revenue earned during the year was £4,189 19*s.* 2½*d.*, and the cost of maintenance was £2,214 6*s.* 0*d.*

The demand for water has largely increased, and in consequence the works are continually being increased.

JAMAICA. 1896-7.

The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years :—

Year.	Expenditure.			Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1892-93	1,339	13	11	3,423	5	0
1893-94	1,238	13	4	3,302	13	11¼
1894-95	1,434	10	4	3,341	3	2½
1895-96	1,652	16	11	3,700	17	1¼
1896-97	2,214	6	0	4,189	19	2¼

CROWN LANDS.

During the year judgment was obtained against 16,342 acres of land which had been previously advertised as liable to forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents, and material relating to 26,180 acres liable to forfeiture was collected for publication. Including the lots recovered last year, 115 lots of land in the North-West of Kingston have been recovered under Law 43 of 1887 from the squatters who were in possession. These lots, together with premises known as Ryans Pen, which was handed over to the Government by the Mayor and Council in January 1897, comprise about 18 acres of land, and the Government are having surveys made with a view to improving this quarter of the city.

It is regretted that the scheme promulgated for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers does not appear to have been clearly understood, but there are indications that the people are now beginning to realise the advantages to be gained by the purchase of these lands.

A number of Casuarina trees were planted on the Morant Cays to replace the coconut trees which have nearly all died out, but it is feared that they have suffered badly by the drought.

LANDS FOR RAILWAY TRACK.

The acquisition of lands for the railway track is now practically completed. The expenditure during the year in acquiring these lands was £17,802. The total expenditure from 1890 to date has been £77,960 9*s.* 10*d.* for 1,160½ acres, and the average cost per acre of these lands has been £67 2*s.* 8*d.*

During the year 45,868 acres of land were transferred to the West India Improvement Company under Law 12 of 1889,

making a total of 70,356 acres or nearly 110 square miles, which have been transferred to the Company. There are still 6,444 acres due to the Company, which are now in process of forfeiture by the Government.

These lands are nearly all situated in the east of the Island, and are good cultivable lands, but badly served by roads.

RAILWAY.

The gross receipts of the Jamaica Railway Company for the year ended 31st March 1897, amounted to £98,479 12*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to £71,279 12*s.* 4d., leaving a net revenue of £27,200 0*s.* 7*d.*

The receipts were made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Goods and cattle	53,200	14	0
Passengers	38,497	12	5
Wharf	5,990	14	3
Miscellaneous	790	12	3

The number of train miles run amounted to 342,985, which gave an expenditure per mile of 4*s.* 1·87*d.* and receipts equal to 5*s.* 8·91*d.* per mile, leaving a net revenue of 1*s.* 7·04*d.* per train mile.

The number of passengers carried amounted to 384,611.

Interest was paid on First Mortgage Bonds to the amount of £33,203 4*s.*

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total Postal Revenue for the year amounted to £24,425 11*s.* 1¾*d.*, as compared with £23,569 16*s.* 9½*d.* in 1895-96, an increase of £855 14*s.* 4¼*d.* The Telegraph Revenue was £5,479 19*s.* 3*d.* against £6,156 9*s.* 6*d.* in the preceding year, a decrease of £676 10*s.* 3*d.* The net increase of the collections by the Department for the year was thus £179 4*s.* 1¼*d.* The increase on Postal Revenue over that of 1895-96 is considerably less than was the increase in either 1894-95 or 1895-96, as compared with the years respectively preceding them. This fact the Postmaster for Jamaica attributes in part to the serious depression in trade and agriculture during the year, a condition which still more markedly affected the Telegraph Revenue, though the extended use of private telephone lines was also a factor in the large decrease under the latter.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the year 1896-97, compared with the two preceding years :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postal Revenue.																							
	Postages.									Commission on Money Orders.			Commission on Postal Orders.			Miscel-laneous.			Total Postal Revenue.			Telegraph Revenue.			Grand Total.		
	Packet.			Inland.			Total.																				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894–95	4,630	18	9½	16,343	3	11½	20,974	2	9	400	10	5	450	7	6½	228	16	9	22,053	17	5½	5,908	16	6	27,962	13	11½
1895–96	4,946	15	11½	17,542	1	7½	22,488	17	7	388	6	7	519	12	1½	173	0	6	23,569	16	9½	6,156	9	6	29,726	6	3½
1896–97	5,472	16	2	17,858	10	11¼	23,331	7	1¼	414	5	6	534	3	9½	145	14	9	24,425	11	1¾	5,479	19	3	29,905	10	4¾

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.						Mail Conveyance.						Services.			Total Postal Expenditure.			Telegraph Expenditure.			Grand Total.		
	Head Office.			District Offices.			Inland.			Ocean.														
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894–95	4,715	6	8	2,422	6	6	8,419	6	9	2,028	10	8	4,612	12	6¾	22,198	3	1¾	7,075	12	0	29,273	15	1¾
1895–96	4,923	16	4	2,535	9	0	9,020	2	2	1,962	1	1	4,471	15	5½	22,913	4	0½	7,618	16	8	30,532	0	8½
1896–97	5,193	12	7	2,681	8	9	9,841	2	11	2,289	1	8	5,317	17	1½	25,323	3	0½	7,556	8	5	32,879	11	5½

The increase under postages occurs chiefly on packet postage. This is attributed to increased opportunities for exchanging mails, of which 2,925 were conveyed outwards and inwards, as against 2,680 in the previous year. The increase under inland postages is attributed to the establishment of new district post offices, the extension of the daily mail service by the railway on the completion of the line to Port Antonio, and to the retention of the freight on parcels per mail coach under new contracts.

The increase in postal business generally is shown by the fact that 4,375,374 letters and postcards passed through the post offices against 4,121,644 in 1895-96. The increase in expenditure has been chiefly due to the increase in post offices, in mail services, and in postal business generally.

Mail Services.

Nine new services came into operation during the year in connection with the opening of new offices, and daily services have been established along the railway extension to Port Antonio and to places connected with it, as well as in other parts of the Island. There were also extensions of the parcels post system.

New Post Offices.

Twelve district post offices were established, making the number opened 142 against 130 in the preceding year; 37 new post offices have been established during this and the two preceding years.

Money and Postal Orders.

The following figures give the transactions of the three years in question :—

Year.	Money Orders.					Postal Orders.		
	Jamaica Issue.		From other Countries payable in Jamaica.		Total Amount.	Issued.		Sold.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.		Number.	Amount.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894-95 ...	12,472	15,489 17 6	1,822	4,955 12 10	50,445 10 4	131,825	22,286 17 6	22,097 4 0
1895-96 ...	13,116	47,242 13 0	2,194	5,441 1 1	52,683 14 1	151,770	26,721 17 6	26,383 3 0
1896-97 ...	12,548	43,963 16 8	2,711	7,050 4 1	51,014 0 9	171,035	26,857 10 0	26,577 10 0

The decrease on Jamaica money orders and the very slight increase on the face value of postal orders issued and sold may be due to the general depression; it will be noted also that the number of postal orders increased far more than the face value.

Mail Coach Service—Earnings.

	£	s.	d.
1894-95	2,616	7	0
1895-96	2,291	17	9
1896-97	2,345	1	9

The slight increase in 1896-97 is due to the establishment of four new coach services, previously established services having shown a decrease in consequence of railway extension and increased facilities afforded by coasting steamers.

Parcels Post.

The declared value of parcels was—

	£	s.	d.
1894-95	2,752	15	9
1895-96	3,002	1	8
1896-97	3,273	14	5

These figures show the increasing appreciation by the public of this convenient mode of conveyance of parcels. It is gratifying to state that notwithstanding the large number—17,113—of parcels dealt with, there has been no complaint received of loss or miscarriage of any.

Telegraphs.

The revenue and expenditure under this head have been given in the general statement. The number of messages sent and received were—

	No.
1894-95	105,719
1895-96	110,715
1896-97	96,292

The decrease in the year under review is probably attributable to depression in Agriculture and Trade.

Three telegraph stations were opened during the year.

The double current system of telegraphy introduced in February 1896 on two lines is reported to have worked very successfully during the year, and arrangements are being made for its extension to the entire "Western Main circuits."

Miscellaneous.

An auxiliary female staff of eight has been established at the General Post Office with the best possible results, the Postmaster states, to the Department and to the Public. Most post offices and the district telegraph stations are now conducted by women.

Seven additional street letter boxes have been established in and near Kingston, and the system of street delivery of correspondence has been inaugurated in Spanish Town.

AGRICULTURE.

I regret to report that the year under review was one of increased depression, both in Trade and Agriculture. Compared with the preceding year, the value of exports fell from £1,873,105 to £1,470,241, and of imports from £2,255,637 to £1,864,612, decreases of 22·5 and 17·2 per cent. respectively. The main causes of this depression were a long and severe drought throughout a considerable portion of the Island, accompanied by a falling off in prices. The drought caused a partial and in some districts a total failure of the crops. In localities like the parish of Manchester and the south-eastern part of St. Elizabeth where there are no rivers, and where the people depend upon tanks for their water supply, the distress caused by want of water as well as by the failure of crops was very keen, while a plague of caterpillars and other destructive insects accentuated the distress.

As a factor in producing depression in some districts, it may be mentioned that the peasantry in localities near the railway had to a considerable extent neglected cultivation whilst the extensions were in progress, and on their completion numbers were thrown out of employment, and had nothing to fall back upon.

Exports, except fruit and certain minor articles, fell off considerably both in quantity and value. Fruit generally showed an increase in quantity, but the total value was less.

The prices of sugar and rum were at their lowest, the value of the export for both being only £271,890 8*s.* 0*d.*, as against £360,059 9*s.* 6*d.*, a decrease of £98,169 11*s.* 6*d.* in value and in percentage of 24·5.

The quantities exported decreased from 390,918 to 321,468 cwt. for sugar, and 1,881,146 to 1,642,819 gallons for rum. Rum duties at the rate of 6*s.* the proof, equal to about 8*s.* 1*d.* the liquid, gallon, are placed on rum taken out of bond for home consumption. They fell from £140,078 to £124,523, a decrease by over 11 per cent.

The quantity of coffee exported fell from 84,391½ cwt. to 66,614 cwt., a decrease of 17,777½ cwt. or nearly 21 per cent. The values realised were respectively £284,822 and £210,946, a decrease of nearly 26 per cent. Ginger fell from 17,505 cwt. to 11,014, with values of £50,328 and £33,041 respectively, the percentage decreases being 37·0 in quantity, and 34·4 in value.

Fruit showed generally a decided increase in quantity, but prices were so low that lesser values have to be recorded in almost every instance. Thus the bananas shipped increased from 4,220,769 to 4,838,645 bunches, but the estimated value was £302,415 as compared with £316,569 in the previous year. Oranges were 103,702,775 in number as against 97,025,398, but the value shrank from £169,794 to £155,554.

The yield of fruit such as mangoes, which are not exported in any quantity but consumed largely in the Island, helped greatly to ward off distress in some districts, coming as it did at a time when root crops, cereals, and pulse, which could only be planted at a late season after the rains had fallen, had not yet reached maturity. Except in times of severe drought our people, wherever labour is scarce, and the export trade sluggish, subsist almost entirely on root and food crops grown around their own homesteads, and rear small stock, such as swine, goats, and poultry at little or no cost to themselves; hence a considerable shrinkage in trade with other countries does not necessarily indicate distress, though some difficulty may be experienced in paying taxes and church dues, and purchasing articles of clothing.

Foreign competition has during the year seriously depreciated the logwood industry, which is regarded in many parts of the Island as the great stand-by for keeping money in circulation. The quantity exported fell from 84,477 tons 12 cwt. in 1895-96 to 43,084 tons in 1896-97, a decrease of 49 per cent., and the value from £359,030 to £161,565, or 55 per cent.

The prices realised in Europe fell greatly, owing to large quantities of very superior woods having been received from South America and Hayti. The quantity of other woods exported showed in almost every instance a considerable increase, but this was insufficient to counterbalance the decrease on logwood.

Professor Williams, of Edinburgh, the veterinary expert referred to in the Report on Agriculture for last year, after a careful research into the cattle disease, reported that it was mainly due to a tick introduced by cattle imported from the American Continent. Stringent quarantine regulations have been adopted to insure that tick-infested or diseased cattle shall not be imported, and I am happy to say that the disease has almost disappeared.

Dependent as is the cattle industry upon the demands of the sugar properties, the future is not to be contemplated without a certain amount of apprehension, having regard to the precarious

condition of all but the largest sugar estates, but I am not without hope that an outlet may later on be found in Cuba for the splendid cattle bred in this Island. Turning to the many small property owners, there is a decided movement apparent for improvement in cultivation; to this end the Jamaica Agricultural Society is rendering valuable assistance, by lectures and practical demonstrations in various districts, by the institution of model farms, and by the importation of improved breeds of horses, swine, goats, and fowls.

Grape farms are being established in districts of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, and it appears evident that grapes can be cultivated for the American winter market, where at certain seasons remunerative prices can be realised. Experiments are also being made in the cultivation of cucumbers, tomatoes, garden eggs, &c., for exportation to the United States. A large number of orange plants, of choice varieties, have been imported from Florida and elsewhere. A soil supposed to be exhausted for ginger was treated with mixtures of Bert's manure and marl and other substances, giving a rich yield of that staple. This will restore to cultivation a large area hitherto abandoned as exhausted "ruinate." I have reason to hope that the efforts now being made to improve and develop what have been considered as minor products, will result in the production of valuable exportable produce.

BOTANICAL.

The operations of the Botanical Department were conducted with vigour during the year. The head station is now at the Hope Garden, which is the chief distributing centre. As an indication of the work done there, it may be stated that 264,000 plants were grown at, and distributed from, this Garden, besides pods and packets of seeds; 31,000 plants were distributed from Castleton, and 40,000 from the Hill Garden. The number of visitors to Hope, which is about 5 miles distant from Kingston, was over 12,000, and when the electric tramway lines, to be constructed by a company already licensed for Kingston and its neighbourhood, run past the Garden as it is proposed they shall do, the number of visitors will doubtless increase greatly. Castleton Gardens, situated among the mountains on the borders of St. Andrew and St. Mary, are also largely visited, sometimes by as many as 150 persons in a day.

The work of laying out Hope on a design to follow the natural geographical distribution of the plants to be found there, *e.g.*, East Indian, Australian, Chinese sections, &c., has been begun. A new garden at "Resource" in the mountains of St. Andrew was commenced in October 1895, and economic plants, chiefly of the Citrus family, are being planted there. Numerous experiments have been made at the Gardens with new varieties of economic plants, such as the grape, sugar cane,

pineapple. The cultivation of fodder plants and the raising of seedlings of the cedar for reforesting have also been pursued.

Besides the above work, the Department within the last few years has afforded practical instruction in agriculture to the people. A bulletin conveying information on agriculture and horticulture, chiefly on economic points, is issued monthly, and a copy sent free of cost to anyone applying therefor. One of the superintendents pays visits to different districts in the Island, on the requisition of residents. Lectures were given during the year, and practical demonstrations afforded in five of the fourteen parishes of the Island on the growth and curing of such plants as kola, cocoa, coffee, oranges, grapes, &c., and the Director of Public Gardens reports that the efforts made meet with hearty response and grateful appreciation.

At the Hope Industrial School, the older boys work daily in the Hope Gardens near by; all the boys have half an hour's daily instruction from the Superintendent of those gardens in the theory and practice of gardening. The Superintendent of the school reports that the boys can carry out details of planting, preparing land, &c., and give clearly and intelligently their reasons for so doing. Though the school hours only amount to 12 per week the school took a higher number of marks than six-sevenths of the elementary schools of the Island, thus seeming to indicate that the boys' faculties are brightened by their practical out of door occupations and instruction.

The purely scientific work of the Department has been pursued. Numerous additions, chiefly of orchids, were made to the flora of Jamaica, specimens were preserved in the Herbaria, and numerous works on botany obtained for the library.

EDUCATION.

In order that a fair judgment of the effects of the passing of the Education Law of 1892 may be formed, the results of the inspection of Elementary Schools since 1891 is given in the following table :—

Year	Schools on Government List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average Attendance.	Percentage in average Attendance of No. on Books.	First.	Second.	Third.	Failure.	Not Examined.	Fees.	Grants-in-aid, including Building Grants.
											£ s. d.	£
1896-97	924	882	98,559	58,411	59.61	168	347	338	29	42	—	47,827
1895-96	932	890	100,352	59,617	59.41	154	355	378	36	9	—	47,906
1894-95	962	923	104,149	62,587	60.09	160	345	394	37	26	—	47,886
1893-94	957	918	97,456	64,695	66.38	169	367	380	28	13	45 15 0	47,848
1892-93	912	867	92,135	52,983	57.50	143	389	379	1	44	6,649 0 0	42,682
1891-92	877	817	83,731	45,927	54.85	128	329	353	7	51	8,803 0 0	30,736
Increase on 1895-96 ...	—	—	—	—	.20	14	—	—	—	33	—	—
Decrease on do. ...	8	8	1,793	1,206	—	—	8	40	7	—	—	79
Increase on 1894-95 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	20
Decrease on do. ...	30	33	3,797	2,970	.68	6	—	16	1	17	—	—
Increase on 1893-94 ...	—	—	2,896	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	58
Decrease on do. ...	25	28	—	5,078	6.97	15	12	2	—	4	—	—
Increase on 1892-93 ...	20	23	8,217	6,634	1.91	11	—	—	35	—	—	2,224
Decrease on do. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	1	—	35	—	—
Increase on 1891-92 ...	55	73	16,621	13,690	4.56	26	26	25	29	—	—	17,160
Decrease on do. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—

It will be seen from the above table that the number of scholars on the books was less by 1,793 in 1896-97 than in 1895-96; that the average attendance was less by 1,206; while there has been a slight rise in the percentage of average attendance from 5,941 to 5,961.

Taking the Island as a whole, the attendance since February 1893 has been fairly steady, with a slight downward tendency, until within the last six months of 1896-97, when, in spite of drought and other unfavourable conditions, it has increased until it has nearly reached the figures of February 1893, and has exceeded the figures of any intervening February.

In spite of the falling-off in the number of children on the books at inspection and in average attendance, it will be noticed that the regularity of attendance has slightly improved.

The number of first-class schools, notwithstanding the requirements of the New Education Code, has increased by 14, while the number of second and third-class schools has considerably decreased.

The total number of schools on the list has decreased by 8.

The annual examination of teachers and Training College students, held in December 1896, resulted in the passing of 4 teachers out of the 11 who went up for examination, and of 147 students out of 186 who presented themselves, viz.:—

	Presented.	Passed.
1st Year	91	77
2nd Year	54	41
3rd Year	41	29.

There was a large increase in the number of candidates who presented themselves, owing mainly to the increase in the number of students at the Mico.

The beneficial effect of the addition to the teaching staff of elementary schools and competent teachers from the various training colleges is increasingly manifest.

The examination of pupil teachers and volunteers was held on the 11th December 1896, with the result that 693 passed out of the 1688 who presented themselves, or 41 per cent.

Training College for Girls at Shortwood.

On the 1st April 1896 there were 30 students, who all remained throughout the year. They were all presented for examination in December; one passed in honours, four in the first class, seven in the second class, and eight in the third class.

Seven students passed out of the college at the conclusion of their three years' course. On the whole the report on this college is satisfactory.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Hope Industrial School.

There were 27 boys in this institution on the 1st April 1896, and at the end of the year there were 29. The average rate of increase in the number of boys for the past six years has been two.

The older boys were employed in work at the Hope Gardens, and the younger in keeping the buildings and grounds in order.

The boys have regularly attended the practical lectures in agriculture given by the Superintendent of the Hope Gardens. Lessons were also given them in the cultivation of grapes, coffee, cocoa, pine apples, oranges, &c.

The Elementary School was examined in August 1896, and took 56 marks. This is an increase of 6 marks on the previous year. Full marks were obtained in elementary science (including practical teaching in agriculture).

Belmont Orphanage.

There were 12 children in this institution both at the commencement and at the end of the year.

They attended school throughout the year at St. Jude's School, and were well spoken of at the examination of that school.

Alpha Cottage.

This is an institution for both boys and girls and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the commencement of the year there were 49 boys and 44 girls, and at the end 51 boys and 40 girls.

The boys are chiefly employed in gardening and in field labour, and the girls in laundry and domestic work, and in gardening.

Both boys' and girls' schools retain their position as first-class schools, with 64 and 68 marks respectively.

Shortwood Industrial School.

There were 36 girls in this institution at the commencement of the year, one of whom was out on license, and 35 at the end of the year; of these 18 were under 12 years of age. There were also at the end of the year two apprentices in the school.

The employment of the girls consisted of mending, washing, and making of clothes, baking, and house work.

REFORMATORIES.

Boys' Reformatory.

On the 31st March 1897, there were 213 boys in the Reformatory at Stony Hill, as compared with 207 on the corresponding date in the preceding year. Of these 124 belonged to the Reformatory and 89 to the Industrial School section. The daily average number of boys in 1895 was 199, in 1896—203, and in 1897—204.

Of 142 boys discharged during these years, so far as is known, 8, or 15·63 per cent., have been re-convicted and sent to prison during the year 1896-97.

There were three boys out on license at the commencement of the year and two at the end of the year.

The following are the more important statistics of the institution for the year.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure				3,857	18	3¼
Less earnings by labour and sale of articles.	318	13	11			
Less reimbursement from parishes for industrial school children.	1,211	2	0	1,529	15	11
Net cost				2,328	2	4¼
Gross cost per head per diem				0	1	0·43
Net " " "				0	0	6·49
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem				0	0	5·10
Gross cost of diet per head per diem ...				0	0	3·16
Work done for customers and produce sold...				395	13	9½
Work bringing no money return				1,119	19	6
Rewards paid				31	6	0

Marks awarded school, making it a first-class Elementary School under the code, 61.

The boys have continued to be employed as carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, masons, bricklayers, cooks, gardeners, and field labourers under trained superintendence. On discharge they are provided with an outfit for pursuing the trades which they have been taught.

The health of the inmates was generally satisfactory; the one death during the year was the result of an accident.

Girls' Reformatory.

On the 31st March 1897, there were 26 girls in the Reformatory at Admirals Pen, as compared with 22 at the commencement of the year. The daily average number was 24 against 23 in 1895-96. The gross cost of each child was 1*s.* 7*d.* per diem, in

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1895-96 it was 1*s.* 8*d.*; the daily cost of superintendence was 8*d.* and of diet 3¾*d.* The cost of maintaining the institution was £690 0*s.* 2*d.*, but after deducting reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children and the value of work done by the girls, the actual cost of the institution was £513 0*s.* 1*d.*

The girls were employed as usual in making, mending, washing and ironing their own clothes, and in making up under-clothes for the boys at the Stony Hill Reformatory, washing clothes for private persons, and in cooking and cleaning.

The health of the institution has been good.

The buildings are stated to be in fair order.

IMMIGRATION.

No immigrants were introduced during the year, and none were sent back to India. The immigrants who arrived in 1891 completed their term of indenture during the year.

The births during that period were 374, and the deaths 246, shewing a net increase of 128, equal to 60 per 1000. The death rate for the whole period was 98·2 per 1000, averaging 19·6 per 1000 annually. When these coolies were allotted the proportion of the sexes was 1 female to 2·09 males; at the expiration of five years it was 1 female to 1·86 males. The proportion of the sexes amongst the East Indian population of the Island when the census was taken in 1891 was 1 female to 1·41 males. There seems to be a constant natural tendency towards the equalisation of the sexes.

The birth rate amongst coolies now under indenture was unusually small, being only 1·19 per cent., as against 3·40 per cent. for 1895. The death rate was 2·27 per cent., as against 2·34 in 1895.

Most of the deaths occurred amongst the allotments *ex* "Arno," 1895, the rate for this ship being 3·29 per cent., as compared with 1·52 per cent. amongst the other immigrants.

There has been a serious depression in many of the principal industries of the Island, but the only one which materially affects the immigrants is sugar planting. Fortunately the depression has been gradual, and has allowed time for a great many immigrants to find other means of earning their living; a number of them are now employed on fruit-growing properties. There are now only ten sugar estates which have indentured immigrants; but there are still many time-expired coolies employed on sugar estates.

The immigrants *ex* "Erne," "Moy," and "Belgravia" are the first to come within the terms of Section 13 of Law 20 of 1891, which was enacted in order to ensure the employers of immigrants who have completed their indentured service paying some portion of the cost of immigration. Only one employer refused to re-employ the coolies, and the bulk of the people remained on the estates where they had served their indenture.

There were 74 remittances to India, amounting to £246 ; 182 letters were dispatched to India through the Immigration Office, and 225 were received from India.

The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank decreased from 1,029 in 1894-95 to 933 in 1895-96, and the amounts from £22,680 1*s.* 11*d.* to £21,628 17*s.* 1*d.*, being, however, in excess of the deposits of 1893-94 by £7,670 6*s.* 3*d.*

There were no murders, suicides, or cases of very serious crime during 1896. There were only three new prisoners undergoing penal servitude, and the number of coolies in the General Penitentiary has been reduced from 21 to 13. There were, however, 14 coolies undergoing imprisonment in the short-term prisons for wounding, one for assault and one for prædial larceny.

At the close of the year there were 54 East Indians in the Lunatic Asylum.

The year has been an uneventful one. The condition of the general East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and the relations between the labourers and their employers have been of the best.

Emigration.

During the year, 734 labourers left the Island for the Isthmus of Panama and for Carthagena, and 848 returned therefrom.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank have been as follows in the last ten years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1886-87	17,047	363,481
1887-88	18,510	393,250
1888-89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891-92	22,824	428,348
1892-93	23,902	417,978
1893-94	25,533	457,924
1894-95	27,045	453,875
1895-96	28,385	464,737
1896-97	29,719	469,226

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The year under review shews an increase of 1,334 in the number of depositors, and an increase of £4,489 in the amount of deposits, as compared with 1895-96.

In the above amount of deposits are included 173 deposit accounts for the following Public Funds :—

		£	s.	d.
1	Constabulary Reward Fund ...	78	11	5
1	Do. Pension Fund ...	2	6	0
13	Sinking Funds	4,766	4	4
1	Smith and Beckford's Charity ...	73	9	11
2	Turks Island	1,612	16	2
5	Other Government Accounts ...	2,498	1	4
150	Chancery Fund Accounts ...	18,877	1	0

There were also 211 accounts for Trusts, Charities, Chancery, Adminstrator General and Bankrupt Estates, amounting to a total deposit of £19,103 9*s.* 3*d.* The remaining 29,335 accounts, representing £422,166 2*s.* 4¾*d.* are all ordinary Savings Bank deposits, old Savings Bank balances £1,632 13*s.* 10*d.*, Surplus Fund £9 16*s.* 0*d.*, making a total of £470,820 16*s.* 7¾*d.*

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 21,402 were for £5 and under, while only 1,216 were for over £100; the increase in the number of small amounts of £5 and under being 1,473.

The Assets of the Bank on the 31st March last, were distributed as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Consols 2¾ per cent.			20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock :—					
Canada	3 per cent.		27,908	0	8
Cape of Good Hope	4 "		47,766	6	8
Ceylon	4 "		24,881	5	2
New South Wales	3½ "		40,528	13	7
Victoria	4 "		32,043	1	0
Jamaica	4 "		9,900	0	0
Queensland	3½ "		14,963	18	1
New Zealand	3½ "		15,011	9	5
			£213,002	4	7
Debentures :—		£ s. d.			
Canada	4 " ...	53,990 12 6			
New South Wales	5 & 4 " ...	60,997 10 0			
South Australia	4 & 6 " ...	52,431 2 6			
Victoria	4 & 4½ " ...	47,308 12 6			
Jamaica	5 " ...	3,800 0 0			
			218,527	17	6
Cash in Colonial Bank			451,934	19	4
" hands of clerk at Port Royal			18,914	19	5¾
			19	11	0
			£470,869	9	9¾

The accounts opened numbered 3,970, and those closed 2,819, the result being an increase of 1,334 in the number at the end of the year, as compared with the number at the end of the preceding year.

The number of deposits amounted to 30,697, and withdrawals to 36,583, representing £227,562 3*s.* 4*d.* and £234,462 5*s.* 5¼*d.* respectively.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £16,358 19*s.* 5½*d.*, while the revenue realised was £17,011 0*s.* 2*d.*, thus shewing a net profit of £652 0*s.* 8½*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shews an increase of £294 19*s.* 1*d.*

TRADE.

The two first causes of the depression under the head of Agriculture, viz., the long severe drought, and the decline of prices of the Island's products, were probably the main factors in the serious fall in the values both of exports and imports in 1896–97, compared with the preceding year. Exports fell from £1,873,105 to £1,470,241 or by £402,864 in amount, and 21·51 in percentage, and imports from £2,288,946 to £1,856,377 or by £432,569 in amount, and 18·9 in percentage. If entries of imports for home consumption are taken, the figures are respectively £2,255,637 and £1,864,612, a decrease by £391,025 in amount, and 17·33 in percentage. A considerable proportion of this decrease, however, is due to the cessation of work on the railway extensions, importations under the Railway Law 12 of 1889 having fallen from £145,981 to £11,491, or by £133,490. These figures are almost entirely the value of manufactured articles, £139,596 in 1895–96, and £11,453 in 1896–97. If railway importations be omitted, it will be seen that the imports for general use have not declined in nearly the same degree as have the exports.

The following table shows the exports and imports for ten years :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home and Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
(a) 1886-87.	1,334,469	19,350	155,191	1,509,010	1,294,320	57,074	1,351,394	1,322,336
(a) 1887-88.	1,661,601	17,668	149,321	1,828,590	1,586,129	145,986	1,732,115	1,695,607
(a) 1888-89.	1,501,660	15,942	97,222	1,614,824	1,501,905	61,017	1,562,922	1,597,600
Half-year 1890.	883,965	8,094	40,483	932,546	899,901	30,415	929,416	938,153
(b) 1890-91.	1,807,084	15,290	80,440	1,902,814	2,089,836	63,343	2,153,180	2,190,746
1891-92.	1,628,777	32,109	61,210	1,722,096	1,756,150	6,849	1,762,999	1,759,890
1892-93.	1,690,637	18,944	50,226	1,759,807	1,917,278	11,279	1,928,557	1,941,482
1893-94.	1,982,596	17,342	75,751	2,075,689	2,095,037	41,076	2,136,113	2,157,795
1894-95.	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2,162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895-96.	1,775,016	9,553	88,537	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896-97.	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
(c) Average of Ten Years. £	1,661,499·5	17,730·9	88,529·4	1,767,759·8	1,847,747·9	46,076·2	1,893,824·1	1,903,252·5

(a) Year commenced 1st October. (b) Year has commenced on 1st April since 1890. (c) Excluding half-year ended 31st March 1890.

Comparing exports of home products with imports for home consumption, and excluding from exports re-shipments of British and foreign goods, which only exceeded £20,000 a year in the year after the Exhibition, when unsold goods were taken back, and specie from both heads, it will be seen that there has been a remarkable increase in imports since 1890-91, the year of the Exhibition.

This may be accounted for by the large number of people withdrawn from cultivation during the construction of the railway and important public works, and the importation of materials used in each.

Exports.

The following table shows the quantities of the principal staples of the Colony exported during the past ten years :—

—	1886–87	1887–88	1888–89	1890–91	1891–92	1892–93	1893–94	1894–95	1895–96	1896–97
Sugar ... ... cwts.	460,887	490,480	323,238	377,901	425,793	371,821	410,537	398,683	390,918	321,468
Rum ... ... galls.	2,412,596	1,868,490	1,374,931	1,593,584	1,704,919	1,698,272	1,461,220	1,956,291	1,881,146	1,642,919
Coffee ... ... cwts.	56,587	98,966	84,606	75,680	86,926	97,304	88,293	95,129	84,392	66,614
Dyewoods— Logwood and Fustic. tons	63,114	103,364	116,247	110,994	87,352	99,083	99,068	78,172	85,575	45,863
Pimento ... cwts.	65,497	66,560	46,180	90,363	63,730	69,747	87,756	83,956	97,347	99,551
Ginger ... ... "	9,927	10,222	8,952	10,886	16,273	13,632	14,932	15,504	17,505	11,014
Fruit, value ... £	215,583	337,403	303,910	531,726	288,159	375,860	527,474	515,412	493,722	468,808

The values do not correspond very closely with these figures. During most of the years in question, the average price of sugar was 12*s.* to 13*s.* per cwt., in 1896 it was 10*s.*, in 1895 about 9*s.* 3*d.* The price of rum was 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon in 1886-87, gradually lessening to 2*s.* 1*d.* in 1895. In 1895-96 it was 1*s.* 9*d.*, and in 1896-97 only 1*s.* 4*d.* per gallon. Coffee sold at an average of say 70*s.* per cwt. from 1886-87 to 1891-92, for the next three years at 74*s.*; in 1895-96 at 67*s.* 6*d.*, in 1896-97 at only 63*s.* 4*d.* Taking logwood to represent dyewoods, the rest being very small in comparison, we find the price fairly steady at from £3 5*s.* to £3 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton till 1893-94, when it rose to £5 per ton continuing high until 1896-97, when it dropped to £3 15*s.* Pimento has kept a fair average value of say 18*s.* per cwt., but in 1896-97 the price was only 15*s.* 6*d.* Ginger only 36*s.* per cwt., in 1886-87, has increased in value, and was 60*s.* per cwt. in 1896-97, the decreased quantity being probably due to drought. The quantity of fruit exported has increased within the last two years, but the value has decreased. Bananas which had been at about 1*s.* 9*d.* a bunch average fetched only about 1*s.* 6*d.* a bunch in 1895-96 and 1*s.* 3*d.* in 1896-97, and oranges, which had sold at about 700 for 20*s.*, rose in quantity in 1895-96 to about three and half times the number of the preceding year with a better price, but this dropped in 1896-97 to almost the average of former years, and although the quantity was greater, the total value was less. The increase in oranges for the two years could not, however, quite make up for the decrease in bananas.

The several staples of export and minor products bore the following proportions to the total exports in each of the years named :—

—	1896–97.	1895–96.	1894–95.
Sugar	10·1	11·0	12·9
Rum	8·4	9·3	10·1
Coffee	14·4	16·0	19·3
Dyewoods	11·6	20·4	19·0
Fruit	34·3	29·9	27·9
Pimento	5·2	5·1	4·5
Minor Products	16·1	8·3	6·3

These figures show a gradual decline proportionally in the larger exports except fruit, and also that exporters endeavoured in the past year to make up for this decrease by attention to minor products.

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The following are the figures for the two years of total exports :—

—	1896–97.	1895–96.	Increase.	Decrease.
I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics.	1,146,687	1,359,628	—	212,941
II. Raw Materials	215,757	390,825	—	175,068
III. Manufactured Articles	38,245	37,116	1,129	—
IV. Coin and Bullion ...	69,552	85,536	—	15,984
Total	1,470,241	1,873,105	1,129	403,993
Net Decrease ...	—	—	—	402,864

The chief decreases in quantity and values have occurred in the following products :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity decrease.	Value decrease.	Percentage decrease quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£		
I. Sugar ...	321,468	148,679	69,450	46,780	17·8	23·9
	Gallons.		Gallons.			
Rum	1,642,819	123,211	228,327	41,389	12·7	25·2
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Coffee ...	66,614	210,946	17,717	73,876	21·1	25·9
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Ginger ...	11,014	33,011	6,492	17,286	37·1	34·4
	Tons.		Tons.			
II. Logwood ...	48,084	161,565	41,393	197,464	49·0	55·0

While there have been increases in quantity and decreases in value in the following :—

—	Quantities.	Value.	Quantity increase.	Value decrease.	Percentage increase quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Bunches.	£	Bunches.	£		
Bananas ...	4,838,645	302,415	617,849	14,144	14·6	4·5
	Number.		Number.			
Oranges ...	103,702,775	155,554	6,617,377	14,240	6·9	8·4
	Cwt.		Cwt.			
Pimento ...	99,551	77,152	2,205	12,893	2·3	14·3
	Number.		Number.			
Coconuts ...	11,802,224	35,407	2,358,772	2,367	25·0	6·3

The above comprise all the chief exports, and show in all cases, except ginger, a lowering of price, in most exceeding 20 per cent. The decrease on logwood is remarkable, the price per ton, though much lower than that of the three previous years, being above that realised in the six years preceding those three. The Collector-General explains, however, that large quantities of very superior foreign woods competed.

The total decrease in value on these nine exports is £420,439, on all exports £402,864, thus showing increases in minor products. Grape fruit, which has only become an export of any consequence within the two years under comparison, increased in value from £5,832 to £9,024, or by £3,192; lancewood spars increased by £9,339 in value, fustic by £5,043.

Dye extracts, the only export under head III. realising a considerable value, showed a slight decrease last year. The value for the three years of its manufacture has been—1894-95, £3,126; 1895-96, £27,965; 1896-97, £27,525.

The countries named below took the Island's exports in the proportion set opposite their names during the past three years:—

—	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.
United Kingdom	27·4	27·6	27·1
United States	56·6	57·0	58·1
Dominion of Canada	1·2	1·6	1·5
Other Countries	14·8	13·8	13·3

Turning now to imports, we find also a general decrease, though, as shown in paragraph 1 of this head, not so large proportionately as that on exports:—

—	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase 1896-97.	Decrease 1896-97.
	£	£	£	£
I. Food, Drink, and Narcotics	759,419	896,276	—	136,857
II. Raw Materials ...	49,778	64,907	—	15,129
III. Manufactured Articles	1,027,008	1,276,604	—	249,596
IV. Coin and Bullion ...	28,407	17,850	10,557	—
Total	1,864,612	2,255,637	10,557	401,582 10,557
Net Decrease ...	—	—	—	391,025

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The falling-off under I. amounts to about 15 per cent., and occurs on almost every article; that under II. to 23 per cent., and under III. to 20 per cent., occurring on the most important articles. More than half the decrease under III. is due to the completion of the railway extensions.

The decreases on imports, of a total value of over £50,000, are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity decrease.	Value decrease.	Percentage decrease quantity.	Percentage decrease value.
	Gallons.	£	Gallons.	£		
Alcoholic liquors	302,689	67,078	93,277	29,989	23·6	30·9
	Lbs.		Lbs.			
Fish, dried or salted.	14,238,981	121,121	373,333	9,590	2·2	10·0
	Barrels.		Barrels.			
Flour, wheat ...	167,919	155,326	31,553	24,199	15·7	13·4
Apparel and slops	—	67,561	—	8,216	—	11·0
Boots and shoes, Leather	—	57,585	—	1,380	—	2·4
Cottons (including Hosiery).	—	249,160	—	50,454	—	16·8
	Feet.		Feet.			
Wood (Lumber)	13,214,291	55,871	419,650	7,186	3·1	11·4

Other large imports showing considerable percentage decreases in value are :—Imports valued at from £40,000 to £50,000—Beef and pork, wet salted, 16·1 ; coals and coke, 18·1 ; haberdashery and millinery, 24·0 ; woollens, 18·1 ; £30,000 to £40,000—Corn, 17·6 ; hardware and cutlery, 15·9 ; £20,000 to £30,000—Bread or biscuit, 19·3 ; butter, butterine, &c., 32·3 ; rice, 47·3 ; oil, 11·2 ; soap, 30·4. Of these, beef and pork and corn showed increased quantity but decreased value, and in most cases the percentage decrease on value has been greater than that on quantity. Only one article of importance shows the opposite tendency, viz., fish, pickled or smoked, value £41,785, an increase in cost on last year of 3·6 per cent., with a decrease in quantity of ·7. Of articles of less total cost, there were striking decreases on bacon, candles, gunpowder, matches, salt, refined sugar, tea, and tongues.

Of the several decreases mentioned, those on coal and coke and gunpowder were probably due in great measure to the completion of the railway extensions and other public undertakings ; also the remarkable decrease on rice, which is often substituted to a great extent for ground provisions in feeding gangs of labourers. The decrease on matches (£800 to £92)

arises from the locally manufactured ousting the imported article; six to seven years ago the cost was placed at £2,500 or thereabouts. The decrease on soap is chiefly due to the same cause; that on refined sugar has been observed since the duty of 1*d.* per pound was imposed.

Increases both in quantity and value on peas and beans are due probably to the severe drought in many districts causing local supplies to fail. More satisfactory increases are those of shooks, 1,124,531 in number and £3,767 in value; agricultural engines, £7,978; other steam engines, £4,423.

The imports for the past three years were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions :—

—	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.
United Kingdom	49·9	48·1	50·4
United States	39·4	41·8	36·8
Dominion of Canada	8·2	7·5	8·5
Other Countries	2·5	2·6	4·3

A tendency of late years to an increasing importation from the States and a decreasing importation from the United Kingdom was reversed in 1896-97. Speaking generally, foodstuffs come from the United States and Canada, and drinks and manufactures from the United Kingdom. Of late years, manufactured articles for the railway extension, the contractors for which were Americans, have been imported from the United States. These extensions have now been completed, and importations from the States have lessened.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the Constabulary Force on the 31st March 1897 was 852, the actual strength 849, an increase by 72 over the allowed and actual strength, 777 for 1895-96. The allowed increase of 75 for the year is referred to in the last paragraph of my Report on Police for that year. It is of course too soon yet to determine with any accuracy what deterring influence this increase may have on crime.

The number 849 is made up of 18 officers, 134 sub-officers (2 of whom were previously in the Royal Irish Constabulary) and 697 ordinary constables. I am glad to say that the sub-officers from the Irish Constabulary have proved themselves to be a valuable addition to the force in instructing other sub-officers and the men, at their stations, in police work generally.

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In addition to these 849 members of the regular force, there are 193 rural headmen of police and 744 rural policemen, together 937, against 963 last year.

The effective police force of the Colony was thus 1,786 for 1896-97; in 1895-96 it was 1,740.

The rural police, it is reported, continue to be of great aid to the Constabulary. There are, however, several men who prove inefficient and have to be discharged; the number removed for misconduct and other causes during the year was 84, while 83 appointments were made. Of the Constabulary only 16 men were dismissed during the year and the same number in 1895-96, indicating apparently better general efficiency in regular and disciplined force. There were 154 enlistments in the Constabulary, 52 men discharged (18 of them with pensions and gratuities) and 12 deaths.

The Inspector-General reports that the officers and men have worked efficiently and well, and that on the whole the sub-officers and men have performed their arduous and at times unpleasant duties satisfactorily and with cheerfulness.

The following table shows the principal duties, outside of patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the Constabulary during the past 5 years, viz.:—

——	1892-93.	1893 94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information.	6,923	8,237	7,781	8,775	8,351
Number of persons apprehended on warrants.	1,802				1,780
Number of search warrants executed.	102	122	150	151	142
Number of persons summoned.	18,896	19,212	19,249	20,279	19,537
Number of persons subpœnaed.	28,766	29,808	30,673	31,058	27,161
Number of prisoners escorted.	10,570	8,599	8,224	9,911	11,542
Number of seizures under Revenue Laws.	440	399	437	649	309
Number of post-mortems ordered.	32	594	603	610	641

It will be observed from the table that the number of arrests and apprehensions, together 10,131, and of prisoners escorted show a decided increase in 1896-97 over the four preceding years, while subpœnas are correspondingly less, and summonses show a decrease on 1895-96. Revenue seizures are less than in many of the preceding years.

The following are statistics of Crime for the five years in question :—

Offences.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
I.—Offences against the Person	6,827	7,232	7,302	7,040	6,653	3,086	3,375	3,218	3,309	3,140
II.—Offences against Property, committed with violence.	306	251	326	429	394	193	162	184	245	264
III.—Offences against Property, committed without violence.	4,416	4,071	4,079	5,004	5,700	2,443	2,154	1,914	2,586	3,021
IV.—Malicious offences against Property...	194	179	182	137	169	65	43	53	57	43
V.—Forgery and offences against the Currency.	27	27	39	48	25	15	13	14	29	9
VI.—Other Offences...	15,830	16,281	15,513	16,477	16,201	10,093	10,741	9,569	10,473	10,188
Totals	27,600	28,041	27,441	29,135	29,143	15,895	16,488	14,952	16,699	16,665
I.—Murder, including Infanticide ...	8	13	10	12	16	2	5	3	5	1
Manslaughter	16	10	3	20	17	7	1	1	16	5
Cutting and Wounding	652	684	694	847	835	383	439	269	302	449
Common Assault	5,452	5,753	5,760	5,326	4,928	2,276	2,479	2,465	2,547	2,238
II.—Burglary and Housebreaking ...	287	227	277	417	375	185	156	166	239	253
III.—Simple Larceny	1,612	1,650	1,773	2,017	2,264	810	852	748	914	1,073
Prædial Larceny	1,357	1,168	1,019	1,560	2,171	821	617	512	889	1,277
IV.—Arson	49	32	29	18	29	16	5	6	1	3
V.—Disorderly conduct	3,971	4,063	4,047	4,728	5,097	2,849	3,098	2,978	3,474	3,658
Obscene and abusive language ...	3,798	4,247	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,082	2,452	2,379	2,058	2,035
Trespass	1,062	825	940	941	973	542	436	449	467	482

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The above figures indicate a general increase in cases of crime, for the four years, except in 1894-95. Taking the increase of population from 1892-93 as estimated by the Registrar-General, viz., roughly from 650,000 to 706,000, or say by one-twelfth, and of crime at from 27,600 to 29,142 cases, an increase by one-eighteenth, there has been a decrease in the proportion of crime to population.

The salient feature of 1896-97 compared with the preceding year is the decrease under "Offences against the person" and "Other Offences," which may be classed together as "Offences of violence and disorder," and the corresponding increase in number and more considerable increase in percentage of offences against property committed without violence, especially under "Prædial Larceny." The increase under this head doubtless arises from the depression and scarcity of crops during the period. A similar increase in the offence has been noticed at previous times of depression and scarcity, when not only are there more people in want, who plunder their richer neighbours, but when slight thefts, which would be condoned at other times, are brought before the Courts. The Inspector-General reports that the value of the articles stolen was in almost every instance insignificant, and brings to notice that cases chiefly occurred in the first half of the year, and that when the provisions of the Prædial Larceny Law of 1896 (since disallowed) began to have full effect, the number of cases considerably diminished; it should be stated, however, that the drought was most severe during the earlier part of the year.

Turning now to crimes against the person; of 16 persons charged with murder only one was convicted of the crime, and executed; another case was reduced to manslaughter; 11 were discharged by the magistrates or acquitted, and three cases remained undisposed of at the end of the year.

There is a considerable increase in convictions, viz., from 302 to 449, for cutting and wounding. This is due, however, to the fact that the departmental reports show in 1894-95, 154 cases, and in 1895-96, 234 cases reduced to common assault, while in 1896-97 there were only 18 so reduced. The fact of such large reductions to a minor offence appears to indicate that a large proportion of the offences classed under this head are not of a very serious nature. This offence rapidly increased on the cessation of work on the Panama Canal in 1887-88, and the repatriation of several thousands of able-bodied men, who had acquired the habit of using the knife on the Isthmus, when excited by drink, jealousy, &c.

Prisons.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years and the number on the last day of each year were respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily average number in custody.	Number on 31st March
1892-93	1,004	964
1893-94	1,008	943
1894-95	916	957
1895-96	1,008	1,094
1896-97	1,159	1,149

The more important statistics relating to this department are as follows :—

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1896.
Commitments—		
To Prison	4,748	4,289
To Lock-ups	930	818
Total	5,678	5,107
Reconvictions	1,976	1,717
Deaths—		
General Penitentiary ...	12	10
Other Prisons	23	12
Total	35	22
Executions	1	5

	Year ended 31st March.					
	1897.			1896.		
FINANCIAL.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure	21,285	11	2¾	19,292	4	10
Gross earnings in cash	4,796	15	4¾	5,606	11	0
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	16,488	15	10	13,685	13	10
Cost per prisoner	14	4	6¼	13	11	6½
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	8,550	9	4	5,658	2	0
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,789	2	2	4,294	16	1½
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,151	19	5	1,086	11	1

The number of deaths per 1,000 reckoned on the basis of the average daily number of prisoners in custody was 20·37 in the General Penitentiary compared with 18·48 last year, and in the other prisons 40·2 compared with 25·7. The average percentage of deaths at the General Penitentiary for the three years preceding the one under review was 25·13, while that at the other prisons was 41·47.

The greatest number of sick prisoners in the General Penitentiary during 1896-97 who were treated in the hospital on any one day was 21, and of prisoners treated outside the hospital 39. The average percentages were 8·6 and 28·4, respectively.

School has been held regularly at the General Penitentiary, the St. Catherine's District Prison and Falmouth District Prison, and religious services have also been regularly conducted at each prison. The discipline in these institutions has been maintained, and the mark system at the General Penitentiary is reported to continue to work satisfactorily. All the buildings have been maintained and are in good condition. The boundary walls for the extension of the St. Catherine's District Prison were in course of construction at the close of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st March last was estimated at 706,394, the net increase during the year being

11,529 or an increase at the rate of 16·6 per 1,000 living, as against an increase at the rate of 16·3 per thousand in the previous year.

The mean population for the year 1896-97 is estimated as 701,181, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The average annual increase of population for the last 6 years has therefore been 11,000.

The number of marriages during the year was 3,026, equal to a rate of 4·3 per 1,000 as compared with 3,242 or a rate of 4·6 in the previous year. There has thus been a falling-off of 216 marriages in the year under review. In fact, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of marriages year by year since 1893-94.

Of the 6,052 persons married, 47·83 per cent. signed the marriage register by making their marks, more brides than bridegrooms being able to sign their names, shewing that while the females have advanced in writing skill the males have slightly retrograded.

The number of births during the year was 27,064, or a rate of 38·5 per 1,000. There was an excess of 222 births over those of the previous year, but allowing for increase of population, the birth rate shows a slight fall from 38·8 to 38·5. Of these births 16,563 were illegitimate, or a rate of 61·1 per 100 as against a rate of 60·8 per 100.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 15,535, or a rate of 22·1 per 1,000 mean population, being a slight reduction on the mortality of the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths, 4,757, or 30·6 per cent., were those of children under one year and 7,266, or 46·7 per cent., of children under five years, or in other words 17·5 per 100 of children born died under one year and 26·8 per 100 under five years. The heaviest mortality was amongst children of illegitimate birth. The infant mortality in Kingston was exceptionally heavy, nearly one-fourth of the children born dying before one year, and one-third before reaching five years.

Of the 15,716 deaths registered in the year, 11,678 or 75·1 per cent. were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death.

DEPENDENCIES OF JAMAICA.

Cayman Islands.

The total births at Grand Cayman numbered 173, being at the rate of 46·4 per 1,000 of population, of which 16, or 9·2 per cent., were illegitimate. The deaths were 40, or an annual rate of 10·7 per 1,000 of the population.

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

The births were 25, 4 being illegitimate. The deaths were 7. The marriages in Grand Cayman were 17, or an annual rate of 4·5 per 1,000, and in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman 3.

GENERAL.

I have entered so fully into the details of the various departmental reports that but little remains to be said. The completion of great public works that had been in progress for four years, coupled with a serious fall in the price of almost all our staple commodities, added to a drought more severe than has been experienced for many years, has produced a state of depression; but writing, as I do, eight months after the close of the period under review, I observe signs of revival. The thousands of labourers no longer employed on the railway extension works have returned to the cultivation of the soil, and I have never seen the country looking better. There is, therefore, no fear of distress among the people, who are, in the main, as comfortably circumstanced as any peasantry in the world. There is, however, grave fear that the destructive effects of subsidised competition are slowly crushing the life out of the sugar industry, as represented by the estates of average size, and with the disappearance of the sugar estates, cattle breeding will cease to pay except some other outlet be found. The substitution of a fruit industry is at best the substitution of a perishable for a non-perishable product, and the tendency to look to fruit alone as a source of future prosperity is not without its dangers. Were the competition in sugar reduced to the sound basis of the natural cost of production, Jamaica, with her multiple resources, representing, as she does, one half the area and population of the British West Indies, would soon be restored to a prosperity as great as she has ever known, where invested capital would secure a generous return and honest labour receive its just reward.

As this is the last time that I shall have the opportunity of reporting upon the condition and prospects of this Colony, I may be permitted to travel a little outside the period dealt with in the Blue Book for 1897, and to compare in a few particulars the condition of the Colony at the beginning and the close of my administration which has covered a period of nearly nine years.

In March 1889 when I arrived in Jamaica, there were 790 miles of main roads under the management of the Public Works Department, all of which were in excellent condition; there were 2,300 miles of parochial roads for wheeled traffic managed by the Parochial Boards, of the condition of which loud complaints were made, and about 900 miles of bridle paths. In Kingston there were two or three small boarding houses; outside Kingston the accommodation for travellers was nil; visitors to Jamaica who had introductions were passed on from

house to house with unwearying hospitality, and some absentee proprietors made special allowances to their overseers for the entertainment of such visitors. The rivers that flow to the sea from the Port Royal and Blake Mountains were unbridged, and as they are liable to sudden and dangerous floods the traveller sometimes found himself imprisoned for days between two impassable rivers, while every year had its death roll from fatal accidents in attempting the passage of the flooded fords. With such conditions it was evident that the Island could not hope to share in the benefits to be derived from the examination by large numbers of tourist travellers of its exquisite beauties, its salubrious climate, and its productive capacities. On one occasion 40 people arrived in Kingston on a tourist trip, they spent the day in driving about Kingston in the vain endeavour to obtain a night's accommodation, but had to return to the ship and leave the Island because it was not to be had. Nor could the expanding fruit trade be carried on with regularity or profit when, for want of good roads, bananas were carried from the interior on mens' heads or mule back, and when nearer the sea the carts laden with perishable fruit were stopped by floods, while the ships must either be detained or leave the fruit behind to rot upon the wharf.

In 1890 it was determined to hold an Exhibition, which was opened for three months and was an unqualified success. For reasons which need not here be stated, strenuous exertion was made by certain persons to prevent the black people from attending the exhibition and thus diverting money that would presumably otherwise be used at home; they were told that the Exhibition was a snare to entrap them and make them slaves once more, and they believed it. For six weeks not a score of black people visited the Exhibition. Nor was the spell broken until I had brought up all the school teachers and the rural headmen of the police, shown them the Exhibition and sent them home safe. Then the black people flocked to Kingston, and during the next six weeks the Exhibition was visited by half the population. The deficit only amounted to £29,000 of which £21,000 was paid by the guarantors.

It was evident that to build an Exhibition and invite the world to visit it would be useless extravagance if we were not to supply hotel accommodation for the reception of visitors. One hotel had been projected by a company, but there were no funds to complete it. The Legislative Council passed a Law guaranteeing 3 per cent. on the money necessary to build hotels on the condition that they should be built in time for the Exhibition; under that Law £48,000 was raised by five companies, and five hotels built in different parts of the Island. The sum expended so far for the interest on the Debentures over the interest received, paid by the hotels, has been compensated for by the hundreds of tourists who have since 1891 annually visited the Island, and have spent large sums therein.

JAMAICA 1896–7.

In 1892 a Law was passed under which a number of the parochial roads were taken over by the Public Works Department, and another Law was passed authorising a loan for the building of bridges. The main roads now managed by the Public Works Department are in extent 1,879 miles, which with the parochial roads make over 4,000 miles of carriage roads in the Island; and during the past five years 150 bridges have been built extending in the aggregate to a total length with their approaches of 22 miles. The effect of these roads and bridges on the fruit trade may be seen by the following figures:—The value of fruit exported from 1889 to 1893 was £2,470,100; the value for the next period of four years to 1897, during which roads were being constructed and bridges built, was £2,653,397. But the benefits of facility of travel, coupled with the Exhibition, can be seen in other directions. Among the visitors were many keen business men, who were not slow to see the opportunities for prudent investment. The extension of the railway to Montego Bay and Port Antonio that had been decided upon by Sir Henry Norman was being rapidly pushed forward, and the value of inland properties materially enhanced. Investments were made in land, and companies have been formed for various manufactures that give promise of a prosperous future. A general awakening of interest in the improvements of our products has also followed the examination of those of other countries, and the agricultural activity has been further stimulated by the Jamaica Agricultural Society formed in 1895 and which has now several affiliated local branches.

I may be permitted to give a few figures that will show the general progress of the Colony.

In 1889 the postage rate was one penny for half an ounce within a radius of 13 miles from Kingston, and twopence per ounce beyond that area. In 1890 the rate of one penny per ounce was adopted for the whole Island.

In 1888-89 the number of letters and postcards passing through the post was 563,736; in 1896-97 it was 4,375,374.

In the same periods the postal and telegraph revenue was respectively £22,241 and £29,494. In 1888-89 there were 95 post offices and 44 telegraph stations. In 1896-97 the number increased to 162 post offices and 67 telegraph stations. In the former period there were 71,649 scholars entered on the books. In the latter the number was 83,731.

As regards the improvement in the condition of the people, I extract the following figures for a slightly different period submitted by me to the Royal West India Commissioners in the early part of this year.

In 1886 the number of taxpayers under £1 was 73,926; under £2, 7,964; £2 and upwards, 7,045. In 1896 the numbers were respectively 80,487, 16,013, and 10,928.

Put in another way the proportion of taxes paid was as follows :—

—	Under £1.	Under £2.	£2 and upwards.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1886 ...	83·1	8·9	7·9
1896 ...	74·9	14·9	10·1

The general condition of the labouring classes at the two periods may be estimated by the following. In 1886, 603,354 persons deposited £313,323, or 10*s.* 4·6*d.* per head of the total population. In 1896, 694,865 deposited £427,240, or 12*s.* 4·9*d.* per head.

As regards the Government Savings Bank returns I fear that the figures are somewhat fallacious. Under the provisions of the Law the maximum sum allowed can be invested by two persons opening a joint account, and I find that in some cases large sums have thus been invested by the owner opening several joint accounts for the maximum sum in his own name and some other, using different names for the joint lodgment of each maximum. He was thus enabled to invest at call at 3 per cent. For instance, on making some enquiries into the causes of the increase in the withdrawals, I find that one person withdrew sums to the aggregate amount of £8,000 for the purchase of a property. The reduction of the rate of interest to 2½ per cent. will probably discourage the use of the Savings Bank for such investments, and tend to confine its operations to the legitimate sphere for which it was intended.

The commercial progress in the same period may be inferred from the following :—In 1886 the total tonnage entered and cleared was 466,124. In 1896 it was 803,702.

The comparative financial condition of the Colony cannot be shown by the figures of revenue received, as the taxation is not the same. The result of the activity caused by the Exhibition was a very large surplus, of which advantage was taken to remit various export duties and taxes on cattle, and in 1892, under the reciprocal arrangements with the United States, Customs duties were abandoned to the extent of over £30,000 per annum.

Upon the withdrawal from the arrangements by the United States these duties were not reimposed as there was still a considerable surplus, and it was understood that when that surplus was exhausted the Legislative Council would vote the necessary increase in the duties. The remission of taxation and Customs revenues thus abandoned since 1891 amounted to £685,700, and

JAMAICA. 1896–7.

deducting from that amount increased duties on rum, beer, sugar, and tobacco, the net amount abandoned was, to March 1897, £499,100. Last year the surplus was at length exhausted, and I proposed that the duties abandoned should be restored; this the majority of the elected members refused, and, as was pointed out to them during the debate, the result will necessarily be a deficit at the end of the financial year. I have no doubt that in the ensuing session the elected members will recognise the mistake they have made, and restore the finances to a satisfactory condition. That the position is clearly understood is evident from the fact that Jamaica 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock that in 1889 stood at 104 to 105 is now 121 to 123.

It is a matter of deep regret to me that in the last year of my lengthened administration the Colony should have been visited by drought, floods, depression, and disease. Jamaica has not been exempted from the abnormal climatic conditions that have produced universal disturbance and distress. For the first time for many years yellow fever has appeared at two of the ports and in one inland parish, and all over the Island the people have suffered severely from low fevers, not such as place them in doctors' hands, or to increase the mortality to any appreciable extent, but enough to produce a general feeling of lassitude and depression that re-acts upon all business, and makes them despondent in the face of low prices. But this is only a passing condition. The yellow fever is rapidly declining, and with the advent of the cool weather and sea breezes, that ought to have come before now, it will, I have no doubt, entirely disappear, as will the autumn fevers that have been so unduly prolonged, and the normal condition of salubrity will be restored. In the meantime local authorities are busily engaged in the permanent improvement of sanitation all over the Island, so that the losses caused by the exceptional trials of this year will not be without their compensating advantages in the future.

In conclusion, I would say that after nine years intimate experience of the Island, with its law-abiding population, I am convinced of its financial soundness, its steady progress, and its future prosperity.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

King's House,
31st December 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 230.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 198.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

July 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados...	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia...	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.

No. 230.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 198.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
12th May 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1897, together with the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

1.—TAXES, DUTIES, &c.

There is no alteration to report under this head.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue figure of 1897, though £230 less than that of the previous year, was still larger by £1,636 than the average of the previous ten years 1887-96.

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The total sum collected was £9,477, against £9,707 in 1896 and £7,312 in 1895, and exceeded the estimate by £1,224.

This result is attributable to the very large export of salt, with its proportionately large return from royalty and light dues, the figures being respectively £3,261 and £1,033, against £2,778 and £827 in the previous year; such increase, however, being more than balanced by a slight fall in the sums realised from import duties and some other minor heads, and a large decline in the receipts under the head of Post Office.

The balance carried forward from the previous year was £6,865, giving a gross available sum of £16,342.

The total Expenditure amounted to £8,384, being larger by £999 than the sum expended in 1896, the principal increase being under the head of Public Works, for which the figure was £1,896, as against £1,053 in the year previous.

The Revenue collected within the year exceeded by £1,093 the total Expenditure within the same period. Of the sum so in excess, £1,000 was invested by the Crown Agents in Victoria 4 per cent. Stock, leaving a working balance to carry forward to 1898 of £2,458, which, with the investment above mentioned and a further sum of £4,500 which the Dependency had already to its credit invested, gives a total credit balance of £7,958.

The financial condition is thus decidedly satisfactory.

3.—Assets and Liabilities.

There was a balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December 1897 of £7,957 13s. 11d.

4.—Public Debt.

The Dependency has no public debt.

5.—Municipalities.

There are local boards, established by various legislative enactments, to deal with the following subjects, namely:—Health, quarantine, prisons, pilotage, salt ponds, education, and medical relief.

6.—Public Works.

The total expenditure under this head was £1,896, distributed as follows :—

	£
Department	319
Recurrent	1,013
Extraordinary	564
Total	£1,896

A Colonial Surveyor and Inspector of Public Works, appointed at the end of 1896, had charge of the Department, and hence it was possible to do a good deal.

The Government property was well looked after and maintained, and considerable improvement of the water supply at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour effected by repairs and addition to the several storage tanks.

Work on the breakwater at Salt Cay, which, as mentioned in my last report, had been deferred until professional advice could be obtained, was recommenced and proceeded with satisfactorily throughout the year, the sum expended thereon being £448. This work—one of some magnitude for this little place—is now in a fair way to completion, and the Surveyor reports that he has been able to effect an appreciable economy over the probable cost of the undertaking had it been carried out on the original local lines.

The presence of a surveyor also enabled a good deal of useful and necessary survey work to be done, notably the laying out of an important uncultivated salina at Cockburn Harbour, for the lease of which negotiations were in progress during the year, which have now resulted in an arrangement by which this property will, it is hoped, be turned to good account.

7.—Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 2.—The Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance, 1896, Amendment Ordinance.

No. 3.—The Jury Ordinance.

No. 4.—The Coroner's Ordinance.

No. 5.—The Cable Company's Ordinance, 1897.

No. 6.—The Annual Appropriation Ordinance, 1898.

The Jury Ordinance is a useful measure, the necessity for which has been long felt. It consolidates four Ordinances, the earliest of which dates from 1853, and effects several improvements, particularly the reduction in number of the jury from twelve to seven in civil cases, as also all criminal cases, not capital, while at the same time setting out the law in simpler and clearer form.

8.—Legislative Board.

During the absence of the Commissioner on leave, the Judge of the Supreme Court, who acted as Commissioner, was appointed to act also as President of the Board, the official vacancy being filled by the appointment of Dr. L. O. Crosswell, the Government Medical Officer at Grand Turk. There were no other changes.

9.—Civil Establishment.

Mr. E. J. Cameron, Commissioner, was absent on leave from 21st May until the end of the year, his duties being performed during that period by Mr. J. Bayldon Walker, Judge of the Supreme Court.

10.—Pensions.

The pension list was further reduced during the year by the sum of £82 1*s*. 7*d*., in consequence of the deaths of Mrs. Maxwell, widow of the late Rector at Grand Turk, and of two former Police Constables.

The total sum paid in pensions was £450 14*s*. 11*d*.

11.—Foreign Consuls.

The following countries are represented :—

United States of America.

Sweden and Norway.

Denmark.

France.

Spain.

Dominican Republic.

12.—Population and Vital Statistics.

The births for the year are returned as 201, against 168 deaths, and the marriages at 44, which is slightly above the average figure.

13.—Education.

There was no inspection during the year, but, as far as can be judged, the average attendance and the standard of teaching were fairly maintained.

14.—Imports and Exports.

The total value of goods imported into the Dependency during the year was over £33,000, and the duty collected £3,568, both figures being somewhat above the average, but with no special feature calling for report.

The export of salt was 2,236,008 bushels, or some 120,000 bushels more than in 1894, the previous record year, and the royalty received by the Government on the export was £3,260. More than two-thirds of this quantity went during the first six months of the year, a great rush being made to get it into the United States before the coming into force of the new Tariff Bill, by which the old duty of 8 cents per 100 pounds on salt in bulk, which amounts as nearly as possible to 6 cents a bushel, is re-imposed.

Such re-imposition has, I regret to say, had the expected effect of bringing down the price to the old figure of 5½ cents to 6 cents a bushel, which leaves but a small margin over cost of production.

The revival of the ground fishery salt trade with British North America, spoken of in my last report, was fortunately maintained, 381,000 bushels going out in this form during the year.

The value of sisal hemp exported was £2,539, or more than double the figure of the previous year, and extraction and export are steadily continuing. At present prices, the outlook for plantations where the growth has been successful is rather more encouraging than it has been for some time.

The value of the sponge export from the Caicos Bank for the year mounted up to between £4,000 and £5,000, or nearly five times the sum of the previous year's taking. Nearly the whole of this is taken by Bahamas sponging craft and carried to Nassau for sale, the business being one that the Caiconian fishermen are too

idle to work at with any steadiness, and the local merchant, moreover, for some not very clear reason, is shy of meddling with. Thus the Dependency really reaps but a slight proportion of the benefit that should, one would suppose, accrue from this source of wealth.

A very small minor industry, the collection and export of palmetto straw, which gives employment to women and children in some of the Caicos Islands, has come into evidence again, owing principally to the troubles in Cuba, which have, as I understand, caused the supply ordinarily obtainable from there to fail.

The total value of the exports, of which over £41,000 was the value of the local products, was over £43,000—a not inconsiderable figure for a Dependency of this calibre.

Comparative tables showing the trade and other statistics of the Dependency are attached :—

—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of imports	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4	33,239	2	7
Import duties collected ...	2,958	13	2	3,701	3	4	3,567	11	6

Value of Exports of Domestic Produce and Manufactures in the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897.

—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salt	19,432	5	8	29,106	18	6	33,630	5	5
Sponge	552	5	5	957	7	0	4,483	19	9
Bahama hemp	620	6	10	1,047	8	1	2,538	18	11
Salt fish	69	0	0	6	0	0	25	0	0
Turtle shell	150	0	0	230	0	0	277	0	0
Palmetto straw	—			43	0	0	210	0	0
Total ... £	20,823	17	11	31,390	13	7	41,165	4	1

Value of Imports and Exports from and to each Country for the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897.

Imports.

—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	3,317	12	2	3,284	8	3	3,478	7	10
British North America ...	1,777	7	6	1,242	4	6	2,181	19	10
British Colonies	1,423	2	8	1,692	17	3	2,261	10	10
United States of America	18,103	9	8	22,080	15	2	20,466	12	1
Other Foreign Countries	2,113	6	0	1,944	19	2	4,850	12	0
Total ... £	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4	33,239	2	7

Exports.

—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	24	17	10	240	0	0	830	0	0
British North America ...	1,571	19	11	6,266	6	3	6,820	14	9
British Colonies	235	6	11	597	0	6	4,630	17	7
United States of America	17,908	10	5	23,278	18	9	28,547	2	5
Other Foreign Countries	1,947	2	7	1,115	8	11	2,475	0	8
Total ... £	21,687	17	8	31,497	14	5	43,303	15	5

Average quantity of Salt exported from each Port for the seven years 1889-95; and the actual Export for 1896 and 1897.

Ports.	1889-95.	1896.	1897.
Grand Turk	634,692	769,068	847,452
Salt Cay	427,948	513,10[illegible]	502,792
Cockburn Harbour ...	722,84[illegible]	622,450	885,764
Total Bushels ...	1,785,484	1,904,627	2,236,008

Salt in the Colony on	31st December	1894	130,000	bushels.
Do.	do.	do.	1895	490,000	„
Do.	do.	do.	1896	770,000	„
Do.	do.	do.	1897	1,000,000	„

15.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared for the last three years is shown below :—

Sailing Vessels.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1895 ...	249	31,694	252	31,744	501	63,438
1896 ...	296	48,138	294	47,604	590	95,742
1897 ...	337	58,679	342	57,551	679	116,230

Steamers.

—	Entered.		Cleared.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1895 ...	66	88,343	66	88,343	132	176,686
1896 ...	62	82,968	62	82,968	124	165,936
1897 ...	73	106,072	73	106,072	146	212,144

Total British and Foreign.

	1896.			1897.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.
British	39,925	24,672	64,597	40,526	28,996	69,522
Foreign	55,817	141,264	197,081	75,704	183,148	258,852
Total ...	95,742	165,936	261,678	116,230	212,144	328,374

The Dependency was not visited by any of Her Majesty's ships during 1897.

There were two wrecks during the year, both on the reefs off the Caicos islands.

16.—AGRICULTURE.

The year was a very dry one, and the provision crops in the Caicos were short in consequence, so that some small sum had to be expended on relief. The attempt at revival of cotton cultivation in the Caicos Islands was carried on, and during the present year it is probable that some moderate quantity of cotton will be shipped.

17.—MINES AND MANUFACTURES.

There is nothing new to report under this head.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners committed during 1897 was 33, of whom 6 were for safe keeping, and 27 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The daily average in the gaol was 5.

19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1897 was 181, against 222 in 1896.

Of the offences reported in 1897,

59 were for offences against the person.
9 „ „ praedial larceny.
30 „ „ offences against property other than praedial larceny
92 „ „ other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior Courts in 1897 was 122, against 165 in 1896.

These convictions are classified as follows :—

34 for offences against the person.
5 „ praedial larceny.
17 „ offences against property other than praedial larceny.
66 „ other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—

2 for offences against the person.
4 „ „ „ „ property.

The acquittals were as follows :—

In the inferior Courts	43
In the Supreme Court...	5

20.—Hospitals and Asylums.

There is no hospital or asylum. In cases of lunacy the patient is placed in gaol under medical supervision, and, if necessary, ultimately sent to the asylum at Jamaica. There were four such patients maintained at Jamaica during the year, at a cost to the Dependency of £110 9*s.* 6*d.*

21.—Meteorological Observations.

There was an average rainfall at Grand Turk, but the fall at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour was small, and the water supply in the Government tanks had to be carefully husbanded.

The hurricane months happily passed without the approach of any disturbance to cause anxiety.

Tables of Temperature and Rainfall are appended :—

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January ...	80	73	77
February ...	80	76	78
March ...	80	77	78
April ...	82	71	79
May ...	84	80	81
June ...	85	83	84
July ...	86	84	85
August ...	87	85	86
September ...	87	85	86
October ...	87	80	84
November ...	84	79	81
December ...	82	78	80

Rainfall

For the year 1897 compared with the average for the previous seven years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
January	·30	·17	·08
February	nil.	nil.	nil.
March	·60	·60	·99
April	3·41	2·96	1·78
May	7·14	4·39	4·34
June	nil.	·05	nil
July	·98	36	32
August	·32	·03	·29
September ...	1·59	94	·34
October	2·32	1·54	2·32
Nove nber	8·19	7·16	4·48
December	·77	1·11	1·26
Total inches ...	25·62	19·31	16·20
Average for 7 years 1890-96.	25·85	23·69	19·73

22.—Savings Banks.

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	88	99	430 7 8	433 11 1	194 13 5	523 10 8	896 3 11	806 4 4
Salt Cay	48	49	51 16 1	34 17 9	29 16 0	55 13 5	80 9 0	59 13 4
Cockburn Harbour	29	27	97 15 1	75 18 11	77 2 10	87 9 4	293 5 4	281 14 11
Total	165	175	£579 18 10	£544 7 9	£301 12 3	£666 13 5	£1,269 18 3	£1,147 12 7

23.—Post Office.

The ordinary Post Office revenue was £223 10s. 2d., but the sale of stamps to dealers and others gave only £310, or some £640 less than in 1896.

The Mail service was satisfactorily performed during the year by Messrs. Pickford and Black's contract steamer from Halifax, and the Clyde line of steamers from New York.

24.—General Remarks.

The year 1897 was one of financial prosperity, as will be seen from the revenual figures. The salt crop was a very abundant one and the shipments exceptionally heavy, the bulk of which realised a remunerative figure, while continuous employment was provided for the labourers.

The Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen was loyally and enthusiastically celebrated at Grand Turk, and the happening of this auspicious event will be marked in due course by the erection of suitable memorials at each of the three settlements, taking the form of Public Libraries at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and the addition of a Clock Tower to the already existing Library at Grand Turk, erected in 1887. A sum of £700 is to be devoted to this purpose.

The year 1897 will furthermore always be notable in the history of the Dependency as the one in which arrangements were at length concluded by the Imperial Government with the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company for the extension of the cable from Bermuda *viâ* Grand Turk to Jamaica. It is hoped that good may accrue to the place, as time goes on, from the establishment of this cable connection, which is now a *fait accompli*.

The other side of the picture is the unpleasant fact of the re-imposition of the duty on salt by the latest United States Tariff, which so materially affects the trade and general welfare of the place.

There is no difference, however, between the present trade conditions and those existent for many years prior to 1894, and there is therefore, I think, no reason to be despondent as to the Dependency's prospects, though undoubtedly things are not likely to be quite as bright for a time as they have been in the past four years.

Edward J. Cameron,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
30th March 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 261.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896–7, *see* No. 225.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

June, 1899.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	1897
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 261.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.
1897–8.

(For Report for 1896–7 *see* No. 225.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
27th January, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897–98.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1897–98.

LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1898 the Legislative Council passed 41 laws, of which the following are the more important :—

Law 5 of 1898—The Obeah Law.—This law consolidates and simplifies the laws relating to Obeah, and provides for the suppression of Obeah literature.

Law 11 of 1898—The Stamp Duty Law, 1898.—This law reduces the stamp duty on marine policies, increases the rate of probate duty from two to three per cent., and requires agreements for leases to be stamped with the same duty as leases.

Law 13 of 1898,—The Jury Law, 1898—consolidates the laws relating to juries and makes certain amendments of the system.

Law 14 of 1898 repeals the schedule of duties to the Legacy Duty Law of 1879, and substitutes a schedule of reduced rates.

Law 15 of 1898.—The Kingston General Commissioners Extended Powers Law, the object of which is to give the Commissioners, in whom are vested the power and duties of the Kingston and Liguanea Water Works Commissioners, extended

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powers for the purpose of protecting from defilement the various sources of water supply for Kingston and the plains of St. Andrew.

Law 16 of 1898—The Direct West India Cable Company's Law, 1898.—This law gives legal effect to the arrangements made by the Direct West India Cable Company to extend their cable to Jamaica.

Law 17 of 1898.—This law amends and incorporates the Marine Board Laws of 1896 and 1897.

Law 18 of 1898.—The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law.

Law 20 of 1898.—The Succession Duty Law, 1898, which imposes certain duties on succession to property.

Law 28 of 1898.—The Tariff Law.

Law 29 of 1898, which enables the Governor to raise, on behalf of the Kingston General Commissioners, a loan for the purpose of improving the supply of water to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains.

Law 34 of 1898.—The Cayman Islands Commissioners Law, which gives the Governor power to appoint a Resident Commissioner for those Islands.

Law 36 of 1898—The Resident Magistrates Amendment Law. —This law incorporates the Resident Magistrates Law of 1887, removes the inelastic provisions of the 1887 Law, which confines the jurisdiction of each resident magistrate within the boundaries of a particular parish.

Law 38 of 1898.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897, Amendment Law, 1898.

Law 40 of 1898, which gives the Governor power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £100,000 to meet the liabilities of the Government.

FINANCE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £540,509, while the expenditure amounted to £627,422, thus showing on the year a deficit of £86,913. Compared with the previous year, general revenue shows a net decrease of £51,355, and general expenditure a net decrease of £36,800.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several Parochial Boards, produced £113,527, a decrease of £3,247 as compared with the previous year. This does not, however, include advances made from general revenue in aid of these funds, which amounted to £18,440.

Parochial expenditure during the same period amounted to £126,712, or £9,130 less than in the previous year, the repayment of advances from general revenue, which amounted to £11,814, not being taken into account.

Immigration revenues during the year amounted to £4,529, an increase of £2,848, and expenditure to £403, a decrease of £576 on the previous year.

The following is a statement shewing the whole revenue realised in the year under review compared with the previous year :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, 1897–98.

General Revenue.	1897–98.	1896–97.	Increase.	Decrease.
TAX REVENUE	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	278,268	318,251	—	39,983
Harbour Masters' Fees ...	2,563	2,577	—	14
Light Dues	1,920	1,952	—	32
Rum Duties	104,730	122,524	—	17,794
Beer Duty	231	211	20	—
Licenses	627	732	—	105
Stamps	18,050	23,947	—	5,897
Education Tax	9,722	11,243	—	1,521
	416,111	481,437	20	65,346
				65,326
NON-TAX REVENUE.				
Postal Revenue	22,520	24,072	—	1,552
Telegraph Revenue... ...	4,700	5,364	—	664
Court Fees	7,368	8,284	—	916
Fines and Forfeitures ...	3,680	4,412	—	732
Interest on Securities for Sinking Funds.	—	14,199	—	14,199
Interest from Savings Bank	4,784	3,927	857	—
Interest other than above ...	5,902	4,973	929	—
Interest on Railway Second Mortgage Bonds.	—	208	—	208
Reimbursements	52,568	35,969	16,599	—
Miscellaneous	22,934	9,019	13,915	—
	124,456	110,427	32,300	18,271
			14,029	
TOTAL—GENERAL REVENUE	540,567	591,864		51,297

JAMAICA. 1897-8.

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897-98—*cont.*

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
MAIN ROAD REVENUE.	£	£	£	£
Land Tax Law 17 of 1890 ...	—	398	—	—
Draft Horned Stock do.	—	826	—	—
Holdings Tax	—	12,898	—	—
Spirit Licenses	—	13,969	—	—
Agricultural Produce Licenses.	—	3,685	—	—
PAROCHIAL ROAD RESERVED FUND.				
Land Tax and Quit Rent ...	—	7,637	—	—
KINGSTON STREETS IMPROVEMENT.				
House Tax Laws 4 of 1883 and 31 of 1890.	—	6	—	—
Spirit Licenses	—	3,728	—	—
Other Receipts	—	620	—	—
	—	43,767	—	—
Reimbursements of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
PAROCHIAL REVENUES.				
Parochial Road Tax ...	35,863	37,901	—	2,038
Parochial Municipal Revenue	12,789	13,271	—	482
Parochial General Purposes	4,539	4,503	36	—
Poor Rates	38,723	39,339	—	616
Sanitary Rates	7,630	7,862	—	232
Fire Rates	1,494	1,561	—	67
Gas Rates	3,270	3,793	—	523
Miscellaneous	9,219	8,544	675	—
Advances from General Revenues.	18,440	21,122	—	2,682
	131,967	137,896	711	6,640
				5,929

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897–98—*cont.*

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897–98.	1896–97.	Increase.	Decrease.
IMMIGRATION REVENUES.	£	£	£	£
Immigration Revenues Law 7 of 1878.	3,402	1,476	1,926	—
Miscellaneous	1,127	205	922	—
	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
SUMMARY.				
General Revenue	540,567	591,864	—	51,297
Specially appropriated Revenue.	—	43,767	—	43,767
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
Parochial Revenues... ...	131,967	137,896	—	5,929
Immigration Revenues ...	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
	677,063	778,813	2,848	104,598
Net Decrease	—	—	—	101,750

The large net decrease in General Revenue of £51,297 as compared with the previous year is almost entirely due to the falling off in the Imports and Rum Duties, caused by the depression in business to which allusion is made elsewhere in this report, and to the reduction of Stamp Duties under Law 27 of 1896. The only items showing increases of any importance are Reimbursements and Miscellaneous, which respectively showed £16,599 and £13,915 more than in 1896–97.

The revenue for Parochial purposes, which varies according to the rates imposed, shows very little change, there being slight increases under General Purposes Rate and Miscellaneous, and slight decreases under the other items.

JAMAICA 1897-8.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure during the year under review :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, 1897-98.

General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of Debt	112,650	82,417	30,233	—
Pensions	21,569	16,962	4,607	—
Administrative Departments	43,190	45,085	—	1,895
Government Savings Bank	3,462	3,275	187	—
Revenue Department ...	39,368	41,066	—	1,698
Postal Service	27,347	28,355	—	1,008
Telegraph Service	7,610	7,555	45	—
Judicial	45,763	45,478	285	—
Ecclesiastical...	2,561	2,927	—	366
Medical	61,092	59,307	1,785	—
Constabulary	62,411	57,122	5,289	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	—	3,767	—	3,767
Prisons	22,876	23,288	—	402
Reformatories	4,346	4,548	—	202
Education	69,388	67,540	1,848	—
Industrial Schools	1,244	1,103	141	—
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,320	2,742	—	422
Military	10,447	12,814	—	2,367
Coasting Service	1,708	1,800	—	92
Telegraph Subsidy	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration Department ...	4,491	4,432	59	—
Registration of Titles Department.	1,071	1,203	—	132
Island Record Office... ...	1,566	1,410	156	—
Government Printing Office	7,756	7,989	—	233

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897–98—*cont.*

General Expenditure.	1897–98.	1896–97.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Jamaica Institute	1,979	2,404	—	425
Board of Supervision ...	502	431	71	—
Public Gardens	6,329	6,484	—	155
Railway	1,310	1,587	—	277
Miscellaneous	10,277	10,982	—	705
Public Works	43,396	78,515	—	35,119
Railway Extension Track ...	3,100	1,595	1,505	—
Light Houses	1,599	1,719	—	120
Do. Construction ...	321	233	88	—
Contribution to maintenance, Kingston Improvement Works.	—	425	—	425
Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	2,556	—	2,556	—
Cattle Disease Enquiry ...	—	1,072	—	1,072
	627,605	629,632	48,855	50,882
				2,027
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION.				
Main Road Expenditure Law 17 of 1890, Maintenance.	—	31,127	—	—
Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	—	7,921	—	—
Kingston Streets Reconstruction.	—	2,421	—	—
Produce Protection Fund ...	—	53	—	—
	—	41,522	—	41,522
EXPENDITURE FROM LOANS.				
Portland Bridges	—	4,144	—	—
Public Tanks	--	292	—	—
Main Roads Law 17 of 1890	—	3,689	—	—
	—	8,125	—	8,125

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897–98—*cont.*

General Expenditure.	1897–98.	1896–97.	Increase.	Decrease.
PAROCHIAL EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Parochial Roads	45,067	52,818	—	7,751
Parochial Municipal Objects	8,488	10,022	—	1,534
Parochial General Purposes	8,920	7,860	1,060	—
Relief of Poor	47,628	46,898	730	—
Sanitary Appropriation ...	11,232	9,491	1,741	—
Fire Appropriation	1,658	1,647	11	—
Gas Appropriation	3,019	3,048	—	29
Kingston Theatre	700	4,058	—	3,358
Repayment of Advances ...	11,814	17,104	—	5,290
	138,526	152,946	3,542	17,962
				14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
SUMMARY.				
General Expenditure ...	627,605	629,632	—	2,027
Special Appropriation ...	—	41,522	—	41,522
Loan Expenditure	—	8,125	—	8,125
Parochial Expenditure ...	138,526	152,946	—	14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
	766,534	833,204	—	—
Net Decrease	—	—	—	66,670

The net decrease in the General Expenditure was £2,027. The more important increases are to be found under the following heads, viz :—

Charges of Debt £30,233, due to the inclusion of the amount required for Sinking Fund, for interest on temporary advances, and interest on Law 27 of 1890, with increased interest by Laws 20 of 1892, 6 of 1893, and 13 of 1895, that cause an excess of £37,500 which is, however, reduced by paying off of the debt due under Law 39 of 1869, &c.; Pensions £4,607, due to grant to

Constabulary Pension Fund being charged to this account (Law 21 of 1895); Constabulary £5,289, due to clothing, arms, &c., provided for increased number of men, and to the transport of men and prisoners consequent on the closing of certain prisons; Medical, £1,785; Education, £1,848; Railway Track, £1,505, due to settlement of more claims for land acquired than in the previous year; and £2,556, the cost of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

PENSIONS.

During the year pensions amounting to £736 11*s.* 9½*d.* were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the Pension List was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £1,176.

DEBT.

No new loans were raised during the year under review.

The Public Debt directly secured on General Revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the Sinking Funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2
1896	1,666,177	14	3
1897	1,787,499	18	7
1898	1,993,284	4	10

The above amount was raised at varying rates of interest, and the balance at present outstanding is held—

£	
118,168	... at six per cent.
7,500	... at four and a half per cent.
1,553,056	... at four per cent.
30,860	... at three and a half per cent.
283,700	... at three per cent.
£1,993,284	

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

A considerable portion of the amounts originally raised by debentures has since been converted into Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Law 13 of 1885, but the present liability is divided as follows :—

	£
Debentures	635,297
Inscribed Stock, England ...	1,116,459
Inscribed Stock, Jamaica ...	123,360
Deposits, Rectors and Island Curates Fund, and Widows and Orphans Fund	118,168
	£1,993,284

The debenture debt is mainly redeemable by a one per cent. Sinking Fund, which is applied to the redemption of debentures chosen by lot at annual drawings, and the Inscribed Stock, both English and Jamaica, is to be redeemed by a cumulative Sinking Fund of one per cent. on the total amount issued, which is calculated to produce sufficient to redeem the stock at its maturity in the year 1930.

Of the total of debt on the 31st March 1898, £742,920 was on account of the purchase, reconstruction, and extension of the Jamaica Railway to Ewarton and Porus, £126,500 on account of the Rio Cobre Canal, £217,000 for the erection of new bridges, and £48,700 for debentures issued on account of the Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring Hotels, which have now been taken possession of by the Government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The annual session of the Council commenced on the 15th March 1898 ; it continued far beyond the close of the year under review, and adjourned *sine die* on the 3rd August 1898.

During that period the Council held 33 meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was £128,074 6*s.* 4*d.*, being £26,262 15*s.* less than in the preceding year. The cost of administration and supervision was equal to 12¾ per cent. of the total expenditure of the Department.

The total expenditure on main roads and bridges chargeable against General Revenue was £26,081 2*s.* 1*d.* The total length of these roads was 913 miles 42 chains, being 21 miles 6 chains more than in 1896–97.

The total average expenditure per mile for maintenance, repair, and improvement of the roads and bridges was £27 15*s.* 9*d.* This was not, however, found sufficient to maintain the roads in the good condition they were in at the beginning of the year, and they were considerably damaged by heavy rains in the months of October and November.

The total expenditure during the year for reconstruction of roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was £692 1*s.* 10*d.* The total length taken over to the 31st March, 1898, was 985 miles 17 chains, and the average expenditure for maintaining these roads was £16 11*s.* 9*d.* per mile.

At the end of the year there were 71 miles 46 chains of main roads, and 52 miles 76 chains of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The number of separate institutions and buildings the upkeep of which devolved upon the Public Works Department was 286, the same as in the previous year, and the cost amounted to £4,047 19*s.*, being £4,680 2*s.* 9*d.* less than the sum authorised. Owing to the depressed condition of the Colony, no work that could possibly be deferred was carried out. The expenditure was therefore kept very low, averaging about £14 per building. No new buildings were erected during the year.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, the expenditure during the year on this work was £12,621 3*s.* 8*d.* At the close of the year 89 out of the 104 bridges authorised were completed.

Considerable progress was made with the work of constructing the new Lunatic Asylum.

The enlargement of St. Catherine's District Prison was proceeded with, and the new female prison containing 66 cells was practically completed.

The lands for the extension of the Kingston Public Hospital were, with the exception of one or two lots, acquired and prepared for building operations.

Six and three-quarter miles of the second section of the mountain road in St. Andrew, under Law 13 of 1895, from Hopewell Gap to Hardware Gap were practically completed. Eight miles of the third section (12½ miles), from Hardware Gap to Silver Hill Bridge on the Buff Bay Road, were cut to full width, and the remainder was in hand at the close of the year.

The fourth section (1 3/8ths miles), the branch to Silver Hill, was completed, and it is now possible to drive from the "Cooperage" near Gordon Town, *via* Hardware Gap to Silver Hill, a distance of 19 miles.

The survey of the road from Gordon Town to Mavis Bank and Windsor Forest was completed, and surveys for the road from Bath *via* Cuna Cuna Pass to Moore Town were commenced.

The total expenditure on the mountain roads during the year was £15,463 2*s.* 4*d.*

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point, and Negril Point were maintained and worked with efficiency and regularity throughout the year at a cost of £1,795 19*s.* 1*d.*

693½ miles of telegraph lines were under maintenance at the end of the year. The expenditure under this head amounted to £1,643 4*s.* 1*d.*

IRRIGATION.—RIO COBRE CANAL.

The revenue earned during 1897-98 from these works was £5,561 6*s.* 3*d.*, but only £5,132 10*s.* 3*d.* was collected; the cost of maintenance and supervision was £2,413 19*s.* 2*d.*, thus leaving a net profit of £2,618 11*s.*; the net profit in 1896-97 was £1,975 13*s.* 2*d.*

The irrigation works continue to prove of great benefit to the cultivation of bananas and oranges; since 1893 the area under bananas in the district irrigated has increased from a few hundred acres to nearly 5,000.

CROWN LANDS.

The Surveyor-General reports that there were numerous sales to small settlers of Crown land in lots of from 5 to 50 acres during the year under revision; 301 applications for land to the extent of 3,431¼ acres having been received. The demand for this class of land is steadily increasing.

Two bridle roads were laid out during the year giving access to the lands purchased at Adam Brandon's patent, and at Claremont, in Portland.

The Legislative Council having voted the sum of £778 in the Sessions of 1897, the Surveyor-General was enabled to construct a road, opening up the Crown lands at Troy, in Trelawny. It is gratifying to note that the settlers whose lands were opened

up by this road, although only 9 months elapsed between the voting of the money and the end of the year under review, had at the 31st March made great strides in the cultivation of their properties. Twenty-one settlers have laid out their holdings in coffee, oranges, kola, ground provisions, &c. on a small scale, and are making strenuous efforts to increase the crops. The men seem thoroughly to appreciate their privileges of ownership; nearly all of them have either built or are building shingled houses on the land.

During the year final judgments of forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents were obtained in the cases of 96 properties covering 36,066½ acres. Most of the land is suitable for cultivation.

Exclusive of four lots of land transferred to the West India Improvement Company, 3 pieces of land in Kingston, and one each in Portland and Clarendon were sold by the Government, realizing £341 13*s.*, or an average of about £3 per acre.

A large number of lots, principally in Kingston, were leased out by the Government, realizing an annual rental of £295 12*s.*

Lands to the extent of 1,472 acres were transferred to the West India Improvement Company during the year ended 31st March last, making 71,828 acres granted up to the present time under Law 12 of 1889.

It is to be regretted that the cocoanut trees on the Palisadoes show signs of decay; remedial measures have been taken by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, but without successful results.

Land for Railway Track.

The expenditure on account of lands for railway track to 31st March, 1898, was £81,057 0*s.* 9*d.*

The acquisition of lands for the track may now be regarded as practically completed, only £2,085 18*s.* 3*d.* of claims remaining to be paid on 31st March, 1898.

Railway.

The records of the transactions of the Jamaica Railway Company shows that during the year ended 31st March, 1898, the gross earnings of the railway amounted to the sum of £102,170 0*s.* 4*d.*, while the expenditure was £74,592 9*s.* 10*d.*: thus leaving a net revenue of £27,577 10*s.* 6*d.*

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The following is a comparison of the receipts with those of the preceding year :—

—	1896–97.			1897–98.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle	53,200	14	0	58,424	9	6
Passengers	38,497	12	5	37,267	18	0
Wharf	5,990	14	3	5,682	9	11
Miscellaneous	790	12	3	795	2	11
Totals	98,479	12	11	102,170	0	4

The number of train miles run during the year amounted to 406,302, which shows the revenue to be at the rate of 5/0·35 per mile, and the expenditure 3/8·05, or a net revenue of 1/4·30 per mile. The operating expenses were equal to 73 per cent. of the receipts.

The number of passengers carried during the year shows a falling off, the total being 356,949, as against 384,611 in 1896–97.

£23,159 13*s.* 4*d.* was paid on account of Interest on Mortgage Bonds, and £3,200 on account of Sinking Fund.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total postal receipts for the year amounted to £22,883 19*s.* 0½*d.*, being £1,541 12*s.* 1¼*d.* less than in 1896–97.

The telegraph receipts amounted to £5,085 12*s.* 6*d.*, a decrease of £394 6*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the previous year.

The Postmaster estimates £941 of the falling off in postal receipts to be due to the general depression in trade and agriculture which prevailed throughout the year, and £600 to the abolition of the system of prepaying official correspondence by means of stamps purchased by the Public Departments from the Post Office, and reversion to the franking system from 1st January 1898, the annual value of official postages being estimated at £2,500.

A decrease occurred under the head of packet as well as inland postages, and is attributed to the same causes.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the year 1897–98, compared with the two preceding years :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postages.			Postal Revenue.		Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895–96 ...	4,946 15 11½	17,542 1 7½	22,488 17 7	388 6 7	519 12 1½	173 0 6	23,569 16 9½	6,156 9 6	29,726 6 3½
1896–97 ...	5,472 16 2	17,858 10 11¼	23,331 7 1¼	414 5 6	534 3 9½	145 14 9	24,425 11 1¾	5,479 19 3	29,905 10 4¾
1897–98 ...	4,869 10 3	16,984 3 0	21,853 13 3	373 16 2	574 7 7½	82 2 0	22,883 19 0½	5,085 12 6	27,969 11 6½

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895–96 ...	4,923 16 4	2,535 9 0	9,020 2 2	1,962 1 1	4,471 15 5½	22,913 4 0½	7,618 16 8	30,532 0 8½
1896–97 ...	5,193 12 7	2,681 8 9	9,841 2 11	2,289 1 8	5,317 17 1½	25,323 3 0¼	7,556 8 5	32,879 11 5½
1897–98 ...	5,268 1 4	2,965 2 8	10,479 6 11	859 0 3	5,060 17 6	24,632 8 8	7,686 5 3	32,318 13 11

The total number of letters and postcards which passed through the Kingston Post Office and the several district post offices was 4,980,191, as against 4,375,374 in the previous year.

Nine new mail services came into operation and 18 district post offices were established during the year, making the total number of post offices in existence at the close of the year 160, as against 142 at the end of 1896–97.

The following figures show the money and postal order transactions for the year compared with the years 1895–96 and 1896–97 :—

Year.	Money Orders.					Postal Orders.		
	Jamaica Issue.		From other Countries payable in Jamaica.		Total Amount.	Issued.		Sold.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895–96 ...	13,116	47,242 13 0	2,194	5,441 1 1	52,683 14 1	151,770	26,721 17 6	26,383 3 0
1896–97 ...	12,548	43,963 16 8	2,711	7,050 4 1	51,014 0 9	171,035	26,857 10 0	26,577 10 0
1897–98 ...	11,994	40,068 5 1	2,770	7,679 8 6	47,747 13 7	175,985	29,397 10 0	28,745 1 0

The earnings of the mail coaches for passenger fares and parcels amounted to £1,632 2*s.* 6*d.*, or £712 19*s.* 3*d.* less than in the preceding year. The falling off is due to the extension of the railway to Montego Bay and Port Antonio.

The declared value of parcels which passed through the parcels post was £3,289 11*s.* 10¾*d.*, against £3,273 14*s.* 5*d.* in 1896-97.

The revenue and expenditure under the head of telegraphs is shown in the statement already given.

The number of telegraph messages sent and received was 87,545, against 96,292 in 1896-97.

Sixty-nine telegraph stations were in existence at the close of the year, being the same number as in the previous year.

AGRICULTURE.

The depression of the year ended 31st March, 1897, continued during the following year, but the Colony was not afflicted to any extent with the drought and floods referred to in the penultimate paragraph of last year's Blue Book Report. The October rains were heavy in several parishes, and in a few parts caused some destruction of roads and private property. Speaking generally, however, the seasons were favourable to agriculture, and but for the lowered prices of nearly all the staples, even compared with the previous year, there would probably have been an appreciable increase in the value of exports. As it was, home products and manufactures (the latter a very small item proportionately) decreased very slightly compared with 1896-7, viz.:—from £1,384,278 to £1,377,826. Fruit and vegetables were more plentiful than during the preceding year owing to good seasons, and most crops were good except that of pimento, which was only about one-third of the average, though this disadvantage was somewhat counterbalanced by the unusually high prices obtained. The coffee crop was a fine one, but a very low price was secured both at home and abroad. The producer, though realizing very little cash from his sales, had a sufficiency of food from his provision ground owing to the fine seasons. In Jamaica the seasons are usually good, and there is little distress except during occasional prolonged droughts, which chiefly occur in a narrow comparatively rainless tract, made abnormally so by deforestation, which lies along the south-eastern sea-board. Further, in parishes almost entirely of the limestone formation, which covers most of the western and middle sections and part of the eastern section of the Island, the porous nature of the rock causes the water to sink until an impermeable stratum is found, usually very far below the surface, or else, where this formation

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ends near the sea at a bed of alluvium, streams gush out. The inland limestone tract has very few streams, and these usually disappear after a course of a few miles into what are termed "sink holes." A great portion of Jamaica is not, therefore, a land of streams, as the Island is usually supposed to be, and the extensive limestone districts derive their water supply chiefly from tanks and ponds. A family can thus obtain a sufficient water supply to outlast any but very dry weather from a tank or pond constructed at the expense of a few pounds, provided a sufficient catch-water area is constructed, but this is seldom done, and most of the peasantry and a good many other occupiers of property do not thus secure themselves against the rainless day, but live on from day to day in contented neglect of what the future may bring, and in times of drought look to their more provident neighbours, usually the larger proprietors, to give them water for themselves and their stock. It is no wonder, therefore, if privation and distress occur at times, as during the severe droughts of 1896-97, when the supply in Manchester and St. Elizabeth especially became too low to be any longer given away. Were tanks with a sufficient catch-water area constructed by all owners of land in limestone districts, which have usually a good rainfall, there would be comparatively little distress in country parishes. In some places public tanks or reservoirs have been constructed, and greater attention has been paid of late years to water storage and supply. The greater portion of the dry Liguanea district contiguous to Kingston has an excellent water supply for household use by pipes from the Hope River, and a few artesian wells have been sunk with success, but it is feared that the cost of boring through the usually thick stratum of the limestone districts would be too great to be undertaken.

The returns of acreage under cultivation during the years ended 31st July 1897 and 1898 show a considerable shrinkage.

The following figures indicate the declension during the five years ended 31st July 1897. The figures for 1897-98 are also given. Compared with the previous year they may serve to indicate more nearly the present outlook as foreseen by cultivators. The figures are taken from the returns of property tax, and the collecting year begins on the 1st August. The Collector-General has thus to give returns of acreage 9 months in arrear of the figures for the financial year to which his report refers.

It should, however, be understood that the only alarming shrinkage in production has been in sugar and rum, which require capital and labour in large quantities for growth and manufacture, and the decay of the industry means loss of capital and restriction in the circulation of money. The falling off in logwood, pimento, oranges, and cocoanuts represent a diminished yield from trees on which very little labour is expended, except that of reaping,

as the logwood, pimento, and oranges grow without having been planted, and the cocoanuts, after having been once brought into bearing by cultivation, require no further expenditure. The diminished yield does not mean any failure of the source from which these products are derived. Low prices have resulted in logwood not having been reaped, but allowed to remain for further maturity pending better prices. Recently the growth of oranges has been commenced as a cultivated crop, but the groves planned out have not yet come into bearing. Substantial increases occurred in the production of coffee, bananas, cocoa, and ginger, and the only drawback has been the low prices of coffee. The apparent falling off in the acreage under cultivation is in a large measure to be attributed to taxes not having been paid on the full area under cultivation.

ACREAGE, YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY, OF LAND CHARGED WITH PROPERTY TAX.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
I.—CULTIVATED LAND	177,497	181,295	182,668	182,489	164,644	164,307
II.—GUINEA GRASS	123,881	125,972	126,877	127,437	124,672	123,136
III.—PASTURE AND PIMENTO LAND ...	375,774	384,802	382,422	383,748	374,244	373,228
	677,152	692,069	691,967	693,674	663,560	660,671
IV.—WOOD AND RUINATE	1,268,483	1,284,477	1,260,178	1,268,563	1,218,149	1,187,909
Totals	1,945,635	1,976,546	1,952,145	1,962,237	1,881,709	1,848,580
Principal Items under I.						
Bananas	17,297	18,528	18,847	19,227	19,760	23,405
Canes (yielding Sugar and Rum) ...	31,555	31,284	30,971	30,036	28,764	27,123
Cocoa...	1,315	1,554	1,687	1,632	1,611	1,527
Cocoanuts	9,065	10,395	10,956	10,940	10,799	11,293
Coffee	22,423	23,523	23,643	25,559	22,387	22,901
Ginger	246	128	84	84	82	98
Ground Provisions	94,716	95,177	95,808	95,808	80,656	77,271

Three staples with an export value of over £10,000 are omitted, viz., logwood growing in pasture or ruinate land, pimento in pasture land or guinea grass, and oranges chiefly in pasture. It is difficult to classify descriptions of cultivation with more than an approximation to accuracy, as, except for bananas, canes, and coffee, and one or two other products usually cultivated in large patches, a property generally contains several descriptions of produce mingled together. Thus in 1896–97 the figures for the seven articles given above total 164,059 out of 164,644 acres of all descriptions of cultivated land.

There is no ground whatever for supposing, however, that only 585 acres represented the acreage of all other cultivated products during 1896–97, besides those tabulated. One of the tabulated articles (ginger) illustrates this clearly.

The acreage for the last few years is returned at 80 to 90 acres, while the export value, leaving out of consideration home consumption, was an average for the five years 1894–98 of £41,525, or, say, from £450 to £500 per acre, a value per acre far above that realized. The truth is that could we total the acreage of fruit, logwood, and other economic plants scattered over properties and growing around homesteads we would probably have to add many thousands to the acres shown under head I. At the same time the three heads, cultivated land, guinea grass, and pasture land, give almost the entire area of the Island made use of for the support of its inhabitants. This inhabited area, *i.e.* less than 700,000 acres out of a total estimated area of 2,692,000 acres, it will be seen, increased generally from 1st August 1892 to 31st July 1896, and has decreased by over 30,000 acres since, *i.e.* by about 4 per cent. The decrease occurs principally under cultivated land, where it has been about 10 per cent.

The most rapid decrease under this head occurs on ground provisions. For the 6 years included in the table there was but a slight difference year by year in acreage till 1895–96, since which the decline has been rapid—1895–96, 94,332 acres; 1896–97, 80,656 acres; 1897–98, 77,271 acres.

There has been a decrease generally in quantities of imported goods within the period. As ground provisions, *i.e.* root esculents, are the staple vegetable food of all classes, and are almost entirely cultivated by the peasantry, these figures seem to indicate general decrease in prosperity, when decreased importations are taken into account. In this connection it may be remarked that the agricultural holdings returned for the year ended 31st July 1896 (including those on which there were arrears of taxes) were 90,667, and in the following year only 76,585, and that all the tax returns of the last few years indicate a considerable increase of arrears. It must be borne in mind, however, that the decrease in the amount allowed by the Legislative Council for travelling by revenue officers has in all probability appreciably affected the collection of taxes, and

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while there has undoubtedly been a considerable temporary decline in the Colony's income, it is very likely not so great as some of the tax returns might lead one to imagine.

Turning now from cultivation of products to their exportation, we find the value of exported home products and manufactures in the year ended 31st March 1897–98, in both of which the total values realized were almost the same, has been about 20 per cent. less than 1895–96, or about double the decline in acreage. Besides the fact that cultivation cannot recklessly be thrown up because less quantity or value is realized in one or other period, and that therefore less fluctuation in acreage must be expected than in exports, it must be remembered that the figures for acreage are given for a period nine months before those of exports, that crops mature, and are therefore planted ahead of reaping at different periods, and also that there are no accurate data available of the quantities and therefore of the total values of articles consumed in the Island. At the same time when several years are compared it is evident that there has been a considerable shrinkage both in cultivation and exportation.

In Jamaica only a very limited number of persons have adopted improved methods of cultivation, hence the average yield per acre may fairly be taken as much the same year by year, except as affected by rains or drought. Comparing cultivation and exportation of home products and manufactures for the last five years we find exports highest in 1893–94, viz., £1,982,596, whence they declined moderately every year till 1895–96 when they leapt suddenly down from £1,775,016 to £1,384,278, falling slightly the next year to £1,377,826. Cultivated and grazing land increased or decreased generally very slowly till the same year when the acreage went down from 693,674 to 663,560, with a slight declension for the year ended 31st July, 1898, to 660,671 acres.

The details of exports are more fully given under trade, but the following figures furnish a succinct comparison with the preceding year :—

—	Value 1896–7	Value 1897–8	Price 1896–7.	Price 1897–8.
	£	£		
Bananas ...	302,415	445,866	1*s.* 3*d.* a bunch	1*s.* 3¼*d.* a bunch
Oranges ...	155,554	134,674	33 to 34 a 1*s.*	32 to 33 a 1*s.*
Sugar ...	148,679	120,959	9*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.	8*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.
Rum ...	123,211	92,053	1*s.* 6*d.* a gallon	1*s.* 4*d.* a gallon
Coffee ...	210,946	165,494	63*s.* 4*d.* a cwt.	38*s.* 9*d.* a cwt.

Details of exports—*cont.*

—	Value 1896–7.	Value 1897–8.	Price 1896–7.	Price 1897–8.
	£	£		
Logwood ...	161,565	118,215	75*s.* a ton	55*s.* 6*d.* a ton
Pimento ...	77,152	52,943	15*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.	27*s.* 3*d.* a cwt.
Cocoa ...	15,297	37,435	33*s.* 4*d.* a cwt.	46*s.* 7*d.* a cwt.
Cocoanuts ...	35,407	39,648	60*s.* per M.	68*s.* 9*d.* per M.
Ginger ...	33,041	34,884	60*s.* a cwt.	55*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.
	1,263,267	1,242,171		
Minor products and manufactures ...	121,011	135,655		
Totals ...	1,384,278	1,377,826		

There was thus a considerable increase in the export value of bananas with a slight rise in price, a remarkable rise in price of pimento, but a crop stated by the Collector-General to have been only about a third of the average, resulting in a loss of total value. A good crop of coffee made the total loss less than it would have otherwise been with the very low prices. This product and logwood suffered the most, though sugar and rum together show a serious loss to the cane industry. Happily the price of sugar has lately risen, and steps now being taken to establish an irrigation scheme in Vere, if carried into effect will, it is hoped, considerably benefit the planters, and enable a central factory to be started. The price of cocoa was excellent for Jamaica, though low as compared with that of the best Trinidad varieties. There is no apparent reason why the intelligent use of capital in the production of cocoa, combined with due care in its curing and packing, should not lead to its becoming a major product as in Trinidad. The demand for the article is not likely to decrease as its valuable qualities become more known.

Generally speaking the export value of bananas, cocoa, cocoanuts, ginger, and minor products realising £10,000, and under, very nearly set off the loss on most staples, a loss greater in value than quantity owing to generally low prices.

Stock rearing has declined as well as cultivation. Guinea grass and pasture land has not increased as much in acreage as cultivated land has, as the table of acreage shows, but stock seem

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to have sensibly decreased in number. The following figures appear to indicate this.

The tax on horsekind used on public roads is 11*s*. each, on livery horses 7*s*. each.

The collection for the year 1895–96 showed 33,506 horses, and for the year 1896–97 showed 31,667 horses used on public roads (including livery horses). For the same periods we have 14,059 and 12,588 asses so used.

Returns by taxpayers for these years show :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.
Horsekind	13,322	10,541
Cattle	103,403	99,201
Asses	2,217	1,769
Sheep	14,456	13,831
Goats	8,554	6,869
Swine	24,060	20,718

The above figures are for years ended 31st July. Returns are also furnished of taxes collected on horsekind and asses for the years ended 31st March 1897 and 1898. They show in 1897 £16,896 for horsekind and £2,219 for asses, in 1898 £15,801 for horsekind and £1,914 for asses, decreases indicating a diminished use of these animals, or a failure to pay taxes on them.

The war in Cuba resulted in benefit to stock raisers. The exportation of stock in 1896–97 amounted to only 57 animals, including cattle, horsekind, mules, and swine; in 1897–98 it amounted to 1,327 animals, viz. :—1,243 cattle, 8 horsekind, 54 swine, and 22 sheep, all except the horsekind, shipped to Cuba ; 3,120 fowls were also exported to that country. These exportations to Cuba realised £9,163 13*s*. If quarantine restrictions on Cuba are removed, with the better sanitary regulations now in force, a considerable trade in stock might spring up between the two islands, until the larger one recovers its heavy losses owing to the war.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has done excellent work during the year in encouraging the breeding of stock, by importations of choice stallions for pens, boars, sheep, poultry, &c., by the encouragement of agricultural shows, the formation of local branches, the publication of an agricultural journal, &c. Demonstrations of the best methods of cultivating and curing products are given to the peasantry by a Superintendent of the Botanical

Department. Model grape farms which had been established in districts of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland have given excellent results. It is hoped that the culture of grapes for the American winter market may in time become a profitable industry. Public opinion has been awakened to the need of agricultural training as an important portion of the curriculum of teaching in a Colony depending almost entirely on agriculture for its income, and were more modern tools and methods of cultivating, curing, and packing of products resorted to, and were exporters more prudent in forbearing to glut the market at every slight indication of a rise in prices, the income of the Colony might be considerably increased. Bearing these facts in mind, and remembering that less than 700,000 of the 2,692,000 acres of land in the Colony, most of which is more or less fertile and blest with good seasons, is occupied as cultivated and grazing land, it is evident that by the exercise of prudence and skill in cultivation and exportation, the Colony would be able to support comfortably a considerably larger population.

BOTANICAL.

The activity of the Department is indicated by the following figures :—

Plants distributed—	Hope Gardens	...	135,005
"	Castleton Gardens	...	5,602
"	Resource "	...	66,699
	Total ...	...	207,306

besides pods, seeds, &c. About seven-eighths of the plants distributed were economic ones.

The stock in the nursery at Hope Industrial School comprises about 129,300 plants.

The visitors to Hope were 18,071, as against over 12,000 last year.

Plants are distributed at a very cheap rate and carriage free, some economic plants being priced as low as one halfpenny each, and a very large number are distributed free.

A great deal of the time of the Department, the Director states, is taken up in research and the giving of information respecting the value, properties, &c., of plants and specimens sent to the Herbarium, and in replying to enquiries from merchants and others as to whether articles they require are procurable in the Colony or would pay if cultivated. The Department is thus a valuable auxiliary to traders as well as agriculturists.

Information is also given to the public through the monthly bulletins.

Considerable attention has been paid during the year to the culture of coffee, cocoa, sugar canes, grape vines, pines, oranges, mangoes, tobacco, rubber, &c., especially in discovering what varieties best suit the soil and climate.

At what is called the Orange Garden at Resource, which has only been started within the last few years, timber trees, cassava, fodder plants, &c., are grown and experimented on, as well as oranges.

At Hope Industrial School there were 41 boys in residence at the end of the year, as against 29 on the 1st April 1897. A few of the bigger boys have small garden plots allotted to them, where they cultivate tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, cabbages, &c., which they sell to the Institution for their own consumption, besides supplying a few outside customers. In one month, 2 cwts. of vegetables were thus sold to the School. The boys are allowed to spend the money earned in this way in purchasing story books, toys, &c., and a small portion of the money rewards is deposited in the Penny Bank at the Jamaica High School. The School, it is stated, may fairly be considered a first-class one.

Mr. Cradwick, the Superintendent at Hope Gardens, has continued his lecturing tours, visiting during the year the parishes of Portland, St. Ann, Manchester, St. James, and Hanover.

He has induced many persons in dry districts of Manchester and St. Elizabeth to grow grapes, with excellent results, and finds an increasing desire shown by the people to adopt improved methods according to their resources. As an illustration, a piece of land formerly planted with ginger, and now looked upon as worthless, had been forked and manured with rotten cane trash, and with this simple treatment produced excellent ginger, thus showing that this product can be grown on land for a term of years.

EDUCATION.

The number of school children on the books decreased by 354 during the year, and those in average attendance by 428, as compared with the preceding year.

The amounts expended on Education in the last two years were £67,539 in 1896-97, and £69,387 in 1897-98.

There has been a falling off of 8 in the number of first-class and 18 in the number of third-class schools, but an increase of 42 in the number of those of the second-class, showing that on the whole the schools are continuing to improve in efficiency.

The total number of schools on the list has decreased by 11.

The annual examination of Teachers and Training College Students was held in December as usual, and resulted in the passing of 5 Teachers out of 11 who went up for the examination, and 149 Students out of 183 who presented themselves, viz. :—

—	Presented.	Passed.
1st year	63	57
2nd year	78	68
3rd year	42	24

The examination of Pupil Teachers and Volunteers was held in July 1897, with the result that 643 passed out of 1,671 who presented themselves, or 38 per cent.

In accordance with the expressed wish of the Members of the Legislative Council, a Commission, under Law 9 of 1873, was appointed by the late Governor to enquire into the present system of Elementary Education in the Colony.

Training College for Girls at Shortwood.

On the 1st April 1897 there were 29 Students; one was admitted during the year, one dismissed, two left to look for work, one died, and one was discharged on medical certificate, leaving 25 in the Institution at the end of the year. They all sat for examination in December 1897. One passed in Honours, three in the First Class, and nine in the Second, and five in the Third.

The Practising School obtained 47 marks, and was placed in the Third Class.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Hope Industrial School.

There were 29 boys in this Institution on the 1st April 1897, and at the end of the year there were 41. This gives an increase in the number of boys for the year of 12, and an average increase for the past 6 years of 3·7.

The older boys were employed in work at the Hope Gardens, and the younger in keeping the buildings and grounds in order, and in other light work.

The School was examined in August 1897 by Mr. J. Kerrich, Inspector of Schools, who states that as the School is being worked on the lines of an Agricultural Elementary School, it is hardly possible to mark it in the same manner as an ordinary Elementary School, but that it shows an improvement over last year, and may now fairly be considered a first-class one.

Lessons in the practice and theory of agriculture were given to the boys by the Superintendent of the Hope Gardens.

The health of the boys has been good.

Belmont Orphanage.

This school was maintained partly by public and partly by voluntary contributions.

The children were employed in washing, plaiting, &c., and in garden work, and at the Eistoddfod competition, held at the Jamaica Institute, in June 1897, one girl was awarded the prize for hats and another for baskets.

The children attended school as usual.

Alpha Cottage.

This is an Institution for both boys and girls, and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the commencement of the year there were 51 boys and 40 girls, and at the end 48 boys and 40 girls.

The boys are chiefly employed in gardening and in field labour, and the girls in laundry, sewing, cooking, and domestic work, and in gardening.

Both schools retain their positions as first-class schools. The Boys' School gained one mark during the year, making 65 marks.

Shortwood Industrial School.

There were 35 girls in this Institution at the commencement of the year and 33 at the end, 2 of whom were out on license.

The employment of the girls consisted of mending, washing, and making of clothes, baking and housework, &c.

REFORMATORIES.

BOYS' REFORMATORY.

The following are the more important statistics of the Institution for the year 1897–98 compared with 1896–97 :—

GENERAL.	1st April, 1897.	1st April, 1898.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Boys in Reformatory section	124	120		
" Industrial School ...	89	77		
	213	197	213	197
Daily average number of boys			204	201
Discharged			37	55
" during 3 years ended 1st April, 1897 and 1898, respectively			142	144
Percentage re-convicted and sent to prison (so far as known) during 1896–97 and 1897–98			15·63	2·78
On license at end of year			2	1
Deaths			1	1
Marks awarded school (making it a first-class Elementary School under the Code)			61	61

Financial.

—	1896–97.	1897–98.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross Expenditure	... ...	... ...	3,857 18 3¼	3,612 8 6¾
Less—				
Earning by labour and sale of articles	318 13 11	555 3 5		
Reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children	1,211 2 0	1,406 14 9		
	1,529 15 11	1,961 18 2	1,529 15 11	1,961 18 2
Net cost			2,328 2 4¼	1,650 10 4¾

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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross cost per head per diem		1	0·43			11·80
Net " " "			6·49			
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem...			5·1			5·1
Gross cost of diet per head per diem ...			3·16			3
Work bringing no money return	1,119	19	6	1,092	7	7
Rewards paid...	31	6	0	36	15	9

The description of labour in which the boys are employed under trained superintendence fall under the general heads of garden and field labour, carpentering, tailoring, blacksmiths, masons' and bricklayers' work, cooking, and baking. It is satisfactory to note from the statistics given above that although the average number of inmates was slightly less than in the preceding year, earnings by labour and sale of articles were £555 3*s.* 5*d.* (about £2 15*s.* per inmate) compared with £318 13*s.* 11*d.* in 1896–97.

The health of the inmates was in the main satisfactory, but 23 cases of malarial fever occurred, and 33 of influenza; the latter was prevalent in the neighbourhood at the time the cases occurred in the Reformatory. The cases generally were of a mild character, but there was one severe case of malarial remittent fever, resulting in the only death in the Institution during the year.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY.

Statistical Information.

—	1896–97.	1897–98.
No. of inmates at end of year...	26	26
Daily average number	24	27
Admissions from the Courts	9	4
Discharges	5	2
Deaths	—	2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure	690	0	2	736	3	4½
Less reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children and work done by girls ...	177	0	1	214	5	11
Net cost	513	0	1	521	17	5½
Gross cost per inmate per diem		1	7		1	6
Cost of superintendence per diem			8			7½
Cost of diet per diem			3¾			3½

On the 11th March, 1898, thirty-one girls were temporarily removed to the Girls' Reformatory premises from the Industrial School at Shortwood, consequent on sanitary alterations which were being effected at the latter Institution.

The girls continued at their usual occupations of making and washing, &c., of clothes for the Institution and the Boys' Reformatory. Washing for private parties was taken in also.

The health of the inmates was not so good as usual; there were 21 cases of malarial fever (then very prevalent throughout the Island) two of which terminated fatally.

IMMIGRATION.

There were no immigrants introduced into the Colony, and none were sent back to India during the year under review.

Forty-five coolies were granted passports to leave the Colony, 29 for British and the remainder for foreign ports.

There was a great decrease in the birth-rate as compared with that of the previous year, only seven births being reported or ·44 per cent., as against 1·19 per cent. in 1896 of the total number of immigrants under indenture, while the deaths numbered 30 or 1·91 as compared with 2·27 in 1896.

Although the present year has been one of great depression, causing many sugar estates to go out of cultivation, it is a matter of congratulation that no cases of distress amongst coolies were reported to the Protector. Most of the men easily found

employment on the banana plantations, while others were able to make a living by growing rice, and otherwise working for themselves.

An increase was shown in the number of coolie depositors in the Government Savings Bank, there being 998 in 1896–97 as compared with 933 in 1895–96, the amount on deposit increasing from £21,628 17*s.* 1*d.* to £21,964 19*s.* 3*d.*, or £22 per head this year as compared with £21·78 last year.

There were no murders, suicides, or other serious crimes amongst the East Indian population during the year under review.

Fifty-five coolies were undergoing treatment in the lunatic asylum at the end of the year. The Protector reports that the general condition of the East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and that the relations between employer and employed are healthy.

During the year, 616 labourers left the Island from Kingston for the Isthmus of Panama and Carthagena, and 637 returned from those places and from British Guiana and other parts of the West Indies.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank have been as follows in the last ten years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1887–88	18,510	393,250
1888–89	19,444	408,213
1890–91	21,747	423,011
1891–92	22,824	428,348
1892–93	23,902	417,978
1893–94	25,533	457,924
1894–95	27,045	453,875
1895–96	28,385	464,737
1896–97	29,719	469,226
1897–98	30,660	468,199

The year under review shows an increase of 941 in the number of depositors, but a decrease of £1,027 in the amount of deposits as compared with 1896–97.

In the above amount of deposits are included 185 deposit accounts for the following Public Funds :—

		£	s.	d.
1	Constabulary Reward Fund ...	80	15	7
1	„ Pension Fund ...	2	7	1
14	Sinking Funds	7,525	14	0
1	Smith and Beckford's Charity ...	100	0	0
2	Turks Islands	1,666	10	10
162	Chancery Fund Accounts ...	23,476	5	4
4	Other Government Accounts ...	1,770	2	8

There were also 250 accounts for trusts, charities, suits, administrator general and bankrupt estates, amounting to £23,394 0*s.* 11*d.*

The remaining accounts, 30,225, representing £410,184 0*s.* 8½*d.*, are all ordinary deposits, and old Savings Bank balances £1,678, making a total of £469,878 13*s.* 10½*d.*

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year 19,518 were for £5 and under, while those of £100 and over numbered 1,161, being decreases of 1884 and 55 respectively, as compared with the previous year.

The assets of the Bank on the 31st March last were distributed as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
Consols 2¾ per cent.						20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock :—								
Canada	3 per cent					27,908	0	8
Cape of Good Hope	4	„				47,766	6	8
Ceylon	4	„				24,881	5	2
New South Wales	3½	„				40,528	13	7
Victoria	4	„				32,043	1	0
Jamaica	4	„				9,900	0	0
Queensland	3½	„				14,963	8	1
New Zealand						15,011	9	5
Western Australia						498	13	4
						213,500	17	11
Debentures :—								
Canada	4	„	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales	5&4	„	60,497	10	0			
South Australia	4&6	„	52,431	2	6			
Victoria	4&4½	„	47,308	12	6			
Jamaica	5	„	3,800	0	0	218,027	17	6
						451,933	12	8
Cash in Colonial Bank						17,934	0	2½
Cash in hand						11	1	0
Total						£469,878	13	10½

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The deposits during the year amounted to £228,831 8*s.* 8¼*d.*, and the withdrawals to £229,773 11*s.* 5½*d.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £15,984 19*s.* 7*d.*, while the revenue realised £17,307 9*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a net profit of £1,322 9*s.* 9*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of £296 9*s.* 2*d.*

TRADE.

The depression in the trade commented on in last year's report continued during 1897-98.

Compared with 1896-97 exports were £1,448,443 as against £1,470,241, and imports for home consumption £1,674,381 as against £1,864,612, a decline of £190,231. Exports will be seen to have been almost stationary in value, while imports have considerably decreased. There has been no appreciable increase in the products for home consumption, returns of rum duties, stock on pens, acreage under cultivation, &c., showing decreases generally, while, except in Kingston, where the construction of the Improvement Works on certain streets and sewers continued, there were few works affording continuous remunerative employment for artisans and labourers.

The following table shows the exports and imports for ten years :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home and Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
(a) 1887–88	1,661,601	17,668	149,321	1,828,590	1,586,129	145,986	1,732,115	1,695,607
(a) 1888–89	1,501,660	15,942	97,222	1,614,824	1,501,905	61,017	1,562,922	1,597,600
Half-year 1890	883,965	8,094	40,483	932,546	899,001	30,415	929,416	938,153
(b) 1890–91	1,807,084	15,290	80,440	1,902,814	2,089,836	63,343	2,153,180	2,190,746
1891–92	1,628,777	32,109	61,210	1,722,096	1,756,150	6,849	1,762,999	1,759,890
1892–93	1,690,637	18,944	50,226	1,759,807	1,917,278	11,279	1,928,557	1,941,482
1893–94	1,982,596	17,342	75,751	2,075,689	2,095,037	41,076	2,136,113	2,157,795
1894–95	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2,162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895–96	1,775,016	9,553	88,537	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896–97	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
1897–98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381	1,660,668
(c) Average of ten years	1,665,835·2	17,820·5	78,047·4	1,761,703·1	1,884,179·1	41,943·7	1,926,122·8	1,934,085·7

(a) Year commenced 1st October. (b) Year has commenced on 1st April since 1890. (c) Excluding half year ended 31st March 1890.

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The considerable decrease in wealth in the last two years is apparent when increase of population is taken into account. Thus in 1887-88 the estimated mean population was 613,376, exports £1,828,590 or £1,679,269 if we exclude specie, which was taken away and imported in large quantities until the exodus to Colon came to an end. £1,679,269 divided amongst that number of persons would be £2 14*s.* 9*d.* per head. Imports for home consumption (excluding specie) were £1,586,129, or £2 11*s.* 8½*d.* per head. In 1897-98 the estimated mean population was 713,384, exports (including specie) £1,377,826, or £1 13*s.* 3½*d.* per head, and imports for home consumption (excluding specie) £1,658,632, or £2 4*s.* 7½*d.* per head.

In a tropical climate, blest in most districts with abundant rainfall and a fairly productive soil, such a temporary check to prosperity does not imply destitution except in a few isolated instances, as fruit, pulse, and ground provisions can be raised with comparatively little trouble. The pinch too is felt far less by the peasantry than by artisans and traders, and the professional classes. At the same time progress is greatly retarded, and great effort is needed to keep up the necessary competition with other countries for which the initiation of new enterprises, fostering of new products, and opening new markets is requisite, owing to the check to the cultivation of staples induced by low prices, and heavy duties at American ports. There is, however, no surplus in private hands with which to initiate new enterprises. Indeed the greater withdrawals from, than deposits in, Savings Banks of late years is one indication that the people generally are drawing on their reserve funds to meet present necessities.

The Collector-General reports that, owing to low prices in 1896-97 and in 1897-98, the Colony has lost about one-fourth of its former income from exports alone, and that the prices of produce continue flat and irresponsive with no sure indications of an immediate revival of trade. The only substantial increase compared with the past year has been in bananas and some minor products, especially cocoa, while former staples, such as coffee, rum, sugar, and logwood continue on the down grade.

The quantities and prices of the principal products during the past ten years are given in the annexed table :—

—		1887–88.	1888–89.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Sugar	cwt.	490,480 *11s. 9d.*	323,238 *15s. 1½d.*	377,901 *12s. 6d.*	425,793 *12s.*	371,821 *13s.*	410,537 *13s. 9d.*	398,683 *12s.*	390,918 *10s.*	321,468 *9s. 3d.*	284,375 *8s. 6d.*
Rum	gal.	1,868,490 *2s. 2d.*	1,374,931 *2s.*	1,593,584 *2s. 6d.*	1,704,919 *3s.*	1,698,272 *2s. 3d.*	1,461,220 *2s.*	1,956,291 *1s. 11d.*	1,881,146 *1s. 9d.*	1,642,819 *1s. 6d.*	1,379,278 *1s. 4d.*
Coffee	cwt.	98,966 *65s.*	84,606 *69s.*	75,680 *75s.*	86,926 *77s. 6d.*	97,304 *70s.*	88,293 *77s. 6d.*	95,129 *75s.*	84,392 *67s. 6d.*	66,614 *63s. 4d.*	85,410 *38s. 9d.*
Dyewoods: Logwood ...	tons	101,901 *69s. 4d.*	115,454 *65s.*	109,283 *70s.*	86,675 *70s.*	92,622 *72s. 6d.*	89,736 *100s.*	76,339 *90s.*	84,478 *85s.*	43,084 *75s.*	42,600 *55s. 6d.*
Dyewoods: Fustic	,,	2,463 *60s.*	793 *54s.*	950 *55s.*	677 *60s.*	6,461 *65s.*	9,333 *70s.*	1,833 *60s.*	1,098 *60s.*	2,779 *60s.*	4,611 *48s. 3d.*
Ginger	cwt.	10,222 *38s.*	8,952 *41s. 7d.*	10,886 *45s.*	16,273 *50s.*	13,632 *40s.*	14,931 *60s.*	15,504 *57s. 6d.*	17,505 *57s. 6d.*	11,014 *60s.*	12,573 *55s. 6d.*
Pimento	,,	66,559 *13s. 5d.*	46,180 *27s. 2d.*	90,363 *18s.*	63,730 *16s.*	69,747 *17s.*	87,756 *17s. 6d.*	83,956 *20s.*	97,347 *18s. 6d.*	99,551 *15s. 6d.*	38,828 *27s. 3d.*
Cocoanuts	No. Price per M.	5,909,301 *70s.*	4,831,615 *63s.*	8,554,618 *65s.*	7,855,656 *63s.*	6,978,988 *70s.*	9,171,347 *75s.*	10,143,500 *72s. 6d.*	9,443,452 *80s.*	11,802,224 *60s.*	11,533,726 *69s.*
Other Fruit ...	value £	337,403	304,941	503,537	287,860	375,860	493,248	479,352	493,722	468,819	590,365
Bananas ...	per bunch	*1s. 7½d.*	*1s. 9d.*	*1s. 10d.*	*1s. 6d.*	*1s. 7½d.*	*1s. 10d.*	*1s. 9½d.*	*1s. 6d.*	*1s. 3d.*	*1s. 3¼d.*
Oranges ...	price per M.	*27s.*	*29s.*	*28s.*	*24s.*	*30s.*	*30s.*	*32s. 8d.*	*35s.*	*30s.*	*30s. 7d.*

Average price of each article stated in *italics* under quantity: thus *11s. 9d.* under Sugar for 1887-88 is that rate per cwt.

° Half-year, 1889-90, omitted.

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These figures indicate the general lowering of prices within the past 4 or 5 years on the older staples, particularly within the last two, when the depreciation was most marked on coffee and logwood. Sales of these articles, which are dealt in to a great extent by the yeoman and small trader, afford to many the wherewithal for purchasing articles of clothing, and paying taxes and church dues, and the unremunerative prices obtained on them have led to poverty, though not to any large extent to destitution, in the districts where they are staples. Coffee is especially a small settler's crop; of the total area under coffee, which amounts to 22,387 acres, more than 20,000 are in lots of under 50 acres each, and parishes, such as Manchester, where it is largely cultivated have felt the pinch severely. On the other hand, bananas though lowered in price give so excellent a yield, compared to the labour employed and cost of production, that the two parishes, Portland and St. Mary, where they are cultivated most have remained fairly prosperous.

The following are the figures for the two years of total exports :—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	Increase.	Decrease.
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	1,146,687	1,186,743	40,056	—
II. Raw materials... ...	215,757	172,846	—	42,911
III. Manufactured articles ..	38,245	38,483	238	—
IV. Coin and bullion ...	69,552	50,371	—	19,181
Total	1,470,241	1,448,443	40,294	62,092
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	21,798

The net decrease in 1896-97 was £402,864.

In 1897-98 a year of favourable seasons (while 1896-97 was one of drought in many districts), there would undoubtedly have been an increase instead of a small decrease but for the lower prices, as shown in the statement of products.

The following table shows increases or decreases on products with an exportable value in both years of over £10,000 :—

Article of Export.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Increase.	Value Increase.	Percentage Increase Quantity.	Percentage Increase Value.	Price.
			Increased Quantities and Values over 1896–97.				
	Bunches.	£	Bunches.	£			
Bananas ...	6,981,858	445,866	2,143,213	143,451	+ 44·3	+ 47·4	1*s.* 3¼*d.* per bunch, 1*s.* 3*d.* 1896–97.
Cocoa	Cwt. 16,016	37,435	Cwt. 6,838	22,139	+ 74·5	+ 144·7	46*s.* 7*d.* „ cwt., 33*s.* 4*d.* „
Ginger	„ 12,573	34,884	„ 1,559	1,843	+ 14·2	+ 5·6	55*s.* 6*d.* „ „ 60*s.* „
			Decreased Quantity, Increased Value.				
	Number.		Decrease number.		Decrease quantity.		
Cocoanuts ...	11,533,726	39,648	268,498	4,242	— 2·3	+ 12·0	68*s.* 9*d.* „ M., 60*s.* „
			Increased Quantity, Decreased Value.				
	Cwt.		Increase cwt.	Decrease.		Decrease.	
Coffee	85,410	165,494	18,796	45,452	+ 28·2	— 21·5	38*s.* 9*d.* „ cwt., 63*s.* 4*d.* „
			Decreased Quantities and Values.				
	Gallons.		Decrease gals.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Decrease.	
Rum	1,379,278	92,053	263,541	31,158	— 16·0	— 25·3	1*s.* 4*d.* „ gallon, 1*s.* 6*d.* „
	Cwt.		Decrease cwt.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Decrease.	
Sugar	284,375	120,959	37,093	27,720	— 11·5	— 18·6	8*s.* 6*d.* „ cwt., 9*s.* 3*d.* „
	Number.		Decrease number.				
Oranges... ...	88,013,091	134,674	15,689,684	20,880	— 15·1	— 13·4	30*s.* 7*d.* „ M., 30*s.* „
	Cwt.		Cwt.				
Pimento ...	38,828	52,943	60,723	24,209	— 61·1	— 31·4	27*s.* 3*d.* „ cwt., 15*s.* 6*d.* „
	Tons.						
Logwood ...	42,600	118,215	483	43,350	— 1·1	— 26·8	55*s.* 6*d.* „ ton, 75*s.* „
	Cwt.						
Logwood Extract	21,001	20,984	—	6,541	—	— 23·8	20*s.* „ cwt., quantity for 1896–97 not shown.

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The increases in value on bananas, cocoa, ginger and cocoanuts amount together to £171,675, the decreases on the other 7 articles yielding over £10,000 during both years to £199,310, a net decrease of £27,635. These 11 articles represent a value of £1,263,155 out of £1,377,826 for home products and manufactures in 1897–98, leaving £114,671 for about 60 other articles under that head ; in 1896–97 they represented £1,290,792 out of £1,384,278, leaving £93,486 for these other articles, the increase for 1897–98 being £21,185. Add the increase £28,223 for cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, usually classed among minor products, and we get £49,408 increase. Add £143,451 for bananas making £192,859, and it is evident that exportation of this fruit, and of minor products, saved the Colony from a grave loss of income. Bananas increased by 47·4 per cent. value, and all minor products, including cocoa, cocoanuts and ginger by 27·9 per cent. during the year.

Of all the exported articles cocoa showed the most remarkable percentage increase, viz., from £15,297 to £37,435, or by 144·7 per cent.

Minor products, besides cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, showing substantial increases in quantity and value, were honey and beeswax, cigars, fustic, bitterwood, and annatto, together £20,812. Against this set lancewood spars 21,613 less in number and £6,975 in value. The demand for spars is limited, and the number (45,223) and value (£13,567) for 1896–97 were abnormal.

The average prices, which are now given for the first time in comparison with the quantities, have, it will be seen, declined within the last few years, especially within the last two, on nearly every staple, and markedly so on rum, sugar, coffee, and the dyewoods—logwood and fustic. Bananas have decreased in value, but considerably increased in quantity, demand being great and the cost of production very moderate. The price of oranges keeps a fair value, and would improve if greater care were exercised in selection and packing. The price of ginger has improved. In 1897–98 pimento realised a very high price, owing to the failure of the crop ; this berry being an exportable product in Jamaica only, as trees grown in other countries do not possess spicy qualities.

The following table gives the percentage proportion of each product :—

—	1893–94	1894–95	1895–96	1896–97	1897–98
Sugar	14·2	12·9	11·0	10·1	8·3
Rum	7·4	10·1	9·3	8·4	6·3
Coffee	17·3	19·3	16·0	14·4	11·4
Dyewoods	24·3	19·0	20·4	11·6	8·9
Fruit	26·6	27·9	29·9	34·3	42·8
Pimento	3·8	4·5	5·1	5·2	3·6
Minor products ...	6·4	6·3	8·3	16·1	18·7

This increase, however, has not compensated for the decrease on staples generally. A glance at the table of exports and imports from 1887-88 to 1897-98 shows that the highest figure was reached in 1893-94, when home products realised £1,982,596, decreasing thereafter year by year, particularly between 1895-96 and 1896-97, till in 1897-98 the figures stood at only £1,377,826, or 30·5 per cent. below those of 1893-94. In 1893-94 the estimated mean population was 667,554 ; in 1897-98 713,384, or 6·9 per cent. more. The country's income from exported home products and manufactures thus fell from about £2 18*s.* 7*d.* per caput to about £1 18*s.* 7*d.*, a decline of about 34·1 per cent., or more than one third. In 1893-94 fruit realised £493,792 and minor products £160,170, together £653,962 ; in 1897-98 fruit gave £590,365 and minor products £226,674, together £817,039, a gain of £163,077. Sugar, rum, coffee, dyewoods, and pimento gave together in 1893-94 £1,328,634, *i.e.*, nearly as much as the total in 1897-98 of home products and manufactures. In that year these five old staples gave only £560,786, *i.e.*, less than fruit alone, a loss on the five of £767,848, or, deducting the gain £163,077 on fruit and minor products, a net loss of £604,771 on home products and manufactures. The loss on total exports during the period was £627,246, the difference as against home products only being chiefly due to a lesser shipment of coin and bullion in 1897-98.

It will be seen that the compensation from fruit and minor products is only between one-fourth and one-fifth of the loss on the older staples, and that the percentage comparison of the proportion of products one to another is highly fallacious, without reference also to the total values obtained on each and all exports. Thus minor products were 6·4 of the total in 1893-94 and 18·7 in 1897-98, but their value increased not by between 200 and 300 per cent. but by 41·5 per cent. It is evident also that owing to the influence of bounties and competition the income from the older staples is unlikely to be very greatly increased in the immediate future, and that such increase as takes place will probably be gradual, while fruit and minor products can hardly be expected to so increase in value as to fully compensate for stagnation in trade on the older staples, with an increasing population. The country will, therefore, probably not recover for some time to come the prosperity enjoyed during the period from, say, 1889 to 1893, when good prices were realized and foreign capital flowed into the country for railway extension. At the same time the steps now being taken to secure a fast steamship service with Europe and other local measures, such as the irrigation of lands in Vere, now receiving attention will, when carried into effect, undoubtedly afford an opportunity for a greatly increased export trade, add to the earning capacity of the Jamaica Railway, and tend to convert certain minor products into staples.

JAMAICA. 1897–8.

The Island exports were distributed to the following countries during the last 5 years in the proportions set below :—

—	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
United Kingdom	26·7	27·1	27·6	27·4	22·6
United States of America...	57·3	58·1	57·0	56·6	62·3
Dominion of Canada ...	1·7	1·5	1·6	1·2	1·3
Other countries	14·3	13·3	13·8	14·8	13·8

In 1891-92 the proportion for the United Kingdom was 32·7, United States 50·9, and Canada 3·5.

It is evident that the country is seeking the nearest market for its products. The States are likely to draw away more and more of our export trade from the British dominions as fruit becomes more and more the one great staple, unless this effect is neutralised by fast steam communication with England, where admission duty free, even with the disadvantage of greater freight dues and distance, would balance American protective duties. The decrease in exports to the United Kingdom is likely further to decrease with the decline in rum, coffee, and logwood. As to Canada, the proportion of trade with which has considerably declined, the Collector-General hopes her liberal tariff concessions, coupled with more frequent direct steam communication, will considerably improve this state of things in the immediate future.

Of foreign countries, France and Germany together took £113,713 worth of exports—France £82,211, chiefly in coffee and logwood ; Germany £31,502, chiefly in cocoa, pimento, rum, logwood, and logwood extract. Of £10,325 realized on a variety of articles, £8,810 was for cattle.

Turning now to imports, the following figures indicate a general decrease compared with 1896-97, especially under manufactured articles :—

—	1896-7.	1897-8.	Increase, 1897-8.	Decrease, 1897-8	Percentage Increase, 1897-8.	Percentage Decrease, 1897-8.
	£	£	£	£		
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	759,419	724,359	—	35,060	—	— 4·6
II. Raw materials	49,778	65,427	15,649	—	+ 13·2	—
III. Manufactured articles	1,027,008	868,845	—	158,163	—	— 15·4
IV. Coin and bullion	28,407	15,749	—	12,658	—	— 44·6
Total	1,864,612	1,674,380	15,649	205,881	—	—
Net decrease	—	—	—	190,232	—	10·2

The previous year's imports showed a falling off of £391,025, and the rate of retrogression therefore was somewhat arrested during the year under review. In last year's report, it was remarked that there had been a remarkable increase in imports since 1890-91, the year of the Exhibition and of the beginning of the railway extension. This, and other important public undertakings, *e.g.*, new roads and bridges, led to the importation of materials for construction, and withdrew a large number of people from cultivation, who used a greater proportion of imported foods than when at their homesteads, and having ready money to dispose of, bought more manufactured articles. Public undertakings being at a standstill generally, except in and about Kingston, where street and sewerage works are being completed, imports tend to balance exports.

The decreases on imports with a total value of over £50,000, are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Decrease.	Value Decrease.	Percentage Decrease Quantity.	Percentage Decrease Value.
Alcoholic liquors	Gallons. 230,100	£ 52,871	Gallons. 72,589	£ 14,207	— 24·0	— 21·2
Fish, dried or salted	lbs. 13,284,564	116,240	lbs. 954,417	5,681	— 6·7	— 4·7
Cottons, including hosiery	—	218,854	--	28,577	—	— 11·5
	Increases on such Imports in Value, Decrease in Quantity.					
Flour, wheat	barrels. 147,615	162,378	Decrease barrels. 20,304	Value increase. 7,053	— 12·1	Increase. + 4·5
	Increase Quantity and Value.					
Coals	tons. 56,628	56,628	Increase tons. 15,320	Increase value. 15,320	Increase. + 37·1	+ 37·1

Importations for the Public Service, Army and Navy, are not included in this computation. Apparel and slops fell from £66,533 to £45,239 ; boots and shoes of leather from £56,091 to £45,190 ; lumber (pine) from £55,871 to £37,374.

Haberdashery and hardware also show large decreases. Increases in quantity and value besides those tabulated occurred in butter substitutes, meal, alewives. Condensed milk showed an increase in quantity with a cheapening in value. The few manufactured articles showing substantial increases were those in use for public undertakings, such as electric lighting, telegraphic and telephonic appliances, cement, &c. Textile manufactures show decreases generally, but the Collector-General points out that a considerable percentage of the decrease in value should be attributed to fall of price in manufacturing centres, especially in the case of cottons, the prices of which have probably decreased by one-half within the last 20 years, and by a considerable percentage within the last five years.

The following table shows how the import trade was distributed in each of the last five years, viz. :—

—	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
United Kingdom	55·1	50·4	48·1	49·9	47·2
United States of America ...	33·2	36·8	41·8	39·4	43·0
Canada	8·8	8·5	7·5	8·2	7·1
Other countries	2·9	4·3	2·6	2·5	2·7

As in exports, trade has lessened with the United Kingdom and increased with the United States. Last year the tendency was accentuated owing to a greater decline on importations of manufactured articles and drinks than on food supplies.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police during the year was 853 against 852 in 1896-97, the actual strength 850 against 849. The number 850 is made up of 20 officers, 134 sub-officers, and 696 constables. One sub-officer, a sergeant-major, formerly in the Irish Constabulary, was promoted to be a sub-inspector.

To the 850 members of the regular force must be added 949 rural headmen and policemen, together 1,799 men engaged in police duties, against 1,786 in 1897. 72 constables were enlisted during the year, and 77 rural headmen and policemen appointed. 49 constables were discharged, 30 of them with pensions or

gratuities, 16 were dismissed, and one deserted, while 6 died. 83 of the rural police force were "removed," which is tantamount to dismissal in the regular force.

The Inspector-General reports very favourably on the conduct of officers, sub-officers, and men generally during the year.

The rural police are chiefly employed in assisting to detect and to bring to notice cases of praedial larceny, and illegal possession of rum, of children needing medical treatment for yaws, or persons requiring to be vaccinated.

The rural headmen receive £1 per month, and the rural policemen, of whom there are three to four per headman, receive one shilling and sixpence a day when called out on duty.

The principal duties, outside of patrolling and attendance at courts, performed by the constabulary during the past five years were as follows :—

——	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
No. of persons arrested on view and on information.	8,237	7,781	8,775	8,351	7,330
No. of persons apprehended on warrants.	—	—	—	1,780	1,629
No. of search warrants executed.	122	150	151	142	148
No. of persons summoned ...	19,212	19,249	20,279	19,537	17,785
" " subpœnaed ...	29,808	30,673	31,058	27,161	27,161
" prisoners escorted ...	8,599	8,224	9,911	11,542	12,081
" seizures under revenue laws.	399	437	649	309	854
No. of post-mortems ordered	594	603	610	641	703

Compared with last year this table shows considerable decreases in arrests and apprehensions taken together and in summonses, and increases, though not so numerically large, in cases of prisoners escorted and of seizures under revenue laws. The number under the latter head, compared with the preceding years, is remarkable. Offences of illegal possession of rum &c. had become very numerous, and their detection has been stimulated by the grant of a larger number than usual of rewards to the constabulary and rural policemen in cases detected by them which have resulted in conviction.

The more important statistics of crime during the past five years are as follows:—

—	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.	1893–4.	1894–5.	1895–6.	1896–7.	1897–8.
I. Offences against the person	7,232	7,302	7,040	6,653	6,500	3,375	3,218	3,309	3,140	3,008
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	251	326	429	394	350	162	184	245	264	229
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	4,071	4,079	5,004	5,700	5,488	2,154	1,914	2,586	3,021	2,995
IV. Malicious offences against property ...	179	182	137	169	162	43	53	57	43	39
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	27	39	48	25	25	13	14	29	9	8
VI. Other offences	16,281	15,513	16,477	16,201	14,329	10,741	9,569	10,473	10,188	8,969
Total	28,041	27,441	29,135	29,142	26,854	16,488	14,952	16,699	16,665	15,248
I. Murder, including infanticide	13	10	12	16	13	5	3	5	1	7
Manslaughter	10	3	20	17	12	1	1	16	5	4
Cutting and wounding	684	694	847	835	861	439	269	302	449	476
Common assault	5,753	5,760	5,326	4,928	4,688	2,479	2,465	2,547	2,238	2,029
II. Burglary and housebreaking	227	277	417	375	339	156	166	239	253	224
III. Simple larceny	1,650	1,773	2,017	2,264	2,143	852	748	914	1,073	1,013
Praedial larceny	1,168	1,019	1,560	2,171	2,147	617	512	889	1,277	1,309
IV. Arson	32	291	18	29	29	5	6	1	3	5
V. Disorderly conduct	4,063	4,047	4,728	5,097	4,098	3,098	2,978	3,474	3,658	2,826
Obscene and abusive language	4,247	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,869	2,452	2,379	2,058	2,035	1,584
Trespass	825	940	941	973	883	436	449	467	482	471

JAMAICA. 1897-8.

In the report for last year under this head attention is called to a general increase in cases of crime for the five years ended 1896-97, which was counterbalanced, however, by a greater proportional increase in population. It is satisfactory to note from the preceding table that the year 1897-98 shows with the normal increase in population a decided decrease in crime. The apprehensions were lower than in any of the four preceding years, the convictions than in any of them except 1894-95. Compared with 1896-97 each of the six heads of crime shows a decrease both of apprehensions and convictions, except for forgery, apprehensions for which were the same. Turning to the eleven descriptions of crime given in the table, which comprise between them about two-thirds of the total number of crimes, there are decreases under all the apprehensions except for "Cutting and Wounding," and under most of the convictions. While cases under this head have increased, none of them were of a very serious nature, the weapons used being almost invariably sticks and stones. It appears that the tendency to use knives, referred to in last year's report as noticeable since the exodus to and repatriation from the Isthmus of Panama, is passing away. The relations between the people and the police were, the Inspector-General states, generally satisfactory, and it is pleasing to note that Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by thousands in each parish without disorder—indeed, in some of the parishes not an arrest was made during the celebrations.

PRISONS.

The following return shows the daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years, and the number on the last day of each year :—

Year.	Daily average number in custody.	Number on 31st March.
1893-94	1,008	943
1894-95	916	957
1895-96	1,008	1,094
1896-97	1,159	1,149
1897-98	1,172	1,049

Other important statistics of the Department for the years 1896–97 and 1897–98 are given below :—

—	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
Commitments—		
To prison	4,748	4,998
To Lock-ups	930	987
Total	5,678	5,985
Reconvictions	1,976	2,076
Deaths—		
General Penitentiary ...	12	28
Other prisons	23	12
Total	35	40
Executions	1	3

FINANCIAL.

—	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	21,285 11 2¾	20,884 11 5¾
Gross earnings in cash	4,796 15 4¾	5,939 19 4½
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	16,488 15 10	14,944 12 1¼
Cost per prisoner	14 4 6¼	12 15 0¼
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	8,550 9 4	5,577 0 4
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,789 2 2	3,507 11 11
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,151 19 5	1,085 4 11

It will be seen from the first returns that there has been an increase of late years in the daily average number of prisoners in custody. There has also been an increase of committals, the number for the year under review being greater than that of 1896-97 by 307, 1895-96 by 871, 1894-95 by 1,756.

The large mortality both at the General Penitentiary and other prisons is attributable to an outbreak of typhoid fever at the Penitentiary, and of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison.

The outbreak at the Penitentiary lasted for nearly three months. There were also an unusual number of cases of malarial fever and of influenza.

The epidemic of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison was very protracted, and it became necessary, in order to stamp out the disease, to largely reduce the number of prisoners during part of the year, and to transfer inmates from time to time to other prisons until the complaint had disappeared.

At both institutions various sanitary improvements were effected with a view to prevent further similar outbreaks, and these have so far proved successful. The defects in the systems for disposing of sewerage have been removed, and Berkfield filters for filtering the drinking water have been introduced.

The Black River short term prison, which had been closed in 1895, was re-opened from August to December 1897 to provide accommodation for prisoners who could not be received at the St. Catherine's District Prison during the occurrence of dysentery there. The district prison at Lucea and the short term prison at Port Antonio were closed on the 28th February 1898. It had been found that discipline was not so well maintained in these smaller prisons, and that some ultimate saving in expenditure for supervision, &c. could be effected by transferring the prisoners to the St. Catherine's District Prison (the enlargement of which for the purpose is now approaching completion), except in the case of prisoners with very short sentences, who are sent to the lock-ups of the several parishes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st March last was estimated at 718,367, the net increase during the year being 11,973, or an increase at the rate of 16·8 per 1,000 persons living as against an increase at the rate of 16·6 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The mean population for the year 1897-98 is estimated at 713,384, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The average annual increase of population for the last six years has been about 11,500.

The number of marriages during the year was 2,661, equal to a rate of 3·7 per 1,000, as compared with 3,026 marriages or a rate of 4·3 per 1,000 in the previous year. This shows a serious falling off, to the extent of 365, in the number of marriages solemnized during the year under review. In fact the number of marriages has, year by year, decreased to a considerable extent since 1893–4.

Of the 5,322 persons married during the year, 2,510 or 47·16 per cent. signed the marriage registers by making their marks, as against 47·83 per cent. in the previous year. This slight decrease, however, is probably due to a falling off in the number of marriages amongst the poor and illiterate class, and is not a sign of better education.

The proportion of females who signed the registers during the year was greater than that of the males, showing that the former are still more skilled in writing than the latter.

The number of births registered during the year was 28,447, or a rate of 39·8 per 1,000, as compared with 27,064, or 38·5 per 1,000—an excess of 1,383 births over the previous year.

Of these births 17,729 were illegitimate, or a rate of 62·3 per cent., as against a rate of 61·1 in the previous year. This is the highest point that the number of illegitimate births has yet reached in this Island.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 16,474, or a rate of 23 per 1,000, as against 15,535 or 22·1 per 1,000 in the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths 5,047, or 30·6 per cent., were those of children under one year of age, while 7,389, or 44·8 per cent., were children under five years of age. The heaviest mortality as usual was amongst children of illegitimate birth.

Of the 16,474 deaths registered in the year 12,445, or 75·5 per cent., were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

Grand Cayman.

The number of births at Grand Cayman during the year was 149, or 40 per 1,000 of population, of which 17 or 11·4 per cent. were illegitimate.

The number of deaths was 46, or 12·3 per 1,000 of population.

There were 23 marriages solemnized during the year, or a rate of 6·1 per 1,000.

Cayman Brac.

The number of births was 37, of which 4 were illegitimate, and the number of deaths was 6.

Seven marriages were solemnized during the year.

GENERAL.

The serious decline in the income of the community, due principally to low prices, which characterised the year 1896-97 continued during the year under review as the preceding heads of the report clearly indicate. The decline was far less marked, as for instance the value of exports almost realised the figure for 1896-97, but the resources of the people were already to some extent exhausted on account of the unremunerative prices of their products, and the acuteness of the depression was felt to a greater extent than in that year. At the time I write there is good reason to hope that the better prices now being realised for sugar and some other staples, which had shown a very retrograde tendency of late, will result before long in an appreciable if not a very considerable increase in the spending power of the community, and I am happy to be able to report that the depression in trade seems to have passed through its worst stages.

General depression in the West Indies led to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry. The Commissioners arrived in this Colony on the 28th March, 1897, and left on April 14th. Their report regarding Jamaica indicates that this Island has in their opinion greater natural resources than most of the West Indies, in variety of soil and climate, and greater proximity to the American market, and the Commissioners saw no ground for despondency as to the future of the Colony.

The administration has made strenuous efforts to cope with the problem presented by a deficit in public revenue due to the depression. A committee of enquiry was appointed towards the end of 1897, but further reductions than those recommended by them were found necessary, and a second committee was appointed shortly after the close of the financial year.

Notwithstanding the efforts made to lower general expenditure, which was £36,800 less than in 1896-97, a deficit of £86,913 was left at the close of the year. The present upward tendency of trade and the stringent public economies in progress will probably result in an improvement in the revenues for the succeeding year.

In the latter part of the calendar year 1897, an epidemic of yellow fever broke out and spread from Kingston to several other parishes. The disease was more virulent than is usual in this Colony, not only in the number of cases, but in the percentage of deaths. The coloured and black population who are usually almost immune to the disease were attacked as well as the whites, though the percentage of deaths among them, was far less than

among the latter. Stringent measures were adopted to check the progress of the disease, and by February, 1898, it had disappeared. In one respect the epidemic was beneficial, as it has led to the adoption by the municipalities of improved sanitary measures.

Various public improvements were initiated during the year in the Colony or in connection with it. The Direct West India Cable Company connected the Colony with Bermuda and Halifax.

Some new lines of steamers commenced to run; the Boston Fruit Company considerably increased its carrying capacity; the Street Car Company of Kingston and its neighbourhood, whose cars were drawn by mules, gave place to the West India Electric Company, which was granted a license during the year for an electric tramway service to be extended in new directions. The Company commenced their works during the year. The general sewerage works of Kingston were practically completed, and considerable progress made with the house connections. Few local industries were started, but the establishment of two dairy associations in the neighbourhood of Kingston, where the milk supply had hitherto been principally in the hands of hawkers and small vendors; the formation of new branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society which now numbers among its members almost every influential and energetic agriculturist in the Colony, and numbers of smaller cultivators; the importation of better breeds of cattle, stock and poultry; and the increased interest taken by the peasantry in the lectures given by a Superintendent of the Botanical Department, are all indications that the pressure of harder times has led the community to realise more than was previously the case the necessity for a thorough knowledge and practice of improved methods of culture, stock raising, and disposal of products.

The local celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession were carried out with great enthusiasm throughout the Island, and the greatest order prevailed. The community generally has always been characterised by its loyalty to the Throne and Government.

A. W. L. HEMMING,

Governor of Jamaica.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 269.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 230.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

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241	Trinidad and Tobago	1897
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244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
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248	Gibraltar	"
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250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
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MISCELLANEOUS.

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2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

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No. 269.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 230.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
20th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year ended 31st December 1898, together with the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following comparative statement and table gives the heads of Revenue and Expenditure and the amounts received undert hose heads for the years 1897 and 1898, as well as the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years 1894–98 :—

3395—800—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

Revenue.

—	1897.		1898.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties	—	3,567 11 6	—	2,918 2 11
Royalty on Salt exported ...	—	3,260 12 6	—	2,088 3 8
Port Dues:—				
Light	977 19 8	—	638 5 0	—
Wharf	55 6 1	—	74 2 0	—
		1,033 5 9		712 7 0
Licences and Internal Revenue:—				
Dog Licences	30 0 0	—	26 8 0	—
Liquor Licences	173 15 0	—	155 0 0	—
Auction Dues...	48 19 9	—	41 14 10	—
Fines and Forfeitures ...	44 7 0	—	37 13 1	—
		297 1 9		260 15 11
Payments for Specific Services:—				
Storage...	28 19 11	—	50 2 4	—
Fees of Office	39 12 9	—	56 18 0	—
" " Court...	61 12 9	—	69 19 1	—
" " Cemetery	3 9 0	—	2 14 0	—
Rent of Market Stalls ...	9 16 6	—	9 19 3	—
Grant in aid of Mail Service	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—
		393 10 11		439 12 8
Post Office	—	533 17 4	—	364 6 2
Revenue from Government Property:—				
Sales of Crown Land ...	26 17 0	—	8 7 1	—
Rents	14 9 8	—	58 13 11	—
Sales of Water	169 9 8	—	76 18 10	—
Other Receipts	3 7 1	—	3 5 5	—
		214 3 5		147 5 3
Interest	—	144 11 4	—	291 16 9
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	32 12 10	—	9 16 4
Total	—	9,477 7 4	—	7,282 6 8

Expenditure.

—	1897.		1898.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	—	450 14 11	—	427 19 4
Commissioner's Department ...	—	2,364 15 2	—	2,318 10 7
Judicial " ...	—	595 11 1	—	537 15 7
Police " ...	—	470 1 7	—	472 13 3
Prisons " ...	—	216 2 5	—	219 6 2
Medical " ...	—	480 0 8	—	544 17 0
Paupers	—	281 4 7	—	283 13 3
Education	—	528 3 9	—	635 13 10
Registration and Vaccination ...	—	22 3 2	—	20 16 4
Public Market	—	21 0 0	—	21 0 0
" Library	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Miscellaneous:—				
Printing	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—
Stationery	42 12 7	—	32 1 0	—
Unforeseen Contingencies ...	92 11 6	—	132 2 10	—
		235 4 1		264 3 10
Post Office	—	530 12 7	—	518 6 8
Lighthouse Department	—	243 0 2	—	263 15 10
Public Works:—				
Department	318 17 2	—	363 11 8	—
Recurrent	1,013 6 6	—	604 7 4	—
Extraordinary	563 11 4	—	286 16 6	—
		1,895 15 0		1,254 15 6
Direct West India Cable Company, Limited.	—	—	—	90 0 0
Special Votes:—				
Cable Celebration	—	—	20 0 0	—
Refund of duties on goods destroyed by fire.	—	—	17 17 3	—
Contribution to Barbados and St. Vincent Hurricane Relief Fund.	—	—	100 0 0	—
				137 17 3
Total	—	8,384 9 2	—	8,061 4 5

Total Revenue and Expenditure for five years, 1894–98.

—	1894.			1895.			1896.			1897.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue ...	8,840	9	6	7,312	9	5	9,706	19	2	9,477	7	4	7,232	6	8
Expenditure...	7,459	2	3	7,547	0	7	7,382	10	10	8,384	9	2	8,061	4	5

The total of the revenue for 1898 is less by £2,245 0*s.* 8*d.* than the similar total for 1897. It is noticeable that £2,142 16*s.* 2*d.* of this deficiency is under the three heads—Import Duties, Royalty on Salt, and Port Dues, showing how surely the tide of the Dependency's fortunes flows or ebbs according as the conditions for the disposal of salt are favourable or the reverse.

The expenditure of 1898 was less than that of the previous year by £323 4*s.* 9*d*, the difference being due to a less outlay on Public Works. The figure would have been still smaller, but for the exceptional items for which special votes were taken (£137 17*s.* 3*d.*). A new annual liability of £120 for five years was also assumed, being a payment to the Direct West India Cable Company, recently established here, in respect of a daily supply of news. This subsidy was payable for three quarters of last year, and the total expenditure was thus increased by £90.

The deficit on the year's working was £828 17*s.* 9*d.*, but there still remains from previous years a surplus balance of over £7,000. With care and economy, it is hoped that the figures for 1899 may show a nearer approach to financial equilibrium.

(B.) *Taxation.*

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities.*

There was a balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December 1898 of £7,128 16*s.* 2*d.*, as set out in the annexed table :—

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Year ended 31st December 1898.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance brought forward from 1897...		7,957 13 11
REVENUE for 1898 :—		
Customs	2,918 2 11	—
Miscellaneous	4,314 3 9	
		7,232 6 8
		15,190 0 7
EXPENDITURE for 1898 :—		
Departments	4,720 10 1	—
Public Works	891 3 10	—
Miscellaneous	2,449 10 6	
		8,061 4 5
Balance to be carried to 1899	—	7,128 16 2
ASSETS :—		
In Colonial Chest	1,574 17 0	—
* With Crown Agents	340 19 1	—
With New York Agents	333 18 5	—
Advances due	149 19 9	—
Bonds for Import duties	119 11 1	—
Investments, Government funds ...	5,500 0 0	—
Do. Savings Bank do. ...	200 0 0	—
Do. in Jamaica Savings Bank	811 3 8	—
		9,030 9 0

* Includes £200 remittances maturing and in transit.

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1899.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS—*continued.*

LIABILITIES :—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears of Expenditure—Public Works	7 13 4	—
Jamaica Treasury	145 3 7	—
Miscellaneous (Deposits)	141 15 6	—
Salt Pond Maintenance Fund... ...	239 12 7	—
United Kingdom money orders ...	7 18 10	—
Jamaica do. ...	259 7 11	—
Turks Islands Savings Bank	1,100 1 1	—
		1,901 12 10
Balance of Assets	—	7,128 16 2

(D.) *Public Debt.*

The Dependency has no public debt.

(E.) *Currency.*

Gold, American and British, an occasional Bank of England or Colonial Bank note, with British silver and Jamaica nickel coinage, constitute the currency of the Dependency. Mexican dollars pass to some small extent for purchase at the stores &c., but they are not legal tender, and are not accepted at the Treasury.

(F.) (G.) } *Finances of Municipalities or Public Boards.*

There is no municipality and no public board which levies rates or has sole control of any funds.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) *Imports and Exports.*

The dutiable articles imported into the Dependency which contribute over £100 per annum to the Customs revenue, are shown in the following comparative table :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Duty.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flour, wheat...	2,898½ barrels	2,487½ barrels	2,757 11 7	2,422 7 10	543 9 6	466 8 2
Lard	50,982 lbs.	48,308 lbs.	539 4 10	558 9 0	106 4 3	100 12 10
Lumber	289,575 feet	234,666 feet	928 14 0	751 18 4	104 8 10	85 1 3
Meat, salt	139,506 lbs.	119,990 lbs.	1,771 3 1	1,536 4 6	290 12 9	249 19 7
*Spirits	3,165 gallons	2,265 gallons	399 16 4	355 12 7	730 8 9	509 12 7
†Sugar	150,945 lbs.	260,096 lbs.	1,168 17 2	1,873 17 10	410 3 10	322 7 2
Tinned provisions	1,795 packages	2,365 packages.	1,237 10 0	1,136 5 0	123 15 0	113 12 6
Textile fabrics	840 ,,	587 ,,	4,603 1 8	3,953 5 10	460 6 2	395 6 7

* The consumption in 1897 was 3,246⅜ gallons.

† ,, ,, ,, 140,121 pounds—in 1898 114,740 pounds.

The following table comprises the chief articles of import on which no duty is payable :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1897.	1898.	1897.			1898.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Beans and peas - -	1,055 bushels	907 bushels	345	16	0	352	2	9
Bran and oats - -	3.799 packages	2,714 packages	873	0	11	746	9	10
* Coffee - - - -	5,931 lbs.	12.750 lbs.	134	8	7	157	9	6
Confectionery- - -	259 packages	205 packages	245	3	0	211	7	4
Cordage - - - -	155 coils	95 coils	181	3	0	114	1	8
Corn - - - -	2,141 bushels	1.722 bushels	221	6	5	193	5	1
Crockery and glassware -	288 packages	150 packages	417	8	6	239	14	1
Fish, salt - - -	29,750 lbs.	23,000 lbs.	241	2	8	200	3	4
Fruit and vegetables -	1.426 lots	2.106 lots	977	4	2	1,759	9	5
Government stores - -	534 packages	267 packages	339	2	10	203	7	6
Hay - - - -	3.328 bales	1.403 bales	596	8	9	220	19	2
Hominy and samp - -	912 packages	587 packages	435	14	10	298	4	7
Jewellery &c. - - -	51 ,,	43 ,,	177	7	11	119	1	6
Machinery - - -	60 ,,	174 ,,	443	6	2	562	16	0
Meal, corn - - -	795 barrels	728 barrels	318	19	9	326	4	1
Molasses, syrup &c. -	4,924 gallons	4.666 gallons	235	1	0	244	16	10
Mules - - - -	38	9	702	10	0	150	0	0
Stationery &c. - -	85 packages	92 packages	119	16	8	131	2	4

* Of the coffee imported in 1898. 6.500 lbs. was exported; also the price of coffee from Hayti in 1898 fell very low.

The chief and only considerable article of export is salt, of which there was exported :—

—	Quantity.	Value.			Royalty Paid.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1897	2,236,008 bushels	33,630	5	5	3,260	12	6
In 1898	1,431,850 ,,	18,701	14	4	2,088	3	8

The total value of the imports and exports for the last 5 years is as follows :—

—	1894.			1895.			1896.			1897.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports - -	28,525	14	10	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4	33,239	2	7	27,066	16	0
Exports - -	32,774	5	10	21,687	17	8	31,497	14	5	43,303	15	5	24,810	12	4

Broadly speaking, about seven-ninths of the imports are from, and three-fourths of the exports to, the United States of America.

In explanation of the decrease in the value of imports and exports in 1898, I quote from a previous report on the revenue and expenditure of the past year :—

"The quantity of salt exported was 1,431,850 bushels, which is below the average and greatly below the export of 1897, when the figures were 2,236,008. The export of that year was however an abnormal one, owing to the rush to get salt in to the United States before the coming into operation of the new tariff by which the duty on salt was re-imposed. This occasioned something of a glut of Turks Islands salt in the States, and is the cause to some extent, together with the fact of the re-imposition of the duty and consequent encouragement of the domestic salt trade, of the demand in 1898 having been so unfortunately slack. The Spanish-American war also interfered with trade to some small degree. The fishery salt trade with British North America has kept up moderately well and is a valuable aid to the industry, taking 270,486 bushels, but we have, unfortunately, since 1895 lost the Newfoundland trade. The diminution in the receipts for 1898, as compared with those for 1897, under the heads of Royalty on Salt Exported and Light Dues on Vessels, are respectively £1,173 and £340.

"Import duties show a decrease of £650 on the figure of 1897. A poor salt season with small shipments naturally reduces the employment of labour and the purchasing power of the community generally; hence smaller consumption and fewer importations. Besides this, the shutting down of the West Caicos Fibre Company and stoppage of the supplies which it used to import for consumption in the Caicos Islands, and the fact that since the month of April last, when war was declared, the steamers from New York have, until the present month*, called but once in six weeks instead of once in three weeks as formerly, have both contributed to reduce the amount of supplies brought into the Dependency. Flour, spirits, and lumber are the items between which the diminution is for the most part distributed."

* February.

(B.) *Manufactures.*

There is nothing new to report under this head. There is but one industry, namely, the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation. At present the producers are much handicapped by the low price of their commodity in the United States, the result mainly of the re-imposition of the import duty by the last United States tariff and consequent encouragement of the United States domestic salt output, but also to some extent (as to exactly how much opinions differ) of a suicidal policy of underselling. Generally speaking, the condition of the various salinas of the Dependency has decidedly improved of late years, and a much larger quantity of salt could be obtained from them than the present average annual yield, if there were only a market for it.

The development of a very large and hitherto unworked salina has been recently undertaken by one of the most enterprising of the local merchants, who is proceeding steadily with the expensive work of laying out and preparing the ground in spite of the somewhat discouraging existent conditions.

I have in a recent report suggested enquiries being made with a view to the possibility of increasing the export of salt to British North America.

(C.) *Agricultural Industries, &c.*

Agriculture in the Dependency is practically confined to a few scanty provision fields in the Caicos Islands and a few patches of guinea corn, grown chiefly for the fodder afforded by the stalks. The barren nature of the soil, coupled with the absence of rainfall, makes anything else impossible.

(D.) *Land grants and general value of land.*

Seven grants were made in 1898 under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896, which Ordinance, however, is only workable so long as the Dependency is able to afford the services of a Colonial surveyor.

There is still a large amount of survey work required to be done. The value of land, other than town lots, is very small.

(E.) *Shipping.*

A table is annexed of the steam and sailing vessels inward and outward during the past two years. The steamers are those of the Clyde line from New York to Dominican ports, at uncertain dates, but about triweekly, which touch at Grand Turk both on the outward and homeward voyages, taking labourers for the Dominican trip to work the cargo, and landing them on return. There is also the monthly steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line from Halifax to Jamaica, which is under contract with this Government to convey the Turks Islands mails.

SAILING VESSELS.

Nationality.	1897. Inwards. Vessels.	1897. Inwards. Tons.	1897. Outwards. Vessels.	1897. Outwards. Tons.	1898. Inwards. Vessels.	1898. Inwards. Tons.	1898. Outwards. Vessels.	1898. Outwards. Tons.
British	241	20,188	252	20,338	238	18,580	242	18,641
Danish	1	52	1	52	—	—	—	—
Dominican	18	173	12	117	10	93	12	113
Dutch	3	315	3	315	2	74	2	74
French	4	714	4	714	3	366	3	366
Haytian	10	264	12	326	25	612	25	612
Nicaraguan	1	996	1	996	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	3	1,733	2	1,134	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	1	235	1	235
United States	56	34,244	55	33,559	32	18,335	35	20,805
Total	337	58,679	342	57,551	311	38,295	320	40,846

STEAMERS.

Nationality.	1897. Inwards. Vessels.	1897. Inwards. Tons.	1897. Outwards. Vessels.	1897. Outwards. Tons.	1898. Inwards. Vessels.	1898. Inwards. Tons.	1898. Outwards. Vessels.	1898. Outwards. Tons.
British	25	14,498	25	14,498	32	28,213	32	28,213
United States	48	91,574	48	91,574	27	53,770	27	53,770
Total	73	106,072	73	106,072	59	81,983	59	81,983

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The decrease in the steam shipping is due to the Clyde Company running only one steamer in six weeks to Santo Domingo, from the commencement of the Spanish-American war till the end of the year, instead of two, and in the sailing shipping to the smaller demand for salt.

A comparative statement of total shipping for the last five years is also annexed :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards ...	126,215	120,037	131,106	164,751	120,278
Outwards ...	125,400	120,087	130,572	163,623	122,829
Total ...	251,615	240,124	261,678	328,374	243,107

These figures do not include men-of-war, of which there have been several (all British) since cable communication was established.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The principal measures passed during the year were :—

Ordinance No. 4 *of* 1898.—To provide for the payment to the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, of an annual sum in respect of a news supply and for other purposes.

The sum provided is £120 per annum for a period of five years, and the Ordinance fixes the maximum rates to be charged by the Company for messages.

Ordinance No. 8. *of* 1898.—To amend the law relating to quarantine and the boarding of vessels.

This Ordinance repeals the old fashioned Ordinance of 1870, and assimilates the law of quarantine in the Dependency to that of Jamaica.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) *Primary Education.*

A sum of £600 per annum is set aside by Ordinance for the work of education in the Dependency.

There are seven schools, of which five are in the Caicos Islands.

Education is not compulsory, and the main difficulty that has to be contended with is the irregular attendance of children.

The majority of the teachers are trained men from Jamaica, and an inspection is held by an officer of the Jamaica Education Department once in two years.

An inspection was held during 1898 and the report of the condition of the schools was decidedly satisfactory, and showed that there had been appreciable improvement.

(B.) *Secondary Education.*

There is no provision for secondary education. The children of the better class usually obtain their education in Jamaica, the United States, or Canada.

(C.) *Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural Schools.*

Nil.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A, B, C, D.) *Hospitals, Asylums, Poor Houses, Reformatories.*

There are no institutions of this class in the Dependency at the present day, but a portion of the old poorhouse has been set aside as a place where any infectious disease or serious case for operation or otherwise may be placed under the care of an attendant temporarily engaged. It is very rarely required.

Lunatics are sent to the asylum in Jamaica.

(E.) *Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	99	108	433 11 1	448 18 4	523 10 8	507 11 4	806 4 4	747 11 4
Salt Cay	49	48	34 17 9	13 13 8	55 13 5	23 7 4	59 13 4	49 19 8
Cockburn Harbour ...	27	28	75 18 11	21 16 5	87 9 4	4 5 6	281 14 11	299 5 10
Total	175	184	544 7 9	484 8 5	666 13 5	535 4 2	1,147 12 7	1,096 16 10

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Police.*

The police force consists of :—

At Grand Turk—a corporal, three constables, and two district constables.

Salt Cay—one constable and one district constable.

Cockburn Harbour—one constable and one district constable.

The other Caicos Islands—seven district constables.

The total cost of the upkeep of the force in 1898 was £472 13*s.* 3*d.*

(B.) *Prisons.*

The one prison of the Dependency is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison in 1898 was four. Long sentence prisoners are usually sent to serve their time at Jamaica, but fortunately there are rarely any prisoners of this class.

(C.) *Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1898 was 195, against 181 in 1897.

Of the offences reported in 1898, 53 were for offences against the person ; 3 were for praedial larceny ; 22 were for offences against property other than praedial larceny ; 117 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the Inferior Courts in 1898 was 121, against 122 in 1897.

These convictions are classified as follows :—30 for offences against the person ; 3 for prædial larceny ; 5 for offences against property other than prædial larceny ; 83 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—1 for offences against the person ; 3 for offences against property.

The acquittals were as follows :—In the Inferior Courts 58 ; in the Supreme Court 2.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Population.*

The total by the last census, 1891, was 4,744. The registered births from that date up to the end of 1898 have exceeded the registered deaths by 738, so that the population would appear to be increasing. Such increase is, however, discounted by the emigration, chiefly to Hayti and San Domingo, and the population is probably about stationary.

(B.) *Public Health.*

The general state of the public health during 1898 was good, but I observe that the Government medical officers in their reports refer to tubercular disease as being very prevalent in the Dependency. Interesting and exhaustive reports have recently been made on the health conditions at the Caicos Islands by the Government medical officer at that station.

(C.) *Sanitation.*

The Towns and Public Health Ordinance of 1895 gives power to deal with nuisances generally, and provides for the exercise of precautions in case of epidemics, for the cleaning of streets, the regulation of slaughter yards, and other kindred matters.

The sea is handy to all for the carrying away of refuse, and the soil is of a nature that readily absorbs impurities.

(D.) *Climate.*

(1.) The rainfall is small, averaging about 26 inches from year to year.

(2.) The temperature is not excessive, and it is rarely unbearably

hot, save on certain still days which are experienced as a rule in the months of September and October.

Tables of rainfall and temperature are attached :—

RAINFALL.

For the Year 1898 *compared with the average for the previous seven years.*

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	·75	·60	·82	—
February	·70	·82	2·41	5·37
March	·61	·91	1·00	1·47
April	2·73	1·65	5·36	1·93
May	1·57	2·15	2·74	5·20
June	1·48	·64	1·24	4·14
July	·50	·41	1·15	4·06
August	3·03	2·33	1·24	4·10
September... ...	2·10	1·41	·27	5·36
October	4·10	3·10	7·58	6·12
November... ...	·96	·64	·60	1·48
December	1·20	2·35	1·36	4·66
Total inches ...	19·73	17·01	25·77	43·89
Average for 7 years 1891–97	26·65	23·61	19·69	34·00

Temperature.

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	82	73	77
February	81	76	78
March	79	75	77
April	81	77	79
May	83	79	80
June	85	82	83
July	86	83	84
August	86	83	84
September...	87	80	84
October	85	82	83
November	84	79	81
December	82	77	79

3. The wind is usually equable and blows strongly, the prevailing direction being from the south-east.

VIII.—Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

The mails are brought to and despatched from the Dependency by a monthly steamer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under contract, and also by the steamers of the Clyde line from New York tri-weekly. These latter, unfortunately, do not sail on schedule time so that it is not possible to arrange for a regular despatch

from the United Kingdom by that route, but letters that arrive at Halifax soon after the departure of the monthly boat are sent on to New York, and thus usually arrive here some days earlier than they would if they waited at Halifax for the next monthly steamer. By far the larger portion of the mails for the United Kingdom go north by the New York steamers; letters so despatched get to their destination in a shorter time by a week or more than they would by the longer Halifax route.

The new 1*d.* postal rate has been adopted by the Dependency, as also the new parcel post rates.

The Island of Grand Turk is now in telegraphic connection with Bermuda and Jamaica by the cables of the Direct West India Cable Company, which opened its Grand Turk station in January of 1898.

There is no telephone service.

IX.—Military Forces and Expenditure.

Nil.

X.—General Observations.

1. The one event of importance during 1898 was the landing of the telegraph cable, by which the Dependency is now placed in communication with the outside world, and relieved from that sense of complete isolation which was formerly such a feature of life here.

2. The breakwater at Salt Cay was completed during the year, the total cost from commencement in 1895 having been £970 10*s.* 5*d.* The protection afforded by this work to the boats and small vessels during heavy weather at the Cay is a source of much satisfaction to the people there.

3. A change took place in the office of Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. J. Bayldon Walker being promoted to the Chief Justiceship of St. Vincent, and his place being taken by Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, police magistrate of that Island.

4. I am pleased to be able to report that the sisal hemp industry at East Caicos is doing very fairly well; its management has been good and businesslike, and the ground selected for the cultivation eminently suitable. The second cultivation—that at West Caicos—has unfortunately proved a failure.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, 1898.

5. The general condition of the Dependency is not so bright at the present time as has been the case during the last few years, owing to the lowered value of its one staple commodity, salt. As yet, the difference is not so very noticeable, the effect of the recent prosperous period being not yet wiped out, but, if present conditions continue to obtain for any lengthened time, and especially if they be coupled with anything like a slackening demand, I fear the little place will suffer appreciably, and some re-casting of the schedule of revenue may not improbably be called for. The chief hope is that the trade with British North America may increase, that being the only alternative market to the United States, as far as can be seen.

6. There are no other matters calling for special remark.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

4th May, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
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1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 283.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1898-9.

(For Report for 1897-8, *see* No. 261.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December, 1899.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada...	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 283.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1897-8, *see* No. 261.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
12th September 1899.

SIR,

With reference to your circular despatch of 31st January last, I have the honour to transmit my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended 31st March 1899.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The deficit of general revenue as compared with general expenditure on the 31st March 1898 amounted to £123,291. The revenue collected during the year 1898-99 amounted to £600,271, and the expenditure to £630,702, leaving a deficit on the year's transactions of £30,431, which added to the deficit left over from the preceding year made the deficit of general revenue on 31st March 1899 £153,722.

Comparing the two years 1897-98 and 1898-99, general revenue in the former amounted to £540,509, and in the latter to £600,271, showing an increase of £59,762; general expenditure for 1897-98 was £627,422, and for 1898-99, £630,702, an increase of £3,280.

The following is a comparative statement of revenue for the two years :—

4066—800—11/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1898-99.

General Revenue	1898-99.	1897-98.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties	331,443 4 7	278,267 19 9¾	53,175 4 9¼	—
Light Dues	2,047 18 7	1,919 15 6	128 3 1	—
Harbour Masters' Fees	2,906 19 0	2,563 5 0	343 14 0	—
Rum Duties	100,033 17 2	104,730 0 2¾	—	4,696 3 0¾
Beer Duty	218 4 0	231 3 9	—	12 19 9
Cigar and Cigarette Duty	3,003 14 11¾	—	3,003 14 11¾	—
Still Licenses	611 5 0	615 0 0	—	3 15 0
Brewers' Licenses	15 10 0	12 5 0	3 5 0	—
Stamps	16,296 12 6¾	17,999 5 5	—	1,702 12 10¼
Road Revenues	24,724 12 4	—	24,724 12 4	—
Postal Revenues	22,297 1 7	22,519 13 1¼	—	222 11 6¼

Telegraph Revenues	5,874 11 3	4,700 4 0	1,174 7 3	—
Tax in lieu of Education Fees	10,918 15 4¾	9,721 10 7¼	1,197 4 9½	—
Resident Magistrates' Court Fees	2,973 8 2	3,481 17 9½	—	508 9 7½
Petty Sessions Fees	3,948 19 0	3,886 7 6	62 11 6	—
Fines in Petty Sessions	3,910 0 10¾	3,537 2 1¾	372 18 9	—
Fines, Miscellaneous	80 8 3	66 2 2	14 6 1	—
Forfeited Recognizances	8 5 0	76 12 6	—	68 7 6
Savings Bank Interest	6,222 4 8	4,784 0 4½	1,438 4 3½	—
Other Interest	7,012 4 11	5,901 19 4	1,110 5 7	—
Reimbursements	45,794 10 0¼	52,560 14 11	4,276 0 8½	11,042 5 7¼
Miscellaneous	9,928 15 6¾	22,934 1 7¼	1,536 16 5¼	14,542 2 5¾
Total	600,271 2 11	540,509 0 9	92,561 9 6¾	32,799 7 4¾
Net Increase	—	—	59,762 2 2	—

JAMAICA, 1898-9.

The increase in general revenue was chiefly due to (*a*) an increase in Import Duties of £53,175, due to alterations in the tariff under Law 28 of 1898, by which duties were raised generally, especially on manufactured articles, (*b*) to the imposition of a new tax, viz., on cigars and cigarettes, which yielded £3,004, and (*c*) to the transfer from appropriated to general revenue during 1898-99 of the collections under Law 17 of 1890, under which certain parochial roads have been taken over as main roads. These collections amounted to £24,725 in 1898-99. Against the increases under these three items together (£80,904) must be set decreases (*a*) of £4,696 on Rum Duties, (*b*) of £6,766 under Reimbursements, and (*c*) of £13,005 under Miscellaneous, to which head a sum of £15,262 was credited in 1897-98 on account of profit by the sale of sinking funds. The aggregate of these decreases—£24,467– taken from £80,904 leaves £56,437, or £3,325 less than the actual net increase of £59,762, which is explained by increases exceeding decreases on the several other heads.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for the two years in question :—

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1898–99.

General Expenditure.	1898–99.	1897–98.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Charges of Debt	107,315 1 5	112,650 16 8	6,675 2 0	12,010 17 3
Pensions	21,792 13 1¼	21,569 6 6½	223 6 6¾	—
Administrative Departments	47,623 16 6½	47,962 12 0	2,923 6 1	3,262 1 6½
Revenue Departments	42,007 11 5½	39,368 5 10	2,646 3 7½	6 18 0
Postal Service	39,231 18 3	34,957 14 6	4,274 3 9	—
Judicial	41,943 11 8¾	45,763 3 9¾	29 3 1¾	3,848 15 2¾
Ecclesiastical	2,504 15 4	2,561 4 2	—	56 8 10
Medical	56,145 13 5	61,092 7 9½	—	4,946 14 4½
Constabulary	61,150 9 3½	62,410 15 10¼	—	1,260 6 6¾
Carried forward	419,715 10 6½	428,336 7 2	16,771 5 2	25,392 1 9½

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—continued.

General Expenditure.	1898–99.	1897–98.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	419,715 10 6½	428,336 7 2	16,771 5 2	25,392 1 9½
Prisons	20,613 4 8½	22,875 16 7¾	—	2,262 11 11¼
Reformatories	4,061 18 1	4,345 12 5¼	—	283 14 4¼
Education	66,890 17 3¼	69,387 11 10½	—	2,496 14 7¼
Industrial Schools	1,240 5 1½	1,243 10 5½	—	3 5 4
Harbours and Pilotage	2,262 11 2	2,319 13 5½	—	57 2 3½
Military	14,884 11 10	10,447 3 0¼	4,437 8 9¾	—
Coasting Service	—	1,707 14 0	—	1,707 14 0
Subsidy Telegraph Company	2,166 13 4	2,000 0 0	166 13 4	—
Registration Department...	4,121 17 9	4,491 5 11½	—	369 8 2½
Island Record Office	1,672 19 3½	1,565 14 8½	107 4 7	—

Registrar of Titles Department...	1,116 0 3	1,071 2 3	44 18 0	—
Government Printing Office	7,267 13 11¾	7,755 14 1¼	—	488 0 1½
Jamaica Institute	1,752 19 2	1,978 19 8	—	226 0 6
Board of Supervision	444 3 11	501 19 4½	—	57 15 5½
Public Gardens	5,186 6 10	6,328 10 0	—	1,142 3 2
Miscellaneous	11,820 2 4	10,276 19 7½	1,543 2 8½	—
Lighthouses	1,316 18 7	1,599 1 11	—	282 3 4
Rio Cobre Canal	1,912 10 0	2,413 19 2	—	501 9 2
Queen's Jubilee Celebration	—	2,373 5 3	—	2,373 5 3
Lighthouse Construction	731 0 0	320 13 7	410 6 5	—
Jamaica Railway Extension Track	1,100 3 11	3,099 10 11	—	1,999 7 0
Expenses by Sir David Barbour	18 0 6	—	18 0 6	—
Public Works	60,405 8 8½	40,981 15 7½	21,517 6 1½	2,093 13 0½
Total	630,701 17 3½	627,422 1 2½	45,016 5 7¾	41,736 9 6¾

JAMAICA, 1898–9.

The net increase of expenditure in 1898–99 (£3,280) was very small.

The largest increases occurred under Revenue Departments £2,646, due chiefly to the reimbursement of expenses of collecting certain parochial funds (£1,992) being no longer credited to this account; Postal Service £4,274, owing chiefly to £2,140 of the Colony's contribution to the Postal Union (£5,140) being transferred from "Miscellaneous" account, which had hitherto been charged £3,000 only; Military £4,437, due to an increased vote for the Jamaica Militia, which enabled a larger force to be raised; and Public Works £19,424, arising from the expenditure under Law 17 of 1890 (referred to above in dealing with revenue) being now charged to general expenditure.

The chief decreases occurred under (1) Charges of Debt £5,336 Interest amounting to £7,142 was paid in 1897–98 under the guarantee loan which was called in in that year, and £20 on account of coupons not presented was paid in 1898–99. (2) Judicial £3,820; (3) Medical £4,947, and Education £2,497; with smaller decreases on other departments, particularly the Constabulary and Prisons, which arose generally from new arrangements by which economy was secured. The cessation of the subsidy for the Coasting Service on account of which £1,707 14*s.* was expended in 1897–98, and the expenditure in that year of £2,373 for Jubilee celebrations accounted for further decreases in 1898–99.

The total revenue and expenditure for the five years ended 31st March 1899 are as follows:—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	624,024	646,103	591,864	540,509	600,271	3,002,771
Expenditure ...	580,803	605,505	629,764	627,422	630,702	3,074,196

As regards 1897–98 and 1898–99, the following changes in methods of accounting made in 1898–99 increased the figures for general revenue and expenditure as compared with the previous year, viz.:—

1. Under Law 4 of 1898 the collections under Law 17 of 1890 for the up-keep of roads taken over as main roads were shown as general revenue, and the expenditure for such up-keep was correspondingly shown as general expenditure.

2. The expense incurred by the Collector-General's Department in collecting parochial rates was for the first time treated as a part of the expenditure of the department.

3. The expense incurred by the Audit Office in auditing the accounts of the Parochial Boards was similarly treated in the same way as (2) for the first time.

Collections made under (1) amounted to £24,725 in 1898–99, expenditure under (1) to £20,189, and under (2) and (3) to £1,992 and £537 respectively. Had the accounts therefore been treated as in 1897–98, general revenue would have been £575,546 and general expenditure £607,984.

Important Changes in Taxation.

The most important measure as affecting taxes and dues which was passed during the year 1898–99 was the Tariff Law 28 of 1898. The object of the law was to recoup as far as possible a considerable temporary deficit in the revenue, and it was only in force to the end of the year. It increased the duties on most imported articles. As regards foods, drinks, and narcotics, duties were increased on several articles already rated, *e.g.*, on spirits from 12*s.* 6*d.* per liquid gallon to 16*s.* per proof gallon, provided the duty should in no case be less than 12*s.* 6*d.* per liquid gallon. On "unenumerated" foods and drinks, which had usually borne an ad valorem duty of 12½ per cent., 20 per cent. was imposed. On manufactured articles, except cotton piece goods which remained at 12½ per cent., duties varying from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. were imposed, the heavier duty being placed almost entirely on articles of luxury.

The Rum Duty Law 31 of 1898 reduced the duty from 6*s.* to 5*s.* per proof gallon, as the former duty was considered to press unduly on a declining native industry.

Succession duties were imposed for the first time by Law 20 of 1898.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st March 1899 the assets of the Colony stood at £916,030 and the liabilities at £1,069,752, leaving a balance against the Colony of £153,722. In making this computation £700,000 Jamaica Railway second mortgage bonds are no longer reckoned as an asset, nor are certain advances to hotels. On the 31st March 1898 the assets, including the second mortgage bonds, &c., were reckoned at £1,477,069 and the liabilities at £900,956, leaving a balance in favour of the Colony of £576,113, or, if the bonds in question be excluded from assets, a balance against the Colony of £123,887. The debit balance therefore increased by £29,835 during the year.

The following is a comparative statement of the assets and liabilities on the 31st March 1898 and 1899 respectively :—

Assets.			*Liabilities.*		
Heads.	1897–98.	1898–99.	Heads.	1897–98.	1898–99.
	£	£		£	£
Investments on account of Deposits at Interest.	463,743	463,743	Deposits at Interest	587,681	617,725
Investments on account of Trust Funds	21,620	23,086	Trust Funds	24,429	24,478
Investments on account of Sundry Deposits not at Interest.	52,515	82,569	Sundry Deposits not at Interest invested as per contra.	55,083	86,748
Other Securities	*704,915	2,910	Sundry Deposits not at Interest uninvested	45,385	42,252
Advances on Loan Works	3,775	9,378	Loan Works	71,384	54,409
Sundry Advances to be Recovered ...	160,581	221,123	Crown Agents' Advances...	70,078	180,000
Defaulters' Account	613	35	Parochial Road Reserved Fund	9,875	14,279
Stores Account	12,822	13,374	Parochial Exchequer	33,279	41,064
Cash	56,485	99,811	Immigration Exchequer	3,761	8,397
Balance General Liabilities	—	153,723	Balance General Assets	*576,114	—
Total ... ... £	1,477,069	1,069,752	Total ... ... £	1,477,069	1,069,752

* Includes second mortgage bonds, Jamaica Railway.

Under Liabilities, the increase in deposits at interest is chiefly due to a gratifying increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £469,513 in 1897–98 to £493,894 in 1898–99. The large increase of deposits not at interest invested occurs under Chancery Fund Account £25,332, which a glance at assets shows to be practically all invested. The decrease on account of Loan Works occurred almost entirely on the public buildings and Jamaica bridges loans, and was due to expenditure for these purposes under the loans lessening the amount for which the Treasury was liable.

Under Assets, the decrease in other securities is due to the striking out for the first time of the second mortgage bonds, while the considerable increase of £60,542 under Advances to be Recovered arises chiefly from advances to the Kingston General Commissioners for sewerage, streets, and waterworks purposes, totalling £75,678. Against this must be set a decrease under advances to Parochial Boards, owing to a large increase in repayments of advances by these Boards.

Public Debt, showing Provision for Repayment.

The public debt of the Colony, after allowing for provision made by means of sinking funds for repayment of loans raised through debentures or inscribed stock, stood as follows in each of the last five years :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1894–95	1,856,345
1895–96	1,873,859
1896–97	1,860,181
1897–98	2,058,912
1898–99	2,053,822

JAMAICA, 1898-9.

These figures include (A) certain monies, chiefly legacies for the endowment of schools, which had been permanently deposited with the Government and appropriated thereby for the purposes of the trust, and the interest on which is guaranteed by the Act 28 Vic. cap. 23. (B) Certain deposits on account of the widows and orphans (1) of clergy who were on the civil establishment, and (2) of public servants properly speaking. The interest on these deposits is chargeable to general revenue. (C) Loans for general purposes of Government raised by means of debentures or inscribed stock which are redeemed by drawing of lots, while sinking funds are provided also for gradually extinguishing the liability; and (D) Loans for special purposes, *i.e.*, undertakings for the benefit of Kingston and its neighbourhood, of which the Kingston General Commissioners have the management. These loans are secured primarily on special revenues, guaranteed by the general revenue of the Colony.

In 1898-99 the liability under each of these heads was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Funded Debt				77,416	6	11
Deposits at Interest	123,830	11	3			
Less Investments	11,809	6	7	112,021	4	8
				189,437	11	7
Loans for general purposes				1,612,420	12	10
Loans for special purposes				251,963	8	6
Total ...				£2,053,821	12	11

The third item is the only one which is strictly speaking public debt, as distinguished from Government liabilities or debenture and stock debt.

Of loans for general purposes outstanding on 31st March 1899, £363,575 was raised by means of debentures which have not been converted into inscribed stock, and £1,260,159 10*s.* 8*d.* is inscribed stock raised in England, £875,874 of which represents debentures raised for general purposes and converted into stock,

while £123,360 is inscribed stock raised in Jamaica. Of loans for special purposes, £241,620 represent debentures and £37,980 inscribed stock. The total debenture debt outstanding on the date mentioned was therefore £605,195, and inscribed stock debt £1,421,499 10*s.* 8*d.*, amounting together to £2,026,694 10*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount £1,747,094 10*s.* 8*d.* was debt for Government purposes, to repay which there were sinking funds amounting to £134,673 17*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a net liability of £1,612,420 12*s.* 10*d.*, while debt for special purposes was £279,600, against which must be set £27,636 11*s.* 6*d.* of sinking funds, leaving a net liability of £251,963 8*s.* 6*d.*, or together of £1,864,384 1*s.* 4*d.* On the greater portion, say nearly six-sevenths of the debenture and stock debt, interest is payable at 4 per cent., on deposits 6 per cent. is paid, and on funded debt 6 per cent. and upwards.

CURRENCY.

The money of account in Jamaica is pounds, shillings, and pence sterling. The general currency is British sterling silver. British gold has a very limited circulation, its place for large transactions being taken by a paper currency issued by the Colonial Bank, London, through its local branch. This bank carries on business under The Imperial Act 19 & 20 Vic. cap. 3. British copper coinage is replaced by a nickel one of the same denominations, which is specially issued from the Mint for use in the Colony. This metal is recommended in Jevons' "Money and the Mechanism of Exchange" as very suitable for coinage.

The British silver coins in circulation are crowns (very rare), half-crowns (rather infrequent), florins, shillings, sixpences, and threepences.

Silver coins current in Great Britain and above the value of sixpence are legal tender in Jamaica to any amount, those of lower value to the extent of forty shillings in any one payment. Nickel coins are legal tender to the extent of twelve of a denomination for one payment, *e.g.*, pennies to one shilling, half-pence to sixpence, farthings to threepence.

Other coins current here are doubloons, Mexican and Spanish, of full weight at £3 4*s.*, doubloons, Columbian, at £3., aliquot parts in proportion, and United States American gold on a basis of 4*s.* 1*d.* value to the dollar.

During the 20 years ended 31st December 1898 the Colonial Bank imported silver coins of a total value of £533,443, and exported such coin to a value of £817,414.

JAMAICA, 1898–9.

For the five years 1894–98 the average circulation was :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1894	182,673
1895	169,844
1896	173,650
1897	150,754
1898	152,802

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF PAROCHIAL BOARDS.

Parochial Boards were instituted for the management of municipal affairs and the maintenance of parochial roads, as distinguished from main roads, within their respective parishes.

Their revenue is derived from local rates and taxes collected by Government revenue officers, and from fees, such as market fees.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of these Boards for the five years ended 31st March 1899, to which are added the figures for Kingston, whose municipality is the most important of these Boards :—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
Revenue of all Boards ...	111,706	113,702	108,232	104,307	117,568
Expenditure „ „ ...	120,134	128,580	135,842	125,704	111,288
Revenue of Kingston ...	24,855	26,190	25,656	25,870	30,313
Expenditure „ ...	27,270	29,168	35,334	32,557	28,643

DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

In 1898-99 the total amount due by Parochial Boards to general revenue was £108,645. Of this amount, £17,008 were lent to St. Catherine, £16,508 to Kingston, £14,171 to St. James, leaving £60,958 due by the other parishes.

Of the total indebtedness, £45,936, or over two-fifths, were due on account of water supplies, chiefly for towns and villages, £39,277 for the construction of markets, and £14,145 advances to pauper funds, usually for the construction of almshouses, or to avert deficiencies. These advances are repayable from rates or fees levied for the purpose. The remaining advances were principally for roads or sanitary objects, and are being met either from collections of specific rates or from the Parochial Surplus Fund, which is devoted to useful local objects. The most important of these latter advances are for the benefit of Kingston, £6,304 to the Kingston Road Fund, £1,254 for improvements in certain suburban districts, and £3,850 for the reconstruction of the theatre, this last amount being the only considerable debt incurred by a Parochial Board for other than a strictly necessary purpose.

Debts to general revenue, aggregating £53,741, were outstanding in 1898-99 on account of specific undertakings by corporations formed for the purpose.

Of these, the Kingston General Commissioners owed by far the greatest amount, £34,390 being due for advances made to meet expenditure for sewage works, and £16,288 for advances on account of waterworks, so as to enable the works to be continued pending the raising of loans for the purpose. These amounts form part of the sum of £75,678 referred to under the head of Assets and Liabilities. In addition to these amounts, the Kingston General Commissioners have incurred debt on account of amounts raised by means of debentures or inscribed stock and guaranteed by general revenue. These are referred to more particularly under the head of "Debt."

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports and exports of the year ended 31st March 1899 were both greater in value than in the preceding year; imports amounted to £1,788,432, as against £1,674,380, an increase of £114,052 in value and 6·8 in percentage of value, and exports to £1,662,543, as against £1,448,443, an increase of £214,100 in value and 14·8 in percentage of value.

JAMAICA, 1898-9.

Under imports, the very considerable increase of £164,543 on manufactured articles was partially set off by a decrease of £50,265 on live animals, food, drink, and narcotics, whilst a small decrease on raw material was almost counterbalanced by a small increase on specie. On the other hand, exports showed an increase on every head except manufactured articles, in which there was a trifling decrease of £2,895.

The year was one of abundant rain, which benefitted both pastoral and agricultural interests. A heavy duty imposed on imported animals checked importations, and there was also a brisk export trade to Cuba in stock and poultry. Less cereals were imported owing to an abundance of ground provisions. These several causes increased the exports, relieved the depression and enabled the community to provide itself with a greater quantity of manufactured articles, notwithstanding a general increase in import duties. The increase in importations only began in October, that is about the middle of the financial year, and this month therefore probably marks the end of the depression which had existed since 1896.

The following table of imports and exports for the past five years shows that there had been signs of this depression for a couple of years before its occurrence :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894–95	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2,162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895–96	1,775,016	9,553	88,535	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896–97	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,049	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
1897–98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381	1,660,668
1898–99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432	1,814,793
Total for five years ...	7,918,375	95,212	362,165	8,375,754	9,666,224	107,551	9,773,774	9,812,530
Average for five years ...	1,583,675	19,042	72,433	1,675,151	1,933,245	21,510	1,954,755	1,962,506

Dealing first with exports, the following figures show the increases or decrea

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or Decrease (as shown by + or – on 1897–98.	
	1897–98.	1898–99.	1897–98.	1898–99.	Quantity	Valu
	Cwt.	Cwt.	£	£	Cwt.	£
Cocoa	16,016	21,012	37,435	53,380	+ 4,996	+ 15,9
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
Cocoanuts ...	11,533,726	11,967,902	39,648	34,109	+ 434,176	— 5,5
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Coffee	85,410	110,290	165,494	162,219	+ 24,880	— 3,[illegible]
	Bunches.	Bunches.			Bunches.	
Fruit—Bananas	6,981,858	7,497,281	445,866	468,580	+ 515,423	+ 22,[illegible]
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
„ Oranges	88,013,091	107,190,041	134,674	123,715	+19,176,950	— 10,[illegible]
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Ginger	12,573	15,197	34,884	43,374	+ 2,624	+ 8,[illegible]
	Tons.	Tons.			Tons.	
Logwood ...	42,600	43,421	118,215	113,980	+ 821	— 4,[illegible]
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Pimento ...	38,828	77,939	52,943	127,624	+ 39,111	+ 74,
	Gallons.	Gallons.			Gallons.	
Rum	1,379,278	1,564,436	92,053	104,296	+ 185,158	+ 12,
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Sugar	284,375	360,748	120,959	150,312	+ 76,373	+ 29,
Value, ten chief products exported.	—	—	1,242,171	1,381,589	—	+139
Value, all products exported	—	—	1,377,826	1,532,378	—	+154

uantity, value, and price of the ten principal articles of island produce, viz.:—

Percentage crease or Decrease on 1897–98.		Price.	Remarks.
antity.	Value.		
		s. *d.*	
13·1	+ 42·6	1897–98: 46 9 per cwt.	Total value quadrupled since 1888–89. Price rising of late years.
		1898–99: 50 10 „ „	
3·8	— 14·0	1897–98: 68 9 „ M.	Total value doubled since 1888–89. Price declining of late years.
		1898–99: 57 3 „ „	
29·1	— 1·9	1897–98: 38 9 „ cwt.	Value little more than half that of 1888–89. Price about two-fifths former average; has declined remarkably last two years.
		1898–99: 29 5 „ „	
7·4	+ 0·5	1897–98: 1 3¼ „ bunch.	Quantity more than doubled in last ten years. Price about 30 per cent. less than 1888–89, but it rose towards end of year.
		1898–99: 1 3 „ „	
21·8	— 8·1	1897–98: 30 7 „ M.	Value more than doubled in decade. Price rising generally, except in 1898–99. That of 1897–98 a fair average.
		1898–99: 24 11 „ „	
20·9	+ 24·3	1897–98: 55 6 „ cwt.	Value more than doubled in decade. Price rising generally in last five years.
		1898–99: 57 1 „ „	
1·9	— 3·6	1897–98: 55 6 „ ton.	Value not one-third of that ten years ago. Price rose to 100*s.* in 1893–94; declined remarkably in last two years.
		1898–99: 52 6 „ „	
100·7	+ 141·1	1897–98: 27 3¼ „ cwt.	Value about double that of 1888–89, but value and price of 1898–99 abnormally high, though both brightening in last five years.
		1898–99: 32 9 „ „	
13·3	+ 13·3	1897–98: 1 4 „ gallon.	Value about half that of ten years ago Price has fallen from 2*s.* a gallon in 1893–94 to 1*s.* 4*d.* a gallon.
		1898–99: 1 4 „ „	
26 9	+ 24·3	1897–98: 8 6 „ cwt.	Value little more than half that of 1898–99. Price has declined even more than that of rum.
		1898–99: 8 4 „ „	
—	+ 11·2	—	—
—	+ 11·2	—	—

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The above statement shows that in every instance the quantities of staples exported increased in 1898–99 compared with 1897–98, but that values declined in four cases and prices in seven out of ten. The only considerable products which have improved in price generally within the past five years are cocoa, ginger, pimento, and oranges.

Salient features of the year were (1) the abnormally high price of pimento, which raised the value to a greater figure than it has ever attained since 1880, though the quantity was below the average of late years, and (2) the improvement of the sugar industry after a persistent decline for many years. The old staples coffee and logwood continue to suffer from competition abroad, in the latter case not alone with foreign wood but also with aniline dyes.

It is an interesting coincidence that while the value of the chief products increased from £1,242,171 to £1,381,589, or by 11·2 per cent., minor products and manufactures increased from £135,655 to £150,789, or by 11·1, almost an identical percentage.

Minor exports which show increases generally in quantity and value are fustic, which increased by £10,431 in value, spars by £4,592, hides by £3,430. Small decreases occurred on pineapples, limejuice, annatto, beeswax, lignumvitæ, bitterwood. A feature of the exports is the increase in shipments to Cuba. In 1897–98 the total value of these was £10,325, in 1898–99 £59,350. They consisted chiefly of cattle, horses, and mules, poultry, eggs, and yams. These exports will, however, probably continue for a few years only, as with returned peace and prosperity and progressive administration Cuba will become independent of such supplies from Jamaica.

The island's exports were distributed in the following proportions during the past five years :—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
United Kingdom	27·1	27·6	27·4	22·6	20·6
" States	58·1	57·0	56·6	62·3	59·1
Canada	1·5	1·6	1·2	1·3	1·4
Other countries	13·3	13·8	14·8	13·8	18·9

The Collector-General points out that the trade with the Mother country and the United States fell a few proportional points owing to the new market developed in Cuba, whither, as has been stated, products valued at £59,350 were exported. Other countries which took goods to a large extent were France £96,133, Germany £55,044, Austria £13,924, and Russia £13,420. Relatively to 1897–98 the output to the United Kingdom increased in value from £318,854 to £342,726, or by over 7 per cent., and that to America from £902,932 to £982,464, or by over 8 per cent., so that the real cause of the seeming declension in English trade, if proportional parts only are regarded, is the far greater relative increase in trade with foreign countries.

The following were the percentages of exportable value of the chief products of the Colony during the five years 1894–95 to 1898–99.

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
Sugar	12·9	11·0	10·1	8·3	9·8
Rum	10·1	9·3	8·4	6·3	6·1
Coffee	19·3	16·0	14·4	11·4	10·5
Dyewoods	19·0	20·4	11·6	8·9	8·8
Fruit	27·9	29·9	34·3	42·8	41·4
Pimento	4·5	5·1	5·2	3·6	8·3
Minor products ...	6·3	8·3	16·1	18·7	15·1

These figures, read with those showing the relative distribution of exports and the table of increase and decrease of the ten products mentioned, will help to explain the proportionate declension in trade with the United Kingdom, which 20 years ago took over 60 per cent. of the exports. At that time fruit, nearly the whole of which has always been exported to the United States, and which now forms over 40 per cent. of all exported products, was comparatively a minor product, while practically

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all the rum and logwood and a much larger proportion than at present of coffee and pimento (all of which except the last were of considerably greater value than they are now) were exported to the United Kingdom. The market for sugar has also been transferred to the States, which takes also our fruit, cocoanuts, and usually a larger proportion of coffee, pimento, and logwood than the Mother country. Several minor products, *e.g.*, ginger and cocoa, which are increasing in value, also turtle, limejuice, honey, &c., are taken in larger proportion by the United Kingdom, but unless the direct steamship service now being arranged for can induce a considerable development of the fruit trade, which is now the mainstay of the Colony, the trend of trade must continue to be to the United States, a country which is our nearest important market, and has a population about double that of the United Kingdom. At the same time there is an increasing tendency to seek new markets, as exemplified by the large shipments now made of coffee, cocoa, and logwood to France, pimento and rum to Germany, and the recently developed export trade in stock to Cuba.

Before turning to imports, it may be remarked that of the total value—£35,588—of manufactured articles only £17,657 is for products of the Colony, £17,164 of this latter being the value of logwood extract. Of the balance of £17,931, representing British and foreign manufactures exported, £3,987 is the value of old metal, principally from abandoned sugar estates. The increase in specie over last year is due chiefly to large exportations of gold to the United Kingdom and Cuba.

Under imports, a decrease of £50,265 occurred on live animals, food, drink, and narcotics. The decrease on live animals is accounted for by the heavy duty now imposed. The values of cattle, horsekind, mules, and sheep decreased by £11,968, a sum which has thus been retained in the Colony, instead of being sent out in payment for animals which can be and are raised here.

On the other hand, the placing of bees on the free list has given a stimulus to apiculture, a rapidly developing industry. No bees were imported in 1897-98, while the importations in 1898-99 were valued at £1,082.

There were decreases on almost all farinaceous foods, totalling £38,139, the largest being on wheat flour £16,739, meal not wheat £7,977, bread and biscuit £8,129, and rice £4,660. Increased duties were imposed on bread and biscuit, and all meal except wheat meal, and the decreases on these articles were about 40 per cent. each. On the other hand, no increased duties were imposed on wheat flour, or farinaceous food not for man, and on rice. The decreases in value of these articles, which were less in percentage than on those bearing heavier duties, must be attributed chiefly to the abundance of root crops and other provisions. It is not attributable to lowering of prices, which were much the same as those of the previous year. The abundance of

native provisions probably accounts also for the decrease of £1,095 on peas and beans. That the decreases were not due to more straitened means, appears probable from the fact that corn, of which there is a comparatively small local supply, wheat and oats, all being used here as food for animals, increased in net value by £5,493.

Fish stuffs decreased in value by £9,276. Fish dried or salted (*i.e.*, cod fish), on which no additional duty was imposed, decreased from £119,828 to £116,239, or by £3,589 say 3 per cent., while other fish stuffs, on which additional duties were placed, decreased from £37,429 to £31,742, or by £5,687, *i.e.*, 15 per cent. Other articles the decreases on which may in part be due to a higher tariff of temporary character are butter and butter substitutes, cheese, hay and straw, condensed milk, and cotton seed oil. The higher duties have had little appreciable effect on bacon, hams, beef and pork wet salted, pickles, and sauces.

Alcoholic beverages increased in value from £52,869 to £65,607, or by £12,738. Spirits, which bore additional duties under Law 28 of 1898, increased only from £11,849 to £12,212, or by £363, while ale and beer and wines, the duties on which remained unchanged, increased respectively from £31,631 to £40,504, or by £8,873, and from £9,389 to £12,891, or by £3,502. These several increases, with one of £1,136 on tobacco and of £103 on tea, appear to indicate that the community had a larger surplus to devote to comforts and luxuries.

The chief item of "raw material" imported is coal, the value in 1898-99 was £45,090, a decrease on 1897-98 of £11,538. Contrary to previous years, the chief importations were from the United States, instead of the United Kingdom. The comparison for the two years is as follows :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	United States.
1897-98 ...	42,456 tons, or 75 per cent.	13,710 tons, or 24 per cent.
1898-99 ...	20,854 tons, or 46 per cent.	24,137 tons, or 53 per cent.

Importations of coal from the States have been gradually increasing. In 1894-95 there were 6,559 tons compared with 47,401 from the United Kingdom.

Manufactures, which are principally imported from the United Kingdom, show increases on most articles.

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The following is a comparison for five years of those of greatest value :—

—	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Apparel	61,426	73,486	66,533	45,239	62,426
Cottons	299,778	293,380	247,431	218,851	254,310
Haberdashery	60,845	55,465	42,237	33,084	28,170
Woollens	43,370	47,786	38,687	30,578	34,321
Hardware and Cutlery ...	38,129	40,099	34,638	28,342	31,061
Boots and Shoes	70,965	59,418	56,091	45,190	53,721

The above show increases over 1897-98, except haberdashery, which shows the only appreciable decrease in textiles, viz., £4,914, compared with that year. This decrease was probably influenced by increases of duty from 12½ per cent. to 20 and 25 per cent., but other classes of imports on which higher duties were laid have nevertheless increased in value, *e.g.*, apparel, some cottons, linens, woollens, ribbons, while silks have slightly declined. These facts appear to point to a healthy revival of trade.

A feature of the trade in textiles is the advance made by American manufacturers in the market for the cheaper description of cotton goods. In 1897-98 the value of textiles from the States was £26,614, in 1898-99 £50,595, an advance of 90 per cent. in one year. Of these amounts, cottons, including hosiery, &c., represent £16,940 and £40,829 respectively.

It should be noted, however, that in 1895-96 American textiles were £50,187 in value, cottons being £31,858, and that they had declined considerably since, until 1898-99.

Metal manufactures were £230,056, against £132,864, an increase of £97,192. The chief portion of this increase is due to the construction and equipment of an electric car system in Kingston, though increases on articles of general commerce also bear testimony to reviving trade.

As the Electric Company, which is of Canadian origin, imported their materials almost entirely from the United States, this fact chiefly accounts for an increase in metal manufactures from that country of from £43,535 in 1897-98 to £133,433 in 1898-99. A similar temporary increase in this class of manufactures occurred during the construction of the railway by American contractors.

Under "other manufactures" the increases generally preponderate over the decreases.

The following figures show the respective proportions of imports from the several countries during the five years ended 31st March 1899 :—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
United Kingdom	50·4	48·1	49·9	47·2	44·7
United States	36·8	41·8	39·4	43·0	45·1
Canada	8·5	7·5	8·2	7·1	7·1
Other countries	4·3	2·6	2·5	2·7	3·1

The Collector-General points out that probably for the first time in the history of the Colony the value of imports from a foreign country (United States) has exceeded the value of those drawn from the United Kingdom. As already stated, however, a large part of the increased importations from that country in 1898–99 were materials for an electric tramway system, which has now been almost completed. The general trend of the Colony's trade from the United Kingdom to the United States is, however, unquestionable, and may be accounted for not only by contiguity, but also by the superior finish which is said to be given by American manufacturers to cheap articles, such as cheap cottons, common boots, shoes, &c., which are so largely used by the mass of the people of this Colony.

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

Excepting sugar and rum, the manufactured articles of the Colony are of comparatively small value and importance. The export value of sugar in 1898–99 was £150,312, of rum £104,295, and of articles shown in the Blue Book as exported manufactured articles of home production £17,657, making together £272,264.

Besides exported sugar there is a fair quantity manufactured for the home market, principally by small settlers. There is no means of ascertaining the quantity or value disposed of. The prices obtained in the market, which last year were about 2*s.* 6*d.*

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to 3*s.* for 16 quarts, could only prove remunerative to small settlers working at home with inexpensive mills driven by their own stock. A means of approximately ascertaining the home consumption of rum is afforded by the duty of 5*s.* per proof gallon imposed on rum taken out of bond for home consumption. The proof gallon is reckoned at 1·35 to 1 to the liquid gallon. The duty collected in 1898–99 was £100,028; the number of gallons sold locally was about 296,379, making with 1,564,436 exported an output of 1,860,815 gallons.

Of the minor manufactured articles exported the most important is logwood extract. The manufacture of this article has only been taken up within the past few years. The export value has been :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1894–95	3,126
1895–96	27,965
1896–97	27,525
1897–98	20,984
1898–99	17,164

Showing unfortunately a decline, except at its first inception.

76 local manufactories are enumerated in the Blue Book. There are 16 for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, 2 tanneries, 10 breweries, 7 aerated water factories, 6 brick-making factories, 2 soap manufactories, 3 ice factories, a match factory, &c. Most of these are small and employ but few hands. Only one employs as many as 130 hands.

There are no mines and no organized fishing industries in the Colony. A considerable quantity of fish is of course caught off the shores of the island for home consumption.

Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

Agricultural Industries.

During the year 1898–99 excellent seasons were experienced generally, and the outlook had improved by the close of the year.

At its commencement, however, the condition of cultivators, as gauged by receipts of property and holdings tax, was even more depressed than in 1897–98. Thus, the acreages of lands on which property tax was payable in the tax-collecting years ended 31st July 1897 and 1898 respectively were as follows :—

—	1896–97.	1897–98.
Cultivated land at 3*d.* an acre	164,644	164,307
Guinea grass at 1½*d.* an acre	124,672	123,136
Pasture land at ¾*d.* an acre	374,244	373,048
Wood and ruinate at ¼*d.* an acre	1,218,149	1,187,909
Total	1,881,700	1,848,400

These figures include arrears, which in every case were greater than in the preceding year. Were these arrears eliminated, the figures for each year would stand at 1,791,160 and 1,725,930 acres respectively. Similarly, the number of holdings for the tax-collecting year 1896–97 stood at 76,585, for 1897–98 at 71,759 only.

Returns of acreage and holdings for the financial year ended 31st March 1899 are not available, but that the condition of cultivators had improved during the 9 months following the period to which those returns relate, is shown by the increased

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collections of internal revenue, particularly on agricultural items, *e.g.*, payments of quit rents, taxes on cultivated lands and on holdings, and purchase money for Crown lands. For holdings, the payments for the year ended 31st March 1898 were £11,309, but for 1898–99 £13,219; while the taxes on cultivated lands gave £5,415 in 1897–98 and £5,838 in 1898–99.

This improvement was largely due to the excellent seasons causing unusually large crops, which compensated, as a rule, for lower prices. Thus, while the export quantity of nine agricultural products, each valued at over £30,000 annually, was greater in every instance than the yield of 1897–98, the price was less in five cases, about the same in one, and greater in three instances, viz., those of pimento, ginger, and cocoa, none of which are among the chief products. The average price of pimento was phenomenally high, 32*s.* 9*d.* per cwt., against 27*s.* 3¼*d.* in 1897–98, itself an unusually good price. The Collector-General points out that the comparatively large output of this article was not the result of larger production but of reduction of local stocks.

The upward tendency of sugar and rum, after a decline for several years past, was another feature of the year.

The reports of collectors of taxes on the agricultural outlook in their respective parishes were nearly all characterized by a buoyant tone, and agree, especially in respect of the latter half of the year, that trade is reviving and that there is a healthier and more cheerful spirit pervading all classes. Products for the home market, fruit, vegetables, ground provisions, and pulse were more or less plentiful, and caused a decrease in the importations of certain kinds of foods. The peasantry, who are for the most part cultivators of their own land, or tenants on fairly easy terms, had enough to supply their wants.

Hopeful signs of a more intelligent determination to meet changed conditions, consequent on the decline of former standard industries, are the formation and activity of associations like the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which specially addresses itself to the improvement of breeds of stock, especially small stock, and to the spread of information as to the proper methods of cultivating the minor products, the initiation of experiments for placing articles on the market profitably in a concentrated form, *e.g.*, logwood extract, farine, banana flour, banana figs, &c., the endeavour to find new markets, *e.g.*, for fruit in Europe, and for stock, fowls, eggs, &c., in Cuba, and the successful practice by a growing number of the peasantry of improved methods taught them by the Instructor from the Botanical Department. As an instance, one of the reports by collectors of taxes speaks of the ready sale in Mandeville of grapes grown by peasants at Alligator Pond, who have taken up viticulture under directions given by the Instructor. Peasant lads taught at Hope Industrial School

performed very successfully during the year budding operations for a proprietor near Brown's Town, at a cost to him of £4 3*s.*, while budded trees procured from nurseries would have cost £30 5*s.*, irrespective of the expense of transit.

At Montpelier, the property of the Hon. Evelyn Ellis, an extensive factory for the manufacture of cigars is now in full working, the entire cigar being the product of Jamaica soil. Mr. Ellis has planted out 60 acres exclusively with seedlings of the famous Vuelta Abajo tobacco, obtained from the Botanical Department; the tobacco, cured on the spot, realized high prices in New York. This gentleman has also during the past year successfully prepared ensilage from native plants, cured banana figs, &c. Orange growers from Florida have induced several persons to properly cultivate the trees instead of practically leaving them to nature, after clearing the surrounding land, and there has been much activity during the year in the planting and cultivation of new orange groves.

The banana industry, now the mainstay of our agriculture, was initiated by an American sea-captain, the founder of the Boston Fruit Company. At the same time Jamaicans have not been behind hand. As an instance, may be cited the wide cultivation of late years by native landowners of bananas on the irrigated plains of St. Catherine. The area so cultivated is stated in a report by the collector of taxes to be more than double that lost to cane culture by the abandonment of many sugar estates in that parish. In the neighbouring district of Vere, which has always been devoted to cane cultivation, it is hoped irrigation will be established ere long. Should this hope be realized, the sugar industry in that district will probably be saved from the fate which has befallen it in the plains of St. Thomas in the east. In St. Thomas, however, the Boston Fruit Company are cultivating bananas widely, as also tomatoes and other vegetables for the American market. But Jamaica, with two-thirds of the surface wholly uncultivated, needs the sugar as well as the fruit industry, instead of the substitution of the one for the other.

Botanical Stations.

The Botanical Department did useful work during the year in experimental cultivation, in the distribution of plants and seeds, and in affording information by means of bulletins and private correspondence with planters.

The department distributed during the year no less than 197,139 plants, of which the greater proportion were economic plants.

Advice was given during the year to orange growers as to remedies for sickly plants, to cocoa planters by leaflets and demonstrations by the Agricultural Instructor of the department,

to viniculturists through the Instructor, whose advice given during the last few years has resulted in remunerative cultivation of grapes for the home market in a dry district of St. Elizabeth, hitherto considered of little value for agricultural purposes, to sugar planters by distributing the best varieties, the "No. 95" variety having afforded a planter more than double the yield of the kind hitherto grown on his estate, to tobacco cultivators by obtaining the best kinds of the famous Vuelta Abajo tobacco, with which the Hon. Evelyn Ellis exclusively planted out 60 acres, manufacturing tobacco which realized a high price in New York. This has induced him to lay out 130 acres more. The department has also had under training two lads from the Colony of Lagos, and has trained as agriculturists several lads from the Hope Industrial School.

A scheme for starting an experimental agricultural station was formulated during the year by the Botanical Director, the Agricultural Inspector, and the Principal of the High School at Hope for the employment and instruction of industrial school boys, and of boys whose parents are willing to pay for their maintenance. The scheme was approved by the Government, but cannot at present be carried out for want of funds.

The great rise in the beginning of 1899 in the price of quinine and cinchona bark led to an enquiry into the present condition of the cinchona plantations and the practicability of manufacturing quinine locally as in India. As a result it appears doubtful, unless prices rise still further, whether bark can be harvested for sale, or quinine manufactured locally, as a source of profit.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

No grants of land have been made by the Crown of late years, except to the West India Improvement Company under the Railway Law 12 of 1889. During the year under review 1,565½ acres of Crown land were transferred to this Company, making an aggregate of 73,393½ acres transferred to them. The Company are still entitled to 3,506½ acres in addition.

Crown land continues to be sold on easy terms to small settlers. During the year 322 applications were received, covering 3,329 acres, and 354 lots were surveyed, covering 3,617¼ acres, the purchasers of which were placed in possession. From 1st January 1897, when the scheme was started, to 31st March 1899, 623 applications have been received for 6,624½ acres, and 511 satisfied, covering 5,984½ acres.

No Crown lands were sold during the year to parties other than small settlers under the above scheme. The lands were sold at prices ranging from £1 to £3 per acre, as compared with the ruling prices—£1 to £16 per acre—of private land for agricultural purposes.

The value of property generally is at present lower than in 1890-95.

SHIPPING.

There was a considerable increase in shipping compared with last year, as the following figures indicate :—

Year.	Vessels Entered.	Vessels Cleared.
1897-98	1,060	1,055
1898-99	1,420	1,429
Increase ...	360	374

This increase is far in excess of that exhibited by the trade of the Colony, as shown by its exports and imports. Indeed the figures for 1898-99 are considerably greater than those of any of the preceding four years, when the number of vessels did not show any considerable fluctuations from year to year. The highest previous numbers were 1,174 entered and 1,168 cleared in 1895-96, a year of much greater prosperity than 1898-99.

The Collector-General explains that the increase in 1898-99 is due partly to extra activity in the fruit trade with the United States, but mainly to the creation of a trade with Cuba after the war. The vessels employed in this trade are very small, and its addition to the volume of trade would not therefore be commensurate with the increased number of vessels engaged in it.

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The following is a comparative summary of vessels, tonnage, and crews for the past five years :—

Year.	Reported.			Cleared.		
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1894–95	Sailing, 448	102,127	3,437	432	97,066	3,171
	Steam, 683	671,887	22,790	704	693,260	23,570
	1,131	774,014	26,227	1,136	790,326	26,741
1895–96	Sailing, 472	106,408	3,611	470	110,467	3,663
	Steam, 702	697,294	24,308	698	693,178	24,199
	1,174	803,702	27,919	1,168	803,645	27,862
1896–97	Sailing, 343	66,447	2,522	361	70,557	2,675
	Steam, 688	672,955	23,686	694	678,946	23,724
	1,031	739,402	26,208	1,055	749,503	26,399
1897–98	Sailing, 348	70,238	2,596	346	71,388	2,641
	Steam, 712	710,623	24,554	709	708,695	24,503
	1,060	780,861	27,150	1,055	780,083	27,144
1898–99	Sailing, 445	71,058	3,365	457	76,218	3,535
	Steam, 975	839,391	31,938	972	841,052	31,809
	1,420	910,449	35,303	1,429	917,270	35,344

Of the vessels reported and cleared, the majority are British. Thus in 1898–99 there were 319 sailing vessels of this nationality out of 445 which entered, 4 being direct from the United Kingdom and 315 from British possessions. Of the 975 steamers, 514 were British, 497 from the United Kingdom and 17 from British possessions. The great majority of British sailing vessels belong to the West Indies, a large number coming from the Bahamas, the Turks, and the Cayman Islands. Of the remainder, nearly all are from Nova Scotia, as also the majority of steamers of British possessions trading here.

Of foreign vessels the majority are Norwegian. In 1898–99, 40 sailing vessels and 235 steamers of this nationality were reported. Next in order came those of the United States of America, 44 sailing and 165 steam vessels. The number of American vessels entering these waters is increasing far beyond that of any other nationality. Thus in 1894–95, vessels reported from the United Kingdom and British possessions numbered 692, in 1898–99, 833, an increase of 20 per cent.; Norwegian vessels were respectively 222 and 275, an increase of nearly 24 per cent., but the number of American vessels rose from 116 to 209, a gain of 80 per cent. Next in number, but at a considerable distance behind, come the Germans, with 35 vessels in 1894–95 and 40 in 1898–99.

Sailing vessels of British nationality, most of them as already stated belonging to the West Indies, doing a small intercolonial trade, are of much smaller tonnage than those of foreign nations. In 1898–99 the tonnage of 319 British sailing vessels entered was 25,656, or say 80 tons each, that of 126 foreign was 45,403, say 360 tons each. The converse holds good for steamers. Thus 514 British steamers entered in 1898–99 had a tonnage of 588,061, or 1,144 tons each, while the tonnage of 461 foreign steamers was 251,330, or 545 each, the proportion being more than two to one. It may also be mentioned that of the total tonnage of 1,827,719 for ships entered and cleared, 1,284,116 tons were British.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following were the more important laws passed by the Legislative Council during that portion of the Session of 1898 which fell within the year 1898–99.

Law 17 of 1898.—This law amends and incorporates the Marine Board Laws of 1896 and 1897.

Law 18 of 1898.—The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law.

JAMAICA, 1898-9.

Law 20 of 1898.—The Succession Duty Law, 1898, which imposes certain duties on succession to property.

Law 28 of 1898.—The Tariff Law.

Law 29 of 1898, which enables the Governor to raise on behalf of the Kingston General Commissioners a loan for the purpose of improving the supply of water to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains.

Law 34 of 1898.—The Cayman Islands Commissioners Law, which gives the Governor power to appoint a Resident Commissioner for those islands.

Law 36 of 1898.—The Resident Magistrates Amendment Law. This law incorporates the Resident Magistrates Law of 1887, and removes the inelastic provisions of the 1887 law, which confines the jurisdiction of each Resident Magistrate within the boundaries of a particular parish.

Law 38 of 1898.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897, Amendment Law, 1898.

Law 40 of 1898, which gives the Governor power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £100,000 to meet the liabilities of the Government.

No laws were passed during that portion of the 1899 Session which ended on the 31st March.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Schools.

The following is a comparative table of results for this and the preceding year with respect to public elementary schools :—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance at Inspection.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
										£
1897–98 ...	913	869	98,205	57,983	50,627	59·04	160	389	330	53,554
1898–99 ...	893	876	96,252	56,853	54,044	59·28	176	397	267	51,565

As compared with the preceding year, 1898–99 shows a slight improvement in regularity of attendance, the monthly returns showing an increase of nearly 7 per cent., notwithstanding the closing of 21 small inefficient schools.

The gradual closing of such schools has been accompanied by a remarkable rise in the number of first and second class schools. The increase in attendance has been steady throughout the island.

JAMAICA, 1898–9.

The annual examination of candidates for trade and other scholarships for admission to training colleges and for exhibitions tenable at their schools gave the following results compared with last year :—

Year.	Presented.		Passed.		Percentage Passed.	
	Pupil Teachers.	Voluntary Candidates.	Pupil Teachers.	Voluntary Candidates.	Pupil Teachers.	Voluntary Candidates.
1897–98	590	1,081	330	313	55	28
1898–99	533	1,099	212	183	40	17

The results, especially in 1898–99, are disappointing. The instruction of pupil teachers by the head teachers appears from the inspectors' reports to be still too perfunctory.

The same remarks apply in part to a comparison for the same years of the results of an examination of training college students and of teachers.

Year.	Presented.		Passed.		Honours.	
	Students.	Teachers.	Students.	Teachers.	Students.	Teachers.
1897–98	183	14	149	5	27	—
1898–99	179	18	127	6	22	—

The inferiority of teachers to students at the examinations appears to show that many teachers do not keep up their knowledge after leaving college. At the same time it must be borne in mind that several of the teachers are comparatively untrained, and others passed out of the training colleges when the teaching there had not attained to its present standard.

It is hoped that results will improve as year by year more certificated teachers pass out of the training colleges and the need for employing uncertificated teachers diminishes.

The general results of elementary education as reported on by the inspectors are that reading is more careful but lacks intelligence, one inspector remarking that apparently few children leave school with a taste for reading or ability to read out and appreciate ordinary books and newspapers. Handwriting is too careless; composition is bad, there being constant lapses into the vernacular of the streets; dictation is poor in the average schools; arithmetic somewhat improved, though mental arithmetic is still very weak; science teaching has improved; more attention is paid to instruction in tillage; while the introduction of the tropical readers, which relate chiefly to domestic animals and useful plants found in the West Indies, has already led to more intelligent replies on such subjects. Organization and discipline are somewhat improved, though there is still too much resort to corporal punishment. Good progress is shown in a few schools, but the advance along the whole line is slow. It must be remembered, however, that the curriculum of last year as laid down in the Education Code is more detailed and exacting, whilst the continued increase notwithstanding this fact in first and second class schools appears to show that the education given, however inadequate, is improving.

In pursuance of a promise made to the Legislature, my predecessor appointed in 1897 a Commission to enquire into the system of education in the Colony, with a view to ascertain whether improved results might not be obtained for the large sum annually spent, and whether, indeed, the expenditure might not be reduced and efficiency increased at the same time. The Commission reported in November 1898, and formed the subject of much criticism in the Colony. The report was laid before the Legislative Council, but any legislation rendered necessary by the Commissioners' report had not taken place when the year closed.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

There is only one such school established under the provisions of Law 32 of 1892, viz., at Montego Bay, to which an annual subsidy of £200 is granted by the Legislative Council. There are, besides, several endowed schools over which the Jamaica Schools Commission exercises general control, and a few high schools or grammer schools supported by religious bodies, such as the York Castle High School (Wesleyan), the Church of England High School (Kingston), &c. There is also the University College and Jamaica High School, which are maintained from public funds. In addition, six colleges afford training for teachers of the public elementary schools. Only one of these, that at Shortwood for training female teachers, is maintained from public funds, others, called voluntary colleges, are assisted by scholarships.

The full number of scholarships provided for by law has continued to be given, but it has been decided to reduce the number

of smaller one-year scholarships from 15 to 6, and to give the Jamaica scholarship of £200 a year, tenable for three years, in place of one of the £60 scholarships.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE FOR FEMALE TEACHERS.

Miss Marvin, the new principal, took up her duties in August 1898, in succession to Miss Johnson, who had retired on account of ill-health, after many years' zealous and able service.

On 1st April 1898 there were 30 students, as against 29 on 1st April 1897. Two left during the year for pecuniary and medical reasons respectively, and ten on completion of their course of training. These latter have all obtained work as head or assistant teachers of schools. No admissions were made in January 1899, owing to uncertainty as to the fate of the college, the question having arisen of transferring it to the list of voluntary colleges assisted by scholarships. 18 students were in residence during the first term of 1899.

Of 28 students who sat at the December examination, six failed, two passed in honours. The practising school obtained 48 marks on inspection. The industrial school children at Shortwood form the bulk of the scholars. The inspector considers the school would be made more efficient in every way if more outside children attended.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There are no technical and agricultural schools, properly so called, though the following schools all give some agricultural instruction, especially that at Hope, which is under the general supervision of the head of the Botanical Department.

Hope Industrial School.

On 1st April 1897 and 1898 the number of boys were 29 and 41 respectively. On 31st March 1899 the number was 38. The average for the year was 39, and the greatest number at any time 42. There was one death, that of a boy sent to the Public Hospital, Kingston. Four boys were transferred to Stony Hill—three for insubordination, one on medical grounds; four time-expired boys obtained employment at Hope Gardens; another was given over to the guardianship of a lady.

The time-expired boys show a preference for work at Hope Gardens; one is nursery foreman and timekeeper there, another is now a warden at the industrial school.

The boys above 12, about two-thirds in number, receive daily training at Hope Gardens in cultivation of cocoa, coffee, fruits, &c., in addition to school duties; the boys below 12, chiefly in

keeping the grounds and roads in order. The bigger boys have small plots of vegetables for their own use, cultivated during their play hours. They sold to the institution during the year 1,402 lbs. of vegetables, besides effecting some sales to outside customers, and have been able to purchase toys, books, &c., from their earnings, and occasionally to make penny bank deposits.

The school again showed satisfactory results at examination. The rate charged against the parishes for each boy was 7*s.* 2*d.* per week.

Alpha Cottage Industrial School.

This school is for both boys and girls, and under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

On 1st April 1898 there were 48 boys and 40 girls in the institution; on 31st March 1899, 44 boys and 34 girls.

On the first-mentioned date, eight time-expired boys were licensed out as apprentices; on the latter date, 14. These apprentices have been very favourably reported on. The boys are employed in garden and field labour, cooking, limewashing, and other house work; the girls in cooking for themselves and baking for the institution, in laundry work, cutting and sewing garments, and straw plaiting. The boys' school gained 64 and the girls' school 67 marks at the last examination.

Belmont Orphanage.

This school for girls is under the superintendence of the Church of England authorities.

There were 12 children on 1st April 1898, and seven on 31st March 1899. Besides school work, they are employed in weeding and cleaning, hat making, washing, sewing, baking, &c.

Three girls who completed their term were placed in situations which they still retain, two doing well.

Shortwood Industrial School for Girls.

This is worked in connection with the training college. On 1st April 1898 there were 33 girls and on 31st March 1899 37 girls on the books, one being on license.

The industrial work done comprises needlework, washing, cooking, baking, house cleaning, whitewashing, and gardening.

The rate charged the parishes was 8½*d.* per head per diem, or 4*s.* 11½*d.* per week.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Public Hospital, Kingston.

The total number of patients treated in 1898-99 was 3,561, the greatest number yet treated in any year, and 202 more than 1897-98. 4,419 persons were rejected for want of room. It may be mentioned that an enlargement of the Public Hospital now in contemplation will provide 100 more beds.

The number of deaths was 272; of this number, 61 were admitted in a serious condition and died from five minutes to 72 hours after admission. The death-rate was only 7·23 per cent., nearly 2 per cent. less than in the previous year, which was an unusually unhealthy one. This low rate compares favourably with the death-rate of Kingston for the period, 29·5 per 1,000.

The recent reconstruction of North Street, Kingston, on which the hospital is situated, has removed long-standing insanitary features in the immediate neighbourhood.

Besides constables and inmates of the Maternity Hospital, 864 out-patients were treated, and no fewer than 10,270 casualties.

The institution and the public service of the Colony have suffered a great loss by the death of Dr. Boyd, the chief medical officer, of whose skill and care the superintending medical officer speaks in the highest terms.

Maternity Hospital, Kingston.

This hospital, which is also called the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital, was founded by General Sir H. W. Norman, as a memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee in 1887. It is of the greatest service to the community in the training of skilled nurses, of whom there had previously been practically none, and in the treatment of indigent women in childbirth. 10 pupil nurses completed their terms of training, and 11 entered.

500 patients were admitted, as against 444 in 1897-98. 12 had to be refused admission, as against 29 in 1897-98. Except seven, all the patients were from Kingston and St. Andrew.

Of 502 infants delivered, 60 were still-born and 13 were twins. There were seven deaths among patients, but two were moribund on admission. The medical officer in charge states that a large proportion of the cases admitted are difficult ones, and those requiring operative assistance were decidedly more numerous than formerly. It is becoming a practice to send patients to the hospital as soon as any unusual difficulty or complication presents itself.

Public General Hospitals.

The admissions to the 19 public general hospitals during the year totalled 11,320. The mortality rates were low; in five of the 19 hospitals ranging from 1 to 2 per cent.; in four, from 2 to 3 per cent.; four, from 3 to 4 per cent.; three, from 4 to 5 per cent.; one, 5·1 per cent.; one, 6·13 per cent.; and one, 6·7 per cent. These low rates are the more creditable, considering the large percentage of patients received in the last stage of disease.

Compared with 1897–98, cases treated were 11,320, and deaths 321, against 14,495 and 404 respectively. Taking admissions to the hospitals as an index of the general health conditions, which the superintending medical officer states elsewhere are distinctly improved, the decrease in admissions appears satisfactory.

The prevailing diseases as in former years were fevers, rheumatism, enteric, pulmonary, urinary, and skin affections.

ASYLUMS.

Lunatic Asylum.

This institution is situated in the immediate vicinity of Kingston, and has been considerably enlarged within the last few years.

During 1898–99, 953 cases were treated at a cost to the public of £13,292, £11,767 being contributed by the parochial poor rates, and the remainder by general revenue. The average daily number of patients under treatment, 775, was greater than in any previous year, but for the first time in many years there were less inmates on the last day of the year than on the first.

Admissions during the year were 168, against 204 in the previous year; discharges 123, against 70; and deaths 69 against 63. The medical superintendent records as an obstacle to admission the refusal of the railway authorities to allow lunatics any longer to travel by train.

As the railway will shortly pass under the control of the Government, this difficulty will not long continue to be felt.

The death-rate was 6·60 of the total number under treatment, against an average of 7·98 in the last 10 years and 13·96 in the antecedent 10.

Lepers' Home.

This institution is situated near Spanish Town. The medical attendant, Dr. Donovan, after nine years' skilful administration, was transferred on the 1st August 1898 to the position of Health Officer, Port Royal, Dr. W. D. Neish succeeding him.

No useful work is performed by the inmates, except one hour's weeding each morning by the males and washing by the females. The lands attached to the home are very barren.

The present medical attendant has compiled a return of deaths from leprosy, pulmonary consumption, and syphilis in Jamaica within the last 20 years, from which it appears that the death-rate of leprosy has largely decreased in ratio to population, that of consumption has slightly decreased, whilst syphilis has increased enormously since 1889. Admissions to the home in 1898 were 16, the least number since it was opened, except in 1894.

Besides leprosy, yaws (*Framboesia*) and other diseases have been treated at the home. 1,125 of such persons have been so treated within the last 21 years, not one of whom has returned to the home as a leper, the only case of acquired leprosy having been that of the cook, who suffered after working in the institution for 17 years.

The several methods of treatment advocated by experts have been employed at the home by the late and present medical attendant with varying success.

POOR HOUSES AND POOR RELIEF.

Poor relief in Jamaica is regulated by Law 6 of 1886. This law places the administration of relief in the hands of the Parochial Boards, but a Central Board called the Board of Supervision enquires into the management of the poor in the several parishes.

The only persons entitled by law to poor relief are those who are wholly destitute and unable to work and earn the means of subsistence, but temporary relief is given to persons not so incapacitated, in exceptional cases of destitution arising from drought, epidemics, &c.

Statistics furnished by the Board of Supervision show that in 1887, *i.e.*, shortly after the new system of compulsory relief regulated by law was inaugurated, there were 4,564 paupers in the island; in 1898 there were 4,497, a decrease of 1·5 per cent. The population during the period increased from 605,800 to 730,300, or by 20 per cent. It is in Kingston alone that the number of paupers has increased greatly in rate, *i.e.*, from 14·4 to 19·7 per 1,000. The island generally shows a decreased ratio of from 7·5 per 1,000 in 1887 to 6·2 in 1898.

It is hard to decide whether this decrease indicates improvement in the social condition of the people or a stricter administration of the pauper fund. For instance, the largest decreases in persons relieved occurred in Portland, Trelawny, and St. Mary. Portland and St. Mary are prosperous parishes owing to the banana industry, but Trelawny which largely depended on the sugar industry is becoming poorer, and the decrease in number of

paupers there is due to the Parochial Board being compelled to refuse relief except in cases of extreme need, owing to a large decrease in the yield from the poor rates.

There were 3,939 outdoor paupers on 1st April 1898, and 3,797 on 1st April 1899; the indoor poor on these dates were 791 and 700 respectively. The number of registered poor in 1898–99 were 5,337, of casual poor 2,058, and of orphans and deserted children 347.

Poor Houses.

There are 15 almshouses provided for at the cost of the poor rates, one in Kingston for Jewish poor, supported by voluntary contributions, and an institution in St. Mary which supports about 12 indigent persons from the invested funds of a charity.

The poor houses are in no sense workhouses, except for the trifling labour of occasionally cleaning the land surrounding the institution, or performing light household duties. In the poor house at Spanish Town the experiment of teaching basket and hat making to the inmates has been tried of late but proved a failure financially.

BOYS' REFORMATORY.

The following are the more important statistics of this institution for 1898–99, compared with 1897–98 :—

GENERAL.	1st April 1898.	1st April 1899.	1897–98	1898–99.
Boys in reformatory section	120	110		
" industrial school "	77	66		
	197	176	197	176
Daily average number of boys			201	187
Discharged			55	55
Percentage of boys discharged during three years to April 1st, 1898 and 1899, respectively, who were reconvicted.			2·78	2·38
On license at end of year			1	(Returned to Reformatory.)
Deaths			1	—
Marks awarded school			61	—

Boys' Reformatory Statistics—*continued.*

FINANCIAL.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1897–98.	1898–99
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s d.
Gross expenditure	—	—	3,612 8 6¾	3,412 11 2
Less earning by labour and sale of articles.	555 3 5	462 14 7	—	—
Reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children.	1,406 14 9	1,112 0 0	—	—
	1,961 18 2	1,574 14 7	1,961 18 2	1,574 14 7
Net cost to general revenue			1,650 10 4¾	1,837 16 7
Gross cost per head per diem			11·80*d.*	11·99*d.*
Gross cost of superintendence and instruction in school, trades, &c., per head, per diem.			5·1*d.*	5·7*d.*
Gross cost of diet per head, per diem			3*d.*	2·99*d.*
Work bringing in no money return			1,092 7 7	1,023 18 4
Average earnings of each boy			7 2 1	7 1 11
Rewards			36 15 9	44 6 9

Nearly six-sevenths of the boys in the institution are of ages between 12 and 16. Towards the end of the year under review arrangements were therefore entered into with the Boston Fruit Company and other large employers of labour to take on several of the older boys as apprentices, due provision being made for their clothing, diet, &c. It was considered that the institution would thus be relieved of the cost of many boys, who on the

other hand would acquire a practical training in agriculture and estates' work generally. The arrangement is only tentative, and will be reconsidered a few months hence.

The boys at the reformatory are employed in garden and field labour, carpentering, and tailoring, and as blacksmiths, masons, and bricklayers.

114 cases of mumps occurred during the year and several cases of malarial fever, many of a very severe type. It is satisfactory to note that no death took place.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY.

Statistical Information.

—	1897–98.			1898–99.		
Number of inmates at end of year	26			12		
Admissions from Courts, &c.	4			5		
Discharges	2			19		
Deaths	2			—		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure...	736	3	4½	656	4	4
Less for work done by girls and reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children.	160	7	9	132	16	4
Net cost to general revenue	575	15	7½	523	8	0
Gross cost per inmate per diem	0	1	6	0	2	0
Cost of diet per inmate per diem	0	0	3½	0	0	3½

The girls were employed as usual in cooking, in making, washing, &c., of clothes for both reformatories, also in washing for private parties.

The institution was closed on the 31st March 1899, 12 children having previously been returned to their friends, and three transferred to the Shortwood Industrial School, and four discharged, their terms of detention having expired. The remaining girls were licensed to Miss Gifford, their late superintendent, the Government paying the sum of 3*s.* per week towards their maintenance. The premises have been rented to Miss Gifford at a nominal sum.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The following is a comparative statement of the chief transactions of the bank during the past five years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.*	Amount of Withdrawals.
		£	£
1894–95	27,045	200,983	237,646
1895–96	28,385	240,543	242,251
1896–97	29,719	227,562	234,462
1897–98	30,660	216,309	229,774
1898–99	31,870	225,431	212,689

The increase in deposits over withdrawals as compared with preceding years appears to indicate some revival of former prosperity.

Of the deposits in 1898–99, £20,523, say, two-thirds, were for amounts of £5 and under. There is a continued increase in the number of small accounts, showing that the Savings Bank is of especial benefit to the class for whom it was chiefly established.

The total deposits at credit of depositors on the 31st March 1899 were :—£492,074, or adding £1,721 for old Savings Bank deposits, £493,795. The figures last year were respectively £468,200 and £1,679 = £469,879.

* Exclusive of interest.

The assets of the bank on the 31st March 1899 were distributed as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Consols 2¾ per cent....				20,404	17	3
Inscribed Stock.						
Jamaica 4 per cent.	9,900	0	0			
Canada 3 per cent.	27,908	0	3			
Cape of Good Hope 4 per cent.	47,766	6	8			
Ceylon 4 per cent.	24,881	5	2			
New South Wales 3½ per cent.	40,528	13	7			
Queensland 3½ per cent. ...	14,963	8	1			
Victoria 4 per cent.	32,043	1	0			
Western Australia	498	13	4			
New Zealand...	15,011	9	5			
				213,500	17	11
Debentures.						
Jamaica 5 per cent.	3,800	0	0			
Canada 4 per cent.	53,990	12	6			
New South Wales 4 and 5 per cent.	60,497	10	0			
South Australia 4 and 6 per cent.	52,431	2	6			
Victoria 4 and 4½ per cent. ...	47,308	12	6			
Government of Jamaica ...	41,817	10	2½			
Cash in hand...	43	19	0			
				259,889	6	8½
Total ...				£493,795	1	10½

There were no new investments in inscribed stock and debentures during the year, the above figures except the last two items being the same as in the preceding year.

During the year the indebtedness of the Government has been increased by £23,883 10*s.*

The income of the bank during 1898-99 amounted to £17,412 1*s.* 3*d.*, the expenditure for management, &c., to £14,465 5*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a net profit of £2,946 16*s.* In 1897-98 the net profit was £1,322 9*s.* 9*d.*

In the 29 years of the bank's existence a profit of £31,183 has been made and carried to general revenue.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police during the year was 853, as in 1897-98, the actual mean strength only 788. The large difference of 65 was due to the suspension of enlistments owing to the financial condition of the Colony, and not, the Inspector-General states, to any difficulty in obtaining eligible men for the force. The actual strength is made up of 19 officers, 131 sub-officers, and 638 constables, against 20, 134, and 696 respectively during the preceding years.

Formerly, one inspector was allowed at the depôt and an inspector was placed in charge of each parish.

For the sake of economy, the parishes of St. Ann and Trelawny have been placed under one inspector and those of St. James and Hanover under another, and further amalgamations of parishes for constabulary purposes are in contemplation. The depôt will also be in charge of the inspector for St. Catherine.

On the 31st March 1899 the actual strength of the constabulary was 769, and of the rural police 873, together 1,642. In 1887-98, 1,799 men were engaged in police duties, showing a decrease on the date mentioned of 157.

The rural police were chiefly employed in assisting to detect cases of prædial larceny and illegal possession of rum, also in discovering cases of children needing medical treatment for yaws or of persons requiring to be vaccinated.

The principal duties, besides patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the constabulary during the past five years were as follows :—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	7,781	8,775	8,351	7,330	7,183
Number of persons apprehended on warrants			1,780	1,629	1,264
Number of search warrants executed	150	151	142	148	188
Number of persons summoned	19,249	20,279	19,537	17,785	17,084
Number of persons subpœnaed	30,673	31,058	27,161	27,161	25,734
Number of prisoners escorted	8,224	9,911	11,542	12,081	8,912
Number of seizures under revenue laws	437	649	309	854	605
Number of post-mortems ordered	603	610	641	703	527

These figures indicate a general diminution in police duties within the past few years, corresponding with the decrease in cases of crime, referred to elsewhere under the heading "Criminal Statistics."

JAMAICA, 1898–9.

PRISONS.

—	Year ended 31st March.	
	1898.	1899.
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	1,172	1,102
Number on last day of year	1,049	984
Commitments—		
To prison	4,998	3,818
To lock-ups	987	894
Total	5,895	4,712
Reconvictions	2,076	1,364
Deaths	40	31
Executions	3	—
FINANCIAL.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	20,884 11 5¾	18,780 12 4¼
Gross earnings in cash	5,939 19 4½	6,275 2 1½
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	14,944 12 1¼	12,505 10 2¾
Cost per prisoner	12 15 0¼	11 6 11¾
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	5,577 0 4	6,401 19 8
Estimated value of bricklaying work done and stone quarried, &c. (General Penitentiary).	3,507 11 11	4,141 15 9

Of the prisoners in custody on 31st March 1899, 882 were males and 102 females, together 984. This is a lower number than in any preceding year since 1895, when it was 957. The committals to prisons and lock-ups were lower than in any year since 1894–95.

A Hoffman brick kiln has been built at the General Penitentiary for the manufacture of bricks of a superior quality for street

paving in Kingston, as well as to ensure a greater output of ordinary bricks than could be obtained from the ordinary processes.

The Falmouth District Prison and the Cornwall County Gaol were closed on the 31st August 1898. The penal institutions of the Colony now consist of the General Penitentiary for convicts with sentences of 12 months and over, and for white and female prisoners generally, the St. Catherine District Prison for prisoners with sentences exceeding 14 days but less than 12 months. Persons with sentences of 14 days and under, are in most cases detained in the lock-ups of the chief town of the parish in which they were tried. Debtors and first class misdemeanants are confined in the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol.

The health of the prisoners generally throughout the year has been good. There have been no serious outbreaks of disease such as characterised the preceding year. At the General Penitentiary the surgeon found 4·28 of the males and 4·85 of the females admitted to be in feeble health, and of those discharged in feeble health 3·72 of the males and 2·55 per cent. of the females, showing an improvement in health during incarceration.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the more important criminal statistics of the past five years —

Offences as Classified in Police Reports.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
I. Offences against the person	7,302	7,040	6,653	6,500	5,389	3,218	3,309	3,140	3,008	2,410
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	326	429	394	350	313	184	245	264	229	206
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	4,079	5,004	5,700	5,488	4,226	1,914	2,586	3,021	2,995	2,270
IV. Malicious offences against property.	182	137	169	162	244	53	57	43	39	70
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	39	48	25	25	33	14	29	9	8	17
VI. Other offences	15,513	16,477	16,201	14,329	13,573	9,569	10,473	10,188	8,969	8,639
Totals	27,441	29,135	29,142	26,854	23,778	14,952	16,699	16,665	15,248	13,612

Principal offences under above heads :—										
I. Murder, including infanticide.	10	12	16	13	6	3	5	1	7	1
Manslaughter	3	20	17	12	14	1	16	5	4	1
Cutting and wounding ...	694	847	835	861	600	269	302	449	476	349
Common assault	5,760	5,326	4,928	4,688	3,955	2,465	2,547	2,238	2,029	1,614
II. Burglary and housebreaking	277	417	375	339	292	166	239	253	224	201
III. Simple larceny	1,773	2,017	2,264	2,143	1,870	748	914	1,073	1,013	917
Prædial larceny	1,019	1,560	2,171	2,147	1,493	512	889	1,277	1,309	920
IV. Arson	29	18	29	29	29	6	1	3	5	6
VI. Disorderly conduct ...	4,047	4,728	5,097	4,098	3,816	2,978	3,474	3,658	2,826	2,752
Obscene and abusive language.	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,869	3,070	2,379	2,058	2,035	1,584	1,774
Trespass	940	941	973	883	604	449	467	482	471	325

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It was my pleasing duty last year to record a decided tendency to a decrease in crime during the quinquennial period 1893-94 to 1897-98, and particularly during 1897-98. A further decrease was shown in 1898-99. Both apprehensions and convictions were lower than in any year since 1893-94. Compared in each case with the preceding year, apprehensions in 1897-98 were 7·9 per cent. less, in 1898-99 11·5 less, while convictions in 1897-98 were 12 per cent. less, but exhibited a further decrease of only 3·7 per cent. in 1898-99. Of the six classes of offences, the statistics given above show increases only under malicious offences against property and offences against the currency, both being classes of crime of comparative infrequency, while of the particular offences specially noted in the table, all show a decrease compared with last year both in apprehensions and convictions, except obscene and abusive language, which has increased under both. The decrease is particularly noticeable in the graver offences against the person. The one conviction for murder was a case of infanticide; the criminal's sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. Hardly any of the cases of manslaughter and of cutting and wounding were of an aggravated nature. The only offence which I regret to report as generally increasing, particularly in Kingston, is that of gambling. A more stringent law has now been passed, which it is hoped may be the means of checking this grave social evil.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION, COMPARED WITH FIGURES OF LAST CENSUS.

The population taken at the census of April 1891 consisted of 639,491 persons, 305,948 being males and 333,543 females; the estimated population on the 31st March 1899 was 730,725 persons, 353,226 males and 377,499 females. This estimate is based on the annual excess of births over deaths, and, in the absence of any migratory disturbance causing an appreciable excess of persons leaving the island over those entering it, or *vice versâ*, may be accepted as practicably correct.

During the eight years since 1891 the increase has thus been 91,234 in number, or a percentage of nearly 14·3. At this rate the population by the next census may be expected to have increased by 17·84 per cent. From 1881-91 it increased by

10·1 per cent., and from 1861–71 and 1871–81 by 14·7. The Registrar-General pointed out in the report on the last census that the low rates of increase from 1881 to 1891 arose from the exodus of a large number of males of the reproductive age to Colon.

During the past eight years males have increased by 47,278 in number and 15·4 in percentage, and females 43,956 in number and 13·0 in percentage. In 1871 the excess of female population was 13,008, in 1881 14,890, in 1891 27,595, and in 1898 24,273. The large excess of females from 1881–91 was doubtless owing to the considerable emigration of male labourers to the isthmus during that period.

The number of marriages during the year was 3,362, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 4·6. The rate per 1000 in 1897–98, a year of greater depression, was 3·7. The rates ranged between 5·1 and 5·5 from 1890 to 1895,—a period of comparative prosperity; since then they have ranged from 3·7 to 4·6.

The births registered numbered 27,648, a rate of 38·1 per 1,000; the deaths 15,290, a rate of 21·0 per 1,000. The births showed an increase of 799 over those of 1897–98, the deaths a decrease of 1,184. The year, as explained elsewhere in this report, was one of comparative healthfulness.

The rate per 1,000 of illegitimate births reached 63·4 per 100, the highest rate attained during the 21 years of registration.

Deaths among illegitimate children were proportionately more numerous than among legitimate children, owing doubtless to the comparative neglect of the former.

Of the 15,290 deaths registered in the year, 11,856, or 77·5 per cent., were not medically certified. Last year the percentage was 75·5, while the average of the five years 1894–99 was 75·46. Medical practitioners in the country parishes are very few, and proportionately numerous in Kingston, facts which account for the percentage in the city being 26·9 and for the rest of the island 82·6. The percentage for Kingston has, however, increased considerably since 1894–95, when it was 14·4.

PUBLIC HEALTH, GENERAL STATE OF.

The Superintending Medical Officer reports a marked decrease during 1898–99 in the sick rate and a milder character in the

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cases treated, facts which denote a return to the more normal health standard which obtained prior to 1897 and 1898, when there was an unusual amount of sickness of various types, including some cases of yellow fever, malarial fever, influenza, and measles. These conditions were unusual. Yellow fever only occurs in a few isolated cases, as a rule, and the other diseases referred to usually prevail within limited areas only, and are not generally of a severe type.

Prominent causes of this improvement were, in Dr. Mosse's opinion, the greater attention paid by the local authorities to sanitary questions, and the more equable distribution of rains during the year. The sudden alterations of temperature and the excessive humidity during the wet seasons, with the malarial conditions prevailing on their cessation, are responsible for a large number of cases of sickness in this Colony.

The diseases most frequently occurring were malarial fevers, pulmonary, rheumatic, and enteric affections. Mumps was very prevalent in many districts, but other infectious diseases were rare. Leprosy appears to be gradually dying out, due, probably, in some measure, to the more stringent provisions of the present law as to segregation, committal to the leper asylum of lepers wandering about, &c.

Yaws (*Framboesia*) is exceedingly prevalent in many districts. Arrangements are made by which cases are brought by rural constables to the district medical officer for treatment, but the disease though readily curable is difficult to control, as the peasantry expose their children to infection whenever possible, under the impression that they must pass through a course of the complaint.

Venereal disease is also prevalent. Several medical officers call attention to the large proportion of syphilitic cases treated in hospital, 32·40 and in one case 60 per cent. of admissions being recorded as due to, or complicated by, this malady. Cases are not usually brought to the medical man until they are in an advanced stage, quack remedies being preferred. The prevalent immorality greatly fosters this disease.

SANITATION, PROVISION MADE FOR.

The Parochial Boards, which are the local Boards of Health, have recently paid more attention to sanitary matters, especially as affecting towns and villages, since the occurrence of cases of yellow fever in 1897. Comprehensive bye-laws now exist for preventing the pollution of the sources of water supply for towns and villages.

The establishment of underground sewerage and the reconstruction of the streets in the greater part of Kingston has tended to improve the sanitary conditions. The total mortality in 1898–99 was 1,876, or 29·5 per 1,000, *i.e.*, 131 less in number and 1·4 in ratio than in the previous year. The birth-rate was, however, also lower, being 38·2 per 1,000 as against 40·8 in 1897–98.

The Superintending Medical Officer considers that the lessening of the death-rate should have been more marked considering the sanitary improvements effected. He notes, however, a decided decrease in the sick-rate for the period under review, and attributes it largely to steady progress in the sanitary work undertaken by the Improvement Commissioners. Dr. Mosse adds that the efforts of the Commissioners are in a measure counteracted by the over-crowding, faulty ventilation, and disregard of cleanliness which largely prevail among the occupants of the humbler tenements, where, he states, the diseases responsible for a large percentage of the total mortality are fostered. Tuberculosis, for instance, largely prevails in this lower stratum of the community.

It should also be borne in mind that the improvement of Kingston proper by the Commissioners, as also by the municipal authorities, who have also of late years effected many improvements in the suburbs, has not yet extended in any degree to the west and north-west of Kingston where thousands of the humbler classes live.

It must not be overlooked that a fair proportion of the deaths in Kingston occur in the public hospitals and asylum, and other public institutions, among persons admitted from other parishes, frequently in a moribund or very enfeebled condition. Deaths among such persons swell the Kingston rate.

At Port Royal the district medical officer estimated the mortality as high as 34·8 per 1,000. From its natural conditions Port Royal, which is situated at the end of a narrow spit of land swept daily by a health-giving breeze, should, the medical officer points out, be one of the healthiest spots in the lowlands of Jamaica. A good water supply has just been provided, steps have been taken for the proper disposal of night soil, and it is in contemplation to place the town under the control of a specially constituted municipal authority to include representatives of the naval and military services as well as of the civil population. It is believed that a local Board of this character will exercise more effective supervision than can be expected of the Mayor and Council of Kingston, with their many and onerous duties in connection with that city.

CLIMATE.

Particulars under this head are given for the calendar year, the Government Meteorologist having always furnished his returns for that period.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for 1898 was 71·88 inches, which is above the average.

For meteorological purposes, the island is divided into four districts; the greatest rainfall occurs in the north-eastern district, which comprises the highest mountains. In this district as many as 170 inches per annum fall in some parts. The least rainfall occurs in the southern district, which contains almost all the level land in the Colony. The heaviest rains fall as a rule in May and October, and are known locally as "the seasons," while the first three months of the year are usually the driest throughout the island.

Temperature.

The mountainous character of Jamaica, the greater portion of which is over 1,000 feet above sea level, renders its climate a mild one notwithstanding its tropical situation. The weather on the moderately elevated land near the sea, *i.e.*, in about one-eighth of the island, is hot from May to October, but the thermometer even in August in the hottest part of the day rarely shows a higher reading than 90 degrees Fah. with a minimum of about 72 degrees. The heat on the plains is, however, tempered by the sea breeze during the day, and by a land breeze at night.

Taking the temperature of Kingston as illustrating that of the warm districts, we find in 1898 a maximum temperature of 88·7 degrees in July, a minimum of 66·4 degrees in February, an average maximum for the year of 86·9 degrees, an average minimum of 70·7 degrees, and a mean range of 16·2 degrees. At Stony Hill Reformatory, with an elevation of 1,400 feet, which may be regarded as about the average for a great portion of the island, the maximum temperature during 1898 was 85·8 degrees, the minimum 62·9. The average maximum for the year was 83·8, the minimum 65·9, while the mean range was 17·9. At Hill Gardens, with an elevation of 4,907 feet, which is exceeded by only a comparatively limited area in the Blue Mountains to the north-east, the maximum temperature was 71 degrees, the minimum 52·8, average maximum 68·4, average minimum 56·2, and mean range only 12·2.

On the highest spot in the island, Blue Mountain Peak, with an elevation of 7,300 feet, a thin film of ice has formed on the grass on rare occasions.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The general direction of the wind is easterly, from the north-east in the northern, and south-east in the southern parts. The Government Meteorologist considers that, as in England, the wind from the north-east is the more invigorating.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The following are comparative statements of revenue and expenditure for these services during the three years ended 31st March 1899 :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896–97 ...	5,472 16 2	17,858 10 11¼	23,331 7 1¼	414 5 6	534 3 9½	145 14 9	24,425 11 1¾	5,479 19 3	29,915 10 4¾
1897–98 ...	4,869 10 3	16,984 3 0	21,853 13 3	373 16 2	574 7 7½	82 2 0	22,883 19 0½	5,085 12 6	27,969 11 6½
1898–99 ...	4,832 14 2¼	16,605 19 11¾	21,438 14 2¼	392 9 11	594 2 3	125 13 5	22,550 19 9¼	6,101 9 0	28,652 8 9¼

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896–97	5,193 12 7	2,681 8 9	9,841 2 11	2,289 1 8	5,140 0 0	5,317 17 1½	30,463 3 0½	7,556 8 5	38,019 11 5½
1897–98	5,268 1 4	2,965 2 8	10,479 6 11	859 0 3	5,140 0 0	5,060 17 6	29,772 8 8	7,686 5 3	37,458 13 11
1898–99	5,388 1 10	3,014 11 5	10,652 4 0	1,938 6 11	5,140 0 0	5,001 9 10½	31,134 14 0¼	7,707 11 4	38,842 5 4½

Postal revenue diminished by £322 19*s.* 3¼*d.*, and telegraph revenue increased by £1,015 16*s.* 6*d.*, compared with the previous year. The decrease in postal revenue occurred entirely under the head of Postages, other heads show slight increases. The decrease on packet postage was slight, and may have been affected by the reduction in postage with Canada from 25th December 1898 from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* per half-ounce; the similar reduction on postage with the empire generally was not in force in Jamaica till the 24th May 1899.

The reduction on inland postage arose from the re-establishment on the 1st January 1898 of the privilege of franking official correspondence. Such correspondence was formerly prepaid by means of official postage stamps, the estimated total value of which was £2,500 per annum. If three-fourths of this amount, £1,875, be deducted from the postage revenue for 1897-98—£21,853 13*s.* 3*d.* (official postage having been used for nine months of that period), and the entire £2,500 from postages for 1896-97—£23,331 7*s.* 1¼*d.*, it will be seen that this branch of revenue increased by £1,460 0*s.* 11¼*d.* over 1897-98 and by £607 7*s.* 1*d.* over 1898-99. Increases on the other three heads of revenue amounted to £81 19*s.* 10½*d.* over 1897-98 and £18 1*s.* 6½*d.* over 1898-99.

The general increase in postal revenue during the year corresponded with an improvement in the condition of the Colony, which is more particularly dealt with under the heads of Agriculture and Trade. The increase in telegraph revenue is attributable chiefly to the war in Cuba, but a portion must also be due to the general brightening of trade.

As regards the statement of expenditure, it should be explained that the Colony's proportion of the Royal Mail subsidy was for the first time in 1898-99 charged wholly against the Postal Department, but the entire amount is included also for the other two years for purposes of comparison. Including this amount, £5,140, the expenditure for 1898-99 exceeded that of 1897-98 by £1,383 11*s.* 5½*d.* and of 1896-97 by £822 13*s.* 11*d.* The chief increase, compared with the previous year, occurs under Ocean Mail Conveyance, due, the Postmaster explains, to the adjustment of the account between the Colony and Imperial Post Office under the Postal Union Treaty.

A comparison of the statements of revenue and expenditure shows that the latter exceeds the former by from £9,000 to £10,000 per annum, but when it is borne in mind that the Colony has to pay a contribution of £5,140 to the Royal Mail subsidy, and that official letters amounting to about £2,500 in total annual value are carried free of charge, it will be seen that the general business of the department—which is not, it must be remembered, undertaken with the object of affording revenue for Government purposes—almost pays its way.

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The number of letters and postcards received and despatched during the years under comparison were as follows:—

Year.	Number.
1896–97	4,375,374
1897–98	4,980,121
1898–99	4,980,623

189,521 registered articles of mail matter were dealt with in 1898–99, a number 12,745 in excess of that of the preceding year.

Not a single case of loss or miscarriage of registered matter occurred in this or the preceding year, a fact highly creditable to the management of the department. There were only 117 complaints of miscarriage of unregistered letters and postcards during 1898–99, out of a total of 4,791,102—in some instances the missing articles were traced, or it was found the alleged miscarriage did not take place in the department.

In addition to letters and postcards, the department dealt in 1898–99 with 14,891 parcels, as compared with 14,647 in 1897–98 and 17,113 in 1896–97.

The Postmaster reports that there has not been a single case of miscarriage of a parcel in the Colony since the commencement of the parcels post system in October 1885.

The number of ocean mails despatched was 1,461, while 1,839 were received, as against 1,333 and 1,379 respectively in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to an additional semi-weekly service inaugurated on 1st January 1899 by the Boston Fruit Company.

A new system of inland mail conveyance was initiated, certain services being undertaken experimentally by the Public Works Department, instead of by private contractors as hitherto. The results of the trial have been so satisfactory that it has been decided to entrust the service generally to the department as far as possible. A large saving in expenditure is anticipated from the change.

On the ground of economy, which had to be rigidly exercised in all departments, 11 district post offices, which did but a

small business and were not self-supporting, were closed towards the end of the year. One had been opened in September 1898. There was thus a decrease by 10 of the number—160—open at the commencement of the year.

Year.	Money Orders.		Postal Orders.	
	Number Issued.	Amount.	Number Issued.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1896–97 ...	15,259	51,014 0 9	171,035	26,857 10 0
1897–98 ...	14,764	47,747 13 7	175,985	29,397 10 0
1898–99 ...	14,981	50,827 12 1	178,360	28,748 2 6

The Postmaster points out a continued decrease in money orders on the United Kingdom of from £34,545 15*s.* 7*d.* in 1895–96 to £27,243 15*s.* 1*d.* in 1898–99. There has been no such continued decrease in money orders generally, compared with 1897–98, indeed the figures show an increase almost bringing the amount up to that of 1896–97, when the depression in trade began to be severely felt.

These results, taken with others noticed under other heads, appear to indicate a comparative decline in business with the mother country. It may be noted that money orders on other countries, the United States particularly, show an increase in almost every case.

Orders issued from Jamaica are about four times as many as those issued on it.

As regards postal orders, there has been a steady increase during the three years. The figures should be compared with those of 1890–91, when the system was commenced and sales amounted to £10,433 7*s.* 6*d.*

The mail coach service yielded £1,441 5*s.* 9*d.*, a decrease of £190 16*s.* 9*d.* on the preceding year's earnings. On three of the 15 lines, however, the Post Office has ceased to collect fares. These are now collected by the contractors, who received last year £187 7*s.* on this account, showing, if this fact be considered, that the decrease was very trifling.

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Telegraph receipts and expenditure have been already given. The number of messages sent and received during the three years were as follows :—

Year.	Number.
1896–97	96,292
1897–98	87,545
1898–99	97,368

The Postmaster states that war correspondents and press agents expressed themselves as satisfied with the very expeditious manner in which their messages were forwarded during the war with Cuba.

TELEPHONES.

There is no Government telephone system, but a private company does an extensive business in Kingston and the neighbourhood, nearly all Government institutions, places of business, and the principal residences being supplied by it. The Boston Fruit Company has telephone lines throughout the eastern portion of the island, connecting their properties with Kingston and other seaports. There are a few other small telephone companies in other parts of the Colony. Detailed particulars of the several telephone services are given in the Blue Book.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

REGULAR FORCES.

At the close of the year 1898–99 there were in Jamaica five officers on the general staff, and a strength of 1,615 of all ranks, belonging to the regular forces.

The total expenditure for the year on the forces was £119,430, which was defrayed from Imperial funds.

MILITIA.

The Jamaica militia when first enrolled was wholly unconnected, for administrative purposes, &c., with the regular forces, although the adjutant was an army officer seconded for the purpose, and the militia was occasionally reviewed, &c., by the officer commanding the forces. Corps were enrolled in Kingston and several country parishes.

It was found, however, that this arrangement did not secure proper efficiency and discipline, especially of the country corps. These have now been disbanded, while the corps in Kingston have been placed under the supervision and control of an officer of the army, to which the militia is attached for administrative purposes.

The change has had a most salutary effect; discipline is now strictly enforced, the men are properly clothed and properly trained.

On the 31st March 1899 the number of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men on the strength was 761, an increase of 347 during the year. 440 men were enrolled and 93 struck off the strength. Two companies have been added to the infantry, and one to the artillery, raising the allowed strength to 800 non-commissioned officers and men.

The principal changes introduced during the year were (1) issue of clothing from headquarter store by the staff, (2) the employment of two retired non-commissioned officers from the regular army as drill instructors on the permanent staff, and (3) the construction of a miniature rifle range at militia headquarters for Morris tube practice. The shooting of the force has considerably improved in consequence of this last provision.

The drill both of artillery and infantry is reported on generally as showing decided improvement, and the men's conduct during the training as good.

CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

See "Judicial Statistics.—Police."

JAMAICA, 1898-9.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review was not characterised by any events of special importance. The drought and unfavourable sanitary conditions which prevailed in certain districts last year were followed by excellent seasons and by general improvement in public health. No new works of progress could be undertaken by the Government or by private enterprise, owing to the need for economy, until the improvement in the condition of the Colony had become more assured, but trade revived in the latter part of the year, which was one without either privation or plenty.

STATE OF RAILWAYS, ROADS, AND CANALS.

Railway.

The business of the railway improved during the year under review. Receipts were £115,647, compared with £102,170 in 1897-98, but total expenditure (excluding interest charges) was £98,481, against £74,664 in the previous year.

The train miles run in 1898-99 amounted to 574,352, the receipts were equal to 4*s.* 0·32*d.*, and the working expenditure to 3*s.* 5·15*d.* per train mile. Passengers transported were 402,095, as against 356,949 in the previous year.

On the 31st March 1899 the rolling stock comprised 325 vehicles, including 24 locomotives, 37 carriages, 160 waggons of all kinds, 79 fruit cars, &c. This rolling stock was insufficient for the increasing traffic, and its deficiency has hindered especially the speedy transportation of fruit. Arrangements are being made for raising the necessary funds to meet the more urgent requirements. The railway company not having been able to pay interest for over 12 months on first mortgage bonds, the line and stock were taken over by the trustees of the bondholders, and at the close of the year steps had been taken for winding-up the affairs of the company and transferring the line and stock to the Government, under the provisions of the Railway Law of 1889.

It is hoped that on such transfer taking place it will be feasible to make arrangements for increasing the earnings and usefulness of the line.

Roads.

The total length of main roads under maintenance by the Public Works Department at the end of the financial year was 1,912 miles 41½ chains, an increase over the mileage of the previous year of 13 miles 62 chains, consisting of additional mountain roads in Portland and deviations of existing roads.

The expenditure on main roads and bridges was £45,690, only £878 of which was for new works. The average cost per mile was £23 8*s.* 7*d.*, being £2 3*s.* 5*d.* more than in the previous year.

The necessity for economy in public departments has led to reduced expenditure on roads. This has led to the deterioration of many roads. Fortunately, the weather since the reduction of expenditure has been unusually favourable for road maintenance.

The roads taken over from Parochial Boards under Law 17 of 1890 have under Law 4 of 1898 been classed with main roads maintained from general revenue. The revenue for these roads proved insufficient to meet the expenditure, including interest and sinking fund on the loan raised for their reconstruction as main roads, and a debt of £2,078 was taken over on the transfer of the charges of these roads to general expenditure.

The entire length of mountain roads in Portland, the raising of funds for the construction of which is provided for by Law 13 of 1885, has been cut through either as bridle or driving road, and the whole length would have been opened for wheel traffic by the close of the year but for the restriction of expenditure. The expenditure on mountain roads was £5,470.

Eight bridges, provided for under Law 20 of 1892, were completed during the year and opened to traffic, at a cost of £4,844.

Surveys were made for a proposed driving road from Bath (where the hot springs are situated) to Port Antonio. This road, the Director of Public Works remarks, would pass through a country capable of very great and early development.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.

There are 41½ miles of non-navigable canals. The earnings for rates and sale of the water amounted to £5,732, the amount actually collected to £5,605, as against £4,685 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance and supervision was £1,934, against £2,414 in 1897–98. Thus receipts have increased and charges diminished.

The area in bananas under irrigation has increased considerably, and the cultivation, it is stated, appears in every way satisfactory.

Vere Irrigation Scheme.

Surveys for the irrigation of Vere, a level district of about 20 miles square in Lower Clarendon where many sugar estates are situated, were completed during the year, and the preliminary plans and estimates were prepared.

The plans provide for a flow of 6,000 cubic yards of water per hour being taken to the lower part of Vere, which frequently suffers from drought, and for the construction of a reservoir to contain about 4½ million cubic yards of water with distributing channels to the neighbouring sugar estates.

It is intended to provide for 5,000 acres being brought under irrigation, if a charge of 15*s.* per acre to cover the necessary expenditure is agreed to by the landowners.

There are good grounds for hoping that this district, which is eminently suitable for cane cultivation, may become by this means as prosperous as the irrigated plains of St. Catherine.

IMMIGRATION.

There were no importations of immigrants during the year, nor were any sent back to India, but 43 coolies were granted passports, 33 of which were for British ports.

The mortality amongst indentured immigrants was 1·90 per cent., as against 1·91 in the previous year, and the birth-rate ·65 per cent., as against ·44 formerly.

Eleven marriages were solemnised during the year under the provisions of Law 22 of 1896, ten of which were performed by ministers of religion, the interested parties having embraced the Christian faith.

There were no murders amongst the East Indian population, and only one case of suicide, apparently the result of excessive indulgence in opiates.

At the close of the year there were 47 East Indians under treatment in the lunatic asylum, as compared with 55 in the previous year.

The number of East Indian depositors in the Government Savings Bank fell from 998 in 1896–97 to 950 in 1897–98, but the amounts at credit increased from £21,964 19*s.* 3*d.* to £25,668 15*s.* 4*d.*

The number of remittances made to India during 1898 was 80, amounting to the value of £222 1*s.*, as against 64 amounting to £173 in the previous year.

Four estates of deceased immigrants were administered by the department during the year, under the provisions of Section 45 of Law 22 of 1896, and the proceeds amounting to £32 12*s.* 2*d.* duly forwarded to the Emigration Agent in India for distribution amongst the heirs to the estates.

The sum of £716 6*s.* was paid in by employers of second-term coolies under Section 13 of Law 20 of 1891.

The condition of the general East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and their relations with employers are most satisfactory.

EMIGRATION.

1,498 labourers left the Colony and 870 arrived there during the year 1898–99. In the previous year, 616 left and 637 returned. There was thus a loss from this cause to the Colony this year of 628 persons, compared with a gain last year of 21.

928 labourers left for Central America, principally for Colon, Port Limon, and Belize, and 802 returned therefrom, a loss of 126. 479 departed for Cuba and only 53 returned, a loss of 426.

A few labourers left for or arrived from Carthagena, Hayti, or New York.

The above figures appear to show that there were greater openings for employment abroad afforded to labourers, especially in Cuba, emigration to which is a new feature.

The loss of men to the Colony in this latter case has been counterbalanced by the thriving export trade which has sprung up since the late war, as noticed under "Imports and Exports."

PUBLIC WORKS.

The necessity for retrenchment in public departments prevented any public work of importance being carried out by the Government during the year. The only private undertaking of importance has been the construction of electric tramway lines by the West India Electric Company, an association of Canadian capitalists, who had laid down 18 miles of tramway by the 31st March 1899 in Kingston and its neighbourhood, employing for the purpose native labourers, of whose willingness and efficiency the local manager of the Company has spoken in high terms.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The necessity for retrenchment in public departments led to several reductions being made in the establishment during the year. Most of these reductions were in pursuance of recommendations made by a committee consisting of certain heads of departments and members of the Legislative Council, which submitted their report in July last. But whenever the opportunity offered to effect economy without impairing efficiency, reductions have been made which were not contemplated by the committee. A committee was also appointed to report what changes should be made in the Audit Office establishment and system of check. Different members held different views, their reports were submitted to the Colonial Office, but no decision has yet been reported to me on the questions raised.

The chief reductions effected have been :—

The office of Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office has been abolished, the late holder of the appointment being pensioned from the Jamaica Civil Service and appointed Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, a dependency of this island.

Opportunities offering by the superannuation or retirement of certain inspectors of police, the parishes of St. Ann and Trelawny were amalgamated and placed under one inspector, and those of St. James and Hanover under another.

The staff of the respective head offices of the Constabulary and Prisons Departments were amalgamated, the first-class clerk of the latter department placed on the redundant list, and certain constables who had done clerical work in the head office were sent to do duty as constables in the ranks.

Various economies were effected in the medical establishment, consequent on the transfer of the medical attendant at the Lepers Home to Port Royal as Health Officer, and the retirement, &c., of a few district medical officers whose successors were appointed at smaller salaries.

As part of a scheme for reducing the number of resident magistrates, a resident magistrate was placed in judicial charge of the united parishes of Westmoreland and Hanover, on the death of the resident magistrate for the latter parish.

Mr. F. Watts, Government Chemist at Antigua, was appointed in May 1898 Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist in Jamaica in succession to the late Mr. Bowrey, under an arrangement by which his services were made available to the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the public as well as the Government, at less cost to public revenue.

The office of Travelling Assistant Collector of Taxes for St. Catherine was abolished.

Arrangements were authorised during the year, but not given effect to till a few months later, for the amalgamation of the offices of Registrar-General and Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the Chief Clerk at the Treasury holding also the appointment of Stamp Commissioner, and for abolition of the office of Chief Clerk at the Public Works Office, and of those of the Engineer of the Western District, and of two Superintendents of Public Works.

Future Prospects of Trade.

It is difficult to form a forecast of the future prospects of trade in the Colony, as the break in the late marked depression only began in October 1898, whilst in an almost purely agricultural country much depends on the continuance of favourable seasons and the securing of good markets and good prices. Prices were generally even lower in 1898–99 than in 1897–98, and the comparative prosperity of the latter year was very largely due to the abundant crops, the result of excellent seasons which cannot always be expected.

So far the prospects of trade during 1899–1900 appear promising. The latest returns of the Collector-General show that for the quarter ended 30th June 1899 the value of exported produce was £582,582, as against £426,791 during the corresponding period last year.

The rise in the price of sugar of from 8*s*. to 10*s*. per cwt., and the greatly increased value of exports referred to, must have the effect of increasing the purchasing power of the community and should therefore favourably affect trade.

Suitability of Climate for Europeans, and Openings for White Labour.

As shown under the special headings on "Climate" and "Public Health," Jamaica has a temperate climate in most districts owing to its generally high elevation above the sea. The slope of the land gives good drainage, the range of temperature is not great, the sea breeze blows throughout the day for a long distance into the interior where the air is fresh and pure. There are practically no marshes, except in certain flat districts near the sea, and the rains are only heavy during a few months of the year. Epidemics also occur very rarely, owing to the vigilance of the authorities and the general healthfulness

of the island. These conditions render the island a very healthful place of abode for Europeans of careful and temperate habits.

Many Europeans, especially in the upland pastoral districts, live to advanced years.

At the same time, the heat in the open air during the greater part of the day has, in all but a limited high area, been found too great for continuous European labour throughout the year. Artizans of careful habits could, however, work in the shade and maintain their health. Unfortunately, a great number of the European workmen who come here fall into intemperate habits. It cannot be said also that there are many openings for white labour. The style of living of the native artizans and peasants is simple, and they accept wages which would only afford a bare subsistence to Europeans, as the following head of this report shows.

The West India Improvement Company and the West India Electric Company found it to their advantage to use native labour almost exclusively in constructing the railway and tramway lines respectively.

RATES OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Details of the rates of wages, chiefly for task work, are given in the Blue Book and Handbook of Jamaica for 1898–99. As regards day labour, the reports by collectors of taxes appended to the annual report of the Collector-General afford full information on the subject for each parish. From these reports, it would appear that there has been a slight rise of wages generally above those given last year. For prædial labour the rates in 1898–99 were as follows:—Men 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in most parishes, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* or 2*s.* a day in St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, and Manchester; for women 9*d.* to 1*s.*; children 4½*d.* to 9*d.* a day. For artizans, the rate in Kingston is stated at 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a day, in country parishes it is from 2*s.* to 4*s.* generally. Men servants earn usually about 5*s.* to 8*s.* per week, and occasionally 10*s.* or 12*s.*; women servants 3*s.* to 5*s.* or 6*s.*, in some parishes only 2*s.* to 4*s.*

The higher rates are rare, except in Kingston and its neighbourhood, and are then only given by employers in comfortable circumstances.

The above rates of wages are low, but the cost of living to the peasantry is much less than in England—vegetable food and fruit, on which with salted or pickled fish they principally subsist, is cheap. For instance, ground provisions can be obtained at about 1*d.* a lb., and salt fish (cod) at 3*d.* to 4*d.* a lb. Cotton piece goods are obtainable almost at English rates; their houses, except

in towns which do not contain more than about one-seventh or one-eighth of the population, cost little to build, and house rent in the country is very moderate.

For the middle and upper classes the cost of living in the country parishes is not high. In Kingston and some other towns it is more expensive than in English towns. Meat ranges from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a pound (beef being 6*d.*), but clothing is dearer and house rent higher than the English rates for like accommodation.

OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

Persons who have enough means at their command to expend money judiciously for two or three years on thorough cultivation before expecting much interest on their investments will find profitable investment in Jamaica.

The price of land is lower than it was several years ago, but prices realised for produce exported have also declined sensibly in the last few years, as is more fully explained under Imports and Exports.

The low prices ruling for sugar, rum, and coffee render great care necessary to secure profit. Logwood fetches low prices and suffers from foreign competition, but the cost of bringing it to market is not very great.

Jamaica has practically the monopoly of the export trade in pimento, which grows on pasture lands, is picked and cured at moderate cost, and forms a profitable industry, combined with stock raising, especially now that a thriving trade in cattle with Cuba has sprung up.

Fruit does not cost much to cultivate, and provided better care is taken in selecting and packing it and European markets are opened to the trade the possibilities of developing the industry are very great.

Cocoa and ginger now fetch good prices, and with proper curing the former might be made a prominent industry. Good samples of Jamaica tobacco fetch high prices, and its cultivation, with proper care, is likely to be highly remunerative, and it has the advantage of being a crop which gives early returns.

Capitalists now investing in land before prices rise with the revival of trade, and employing their means at first in thorough tillage and cultivation and in securing the best descriptions of plants, may reasonably look for profitable results.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The detailed information given in the preceding sections of this report leaves me little to add under this head. There are several indications that the depression in trade is passing away, and although foreign competition is more keenly felt, and the prices of staples are generally lower than was the case a few years ago, I see no reason to doubt that the Colony will hold its own, and enjoy a fair measure of prosperity. The general condition of affairs has undoubtedly considerably improved within the last twelvemonth.

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,

Governor of Jamaica.

King's House,
16th September 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 297.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 269.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
267	St. Lucia	1898
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada...	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898-99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda...	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.

No. 297.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 269.)

ACTING GOVERNOR HALLOWES to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,
30th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1899, together with a letter from the Commissioner, forwarding his Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

H. JARDINE HALLOWES, Major-General,
Administering the Government.

From the COMMISSIONER of the Turks Islands to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Grand Turk,
2nd June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1899.

I regret the slight delay in rendering the Report, which has arisen from my absence on duty in the Caicos Islands in April, and subsequent illness.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Commissioner.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following comparative statement and table give the heads of Revenue and Expenditure, and the amounts received under those heads for the years 1898 and 1899, as well as the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years 1895-99:—

6472—800—7/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

Revenue.

—	1898.		1899.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties	—	2,918 2 11	—	3,205 15 9
Royalty on Salt exported ...	—	2,088 3 8	—	2,656 8 2
Port Dues:—				
Light	638 5 0	—	747 16 4	—
Wharf	74 2 0	—	78 16 6	—
		712 7 0		826 12 10
Licences and Internal Revenue:—				
Dog Licences	26 8 0	—	24 5 0	—
Liquor Licences	155 0 0	—	130 0 0	—
Auction Dues...	41 14 10	—	33 1 10	—
Fines and Forfeitures ...	37 13 1	—	31 10 7	—
		260 15 11		218 17 5
Payments for Specific Services:—				
Storage...	50 2 4	—	57 0 11	—
Fees of Office	56 18 0	—	86 0 3	—
" " Court...	69 19 1	—	44 12 9	—
" " Cemetery	2 14 0	—	1 16 0	—
Rent of Market Stalls ...	9 19 3	—	10 0 0	—
Grant in aid of Mail Service	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—
		439 12 8		449 9 11
Post Office	—	364 6 2	—	302 18 11
Revenue from Government Property:—				
Sales of Crown Land ...	8 7 1	—	34 12 10	—
Rents	58 13 11	—	57 3 9	—
Sales of Water	76 18 10	—	94 5 6	—
Other Receipts	3 5 5	—	2 16 3	—
		147 5 3		188 18 4
Interest	—	291 16 9	—	175 5 2
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	9 16 4	—	8 8 9
Total	—	7,232 6 8	—	8,032 15 3

Expenditure.

—	1898.		1899.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	—	427 19 4	—	407 9 8
Commissioner's Department ...	—	2,318 10 7	—	2,325 7 0
Judicial " ...	—	537 15 7	—	560 2 7
Police " ...	—	472 13 3	—	464 14 9
Prisons " ...	—	219 6 2	—	187 4 6
Medical " ...	—	544 17 0	—	476 14 4
Paupers	—	283 13 3	—	335 18 6
Education	—	635 13 10	—	600 0 0
Registration and Vaccination ...	—	20 16 4	—	27 5 7
Public Market	—	21 0 0	—	21 0 0
" Library	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Miscellaneous:—				
Direct West India Cable Company, news supply.	90 0 0	—	120 0 0	—
Printing	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—
Stationery	32 1 0	—	38 2 2	—
Unforeseen Contingencies ...	132 2 10	—	69 9 7	—
		354 3 10		327 11 9
Post Office	—	518 6 8	—	530 17 2
Lighthouse Department	—	263 15 10	—	310 3 7
Public Works:—				
Department	363 11 8	—	332 11 3	—
Recurrent	604 7 4	—	328 9 2	—
Extraordinary	286 16 6	—	359 0 2	—
		1,254 15 6		1,020 0 7
Special Votes:—				
Cable Celebration	20 0 0	—	—	—
Refund of duties on goods destroyed by fire.	17 17 3	—	—	—
Contribution to Barbados and St. Vincent Hurricane Relief Fund.	100 0 0	—	—	—
		137 17 3		
Total	—	8,061 4 5	—	7,644 9 7

Total Revenue and Expenditure for five years, 1895–99.

—	1895.			1896.			1897.			1898.			1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue ...	7,312	9	5	9,706	19	2	9,477	7	4	7,232	6	8	8,032	15	8
Expenditure...	7,547	0	7	7,382	10	10	8,384	9	2	8,061	4	5	7,644	9	7

The total of the Revenue for 1899 exceeds by £800 8*s.* 7*d.* the similar total for 1898. This result is attributable to a good salt-raking season and large shipments, with consequent fuller employment of labour and larger importation of food supplies.

The Expenditure of 1899 was less than that of the previous year by £416 14*s.* 10*d.*, the difference being due to a reduced expenditure on public works and the absence of certain exceptional expenses which were incurred during 1898.

The surplus on the year's working was £388 5*s.* 8*d.*, which is to be added to the existing surplus balance from previous years of over £7,000.

(B.) Taxation.

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

There was a balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1899, of £7,517 1*s.* 10*d.*, as set out in the annexed table:—

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Year ended 31st December 1899.

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 1898...	7,128	16	2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
REVENUE for 1899 :—						
Customs	3,205	15	9	—		
Miscellaneous	4,826	19	6	8,032	15	3
				15,161	11	5
EXPENDITURE for 1899 :—						
Departments	4,656	18	0	—		
Public Works	687	9	4	—		
Miscellaneous	2,300	2	3	7,644	9	7
Balance to be carried to 1900	—			7,517	1	10
ASSETS :—						
In Colonial Chest	1,133	6	2	—		
* With Crown Agents	318	1	1	—		
With New York Agents	318	17	5	—		
With Treasurer Jamaica	626	7	9	—		
Advances due	89	19	11	—		
Do. U.K. Post Office ...	3	7	4	—		
Arrears of Revenue	—			—		
Bonds for Import duties	72	11	3	—		
Bonds for Auction duties	7	12	2	—		
Investments, Government funds ...	5,500	0	0	—		
Do. Savings Bank do. ...	200	0	0	—		
Do. in Jamaica Savings Bank	819	3	8	—		
				9,089	6	9

* Includes £300 remittances maturing and in transit.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS—*continued.*

LIABILITIES :—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	—	—
Pensions	—	—
Miscellaneous (Deposits)	167 7 0	—
Salt Pond Maintenance Fund... ...	312 16 9	—
Board of Education Fund	26 9 1	—
United Kingdom money orders ...	—	—
Jamaica do. ...	78 11 7	—
Turks Islands Savings Bank	987 0 6	—
		1,572 4 11
Balance of Assets	—	7,517 1 10

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Dependency has no public debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Gold, American and British, an occasional Bank of England or Colonial bank note, with British silver and Jamaica nickel coinage, constitute the currency of the Dependency. Mexican dollars pass to some small extent for purchase at the stores, &c., but they are not legal tender, and are not accepted at the Treasury.

(F. and G.) FINANCES OF MUNICIPALITIES OR PUBLIC BOARDS.

There is no municipality and no public board which levies rates or has sole control of any funds.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The dutiable articles imported into the Dependency which contribute over £100 per annum to the Customs revenue are shown in the following comparative table:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Duty.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flour, wheat...	2,487½ barrels	2,738 barrels	2,422 7 10	2,190 1 4	466 8 2	513 7 8
Lard	48,308 lbs.	49,680 lbs.	558 9 0	602 17 5	100 12 10	103 10 0
Meat, salt	119,990 „	131,040 „	1,536 4 6	1,712 16 6	249 19 7	273 0 0
*Spirits	2,265 gallons	2,579¾ gallons	355 12 7	340 11 8	509 12 7	585 3 6
†Sugar	260,096 lbs.	104,166 lbs.	1,873 17 10	704 18 4	322 7 2	228 19 6
Tinned provisions	2,365 packages.	1,568 packages	1,136 5 0	1,082 3 4	113 12 6	108 4 4
Textile fabrics	587 „	772 „	3,953 5 10	4,419 6 8	395 6 7	441 18 8

* The consumption in 1899 was 2,600¾ gallons.

† „ „ 1898 „ 114,740 pounds—in 1899 109,908 pounds.

The following table comprises the chief articles of import on which no duty is payable :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1898.	1899.	1898.			1899.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Beans and peas - -	907 bushels	945 bushels	352	2	9	389	7	3
Bran and oats - -	2,714 packages	2,559 packages	746	9	10	751	9	9
* Coffee - - - -	12,750 lbs.	6,035 lbs.	157	9	6	68	16	11
Confectionery- - -	205 packages	238 packages	211	7	4	199	15	10
Cordage - - - -	95 coils	119 coils	114	1	8	188	9	6
Corn - - - - -	1,722 bushels	2,609 bushels	193	5	1	331	9	9
Crockery and glassware -	150 packages	202 packages	239	14	1	172	9	3
Fish, salt - - -	23,000 lbs.	26,300 lbs.	200	3	4	249	9	8
Fruit and vegetables -	2,106 lots	2,176 lots	1,759	9	5	1,757	16	8
Government stores - -	267 packages	419 packages	203	7	6	188	11	1
Hay - - - -	1,403 bales	717 bales	220	19	2	87	4	9
Hominy and samp - -	587 packages	675 packages	298	4	7	342	10	9
Jewellery, &c.- - -	43 "	23 "	119	1	6	36	14	4
Machinery - - -	174 "	86 "	562	16	0	75	18	9
Meal, corn - - -	728 barrels	871 barrels	326	4	1	393	2	0
Molasses, syrup, &c. -	4,666 gallons	5,263 gallons	244	16	10	289	13	7
Mules - - - -	9	4	150	0	0	60	0	0
Stationery, &c. - -	92 packages	77 packages	131	2	4	121	12	3

* Of the coffee imported in 1898, 6,500 lbs. was exported.

The chief article of export is salt, of which there was exported :—

—	Quantity.	Value.			Royalty Paid.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1898	1,431,850 bushels	18,701	14	4	2,088	3	8
In 1899	1,821,490 "	21,138	8	7	2,656	8	2

The fibre—"sisal grass"—export, however, continues to increase steadily, the value in 1899 being £7,493 12*s.* 9*d.*, more than double that of the previous year.

The sponge export direct to the United States—which covers sponges gathered and shipped by local enterprise, as opposed to the sponge taken away from these waters by Bahamas fishermen without affording any profit to the Dependency—was valued at nearly £1,100, which is the largest figure yet reached, and double the average of the past ten years.

It is to be hoped that the industry will be followed up more closely by the inhabitants of the place than has hitherto been the case, as it is one which, besides affording fair prospects of good return from capital cautiously laid out, offers remunerative employment to the owners of small craft and boatmen of the Caicos, and is thus likely to appreciably assist in improving the conditions of existence in those barren islands.

The total value of the imports and exports for the last five years is as follows:—

—	1895.			1896.			1897.			1898.			1899.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - -	26,734	18	0	30,245	4	4	33,239	2	7	27,066	16	0	25,707	11	3
Exports - -	21,687	17	8	31,497	14	5	43,303	15	5	24,810	12	4	31,909	19	2

The bulk of the trade is absorbed by the United States, as from the geographical position of the islands and the nature of their produce is inevitable.

In connection with the increase in the value of the exports, it is to be noted that the increase in value of the salt export over that of 1898 does not follow in the same proportion the increase in the quantity exported, in consequence of the very low price that ruled during nearly the whole year. In further explanation, I quote from my previous Annual Report on the Revenue and Expenditure of the year:—

"The quantity of salt exported was 1,821,490 bushels, which is some 220,000 above the average, and nearly 400,000 more than the figure for the previous year. The reason of the increased export may, I think, be found in the very low price at which, for the greater part of the year, salt was offered, owing to the large quantities on hand and the anxiety of the local manufacturers to realise. The figures therefore do not indicate quite as much general well-being among the community as they would appear to.

"The fishery salt trade with British North America took only 171,634 bushels, as against 270,486 in 1898. This is much to

be regretted, but the Dependency's product appears to stand little chance in competition with the lower priced Mediterranean article.

"The improvement in the receipts for 1899, as compared with those for 1898, under the heads of Royalty on Salt exported and Light Dues on Vessels, is respectively £568 4*s.* 6*d.* and £109 11*s.* 4*d.*"

As regards imports, the value, as taken from the return, appears less, though the duties collected show an appreciable increase. This is seemingly due to the lower price of provisions, such as flour, sugar, &c., and to a smaller importation of non-dutiable goods.

(B.) MANUFACTURES.

There is nothing new to report under this head. There is but one industry, namely, the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation. The price was very low during the greater part of the year, but went up from something under five cents a bushel to six cents during the last quarter, as a result of a mutual arrangement entered into between the local producers and the dealers in the United States, by whom the trade is apparently controlled. These improved conditions have been maintained up to the present time.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, &C.

Agriculture in the Dependency is practically confined to a few scanty provision fields in the Caicos Islands and a few patches of guinea corn, grown chiefly for the fodder afforded by the stalks. The barren nature of the soil, coupled with the absence of rainfall, makes anything else impossible.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

Sixty-nine grants were made in 1899 under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896.

The value of land, other than town lots, is very small.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table is annexed of the steam and sailing vessels inward and outward during the past two years. The steamers are those of the Clyde line from New York to Dominican ports, at uncertain dates, but about tri-weekly, which touch at Grand Turk, both on the outward and homeward voyages, taking labourers for the Dominican trip to work the cargo, and landing them on return. There is also the monthly steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line from Halifax to Jamaica, which is under contract with this Government to convey the Turks Islands' mails:—

SAILING VESSELS.

Nationality.	1898.				1899.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	238	18,580	242	18,641	265	20,159	262	20,034
Dominican	10	93	12	113	11	137	10	130
Dutch	2	74	2	74	1	97	1	97
French	3	366	3	366	2	186	2	186
Haytian	25	612	25	612	12	170	10	142
Swedish	1	235	1	235	—	—	—	—
United States	32	18,335	35	20,805	39	23,025	39	23,025
Total	311	38,295	320	40,846	330	43,774	324	43,614

STEAMERS.

British	32	28,213	32	28,213	25	17,343	25	17,343
Norwegian	—	—	—	—	1	401	1	401
United States	27	53,770	27	53,770	32	57,514	32	57,514
Total	59	81,983	59	81,983	58	75,258	58	75,258

A comparative statement of total shipping for the last five years is also annexed:—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards ...	120,037	131,106	164,751	120,278	119,032
Outwards ...	120,087	130,572	163,623	122,829	118,872
Total ...	240,124	261,678	328,374	243,107	237,904

These figures do not include men-of-war, of which one (British) visited the Dependency during the year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The principal measures passed during the year were:—

Ordinance No. 4, of 1899.—To consolidate, define, and amend the Law relating to Magistrates and the Procedure in Magistrates' Courts.

Ordinance No. 5, of 1899.—To consolidate and amend the Statute Law of the Turks and Caicos Islands relating to offences punishable on summary conviction.

These ordinances take the place of a large number of out-of-date and scattered laws, ranging from 1844, down, and greatly simplify the magisterial work of the Dependency.

Ordinance No. 8, of 1899.—To consolidate and amend the Law of the Dependency relating to the Customs, and to make further provision for the management and regulation thereof.

This ordinance is one which has been badly needed for many years. It similarly takes the place of various ancient and conflicting laws.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

A sum of £600 per annum is set aside by ordinance for the work of education in the Dependency.

There are seven schools, of which five are in the Caicos Islands.

Education is not compulsory, and the main difficulty that has to be contended with is the irregular attendance of children.

The majority of the teachers are trained men from Jamaica, and an inspection is held by an officer of the Jamaica Education Department once in two years.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There is no provision for secondary education. The children of the better class usually obtain their education in Jamaica, the United States, or Canada.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

Nil.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A, B, C, D.) HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, POOR HOUSES, REFORMATORIES.

There are no institutions of this class in the Dependency at the present day, but a portion of the old poorhouse has been set aside as a place where any infectious disease or serious case for operation or otherwise may be placed under the care of an attendant, temporarily engaged. It is very rarely required.

Lunatics are sent to the asylum in Jamaica.

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	108	115	448 18 4	210 8 8	507 11 4	352 13 8	747 11 4	605 6 4
Salt Cay	48	44	13 13 8	12 4 11	23 7 4	13 14 2	49 19 8	48 10 5
Cockburn Harbour ...	28	27	21 16 5	100 6 10	4 5 6	59 3 9	299 5 10	340 8 11
Total	184	186	484 8 5	323 0 5	535 4 2	425 11 7	1,096 16 10	994 5 8

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force consists of:—

At Grand Turk—a corporal, three constables, and two district constables.

Salt Cay—one constable and one district constable.

Cockburn Harbour—one constable and one district constable.

The other Caicos Islands—seven district constables.

The total cost of the upkeep of the force in 1899 was £464 14*s.* 9*d.*

(B.) PRISONS.

The one prison of the Dependency is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison in 1899 was two. Long-sentence prisoners are usually sent to serve their time at Jamaica, but, fortunately, there are rarely any prisoners of this class.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1899 was 176, against 195 in 1898.

Of the offences reported in 1899, 65 were for offences against the person; seven were for prædial larceny; 17 were for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 87 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1899 was 130, against 121 in 1898.

These convictions are classified as follows:—Fifty-one for offences against the person; seven for prædial larceny; seven for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 65 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—Two for offences against the person; one for offences against property.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the inferior courts 38; in the Supreme Court 4.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The total by the last census, 1891, was 4,744. The registered births from that date up to the end of 1899 have exceeded the registered deaths by 860, so that the population would appear to be increasing. Such increase, is however, discounted by the emigration, chiefly to Hayti and San Domingo, and the population is probably about stationary.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health during 1899 was good.

(C.) SANITATION.

The Towns and Public Health Ordinance of 1895 gives power to deal with nuisances generally, and provides for the exercise of precautions in case of epidemics, for the cleaning of streets, the regulation of slaughter yards, and other kindred matters.

The sea is handy to all for the carrying away of refuse, and the soil is of a nature that readily absorbs impurities.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) The rainfall is small, averaging about 26 inches from year to year.

(2.) The temperature is not excessive, and it is rarely unbearably hot, save on certain still days, which are experienced as a rule in the months of September and October.

Tables of rainfall and temperature are attached:—

RAINFALL.

For the Year 1899 *compared with the average for the previous seven years.*

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	1·31	·90	·61	2·42
February	3·37	·48	·36	·29
March	1·52	1·11	1·63	5·85
April	·51	1·33	1·63	2·51
May	·68	·61	1·20	3·29
June	·96	·44	·35	1·94
July	3·34	2·40	4·60	4·85
August	·77	1·44	·58	1·78
September... ...	1·63	1·03	2·35	2·18
October	3·73	6·08	6·90	6·71
November	1·33	1·47	2·55	6·84
December	3·26	4·90	1·04	2·69
Total inches ...	22·41	22·19	23·80	41·35
Average for 7 years 1892–98	24·30	20·82	19·60	33·40

Temperature.

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	80	77	76
February	80	77	78
March	80	76	78
April	80	77	79
May	84	79	82
June	85	80	83
July	85	82	83
August	86	82	82
September	87	83	82
October	86	78	83
November	83	78	81
December	84	76	78

(3.) The wind is usually equable and blows strongly, the prevailing direction being from the south-east.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The mails are brought to, and despatched from, the Dependency by a monthly steamer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under contract, and also by the steamers of the Clyde line from New York tri-weekly. These latter, unfortunately, do not sail on schedule time, so that it is not possible to arrange for a regular despatch from the United Kingdom by that route, but letters that arrive

at Halifax soon after the departure of the monthly boat are sent on to New York, and thus usually arrive here some days earlier than they would if they waited at Halifax for the next monthly steamer. By far the larger portion of the mails for the United Kingdom go north by the New York steamers; letters so despatched get to their destination in a shorter time by a week or more than they would by the longer Halifax route.

The island of Grand Turk is in telegraphic connection with Bermuda and Jamaica by the cables of the Direct West India Cable Company, which opened its Grand Turk station in January of 1898.

There is no telephone service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Nil.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1. The year under review was a quiet and uneventful one.

2. A visit of inspection was paid in January to the Dependency by His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Sir Augustus Hemming, K.C.M.G., in Her Majesty's ship "Proserpine."

3. A reciprocity treaty was negotiated with the United States, by which the Dependency is to obtain a reduction of the duty levied on salt, and certain other advantages, in consideration of reciprocal concessions in the duties on imports of United States origin. This treaty awaits ratification.

4. There are no other matters calling for special remark.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

2nd June, 1900.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 317.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-99, *see* No. 283.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

March, 1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	1898–99
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
298	Bahamas...	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar...	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899–1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

No. 317.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.
1899–1900.

(For Report for 1898–99, *see* No. 283.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
31st October, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you my Report on the Blue Book of the Government of Jamaica for the year 1899–1900.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER.

Administering the Government.

7552—800—12/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

JAMAICA, 1899-1900.

ACTING-GOVERNOR'S REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR 1899-1900.

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DIVISION I.

FINANCE.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

At the beginning of the financial year, on the 1st April, 1899, the deficit on the General Revenue Account of the Colony stood at £153,722.

The year's revenue amounted to £624,623, and the expenditure to £593,927, showing a surplus on the year's transactions of £30,696, and reducing the deficit to £123,026 on the 31st March, 1900.

The following is a comparative statement of revenue for the two years:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1899–00.

General Revenue	1899–1900.	1898–99.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	353,765 1 2½	331,443 4 7	22,321 16 7½	—
Port, Harbour, and Light House Dues ...	4,906 19 11	5,136 17 7	—	229 17 8
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified	153,925 7 3¼	147,746 14 10	6,178 12 5¼	—
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements in aid, and Irrigation Receipts ...	55,313 2 7¾	60,650 13 7	—	5,337 10 11¼
Post Office and Telegraph	26,444 12 11¼	28,767 4 1	—	2,322 11 1¾
Rents	2,518 7 4	1,133 3 8	1,385 3 8	—
Interest	19,858 11 5	18,368 9 7	1,490 1 10	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	5,879 1 10½	7,024 15 0	—	1,145 13 1½
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	622,611 4 7½	600,271 2 11	31,375 14 6¾	9,035 12 10½
Land Sales	2,011 10 0¼	—	2,011 10 0¼	—
Total General Revenue	624,622 14 7½	600,271 2 11	33,387 4 7	9,035 12 10½
Net Increase	—	—	24,351 11 8½	—

The revenue exceeded that of the previous year by £24,352, chiefly owing to an increase of £22, 322 in import duties under the new Tariff imposed by Law 20 of 1899. Of increases under other heads, the principal were in rum duties, £2,711, road revenues £1,585, interest £1,333, rents from lands £1,298, and sale of Crown lands £2,011.

There were decreases under the heads of postal £1,680 (resulting from the adoption of the penny postage scheme), £5,951 under printing office sales (owing to a change in the method of keeping the accounts against Public Departments), and £1,003 (owing to a decrease in the amount of Chancery deposits forfeited).

The general expenditure of the Colony for the year, as compared with that of the previous year, is shown in the following statement :—

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1899–1900.

General Expenditure.	1899–1900.	1898–99.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt	111,692 5 5	107,315 1 5	4,377 4 0	—
Pensions	23,932 5 5	21,792 13 1¼	2,139 12 3¾	—
Administrative Departments	42,245 2 11¾	47,623 16 6½	—	5,378 13 6¾
Revenue Departments	39,692 0 5¾	42,007 11 5½	—	2,315 10 11¾
Postal Service	36,215 4 7	39,231 18 3	—	3,016 13 8
Judicial	40,047 12 0½	41,943 11 8¾	—	1,895 19 8¼
Ecclesiastical	2,235 0 11	2,504 15 4	—	269 14 5
Medical	48,085 5 3¾	56,145 13 5	—	8,060 8 1¼
Constabulary	53,719 15 8	61,150 9 3½	—	7,430 13 7½
Prisons	20,046 5 6	20,613 4 8½	—	566 19 2½
Reformatories	3,235 19 0	4,061 18 1	—	825 19 1

Education	59,981 10 9½	66,890 17 3¼	—	6,909 6 5¾
Industrial Schools	1,329 1 3¾	1,240 5 1½	88 16 1¾	—
Harbours and Pilotage	2,263 3 9	2,262 11 2	0 12 7	—
Military	13,353 0 9	14,884 11 10	—	1,531 11 1
Subsidy Telegraph Company	1,500 0 0	2,166 13 4	—	666 13 4
Registration Department...	3,919 1 10½	4,121 17 9	—	202 15 10½
Island Record Office	1,028 5 11¾	1,672 19 3½	—	644 13 3¾
Registrar of Titles Department...	998 10 9	1,116 0 3	—	117 9 6
Government Printing Office	7,375 8 3	7,267 13 11¾	107 14 3¼	—
Jamaica Institute	1,749 12 0	1,752 19 2	—	3 7 2
Board of Supervision	436 2 10	444 3 11	—	8 1 1
Public Gardens	5,059 16 10	5,186 6 10	—	126 10 0
Taxes and premiums of Insurance	3,141 5 10	—	3,141 5 10	—
Miscellaneous	10,032 7 0½	11,820 2 4	—	1,787 13 3½
Carried forward	533,314 5 3¾	565,217 10 0	9,855 5 1¾	41,758 13 5½

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—continued.

General Expenditure.	1899–1900.	1898–99.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	533,314 5 3¾	565,217 10 0	9,855 5 1¾	41,758 13 5½
Lighthouses	1,262 0 6	1,316 18 7	—	54 18 1
Rio Cobre Canal	1,984 8 6	1,912 10 0	71 18 6	—
Lighthouse Construction	731 0 0	—	—	731 0 0
Railway Extension Track	1,100 3 11	—	—	1,100 3 11
Expenses by Sir David Barbour	18 0 6	—	—	18 0 6
Public Works	57,366 9 5	60,405 8 8½	—	3,038 19 3½
Total	595,776 8 1¾	628,852 7 3½	9,927 3 7¾	46,701 15 3
Net decrease	—	—	—	36,774 13 7¼

It will be noticed that there were considerable reductions of expenditure under most of the heads, resulting in a total nett decrease of £36,775.

The principal increases are in charges of debt £4,377 4*s*. (of which £2,362 due to interest on temporary advances made by the Crown Agents), Pensions £2,140, and taxes and premiums of Insurance £3,141 (this expenditure was formerly included under the head of public works and buildings).

The decrease in the expenditure of public departments is chiefly due to the economies effected and reductions made in establishments. The most notable are :—

	£
Administrative Departments (of which £2,316 is under Public Works Staff)	5,379
Revenue Departments	2,316
Postal Service	3,017
Medical	8,060
Constabulary	7,430
Education	6,909
Public Works	3,039

There were also reductions amounting to £1,849 in respect of non-recurring items of expenditure, besides substantial reductions on other heads.

The totals of revenue and expenditure for the five years ended 31st March, 1900, are as follows :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	646,103	591,864	540,509	600,271	624,623	3,003,370
Expenditure ...	605,505	629,764	627,422	630,702	595,776	3,089,169

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

Law 20 of 1899.—"The Tariff Law" was the most important measure affecting taxation which was passed during the year. This law consolidated and amended former laws levying duties on imports. It recast the schedule of rated and free goods, and levied an *ad valorem* duty of £16 13*s.* 4*d.* per £100 on the value of all unenumerated goods, the rate having previously been 12½ per cent.

Among measures affecting taxation may also be mentioned—The Parochial Rates law, combining for the purpose of collection the several rates levied on house property in each parish for different local purposes, the Succession Duty and the Stamp Duty amendment laws, the License Duty amendment law, which increased the duties on livery stable horses and carriages and on firearms, and imposed a tax on bicycles, tricycles, and hand-carts, and laws 30 and 36 of 1899, which require horse dealers and commercial travellers to take out licences.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st March, 1899, the assets of the Colonial Government stood at £916,030 and the liabilities at £1,069,752, leaving a balance against the Government of £153,722.

On the 31st March, 1900, the assets amounted to £857,786, and the liabilities to £980,812, leaving a balance against the Government of £123,026.

The debit balance was therefore reduced by the sum of £30,696 during the year, being the surplus of revenue over expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1899 and 1900 respectively :—

Assets.			*Liabilities.*		
Heads.	**1898–99.**	**1899–1900.**	**Heads.**	**1898–99.**	**1899–1900.**
	£	£		£	£
Investments on account of Deposits at Interest.	463,743	458,519	Deposits at Interest	617,725	596,975
Investments on account of Trust Funds	23,086	22,579	Trust Funds	24,478	25,219
Investments on account of Sundry Deposits not at Interest.	82,569	75,726	Sundry Deposits not at Interest invested as per contra.	86,748	81,354
Other Securities	2,910	9,227	Sundry Deposits not at Interest uninvested	42,252	33,512
Advances on Loan Works	9,378	15,229	Loan Works	54,409	51,955
Sundry Advances to be Recovered ...	221,123	216,996	Crown Agents' Advances...	180,000	115,000
Defaulters' Account	35	18	Parochial Road Reserved Fund	14,279	19,652
Stores Account	13,374	12,197	Parochial Exchequer	41,064	46,557
Cash	99,811	47,300	Immigration Exchequer	8,397	10,588
Balance General Liabilities	153,723	123,026			
Total ... ... £	1,069,752	980,812	Total ... ... £	1,069,752	980,812

JAMAICA, 1899-1900.

The gross amount of the Liabilities has been reduced by £88,940, the reduction in deposits at Interest being £20,750 and that in the amount of the Crown Agent's advances no less than £65,000.

Provision has been made for covering the deficit on general revenue account by borrowing from the Imperial Treasury under the provisions of the Colonial Loans Act, 1899. The amount authorised to be lent was £150,000 at 2¾ per cent. interest, but it will, it is hoped, not be necessary actually to borrow more than a moderate portion of this amount.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT, SHOWING PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT.

The nett amount of the established public debt of the colony, after setting off investments of sinking funds for repayments of loans, stood as follows at the close of each of the last five financial years :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1895-96	1,873,859
1896-97	1,860,181
1897-98	2,058,912
1898 99	2,053,822
1899-1900	2,037,542

On the 31st March, 1900, the liability was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Funded Debt	...	...		77,416	6	11
Deposits at Interest	128,617	4	0			
Less Investments	6,585	3	0	122,032	1	0
				199,448	7	11
Loans for general purposes				1,587,875	18	10
Loans for special purposes				250,217	12	10
Total ...				£2,037,541	19	7

The first item (specially designated as "Funded Debt") represents certain trust funds (chiefly legacies for the endowment of schools) the capital of which was taken over by the Government under the provisions of the Act 28 Vic. cap. 23, which guarantees the payment of interest on the funds from general revenue.

It may be noted that the Act expressly states that the amount of these moneys shall be excluded from the statement of Public Debt.

"Deposits at Interest" are the balances on the Treasurer's accounts with the associations established for the provision of pensions for the widows and orphans of (1.) Clergy who were formerly on the civil establishment, and (2.) Public Servants. The interest on these deposits is chargeable to General Revenue.

The third item is the only one which, strictly speaking, may be regarded as funded public debt, representing loans for general purposes of Government, which are directly secured on General Revenue, and in respect of which annual provision is made for sinking funds to extinguish the liability.

Of the amount outstanding in respect of these loans on the 31st March, 1900, £359,175 was raised by means of debentures which have not been converted into inscribed stock, £1,258,859 10*s.* 8*d.* is on inscribed stock raised in England, and £123,360 on inscribed stock raised in Jamaica, making a total of £1,741,394 10*s.* 8*d.*, against which must be set invested Sinking Funds amounting to £153,518 11*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a nett outstanding liability of £1,587,875 18*s.* 10*d.*

The last item, "Loans for special purposes", represents loans raised in respect of undertakings for the benefit of Kingston and the neighbourhood (now under the management of the Kingston General Commissioners), which are secured primarily on special revenues, but are guaranteed by the general revenue of the Colony. Annual provision is made by the Commissioners for the interest and redemption of the debt, which is made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures	240,120	0	0
Inscribed Stock, England	39,280	0	0
Total... ...	279,400	0	0
Set off, Sinking Funds	29,182	7	2
	£250,217	12	10

JAMAICA, 1899–1900.

Account should be taken in this Report of a large body of Debt, which although not actually funded within the year was, in fact, a liability of the Colonial Government, and which has since that period taken its place on the schedule of Funded Debt, viz. :—

(1.) £1,475,600 Three and a half per cent. Debt on Inscribed Stock, to be issued to First Mortgage Bondholders of the Jamaica Railway Company on the winding up of that Company, and the vesting of the Railway in the Government under Order of the Supreme Court. The provision for repaying this Debt will be an annual investment of 1 per cent in a Sinking Fund.

(2.) £198,000 Two and three quarter per cent. Debt on account of an Imperial Loan of this amount to pay arrears of interest due First Mortgage Bondholders of the Railway, and to repair, improve, and properly equip the Railway for traffic. This Debt will entail a charge for 20 years of an annuity at the rate of £13,004 for interest and repayment combined.

(3.) £150,000 of Debt authorised to be funded at 2¾ per cent., by borrowing from the Imperial Government, to cover the floating deficit on the General Revenue Account of the Colony. This would entail a charge of £17,361 5*s.* for ten years, for an annuity to cover interest and repayment. The borrowing under this authority will, however, it is expected, not exceed £50,000, entailing a charge of £5,787 per annum.

(4.) £105,000 of Three and a half per cent. Debt, authorised to be funded by borrowing from the Imperial Government for Kingston Improvements and Waterworks. £85,000 has now been borrowed for these purposes, repayable, with interest, in 40 years, by an annuity of £3,938 a year.

These must accordingly be counted as to be added to the total of funded Debt—

For General Purposes :—		
Railway Inscribed Stock ...	£1,475,600	
Railway Improvements, &c. ...	198,000	
Deficit (say)	50,000	
	£1,723,600	
Net amount stated above ...	1,787,324	
		3,510,924
For Local Purposes :—		
Kingston Improvements	£65,000	
„ Water Works	20,000	
	£85,000	
Net amount stated above ...	250,218	
		335,218
Total net Public Debt		£3,846,142

involving annual charges on General Revenue amounting to £194,080, being not far off one-third of the estimated total of current annual expenditure, besides the charges payable from local funds.

(E.) CURRENCY.

The currency of Jamaica is similar to that of the United Kingdom, British silver is in general circulation, but gold is not very much used, its place being supplied by £1 notes, issued by the two banks doing business in the island, the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The last-named Bank was granted a licence to issue notes in February last. The parent bank has a paid-up capital of $1,750,000, and a reserve fund of $2,000,000.

The Colonial Bank, which has long been established in the Colony, has had an average note circulation as shown below during the past five years :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1895	169,844
1896	173,650
1897	150,754
1898	152,802
1899	152,643

(F.) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF PAROCHIAL BOARDS.

The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Parochial Boards for the five years ended 31st March, 1900.

JAMAICA, 1899-1900

Kingston, the chief parish of the island, is also shown separately :—

—	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98	1898-99.	1899-00.
Revenue of all Boards ...	113,702	108,232	104,307	117,568	133,568
Expenditure „ „ ...	128,580	135,842	125,704	111,288	128,414
Revenue of Kingston ...	26,190	25,656	25,870	30,313	30,298
Expenditure „ ...	29,168	35,334	32,557	28,643	29,857

The revenue is derived chiefly from rates on houses, a property tax on cultivated lands, and licence duties on animals and vehicles used on the roads.

(G.) Debts of Municipalities and Boards.

On the 31st March, 1899, the total amount due by parochial boards to general revenue was £108,645.

On the 31st March, 1900, the close of the year under review, this indebtedness had been reduced to the sum of £98,050.

This satisfactory reduction tends to show that these Boards are paying increased attention to their responsibilities, and are in most cases making adequate annual provision for the discharge of their obligations.

Of the total indebtedness of £98,050, the sum of £44,354 is due on account of local water works, £27,675 for the establishment of markets, some of which have not proved financially successful. The balance, £26,021, is made up of £9,675 lent to parochial poor funds (of which St. Mary owed £2,300 and St. Catherine £1,755), and £16,346, advanced chiefly for sanitary purposes and for road work.

Of the last-mentioned amount, Kingston, the principal parish of the Island, owed £12,737, for the repayment of which satisfactory provision is made on the annual estimates.

In addition to the debts by parochial boards there were also due to general revenue amounts totalling £97,228 on account of specific undertakings by corporations established for the

purpose, and of this amount the Kingston General Commissioners were responsible for £94,752 advanced on account of loans to be raised for sewerage and water works. Particulars of the debt incurred by the Commissioners, which is guaranteed by general revenue, have been given above.

DIVISION II.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year ended 31st March, 1900, show a slight increase, and the exports a considerable increase in value, compared with the totals for the preceding year. The value of imports was £1,806,865, against £1,788,432, an increase of £18,433, or about 1 per cent., that of exports £1,868,079, against £1,662,543, an increase of £205,536, or about 12½ per cent.

For the first time since the year 1886-87, exports have exceeded imports. During nearly the whole of the intervening period, special causes, such as the Exhibition, Railway extension, the Kingston improvement works and electric tramway construction, have all helped to swell importations considerably.

Excluding from the comparison, coin and bullion, the considerable rise in which, viz., one of £55,535, was due to increased importations of silver for the two banks doing business in the Colony, the imports show a decrease of £37,102. Small increases on other heads, the principal being under "Raw materials," coal-counterbalance somewhat a large decrease of £76,931 under "Metals," due principally to the practical cessation of importations of railway and electric tramway materials during the year.

Again, excluding coin and bullion, of which £52,025 less were exported than in 1898-99, the increase in exports for 1899-1900 was no less than £257,561. Live animals, food, drink and narcotics were £302,900 more and raw materials £50,115 less, other heads nearly balancing.

The following table shows the value of Imports and Exports for the past five years :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895–96	1,775,016	9,553	88,535	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896–97	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
1897–98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381	1,660,668
1898–99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432	1,814,793
1899–1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865	1,844,332

The foregoing figures show that the values both of Exports and Imports were higher than in any year since 1895–96, that is, since a marked depression in trade began.

TABLE EXHIBITING THE INCREASES OR DECREASES IN QUANTITY, VALUE, AND PRICE OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

The following table exhibits the increases or decreases i

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or Decrease (as shown by + or —) on 1898–99.	
	1898–99.	1899–00.	1898–99.	1899–00.	Quantity	Value
	Cwt.	Cwt.	£	£	Cwt.	£
Cocoa	21,012	20,041	53,380	60,123	— 971	+ 6,74
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
Cocoanuts ...	11,967,902	18,011,568	34,109	54,035	+ 6,043,666	+ 19,92
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Coffee	110,290	83,606	162,219	142,130	— 26,684	— 20,08
	Bunches.	Bunches.			Bunches.	
Fruit—Bananas	7,497,281	8,046,404	468,580	602,480	+ 549,123	+134,90
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
" Oranges	107,190,041	107,444,200	123,715	145,050	+ 254,159	+ 21,33
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Ginger	15,197	20,205	43,374	60,615	+ 5,008	+ 17,24
	Tons.	Tons.			Tons.	
Logwood ...	43,421	28,871	113,980	77,971	— 14,550	— 36,00
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Pimento ...	77,939	123,973	127,624	173,562	+ 46,034	+ 45,93
	Gallons.	Gallons.			Gallons.	
Rum	1,564,436	1,569,187	104,296	130,766	+ 4,751	+ 26,47
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Sugar	360,748	390,215	150,312	195,107	+ 29,467	+ 44,79
Value of ten chief products exported.	—	—	1,381,58	1,6[illegible]	—	261,25
Value of all products exported	—	—	1,532,378	1,797,996	—	265,61
Miscellaneous produce.	—	—	150,[illegible]9	155,157	—	4,36

uantity, value and price of the 10 principal Exports, viz.—

Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1898–99.		Price.	Remarks.
Quantity.	Value.		
— 4·6	+ 12·6	1898–99 : 50 s. 10 d. per cwt. 1899–00 : 60 0 „ „	Total value more than four times that of 1888–89. Price rising of late years.
+ 50·5	+ 58·4	1898–99 : 57 3 „ M. 1899–00 : 60 0 „ „	Total value more than treble that of 1888–89. Price declining of late, but rose in 1899–1900.
— 24·2	— 12·4	1898–99 : 29 5 „ cwt. 1899–00 : 34 0 „ „	Value and price not half that of 1888–89. Has declined remarkably of late years.
+ 7·3	+ 28·8	1898–99 : 1 3 „ bunch. 1899–00 : 1 6 „ „	Value more than doubled in decade. Price fairly steady.
+ 0·2	+ 17·2	1898–99 : 24 11 „ M. 1899–00 : 27 0 „ „	Value more than doubled in decade. Prices last two years below the average.
+ 33·0	+ 39·7	1898–99 : 57 1 „ cwt. 1899–00 : 60 0 „ „	Value more than treble that of 1888–89. Price rising of late years.
— 33·5	— 31·6	1898–99 : 52 6 „ ton. 1899–00 : 54 0 „ „	Value in 1899–00 not quarter of that ten years ago. Price rose to 100s. in 1893–94—has declined markedly in last few years.
+ 59·1	+ 36·0	1898–99 : 32 9 „ cwt. 1899–00 : 28 0 „ „	Value nearly treble that of 1898–99. Price brightening of late—that of 1898–99 unusually good.
— 0·3	+ 12·5	1898–99 : 1 4 „ gallon. 1899–00 : 1 8 „ „	Value about ⅔ that of 1888–89. Price has declined generally.
— 8·2	+ 29·8	1898–99 : 8 4 „ cwt. 1899–00 : 10 0 „ „	Value in 1899–00 about ⅔ that of 1888–89. Price generally has declined greatly—that of 1899–00 was unusually high.
—	+ 18·9	—	—
—	+ 17·3	—	—
—	2·9	—	—

JAMAICA, 1899-1900.

The main characteristics of the general improvement above mentioned in the Export trade during the year appear in this table :—

Coffee and logwood, it will be noticed, which were among the principal staples 10 years ago continue to decline. The Collector-General attributes the decrease in coffee to the short crops resulting from a dry spring. The fall in price has also much to do with it, and unfortunately instead of stimulating attention to cultivation and curing, which by improvement of quality would repair this loss, it tends among the thriftless and shortsighted class of cultivators to result in increased neglect and consequent further loss of trade.

The export of bananas for the year would doubtless have exceeded all previous records, but for the disastrous weather experienced in the autumn. Up to the end of October, the quantity shipped had increased by 2,011,698 bunches, or nearly 50 per cent., but the violent rain and wind storms which visited the Island at that season caused the destruction of a large proportion of the trees, and the Exports between November and March were less than in the corresponding period of the previous year by 1,461,834 bunches. Had the rate of increase of the first seven months continued, it seems probable that the export would have approached 10,000,000 bunches.

The prices of both sugar and rum, especially of the former, improved considerably, a dry spring however, materially checked the prospects of the 1899–1900 crops, and hindered the growth of the cane so that only a small proportion of the new crop was exported during the year.

For all the more important products except pimento, prices improved. The high price realized for pimento in 1898–99 could not be expected to continue but the price in 1899–1900 was still above the average.

It will be seen from the column of remarks given in the table that the Exports which show the most marked increase during recent years are bananas, oranges, pimento, cocoa, cocoanuts and ginger. The last three have increased threefold or fourfold since the year 1888–89.

The notable increase in the trade in cocoanuts was due to better demand and organisation.

Among minor products, which showed little improvement in the aggregate compared with last year, honey and lime juice merit attention; the increase in the output of the former the Collector-General attributes to the teachings of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. A factory established of late years in St. Ann ships increasing quantities of lime juice and concentrated extracts of the lime, and elsewhere also attention to this product appears to be increasing.

The exports were distributed in the following proportions during the past five years :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.
United Kingdom	27·6	27·4	22·0	20·6	19·2
United States	57·0	56·6	62·3	59·1	63·6
Canada	1·6	1·2	1·4	1·4	1·6
Other countries	13·8	14·8	14·3	18·9	15·6

The value of the exports from Jamaica which go to the United States continue to increase in total value and in proportion to the whole amount of the trade. The exports to the United Kingdom diminish steadily. This tendency is largely due to the development of the Fruit trade, which has hitherto been almost exclusively with the United States.

The following table of the relative proportion of the chief items of export in the five years compared is illustrative of this explanation :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.
Sugar	11·0	10·1	8·3	9·8	10·8
Rum	9·3	8·4	6·3	6·1	7·2
Coffee	16·0	14·4	11·4	10·5	7·8
Dyewoods	20·4	11·6	8·9	8·8	4·8
Fruit	29·9	34·3	42·8	41·4	45·0
Pimento	5·1	5·2	3·6	8·3	9·7
Minor products ...	8·3	16·1	18·7	15·1	14·7

JAMAICA, 1899-1900.

The products named were shipped :—Sugar, almost entirely to the United States and to the United Kingdom, in the proportion, roughly, of eight to 1. Fruit, almost exclusively to the United States and rum to the United Kingdom. The other main products were variously distributed. Of the coffee, 7-8ths to the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom, in the order named. Logwood, to seven countries, nearly two-thirds going to the United States and Russia, the United Kingdom taking the fifth place. Pimento, about 5-8ths to the United States and United Kingdom, in the order named; the remainder principally to France and Germany. Lesser products of some importance, which have increased more in proportion than any of the main staples, are cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger. Of the cocoa, 9-10ths is shipped to France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Cocoanuts, almost exclusively to the United States. Most of the ginger to the United Kingdom and United States, in the proportion of about two to one.

Taking each of the four classes under which imports are now arranged, live animals, food, drink, and narcotics were valued at £676,383, as against £674,094 in 1898-99. Among animals, it is interesting to note in connection with bee keeping, a rising industry which the Jamaica Agricultural Society has taken great pains to foster, that bees to the value of £2,664 were imported, as against £1,082 in the previous year, while there were no importations in 1897-98. The placing of bees on the free list two years ago has evidently given a stimulus to the industry.

Importations of stock, especially of sheep, have decreased considerably, owing probably to the heavy duty now laid upon them.

Farinaceous foods, especially wheat and other meal, also peas and beans, showed a fair improvement over last year, while less salt fish and more salt beef and pork was imported, also a smaller quantity of alcoholic liquors. Importations of manufactured tobacco fell off from 128,429 lbs. to 43,609 lbs., and from £11,239 to £2,180 in value, whilst those of tea slightly increased. There was, on the whole, a diminution in the importations of luxuries and an increase in those of necessaries, not locally produced or else not in sufficient quantity.

Raw materials imported were valued at £75,944, as against £63,286, an increase of £12,658. Over £10,000 of this is due to the increased importations of coal, which made up £60,369 out of the total of £75,944. Coal for the past two years has been imported in greater quantity from the United States than from the United Kingdom, owing to the advantages both in cost and freight offered by the former market.

The quantity bought from the United States was 37,500 tons in 1899-1900, as against 24,400 from the Mother Country.

Of manufactured articles, textiles were imported to the value of £417,454, as against £408,675 in 1898-99.

In none of the items are there such increases or decreases as to call for special reference. The influx of cheaper descriptions of cotton goods from the United States brought to notice by the Collector-General as a characteristic of the previous year, was increased in 1899–00. Thus, cottons from the States, including hosiery, were valued at £40,829 in 1898–99, and £49,879 in 1899–00. It should be noted, however, that importations of textiles from the United States were at about the same figure in 1895-96, and apparently only declined for a few years.

Metals imported were valued at £153,125, against £230,056 in 1898-99, showing the large decrease of £76,931, chiefly due to the completion and equipment of the electric car system at Kingston. Other large decreases are those of about £27,000 under tubes and pipes, and £16,000 for railroad materials, including rolling stock. Importations for purely private purposes do not show any considerable differences.

Under "other manufactures" the increase is £16,203, on a total importation of £394,657.

Lumber imports diminished greatly both in quality and value, pitch pine and white pine being valued together £34,847, as against £42,206 in 1898-99, indicating restricted building operations. On the other hand, the value of shooks (the materials for casks, barrels, and boxes for sugar, rum, oranges, &c.) increased from £26,053 to £41,778.

Oils, of which kerosine is the chief, increased in imported value from £27,961 to £35,450.

The following figures give the respective proportions in which imports were obtained from the different countries named in the past five years :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.
United Kingdom	48·1	49·9	47·2	44·7	47·2
United States	41·8	39·4	43·0	45·1	43·0
Canada	7·5	8·2	7·1	7·1	7·1
Other countries	2·6	2·5	2·7	3·1	2·7

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines at present in working in Jamaica.

The Blue Book returns for 1899–1900 give particulars of 82 local manufactories, as against 76 in 1898–99.

The most numerous are tanneries 26, cigar and cigarette factories 18, breweries 11, and aerated water factories 7. There are also factories for producing ice, soap, and bricks, a match factory and establishment for coffee pulping and sorting, and for extraction of lime juice and essential oil from limes, corn, meal and rice mills, and a large factory for the production of logwood extracts. These establishments are usually small; the match and soap factories hold their own only in consequence of the high import duties on the articles which they produce. An excise duty, partially countervailing this protection, has recently been imposed on soap manufactured in the Island.

The returns, however, hardly give an adequate idea of the manufactories of the Colony; they do not include the works on the several sugar estates, which are really manufactories of sugar and rum. The total export value of these products in 1899–1900 was £325,872. A large quantity of rum is also manufactured for home consumption, the duty on such rum during the year at 5*s.* the proof gallon having yielded £102,741. Each coffee or cocoa plantation has also its apparatus for preparing and curing those products.

Fish is caught off the coast and to a small extent in the rivers for Island consumption. The fish is carried long distances inland for sale. A sea-fishing company has lately been established at Kingston, and retails fish at lower rates than formerly prevailed. The river fisheries are preserved by a close season.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Agriculture.

The returns for the year show a total acreage of land in cultivation and pasture of 693,574, against 660,491 in 1898–99, an increase of 33,083 acres. Of this increase 13,300 acres represents cultivation and 19,700 pasture. The principal products to which increased attention has been given are ground provisions, as represented by an addition of 8,476 acres, coffee 3,000, bananas 1,779, cocoanuts 880, and minor products 260 acres. The area in sugar cane has decreased by 1,000 acres and in tobacco 124. It must be stated that the returns of cultivated lands are unreliable; there can be no doubt that the ingivings by owners are in many cases understated for the purpose of evading taxation. Upwards of 200,000 acres of land of various kinds appear to be unaccounted for by the tax returns. The Government has not at present the means of checking this leakage.

Methods of cultivation amongst the bulk of the population are still crude, but the distribution of the journal of the Agricultural Society, the formation of many branch societies, and the lectures and demonstrations which have been given by an officer of the Public Gardens Department in various parts of the country, have aroused their interest, and there is now a greater desire for instruction and more willingness to adopt improved methods than have prevailed hitherto. With the object of extending practical instruction, a Board of Agriculture has been formed to control the various agencies now at work and to administer experiment stations. The Education Code has been amended so as to enable agricultural teaching to be commenced in the Elementary Schools, and a selected class of teachers has gone through a course of instruction at the experiment station at Hope Gardens.

Botanical Department.

The department of public gardens and plantations at present controls the undermentioned institutions :—

I.—The Botanical Gardens and Experiment Station at Hope, five miles from Kingston, and 700 feet above the sea.

II.—The Hill Gardens, formerly called "The Cinchona Plantation," with the experimental orange cultivation at Resource, from 3,500 to 5,000 feet above the sea.

III.—The Botanical Gardens at Castleton, 20 miles from Kingston, in the Parish of St. Mary, and about 400 feet above the sea.

IV.—The Botanical Gardens at Bath, in the Parish of St. Thomas.

V.—The garden and grounds of King's House, the residence of the Governor, and

VI.—The Parade Garden in the town of Kingston.

I.—The Botanical Garden at Hope extends to about 220 acres. A considerable part of this area has not yet been brought under cultivation, but there are large nurseries containing between 70,000 and 80,000 plants. In addition to flowering plants and ornamental shrubs there is a large assortment of economic plants, such as rubber, orange, cocoa, nutmeg, clove, vanilla, kola, sarsaparilla, Liberian coffee, etc. There is a steady demand for plants of this description.

The appearance of the nursery has been improved during the year by the substitution of wire for wooden rails for forming the plant-beds, while several trees which threw too much shade have

been removed. The plants continued to do well during the year. Several experiments in grafting have been successfully carried out. The sweet orange has been successfully grafted on lime stocks, and the trees are growing well and fruiting. Success has for the first time been attained in budding from a female nutmeg tree on strong healthy seedlings. Six youths have been trained at Hope to do this budding and can now each graft 100 per day.

As a distributing station the Hope Gardens are most useful and helpful, and should play an important part in promoting the advance of the Island as an agricultural and fruit-producing country.

It may be added that the plants distributed from the Hope Gardens during the year under review numbered 132,104, of which no less than 115,839 were economic plants. The mean temperature for the year at Hope was 77·1 Fahr. The rainfall was over 80 inches.

II.—The Hill Garden is situated in what are usually called the "Port Royal Mountains." It occupies a magnificent site 5,000 feet above the sea. The average mean temperature is 62·6 Fahr., while the average rainfall (for 29 years) is no less than 104·08 inches. During the year 1899–1900, however, the rainfall was 138·54 inches.

The gardens are not now of great value except as exhibiting the luxuriance to which English flowers attain in this climate at a considerable altitude. Phlox, dianthus, mignonette, verbenas, etc., all thrive well and flower freely.

There was much dry weather in the middle of 1899, from which the garden suffered. This was followed by exceedingly heavy rains in October and November which did much damage.

Attached to the Hill Garden is Resource, where orange cultivation is carried on. The land is hilly, and in some parts so steep that it has been found necessary to plant grasses of various kinds to prevent the heavy wash by storm rains which are frequent in the locality. Citrus plants do fairly well at this place, and experiments are carried out with various imported descriptions of the orange, lemon, grape, fruit, etc. During the year, which owing to climatic conditions was an unusually trying one, this station distributed 55,564 plants, of which only a very small proportion were ornamental plants.

III.—The gardens at Castleton are situated in a narrow valley through which runs the Agua Alta (or Wag Water) river forming the border of the garden on the east side. Of all the Botanical stations Castleton is the most typically tropical, with its graceful clumps of bamboo on the river bank, and its palms of every description.

The annual rainfall is considerable, it was 140 inches in 1899-1900.

These gardens suffered, as did the other stations from the heavy floods of October and November. Two acres of land which had been cleaned and a number of economic plants were washed away.

IV.—The Bath Gardens is the old Botanical Garden of Jamaica. It was established in 1779. It contains one very fine palm and some other interesting trees, but it is no longer of any importance, and the Government has decided to discontinue expenditure for its maintenance.

V.—The Botanical Department is still in charge of the gardens and grounds of the Official residence of the Governor. The cultivation has been maintained during the year but not extended. The usual gardening operations have continued in the grounds immediately surrounding the house, and the outlying pastures were thoroughly cleaned during the year by boys from Stony Hill Reformatory.

VI.—The Parade Garden in Kingston occupies what was formerly an unsightly open square, ankle deep in sand, with no properly made road through it. This space is now enclosed with a handsome iron railing, and is planted with large shady trees and laid out in grass, traversed by gravelled walks properly constructed and drained. A fountain occupies the centre of the garden, while comfortable seats are provided in every convenient place. The garden is now a favourite resort of the inhabitants of Kingston, while some of the specimens of the Rubber tree growing there are worth inspection. The garden has been maintained in excellent order throughout the year.

No part of the work of the Botanical Department is of more practical utility than the lectures and demonstrations given in the country districts by its Officers. The Superintendent of Hope Gardens from time to time travels in various districts of the Island, and lectures to the peasantry in an informal manner on the correct methods of cultivating their coffee, oranges or other products.

Notice of his coming is given beforehand in the district, and a convenient place selected for the lecture. Practical demonstrations are given in the open fields, showing the methods to be adopted, and the difference in result of the scientific as compared with the crude methods of cultivation hitherto in vogue is explained.

These demonstrations and lectures have already produced good results in many districts, and arrangements are being made for extending this class of work and engaging more officers of the department in it. The Agricultural Society, which receives a grant of £1,500 a year from public funds, has set aside £120 a

year for the past two years to pay the cost of providing assistance at Hope during the Superintendent's absence on lecturing tours. In this as in many other ways the Society has co-operated with the Department. The Journal of the Society has a large circulation and forms an excellent means of diffusing knowledge of and interest in Agricultural subjects, an object which is much furthered by the local agricultural shows promoted by the branches of the society.

(D.) LAND GRANTS, SALES, &c.

Grants.

A patent of 329½ acres of land was granted to the West India Improvement Company under the provisions of the Railway Law 12 of 1889, making a total of 73,723 acres granted (as part of the consideration for the construction of the railway) to the company, which is now in liquidation and which is making no use of the land. About 3,000 acres still remain to be granted.

Sales.

Sales to small settlers under the system of payment by instalments, introduced in 1897 by Sir Henry Blake, continue to progress satisfactorily. During the year 418 applications were received for 4,263¾ acres, and 260 lots, aggregating 4,589½ acres, were surveyed and allotted, 10,888 acres were applied for and 9,574 allotted between the 1st January, 1897, and the 31st March, 1900, the purchase money paid being £3,200. Unfortunately considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining the annual instalments of purchase money, and 12 lots have been forfeited to the Crown owing to non-payment. About 1,200 acres of the land sold appear to be under cultivation, which is to some extent retarded by want of good roads into the settlements.

Leases.

Ninety-five leases of Crown property were effected during the year, at an aggregate annual rental of £404 16*s.* 0*d.* More than half this amount was obtained from town residences. Most of the leases are of small lots near Kingston, in most cases at a rental of £1 per annum. The Healthshire lands, about 10,000 acres, chiefly of mountainous rocky land, were leased for £50 per annum.

Forfeitures.

3,908½ acres of land, situated in eleven of the fourteen parishes, were forfeited to the Crown for non-payment of quit rent and land tax.

The receipts of the department during the year from sales and rents were £3,104 3*s.* 4*d.*, an increase of £557 10*s.* 6*d.* over those of the previous year. Expenditure was diminished by £321 0*s.* 8*d.*, compared with 1898-99.

It is unfortunate that the lands which by forfeiture to the Crown have become or are likely to become available for sale to new settlers are in most cases remote from established centres and lines of traffic and difficult of access. These circumstances, even where the land is good, re-act upon the success of the cultivation, for lack of market; they also withdraw available labour from estates which might contribute to the exports of the Colony, which these new settlements do not to any appreciable extent. Moreover the children are withdrawn from educational and other civilising influences.

(E.) SHIPPING.

Following a considerable increase in shipping operations in 1898-99, as shown by the returns of vessels entered and cleared, there was a decrease in the year now under review. The Collector-General attributed the increase in the previous year chiefly to the stimulation of trade with Cuba after the war, in which many small vessels were temporarily engaged, and partly also to the expansion of the fruit industry. Owing to the settlement of affairs in Cuba, there is now less demand for cattle and provisions from Jamaica, and the number of vessels trading between the two islands has accordingly diminished. The severe check to the fruit industry caused by the storms of October, 1899, led to the withdrawal of some fruit steamers.

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The following is a comparative summary of vessels, tonnage, and crews for the past five years :—

Year.	Reported.			Cleared.		
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1895–96	Sailing, 472	106,408	3,611	470	110,467	3,663
	Steam, 702	697,294	24,308	698	693,178	24,199
	1,174	803,702	27,919	1,168	803,645	27,862
1896-97	Sailing, 343	66,447	2,522	361	70,557	2,675
	Steam, 688	672,955	23,686	694	678,946	23,724
	1,031	739,402	26,208	1,055	749,503	26,399
1897–98	Sailing, 348	70,238	2,596	346	71,388	2,641
	Steam, 712	710,623	24,554	709	708,695	24,503
	1,060	780,861	27,150	1,055	780,083	27,144
1898–99	Sailing, 445	71,058	3,365	457	76,218	3,535
	Steam, 975	839,391	31,938	972	841,052	31,809
	1,420	910,449	35,303	1,429	917,270	35,344
1899–00	Sailing, 394	64,425	3,073	389	64,172	3,027
	Steam, 793	832,636	29,263	793	832,278	29,348
	1,187	897,061	32,336	1,182	896,450	32,375

The figures it will be observed are higher than in any of the other years compared, except 1898-99.

The majority of vessels trading with Jamaica are British or from British Possessions. Of sailing vessels, there were 295 British out of a total of 394. Only eight of the British sailing vessels were from the United Kingdom, the remainder being from British Possessions. In 1898-99, there were 319 British out of a total of 445.

Of steamers, there were 427 British out of 793 for all nations, as against 514 in 1898-99 out of 975, the figures exhibiting a considerable decrease. There were thus, in 1899-1900, 722 British vessels and 465 Foreign vessels entered at ports in this island. The average tonnage of British sailing vessels, the great majority of which are owned in the West Indies, is very small compared with that of those of Foreign nations, but the converse holds for steamers. Thus, of sailing vessels entered, there were :—

British 295, with a tonnage of 23,155, or an average of about 80 tons each ;

Foreign 99, with a tonnage of 41,270, or an average of about 417 tons each.

But of steamers :—

British 427, with a tonnage of 528,109, or an average of about 1,236 tons each ;

Foreign 366, with a tonnage of 304,527, or an average of about 832 tons each.

The greater number of Foreign vessels were Norwegian and American. Of the former, there were 221, of which 29 were sailing vessels, and of the latter there were 150, of which 40 were sailing vessels.

DIVISION III.

LEGISLATION.

Of the laws which were passed by the Legislative Council during the Session of 1899, the following were the most important :—

Law 1, of 1899, providing for the temporary working of any portion of an authorised tramway, pending the completion of the entire works. This law enabled the West India Electric Company, then laying down a system of electric tramways in the

town of Kingston and the surrounding districts, to obtain a licence for each section of the system as completed, and to legally work these sections.

Law 2, of 1899, which increases the proportion of the cost of return passages to India, payable by Indian immigrants who have completed their term of engagement in the Colony. It is provided that the rights of immigrants indentured previous to the passing of the law shall not be affected by it.

Law 5, of 1899. The District Constables Law, which abolishes the rural police and substitutes therefor a force of district constables, who are paid only when called upon for duty.

Law 6, of 1899. A Law to Consolidate and Amend the Gunpowder and Firearms Laws. This law repeals and consolidates certain portions of the laws on the subject of gunpowder, explosives, and firearms, and substitutes the resident magistrate for the custos of the parish, and a special session of justices of the peace as the licensing authority. Formerly, considerable difficulty often arose in getting together a sufficient number of justices to form a quorum and constitute the special session. Under this law the resident magistrate of a parish may grant licences at any time on application being made to him. Provision is also made in the law for regulating the storage, packing, &c., of gunpowder and dangerous explosives.

Law 7, of 1899. The Succession Duty Amendment Law, which exempts property situate in the United Kingdom from payment of succession duty in the Colony.

Law 12, of 1899, which authorises the acquisition of any lands by the Kingston General Commissioners for the purpose of any undertaking authorised by them.

Law 13, of 1899. This law authorises the Kingston General Commissioners to borrow from the Government—and the Government to lend the Commissioners—a sum of £40,000 for the purpose of improving the water supply of Kingston and the Liguanea Plains of St. Andrew, whilst Law 15 empowers the Government to borrow that amount for the purpose of lending it to the Commissioners.

Law 20, of 1899. The Tariff Law. This law consolidates and amends the laws of the Colony levying duties on imports. By this statute all unenumerated goods are subjected to an *ad valorem* duty on importation of £16 13*s.* 4*d.* per £100, the rate having previously been 12½ per cent. The schedules embody a list of goods on which special rates of import duty are leviable, and a list of goods to be admitted free. The effect of the law is to substantially increase the taxation on imported goods.

Law 22, of 1899. The Stamp Duty Law. This law was passed with the object of increasing the revenue by imposing

higher stamp duties on certain documents, and making certificates of naturalization and passports issued by the Governor liable to stamp duty.

Law 23, of 1899. The Elementary Education Amending Law. This law limits the status of the Board of Education to that of an advisory body, and transfers to the Governor in Council the power to make alterations in the Education Code. It also shortens the period within which a child may be taught in a public elementary school, by raising the age of admission from five to six years. The first change will enable the Government to more effectually control expenditure, and the effect of limiting the period during which a child may attend an elementary school will, it is expected, be an annual saving of some thousands of pounds.

Law 26, of 1899, provides fuller facilities for marriage by the civil form of contract.

Law 28, of 1899, authorises the Governor to borrow on debentures repayable within fourteen years a sum not exceeding £50,000, and to advance the same to the Kingston General Commissioners for the purpose of completing the connection of private houses with the main sewers of Kingston.

Law 34, of 1899, provides for vesting in the Governor of Jamaica, so soon as the final decree should have been made for the transfer of the Jamaica railway and all property belonging thereto, all the rights and powers possessed by the Directors of the Jamaica Railway Company.

During that portion of the Session of 1900 which fell within the financial year ending on the 31st March, four laws were passed, the more important being—

Law 1, of 1900. The Railway Loan (Imperial) Law, which gives the Governor power to borrow £198,000 from the Imperial Treasury at 2¾ per cent. interest, for improving the Jamaica railway, for purchasing rolling stock, etc., and paying arrears of interest due to holders of first mortgage bonds of the Railway Company.

Law 2, of 1900, which gives the Governor power to borrow £105,000 from the Imperial Treasury at 3½ per cent. interest, for the purpose of repaying to the Treasurer of Jamaica or the Crown Agents for the Colonies moneys advanced to the Kingston General Commissioners, and make the payment of an annuity for the interest and repayment of the loan a charge upon the funds of the Commissioners.

DIVISION IV.

EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Comparative Statistical Table:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance at Inspection.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage in Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
										£
1898-99 ...	893	876	97,091	57,508	54,041	59·23	176	397	267	51,561
1899-1900 ...	746	776	98,598	61,219	51,470	62·08	187	357	219	47,240

The most noticeable feature in the above return is the diminution in the number of schools, owing to the closing or combination of many small, superfluous and inefficient establishments, in accordance with the recommendations of the recent Education Commission. The difficult duty of deciding from what schools Government aid should be withdrawn has been exercised with great care and deliberation. A list of schools to

be closed was prepared by a special Committee, was revised by a Committee of the Legislative Council, and then approved by the Board of Education. In the end, the original list was somewhat reduced, future amalgamation being determined on instead of immediate closure in certain cases.

Schools Insvected.

The number of schools returned as inspected is greater than the number on the grant list, some schools having been inspected which were subsequently closed. It appears that in the early months of the year there was a considerable increase in average attendance, and in the later months a notable decrease, the net decrease being 10,639 scholars. The decrease is accounted for, in the opinion of the Inspectors reporting, partly by the exceptional weather of the last quarter of the year 1899, partly by the raising of the limit for admission to Elementary schools from 5 to 6 years of age, and partly by the non-recognition of Infant schools, except those conducted by well qualified Kindergarten teachers, and the raising of the lower limit for admission to such schools from three to four years of age.

In effect, from the 30th June, 1899, when the changes came into force, children of three, four and five years of age ceased generally to attend school, the exceptions being those of four and five years in a few Infant schools specially sanctioned.

The closing and amalgamation of schools was principally carried out at the end of September, 1899. During the first three months which followed, the average attendance was 39,827, during the following three months 51,029. The Superintending Inspector of Schools thinks it probable that after the closing of schools those parents who only sent their children fitfully to school when it was near their door, discontinued sending them altogether. In some instances, private schools, unfortunately with little efficiency or prospect of permanency, have taken the place of closed Government Schools.

The principal cause of the decreased numbers and percentage of third-class schools is the fact that nearly all the schools closed were of the lower classes. Notwithstanding the educational changes of the year, the number and percentage of 1st class schools, which are in increasing ratio to lower class schools, were the highest yet attained.

The decrease in "Total payments to elementary schools and teachers," is partly due to the closing of schools and partly to changes under the Education Code of 1899, viz.—the diminution of the special grant hitherto given to 1st and 2nd class schools with an attendance of over 80, the withdrawal of the bonus grant to certificated teachers in charge of third class schools and its reduction for the higher class schools, and the material reduction of the sewing grant. These reductions in

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grants, rendered necessary by the financial difficulties under which the Colonial Government is labouring, have affected the incomes of a large number of teachers who have, it is gratifying to report, endured this loss of emolument in a manner most creditable to their loyalty and public spirit.

The total amount expended on Education in 1899-1900 was £60,000, against £66,123 in 1898-99. The decreases took place almost entirely under the heads of schools grants and aid to Training Colleges, though economy was also effected in the administrative branch, by a decrease in the number of Inspectors. The female Training college at Shortwood was removed from the list of Institutions managed by the Government, and placed, from the 1st April, 1899, under a Board of Directors, consisting principally of leading Ministers of the several religious denominations. This Board has succeeded so far in carrying on the college in a satisfactory manner and at a reduced cost. Other decreases under this head are due to the closing of the Moravian Training College at Fairfield in Manchester, and the reduction in the number of students for whom a maintenance grant is allowed. The third year students from Fairfield College have been transferred to the Mico Institution; and Calabar College, a Baptist Institution in Kingston, received a grant for 1899-1900, for its third year students only, but will not receive any further grant. Most useful work has been done both at Fairfield and Calabar in the training of elementary teachers, and the discontinuance of the maintenance grants implied no disparagement of those Institutions, but was decided on on the ground that the Mico Training College, having extensive grounds and easy access to the Kingston Manual Training School, affords greater facilities for giving training in methods of agricultural and manual teaching. Moreover, not only can the Mico Institution accommodate a greater number of students than those already transferred to it (including 12 from the late Mico Training college at Antigua), but there is space for its extension to provide for any future increase in the number of young men to be trained as teachers of elementary schools.

Much improvement was shown in the work of the Training colleges. Compared with the preceding year the percentage of passes was 91·3 as against 70·9, and of passes in honours 18·3 as against 12·3.

The total numbers of candidates presented and passed were:—

Students.

Year.	Presented.	Passed.	Honours.
1898-99	179	127	22
1899-1900 ...	150	137	29

Teachers.

Year.	Presented.	Passed.	Honours.
1898–99	18	6	—
1899–1900 ...	9	3	—

The lack of success of teachers as compared with students at these examinations is probably attributable to teachers not keeping up their knowledge after leaving college, and perhaps also to many teachers having received an inferior training to that now enjoyed by students.

Subjoined is a comparative table of examinations of pupil teachers and of candidates for trade and other scholarships for admission to training colleges and for exhibitions at other schools.

Year.	Presented.		Passed.	
	Pupil Teachers.	Voluntary Candidates.	Pupil Teachers.	Voluntary Candidates.
1898–99	533	1,099	212	183
1899–1900... ...	480	662	259	190

As in the case of examinations of Training colleges and teachers, the numbers presented were less, and the passes more. There is a marked inferiority in both years in the voluntary candidates compared with the pupil teachers. The examination was held in July, 1899.

The Superintending inspector reported that the percentage of passes, while considerably in excess of those in 1898, was almost the same as in 1897, and a little below those of 1896.

It is regrettable that Training college candidates, who will hereafter be teachers, chiefly failed in the papers on school management, and showed a reliance mainly on book work, indicating that their past training as pupil teachers had not been of much benefit to them in this respect. It is not surprising therefore to learn that the pupil teachers showed at the

examination but little advance in the art of teaching. The new code of 1900 compels teachers and pupil teachers to devote more attention to this art.

Most Inspectors report improvement this year in the teaching staff, leading to corresponding improvement in the quality of the work done. In one district a decline is reported, owing largely, the Inspector believes, to certain teachers having too much divided their attention between private undertakings and their school work.

In many schools additional women teachers are now being employed, their services being preferred to those of pupil teachers.

The increased employment of women teachers is one of the greatest needs in the educational system of the Island. Male teachers have, however, this advantage among others, in the preference of the managers that they can and generally do give considerable assistance in ecclesiastical functions.

Regretfully I feel bound to refer to the observations made in the inspectors' reports on dishonesty and immorality among the male teachers. No doubt a large proportion, if not the majority, of the schoolmasters are men of unexceptional character and a credit to their profession, but many instances of falsification of registers and of their careless and illegal posting are stated to have come to light during the year. A return made this spring to the legislative council of the numbers of teachers dismissed within a recent period, and the causes, revealed a most startling and deplorable prevalence of unchaste conduct on the part of schoolmasters. That return has an important bearing on the controversies respecting our educational system and expenditure which have filled the last two years. A study of the report and evidence published nearly two years ago by the very important commission appointed to enquire into the system of education in Jamaica produces the impression that there has prevailed in this Island a tendency to suppose that an expenditure of money on schools and schoolmasters is synonymous with an expenditure on education. If it means, as for want of better material in Jamaica it has evidently in a number of cases meant, the bringing of boys and girls under the influence of tricky and unscrupulous persons, it may be education of a sort, but the children are better without it. If it means nothing worse than that a number of inefficient schools and teachers have been fostered out of the taxes, those critics of the Government would still be very far from the point who have charged it with opposition to education because it has cut down the Education vote. It cannot, I think, be questioned that the labours of the Board of Education, arising out of the Education Commission report, and resulting in the new codes of this year, for elementary schools and for Training colleges, are bringing it about that more true education is being given now in the Island

for much less money than was being given three years ago. This process and this aim can be pushed further and as in the Parochial Administration, so in the educational there is room for a better return of value to the community at a less cost in taxation. No visitor to country schools in Jamaica can fail to be struck with the brightness, docility, musical talent and pleasant demeanour of the children, nor, too often, with the parrot-fashion of the instruction. Unless real justice can be done to this material of human life when we get it into the schools, it will very easily do better for itself outside of them.

It is hoped that the important changes introduced by the new codes above referred to will rapidly further improvements. These changes include an increase of marks for the principal subjects, with a large increase for agricultural science and for organisation and discipline, with greater attention to manual training and practical work in gardening and agriculture.

In elementary schools, the simpler elements of these will be taught, while certain subjects will be curtailed, and the full curriculum will only be required in first-class schools.

To allow of more thorough training in the art of teaching in Training colleges as well as in manual training and agricultural science with demonstrations, former requirements in mathematics, geography, history, and music have been curtailed.

The appliances of education in schools will be more carefully looked after. An appliance grant for infant schools and in part for elementary schools, grants for libraries for schools and training colleges. For training college examinations, school management and general and agricultural science have been made primary subjects; students are required to serve for six years as teachers. Pupil teachers will have to pass a more rigid examination in the art of teaching. The curriculum for teachers seeking registration has been made more rigid, the raising of the standard being now possible, owing to the diminution in the number of schools, including the closing of low grade schools.

Special provision has been made for courses in agricultural instruction for teachers.

Secondary Education.

Schools under the regulation of the Jamaica Schools Commission.

The Jamaica Schools Commission is a body appointed under Law 34 of 1879, to have the general superintendence and control of secondary education and particularly of the Jamaica High School, which was specially established under that law for the promotion of higher education. Since the passing of the law, University College has been founded and is also under the

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control of the Commission. This college aims at giving something analogous to University education, and arrangements are made for holding the pass examinations for the University of London for the degrees of B.A. and LL.D. in the colony.

The Schools Commission regulates the management of the several endowed schools of the colony, most of which derive their income from the payment by the Government of the perpetual annuities set forth in the schedule annexed to the Act 28 Vic. c. 23, and interest on deposits made under 27 Vic. c. 19, in consideration of their endowments having been taken over by the Government.

The number of boys at the Jamaica High School varied during the year between 43 and 49, the latter being the number on the 31st March, 1900. At the Cambridge local examination the school received an excellent report. All the candidates who entered, passed. Of the five senior candidates, 4 obtained Honours, one of them being second among distinguished candidates at this examination throughout the Empire in arithmetic and also in pure mathematics. Of the 17 junior candidates, 10 obtained Honours, 1 gaining four marks of distinction.

Three students were in residence in University College.

The endowed schools under the control of the Schools Commission are :—

School.	Locality.
Wolmers Schools	Kingston.
Titchfield School	Port Antonio.
Secondary School	Montego Bay.
(Under Guthrie Davidson's bequest 4 scholars at this school are elected by the Parochial Board of St. James.)	
Ruseas Trust Schools	Lucea.
Mannings School	Savanna la Mar.
Munro and Dickenson's Schools ...	In Mountains of St. Elizabeth.
Middle Grade School	Mandeville.
Vere Trust Schools	Vere District in lower Clarendon.
Beckford and Smiths School ...	Spanish Town.

The Jamaica High School, previously mentioned, is situated in St. Andrew, five miles from Kingston. The Trust Fund of Walton School in St. Ann was incorporated with it by Law 34 of 1879, and provision made for the education of a certain number of foundationers from St. Ann. Thus provision is specially made for the higher education of the Colony in 11 of the 14 parishes, the endowed schools being so distributed throughout the Colony that there is little difficulty in parents anywhere taking advantage of them to obtain a sound education for their children at a moderate cost or as foundationers.

The number of pupils at each school were :—

Wolmers.

Boys at beginning of year, 131 ;	at end	...	... 118
Girls „ 86 ;	„	...	... 129

Titchfield Secondary School.

Average of 13, or 1 more than last year.

Elementary School.

Boys, 106 ; Girls, 84 ; Infants, 101		...	... 291
Average attendance ...	...	...	... 187

Rusea Schools (no girls).

Boys at beginning of year, 27 ;	at end of year	... 23

Mannings School.

Boys, 36 ; Girls, 31	... 67

Munro and Dickenson's.

Boys	... 58
Girls	... 61

Manchester Middle Grade School.

Average	... 23

Vere Schools (7) (Elementary).

Total average attendance	... 759

(These are elementary schools, but 3 scholarships at the High School are provided for in connection with them).

Beckford and Smiths School (Boys).

No. at end of year	... 23

The Cambridge local examination is the test examination for these schools. At this examination the results for most of the schools were very favourable. For example, at Wolmers, of 40 boys who entered for this examination, 35 passed : 8 in honours, 7 gained distinctions ; of 32 girls who entered, 22 passed : 2 in honours and 4 gained distinctions.

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At the Munro and Dickenson's school for boys, of 22 who entered, 7 gained first-class and 7 second and third-class honours. At the girls' school, of 16 who entered, 3 seniors took second-class honours and 1 junior third-class. Other schools also showed creditable results generally.

Besides the above-mentioned institutions, there are five training colleges for teachers, two undenominational (the Mico and Shortwood), with St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic), Calabar (Baptist), and Bethlehem (Moravian). St. Joseph's, Shortwood, and Bethlehem are for females, and trained in 1899–1900, 6, 30, and 19 students respectively; the Calabar and Mico trained 12 and 80 respectively. Fairfield, a Moravian college for males, was closed on the 31st December 1899.

The Government grants annually one scholarship of £200 a year for three years, tenable during university or professional study in the United Kingdom, two of £60, tenable for three years in Jamaica, four of £15 a year for boys and one for girls, and eight of £10 for boys and two for girls tenable for one year at schools in the Island.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The following summary shows the principal particulars regarding the industrial schools of the Colony during this, as compared with the preceding, year, viz :—

—	Hope.	Shortwood.	Alpha Cottage.		Belmont.
	Under control of				
—	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Roman Catholic Church.		Church of England.
Inmates :—	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Girls.
31st March, 1899...	38	37	44	34	9
31st March, 1900...	39	35	40	30	6
Health	Good.	Very Good.	Excellent.		Excellent.

Total :—

Boys, 1898-99...	82
Girls „	80
	162

Total :—

Boys, 1899-1900	79
Girls „	71
	150

At Hope School the bigger boys do field and garden work, housework, limewashing quarters, and receive Agricultural training daily at Hope Gardens. Small boys keep the grounds and roads in order.

At the other schools, boys do work as at Hope School, but do not receive any instruction from the Botanical Department.

At Alpha Cottage, boys cook as well as girls. Girls do some field and garden work, but are chiefly engaged in needlework, washing and cooking. They also make hats and baskets.

School is kept in all. The marks gained in 1899-1900 have only been reported from Alpha Cottage, where both boys and girls' schools attained the First Class.

Nearly all the children discharged are reported to have obtained employment, and to be giving satisfaction. Most of the boys from Hope are engaged in horticulture, while those from Alpha Cottage have been chiefly apprenticed to tradesmen.

DIVISION V.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

Public Hospital, Kingston.

3448 patients were treated in the Hospital during the year; the number treated in 1898-99 was 3561; 3392 were refused admission for want of room and other causes. Of the number treated 2504 were cured, 375 were relieved, 124 were not, while 257 died, and 190 remained in hospital at the close of the

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period. Of the patients that died, more than one-fourth were admitted to the Institution in a moribund condition, but, notwithstanding this fact, the death rate of 7·45 per cent. was almost identical with that of the preceding year.

There were 1062 operations, with 16 deaths, a percentage of 1·5. 751 out-door patients with tickets from the Inspector of Poor were treated, and 6,768 prescriptions dispensed for them —959 for Constables, and 382 for the Maternity Hospital,— while 6,768 casualties were attended to.

The Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Hospital states that the satisfactory results attained during the period under review were mainly due to the skill and attention of the medical officers and the devotion of the nursing staff.

Dr. C. W. M. Castle was appointed Senior Medical Officer of the Institution in June, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Boyd.

The financial statistics given below for the financial year ended 31st March, 1900, show that there has been a decrease of £849 in the expenditure of the Institution since 1897–98, thus reducing the annual cost per bed from £43 0*s*. 2¾*d*. to £38 3*s*. 10*d*.

This reduction is a satisfactory indication that greater economy is being observed in the administration of the Hospital, although the cost per head is still considerably higher than in other kindred Institutions. At the same time it must not be forgotten that a very large amount of time and attention is given by the staff to out-door patients, which is not taken into account in the tables.

The amount of refunds to the Treasury by paying patients shows a reduction, only totalling £205 16*s*. 2*d*. against £278 2*s*. 8*d*. in 1897–98.

Return showing the Cost of each Patient in Public Hospital for the years ended 31st March, 1898, 1899, and 1900 :—

Year.	Gross expenditure for the year.	£	s.	d.	Average daily number of beds occupied.	Daily cost of each patient. s.	d.	Annual cost of each patient. £	s.	d.	Total number of patients treated.	Average cost of each patient treated per annum. £	s.	d.	Amount of dues paid into the Treasury. £	s.	d.	Actual expenditure after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £	s.	d.	Daily cost of each patient after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. s.	d.	Annual cost of each patient after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £	s.	d.	Average cost of each patient treated per annum after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £	s.	d.
1897–98	Personal Emoluments.	4,104	0	5½	200	2	4¼	43	0	2¾	3,359	2	11	2¼	278	2	8	8,324	4	7	2	3¼	41	12	5	2	9	6¾
	Other Charges	4,498	6	9½																									
1898–99	Personal Emoluments.	4,066	7	5	205	2	2¾	40	17	1½	3,758	2	4	6¾	274	14	5	8,100	19	0½	2	1¾	39	10	4	2	3	1¼
	Other Charges	4,309	6	0½																									
1899–00	Personal Emoluments.	3,956	15	6	203	2	1	38	3	10	3,448	2	4	11½	205	16	2	7,547	3	10	2	0¼	37	3	6¾	2	3	9
	Other Charges	3,796	4	6																									

Maternity Hospital, Kingston.

581 patients were admitted for treatment during the year, as compared with 500 for the previous year 1898-99, including an infant found at the gate of the Institution.

36 cases were refused admission owing to want of accommodation, and on several occasions it was found necessary to provide for serious cases on the floor of the ward. To avoid overcrowding, admission is now restricted to holders of tickets previously obtained from the matron, but two beds are always reserved for complicated cases unforeseen.

There were 560 births, 66 of which were still-born, while there were 11 cases of twins. 9 deaths occurred among the patients.

Nine pupil teachers completed their training and ten entered the Institution during the period under review.

The chief medical officer and director bears high testimony to the zeal and interest displayed by the staff, who he states have worked at high pressure throughout the year. Medical visitors from abroad have also expressed their appreciation of the Institution, notably the medical officer of the Boston Lying-in Hospital, who stated that he found the hospital to be in every respect the equal of his own institution.

The following table of expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1900, shows that the annual cost of each unit in the institution has been reduced from £46 3*s.* 2½*d.* in 1897-98 to £39 1*s.* 9¼*d.* in 1899-1900. This however appears to be due to the fact that the pay of the visiting surgeon is now included in his salary as medical officer of the General Penitentiary.

It will also be observed that the amount of dues paid into the Treasury has increased from £99 18*s.* 6*d.* in 1897-98 to £159 17*s.* 0*d.* in 1899-1900.

Return showing the Cost of each Patient in the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital for the years ended 31st March, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

Year.	Gross expenditure for the year.	£ s. d.	Average daily number of beds occupied.	Daily cost of each patient and pupil nurse. s. d.	Annual cost of each patient and pupil nurse. £ s. d.	Total number of patients treated and pupil nurses.	Average cost per annum of each patient treated and pupil nurses. £ s. d.	Amount of dues paid into the Treasury. £ s. d.	Actual expenditure after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £ s. d.	Daily cost of each patient and pupil nurse after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. s. d.	Annual cost of each patient and pupil nurse after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £ s. d.	Average cost per annum of each patient and pupil nurse after deducting amounts paid into the Treasury. £ s. d.
1897–98	Personal Emoluments.	316 11 7	25	2 6¼	46 3 2½	479	2 8 2	99 18 6	1,054 2 4	2 3¾	42 3 3½	2 4 0
	Other Charges	837 9 3										
1898–99	Personal Emoluments.	316 1 7	26	2 5	44 5 7	524	2 3 11¼	142 15 3	1,008 10 5	2 1½	38 5 9	1 18 5½
	Other Charges	835 4 1										
1899–00	Personal Emoluments.	436 14 2	28	2 1½	39 1 9¼	617	1 15 5¾	159 17 0	934 12 10	1 9¾	33 7 7	1 10 3½
	Other Charges	657 15 8										

Public General Hospitals.

There were 9,426 new admissions to the 19 Public General Hospitals of the Island during the nine months ended 31st December, 1899. Altogether 9,775 patients were treated, as follows :—

Constables	533
Paupers	24
Poor persons admitted without charge ...	3,525
Indentured Coolie labourers	5,507
Paying patients	167
Prisoners	19
Total	9775

The newly arrived Coolie immigrants, not having become acclimatized, were responsible for more than half the admissions.

The death rate averaged only 2·62 per cent. for all the hospitals, or a fraction less than the previous year. The rates ranged from nil in one hospital and between 1 and 2 per cent. in seven hospitals, to 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 per cent. in the others, the highest being 9·52 per cent.

The prevailing diseases were malarial fevers, rheumatism, diseases of the respiratory and nervous systems, skin affections, dysentery, syphilis, and urinary affections, the first-named being most noticeable after the heavy rainfall in the last quarter of the year. The mortality was highest in cases of enteric and pernicious fevers, which, however, were few, and as a rule the most prevalent diseases were of a benign type. The record of recoveries after operations is generally extremely good throughout the Island, exhibiting the general healthiness of the hospitals in this climate.

The hospitals are periodically inspected by the Superintending Medical Officer and every effort is made to combine economy and efficiency in the administration. Not only having regard to the recent curtailment of ways and means, but absolutely, the hospitals as a whole produce a most creditable and satisfactory impression.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

(i.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

During the year 956 persons were under treatment in the Lunatic Asylum, at a total cost of £13,559 10*s.* 1*d.*, of which

£11,514 19*s.* 3*d.* was contributed out of the parochial poor rates, and £454 9*s.* 1*d.* was reimbursed by paying patients. The average daily number of patients was 789 against 775 in 1898-99, and the number remaining in the Institution at the close of the year was 819, an increase of 52 on the previous year.

The weekly cost of maintenance chargeable to the parishes, after deducting the reimbursements of paying patients, was at the rate of 6*s.* 4*d.* per head against 6*s.* 7*d.* in the previous year. The nett average cost for the year was £16 11*s.* 6½*d.* per head, and the gross average cost £17 3*s.* 1*d.*

There were 189 admissions during the year, against 168 in the previous year; discharges 69 against 123; and deaths, 68 against 63, but the death rate of 7 per cent., although somewhat in excess of the previous year, is still below the average of the past 10 years.

The crowded condition of the Institution may be partly responsible for the slight increase of the death rate, and it is to be regretted that the finances of the Colony do not at present admit of the completion and equipment of the new buildings recently erected. The obstacle to making use of these buildings is not only the immediate cost of finishing and furnishing them, but the circumstance that, owing to their design and extent, a considerable increase of staff will be required to control them.

On the 17th October, 1899, there occurred the death of Dr. M. P. Cormac McCormack, who had been for 20 years Senior Assistant Medical Officer of the Institution and had rendered valuable service.

The fact that the expenditure of the year amounted to £13,559 10*s.* 1*d.* as against £13,651 4*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year, whilst the average daily number of patients rose from 775 to 789, is evidence that increased economy is being exercised in the administration of the Institution. Considering the great disadvantages under which the work is conducted, the administration of this Institution must be considered remarkably efficient, and creditable to the responsible staff.

(ii.) *Lepers' Home.*

There were 118 patients in the Asylum at the beginning of the year, 30 were admitted during the year, 3 discharged, 2 absconded, 20 died, leaving 123 inmates at the close of the year.

The continued decrease in the admissions as compared with the average of former years, indicates, in the opinion of the

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medical attendant, that leprosy is declining in Jamaica. The death rate of 13·5 per cent. is normal as compared with former years.

Of the 3 discharges, 2 patients were found to be suffering from other diseases than leprosy, and the other gave security for his private treatment.

The behaviour of the inmates has been good. They are now employed, under a system of awards which has worked admirably, in useful work about the Institution.

All the mattresses required for the patients have been made by the inmates, who have also done painting, masonry and whitewashing in the wards, effecting a saving in the expenditure.

During the year four acres of land adjoining the Institution were cleared and enclosed and put into cultivation by the inmates, greatly to the improvement of the sanitary surroundings of the Home, and also to the better contentment of the patients. More ground is now required for the same purpose.

The Institution has been efficiently administered under the supervision of the Medical Attendant, Dr. W. D. Neish, who devotes much attention to the study of leprosy, and has been selected as one of the collaborators in an International Magazine (*Lepra*), which it is proposed to establish for the discussion of this subject.

(C.) Poor Houses and Poor Relief.

The report of the Board of Supervision for the relief of the poor, which superintends the administration by the Parochial Boards of the system of poor relief in the Colony, shows that on the 1st April, 1900, there were 4,534 paupers in the Island against 4,497 on the 1st April, 1899, an increase of 37. Of these 3,723 were outdoor and 811 indoor poor in 1900, as against 3,797 and 700 in 1899.

The total number of paupers varies little from those of previous years. The average per 1,000 of the population for the year was 6·1, against 6·7, 6·6, and 6·2 in the three preceding years, so that there has been a slight decrease in the last three years of six paupers in every 10,000 of the population.

The average 0·6 per cent. compares favourably with England 2·6, Scotland 1·5, Ireland 2·2, Barbados 1·4, and British Guiana 1·0.

The total number of cases of registered poor during 1899–1900 was 5,323, of casual poor 1,461, and of orphans and deserted children, 276 ; as compared with 5,337, 2,058, and 347, respectively, in 1898–1899.

The total pauper expenditure for the year amounted to £40,495. The expenditure of last year was £43,228.

£12,182 of this year's expenditure was for the maintenance of pauper lunatics in the Asylum, and £3,365 for the maintenance of children committed to Industrial Schools. These figures show a slight decrease from those of the previous year.

The efficiency of the administration of the Poor Law varies considerably as between the different parishes, and in some cases leaves much to be desired in regard to method, efficiency and economy. The Board of Supervision is composed of gentlemen whose character, ability and position in the Island well qualify them for the duties of the Board, which they perform gratuitously. Their function is not the less valuable because it is inconspicuous and somewhat thankless, and inevitably brings them into some antagonism with the Parochial authorities whom they have to advise and correct. If they have not effected more of what is desirable in the improvement of the administration of of the Poor Law, it has, I believe, been not so much because they have not clearly grasped and inculcated sound principles, as because successive Governors, when their recommendations have been resisted by the Parochial Boards, have thought it advisable not to endeavour to force their acceptance upon the Parishes. This policy has, as I apprehend, been deliberate, and inseparable from the general policy of those experienced and successful administrators, of endeavouring to educate the parishes in self-government by leaving large responsibility to the Boards. It cannot, however, but be of value towards this process to have a body, such as this Board, composed of unofficial persons, themselves in some instances members of parochial Boards, to hold up a proper standard to the community in these matters, even if their advice is not always immediately followed.

The most important defect, perhaps, to which their report calls attention, is the failure on the part of the parishes in certain cases to use the poor houses efficiently and in accordance with the intention of their institution, and the laxity of the distribution of out-door relief. If the poor houses could be put in efficient order (which would involve expenditure unfortunately impossible at this moment, though it has not been impossible in the past, when the Board of Supervision has pressed it) and the Parochial Boards could be induced to recognise the defects of their methods, there is, I am of opinion, no parish which would not be able by efficient administration to reduce its pauper expenditure and lighten its rates.

The burden of the House Tax, which furnishes the bulk of the poor funds, and the difficulty of maintaining the solvency of those funds, have been much complained of lately, but certainly in one case the insolvency and the necessity of increasing the taxes has arisen from the palpable and persistent maladministration of the Parochial Board. Unfortunately the bulk of the

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taxpayers do not appear to realise that the greater part of the House Tax, of which they complain, is levied for and administered by the Parochial Boards which they elect; they regard it as a Government tax and seem to have little conception that its burden can be lessened by good administration on the part of their immediate representatives.

I think that the legislation of this year giving the Government greater supervision over details of expenditure and the power of effectual suspension of an inefficient Board, in the last resort, affords all the means of which the Government could advantageously make use at the present time for the improvement of Poor Law administration, and that this must and can only be effected by continuous attention to defects in detail and constant and patient pressure in support of the objects of the Board of Supervision.

D. REFORMATORIES.

Stony Hill Reformatory.

The following are the more important statistics of this Institution for 1899–1900, as compared with 1898–99 :—

GENERAL.	1st April, 1899.	1st April, 1900.	1898–99.	1899–00.
Boys in reformatory section	110	97		
" industrial school "	66	—		
	176	97	176	97
Daily average number of boys			187	163
Discharged			55	42
Percentage of boys discharged during the three years from April 1st, 1897–1900, respectively, who were reconvicted.			2·38	4·54
On licence during the year			1	22
Deaths			1	2

FINANCIAL.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	1898–99.	1899–1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	—	—	3,412 11 2	3,102 10 7
Less earning by labour and sale of articles.	462 14 7	325 19 2	—	—
Reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children.	1,112 0 0	992 10 4	—	—
Total	1,574 14 7	1,318 9 6	1,574 14 7	—
Net cost to general revenue			1,837 16 1	1,784 1 1
Gross cost per head per diem			11·99*d.*	1 5
Gross cost of superintendence and instruction in school, trades, &c., per head, per diem.			5·7*d.*	5·77*d.*
Gross cost of diet per head, per diem			2·99*d.*	3·08*d.*
Work bringing in no money return			1,023 18 4	907 0 1
Average earnings of each boy			7 1 11	6 18 5¾
Rewards			44 6 9	32 11 6

Most of the boys in the Institution are of ages between 12 and 16. During the year 22 boys were licensed as apprentices to the United Fruit Company, to work on their irrigated banana estates at great Salt Pond in St. Catherine. Of this number 5 were discharged soon after licence and the other 17 returned to the Reformatory. The experiment was not successful, the boys suffered considerably in health, owing to the malarious situation of the estate, and the arrangements for their control and supervision did not prove efficient; similar previous experiments in the licence system have as a rule failed equally.

The girls reformatory at Admiral's Pen having been closed, arrangements were made for receiving girls in a portion of the premises of the Boys' Reformatory at Stony Hill. The space is restricted and the arrangement undesirable and unsatisfactory. Ten girls were under charge here during the year.

The boys at the Reformatory are employed as usual in garden and field work, and as carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, bakers and tailors; and the girls in sewing, washing, and mending clothing for the Institution. The value of work done during the year for which no money return was obtained is estimated at £907.

Several cases of fever occurred during the year among the inmates, especially among the boys, who had been employed as apprentices at Salt Ponds, and a few cases of influenza of a mild nature.

The sanitary condition of the institution was good throughout the year.

There is a tendency to diminution in the number of boys at the Reformatory and Industrial Schools, owing apparently to the increasing reluctance of magistrates to send boys to these Institutions on account of the expense imposed upon the parishes by doing so.

This diminution results in an increase in the cost of management *per caput*, as the expense of the staff cannot be reduced proportionately and less return is obtained through the value of work done by the boys.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The following is a comparative statement of the chief transactions of the Government Savings Bank during the past five years :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.
		£	£
1895-96	28,385	240,543	242,251
1896-97	29,719	227,562	234,462
1897-98	30,660	216,309	229,774
1898-99	31,870	225,431	212,689
1899-1900	32,860	218,415	254,665

The number of depositors may be subdivided as follows :—

Year.	Private depositors.			Government Deposits.	Total.
	£5 and under.	Above £5.	Suspense Ledger.		
1895–96... ...	19,929	7,437	678	341	28,385
1896–97... ...	21,402	7,260	673	384	29,719
1897–98... ...	19,518	7,066	3,641*	435	30,660
1898–99... ...	20,523	7,162	3,707	478	31,870
1899–1900 ...	21,485	7,264	2,641	470	32,860

Accounts of £5 and under average two-thirds of the total, showing that advantage is taken of the Savings Bank by the poorer classes, for whom it was principally intended. It will be seen that while depositors have increased in number, deposits have diminished since 1895–96, and that in 4 of the 5 years withdrawals exceed deposits. The sum of deposits for the quinquennium is £1,128,260 and of withdrawals £1,173,841 and an excess in the latter over the former of £45,581. As the interest now allowed to depositors is 2½ per cent. per annum, whereas before 1897 it was 3 per cent., it appears that profits for the five years and previous savings have had to be drawn upon by depositors during the present period of depression.

Comparing particularly the years 1898–99 and 1899–1900, deposits have decreased by £7,016, and withdrawals have increased by £41,976. The diminution has, however, been mainly in "Government Deposits," these are not in reality Savings Bank Accounts but deposits at call awaiting orders of the courts or the closing of insolvent estates, or estates in the hands of the Administrator-General. This class of deposits decreased in 1899–1900 by £12,781, while withdrawals increased by £30,576, a combined loss of £43,357. On the other hand, ordinary deposits increased by £5,661, any decreases occurring chiefly in fruit-growing parishes in the eastern and north-eastern portions of the island, which suffered severely from the storms in the autumn of 1899. Ordinary withdrawals increased by £11,400.

The assets of the Bank on the 31st March, 1899, were £493,795, and on 31st March, 1900, £468,616, a diminution of £25,179.

* *Increase due to transfer to suspense ledger of many accounts not operated on for years, chiefly those of £5 and under.*

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These assets were distributed in both years as follows :—

—	1898-99.	1899-1900.
SECURITIES HELD :—	£	£
Consols, 2¾ per cent....	20,405	20,405
Inscribed Stock } average interest 3¾ per cent.	213,501	213,501
Debentures } average interest 3¾ per cent.	218,028	218,028
	£451,934	£451,934
Government of Jamaica	41,817	16,367
	44	315
Total	£493,795	£468,616

The comparatively small amount to which the uninvested balance, for which the treasurer was accountable, had been reduced on the 31st March last will be noticed, being less than three and one-third per cent. of the whole deposits.

After payment of interest to depositors and the expense of management for the year, there remained a balance of £2,997 profit, to be carried to general revenue. The profits so earned during the 30 years of the bank's existence amount to £34,160.

There were 13 branches of the Savings Bank open every business day during the year, and 15 sub-branches open, some of them daily and some one or more days in the week.

DIVISION VI.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police during the year was 777, being 76 less than in the preceding year, and the actual strength 770. The actual strength was made up of 17 officers, 135 sub-officers, and 618 constables, against 19 officers, 131 sub-officers, and 638 constables during 1898-99. The strength of the district constabulary (a force which has replaced the old rural police) was 744 on the 31st March, 1900, which, added to the regular constabulary (including officers), gave an effective police force on that day of 1,521 of all ranks, against 1,661 on the 31st March, 1899.

The principal duties, besides patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the Constabulary during the past five years are shown in the following return :—

—	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	8,775	8,351	7,330	7,183	8,669
Number of persons apprehended on warrants		1,780	1,629	1,264	1,375
Number of search warrants executed	151	142	148	188	188
Number of persons summoned	20,279	19,537	17,785	17,084	20,248
Number of persons subpœnaed	31,058	27,161	27,161	25,784	26,073
Number of prisoners escorted	9,911	11,542	12,081	8,912	8,175
Number of seizures under revenue laws	649	309	854	605	745
Number of post-mortems ordered	610	641	703	527	550

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There has been of late a marked improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the police; good reports are also received of the working of the new district constabulary. Increased attention is paid, and with good results, to the instruction of the men in their civil duties, and the local supervision of the inspectors and sub-inspectors has been made more continuous and efficient.

(B.) PRISONS.

—	Year ended 31st March.	
	1899.	1900.
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	1,102	1,088
Number on last day of year	984	1,237
Commitments—		
To prison	3,818	3,624
To lock-ups	894	932
Total	4,712	4,556
Reconvictions	1,364	1,305
Deaths	31	34
Executions	—	—
FINANCIAL.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	18,780 12 4¼	18,340 18 8½
Gross earnings in cash	6,275 2 1½	4,584 15 0½
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	15,505 10 2¾	13,756 3 8
Cost per prisoner	11 6 11¾	12 12 10¼
Estimated value of labour yielding no pecuniary return.	6,401 19 8	8,499 8 9½
Estimated value of bricks, lime, &c., manufactured and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	4,141 15 9	3,847 7 8

Of the prisoners in custody on 31st March, 1900, 1,098 were males and 139 females, in all 1,237, or an increase of 253 as compared with the preceding year. The committals to prisons and lock-ups were lower than in 1898-99 and in the four previous years.

The state of health of the General Penitentiary during the first three quarters of the year was excellent, but I regret to say that during the last quarter it was unsatisfactory. Of the 1,235 prisoners admitted to the institution during the year, 573 were males and 662 females. The surgeon reports that 9·77 per cent. of the males and 2·56 per cent. of the females were found on admission to be in feeble health; and of the 1,148 discharged, 8·49 per cent. were males and 2·26 per cent. females in feeble health. Continuous attention has been devoted to the problem of diminishing possible causes of ill-health in this institution, and substantial expense has been incurred on the recommendations of the medical department.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The following table shows an abstract of the criminal statistics of the past five years.

Offences as classified in Police Reports.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.
I. Offences against the person	7,040	6,653	6,500	5,389	5,693	3,309	3,140	3,008	2,410	2,432
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	429	394	350	313	335	245	264	229	206	217
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	5,004	5,700	5,488	4,226	4,262	2,586	3,021	2,995	2,270	2,424
IV. Malicious offences against property.	137	169	162	244	156	57	43	39	70	59
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	48	25	25	33	26	29	9	8	17	17
VI. Other offences	16,477	16,201	14,329	13,573	15,712	10,473	10,188	8,969	8,639	10,630
Totals	29,135	29,142	26,854	23,778	26,184	16,699	16,665	15,248	13,612	15,779

Principal offences under above heads :—										
I. Murder, including infanticide.	12	16	13	6	6	5	1	7	1	—
Manslaughter	20	17	12	14	9	16	5	4	1	5
Cutting and wounding ...	847	835	861	600	450	302	449	476	349	235
Common assault	5,326	4,928	4,688	3,955	4,369	2,547	2,238	2,029	1,614	1,687
II. Burglary housebreaking, shopbreaking, &c.	417	375	339	292	314	239	253	224	201	213
III. Simple larceny	2,017	2,264	2,143	1,870	1,933	914	1,073	1,013	917	1,038
Praedial larceny	1,560	2,171	2,147	1,493	1,360	889	1,277	1,309	920	825
IV. Arson	18	29	29	29	26	1	3	5	6	7
VI. Disorderly conduct ...	4,728	5,097	4,098	3,816	4,377	3,474	3,658	2,826	2,752	3,332
Obscene and abusive language	3,805	3,585	2,869	3,070	3,060	2,058	2,035	1,584	1,774	1,868
Trespass	941	973	883	604	855	467	482	471	325	458

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The number of apprehensions was higher than in 1898-99 but lower than in 1895-6, 1896-7, and 1897-8. The convictions were also more numerous than in the two preceding years but fewer than in 1895-6 and 1896-7.

The tables show increases on 1898-9 in convictions for common assault, burglary, larceny, disorderly conduct and language, and trespass. It will be observed that disorderly conduct and obscene or abusive language furnish the largest numbers of any class of cases, and that the amount of serious crime is comparatively very small. Of the six arrests for murder, five cases were abandoned in the Superior Courts and one remained undisposed of at the close of the year under review. Five convictions were recorded out of the nine cases of manslaughter. Convictions for prædial larceny show a decrease of 133. This is, however, probably due to many cases of the offence not having been brought before the Courts, and not, I fear, to a diminution of the offence which is still the subject of much complaint throughout the Island. I am informed (and if it is true it is a most healthy and hopeful sign) that in an increasing number of cases aggrieved parties, when they have evidence against a prædial thief, are settling the matter themselves by exacting from him compensation instead of taking him before the Courts. This would indicate and must promote a growing strength of public opinion and vigilance against this form of crime, towards which the public is, in general, too tolerant and sympathetic.

DIVISION VII.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population, compared with Figures of Last Census.

The population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1900, is estimated to have nnmbered 745,100 persons (males 360,600 and females 384,500) or an increase of 14,380 (males 7,380, females 7,000) on the estimated population on the 31st March, 1899.

According to these estimates and those of foregoing years, the population has increased since the Census of 1891 by 54,655 males and 50,958 females, or a total of 105,613.

The figures have, as usual, been obtained by adding the excess of births over deaths since 1891 to the actual population in that year, and are, therefore, only approximate.

The mean population for 1899–1900 is estimated by the Registrar-General at 740,171, and is calculated to the middle of the year. The marriage, birth, and death rates are based on this estimate.

From the 1st April, 1899, to the 31st March, 1900, there were 3,767 marriages, being a rate of 5·0 per 1,000 of population, and an increase of 405 on the number celebrated in 1898–1899.

The rate of marriages per 1,000 of population was in 1891–92 5·2, this rate was with slight variation maintained until the year 1895–96, when it was only 4·6, and thence decreased until in 1897-98 it was as low as 3·7. Last year it rose to 4·6, and this year's rate continues the upward tendency.

The number of births registered during the year was 31,259; this gives a rate of 42·2 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population, and is an increase of 3,611 on the number registered in 1898–99.

Of the births registered, 19,913 or 63·7 per cent. were illegitimate. The per centage of illegitimate births in the Registrar's returns has steadily increased each year since 1891.

The number of deaths recorded was 16,880, or 22·8 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population. The number recorded in 1898-99 was 15,290, or 1,590 less.

Of the deaths recorded during the year, 5,327, or 31·6 per cent., were those of children under one year old, and 7,619 or 45·1 per cent. of the number were children under five years old.

These figures show that of every 100 children born, 17·0 die before they reach the age of one year, and 24·3 die under five years old.

The mortality of legitimate and illegitimate infants under the age of one year is stated by the Registrar-General to have been respectively 12·78 per cent. and 19·46 per cent. This tends to show to what extent illegitimacy is responsible for the large loss of infant life.

Of the 16,880 deaths recorded, 13,395 or 79·3 per cent. were not medically certified. Thus a large proportion of persons appear to have died in the Colony during this period without medical aid in their last illness.

(B.) Public Health, General State of.

During the first six months of the year under review, the general health of the Colony appears to have been good; the latter half was, however, marked by a good deal of fever, chiefly malarial, due, it is supposed, to the abnormally heavy rains which occurred in October, 1899.

Local epidemics occurred of mumps, measles, influenza, and vomiting, and, in one district, typhoid fever. In some districts,

too, where the water supply is not plentiful, there were in the first three months of the year, in which there was comparatively little rain, a large number of cases of bowel complaints caused by the drying up and stagnation of the pools from which the drinking water in those districts is, as a rule, obtained by the peasants, who will not take the trouble to boil it before use.

There was much sickness among children in certain parts of the Island during the early months of 1900, owing principally to chills acting upon ill clad and ill fed bodies. Sickness among children continues prevalent, and their death-rate is generally high owing to the ignorance and negligence of parents in feeding and clothing them, and in some degree to parents' inability, through poverty, to obtain proper food and clothing.

Vaccination of infants seem to have been generally carried out. There is practically no re-vaccination.

Loose habits are responsible for a good deal of disease in this community, and the medical officers generally report that there is no decrease in the prevalence of cases of syphilis and gonorrhœa throughout the Island.

Yaws appears to be, however, slowly decreasing; this is a matter for some congratulation, as the Medical Department experiences no little difficulty in dealing with this disease, owing to the action of parents in exposing their children to infection, in the ignorant belief that sooner or later they must be attacked by this ailment.

The Superintending Medical Officer reports that leprosy, too, is slowly on the decrease.

(C.) SANITATION.

The Superintending Medical Officer reports favourably of the general condition of the Colony in regard to sanitary administration. In some of the chief towns of the Island, however, there is still need for improvement, and steps have been taken to bring the defects which are commented on by the District Medical Officers to the attention of the Parochial Boards, which are the sanitary authorities for their several districts. As a rule these bodies devote a good deal of care to sanitary matters; and whilst it may be said, generally, that some of the insanitary districts, owing to natural causes, such as the proximity of swamps, etc., could not be effectually dealt with except by the expenditure of large sums of money quite beyond the resources of the Boards, this is perhaps in a special degree the case in regard to Kingston, where a very great amount of improvement has been effected of late years, but much remains to be done which cannot be undertaken for lack of ways and means.

In fact the vital statistics of the capital remain, from a variety of causes, some recognisable and some perplexing and obscure, unsatisfactory and disappointing in view of the efforts that have of late been put forth and the expense that has been incnrred in the interests of the public health.

By a law of the session of 1900 the Town of Port Royal, formerly part of the parish of Kingston, has been made a separate parish, with its own Parochial Board, of which the Commodore on the Station is ex-officio Chairman. Regard for the health of the Garrison of Port Royal and the crews of Her Majesty's ships on the station made it desirable that special attention should be paid to the sanitary condition of the town. and it was judged that a Municipal Board, partly composed of military and naval officers, would best secure this object. A liberal contribution will be made from imperial funds towards the annual expenditure of the Board.

The Parochial Boards are, as stated above, the local Sanitary Authorities. There is also a Central Board of Health, appointed by the Governor, but which exercises no direct control over the local Boards beyond advising the Governor when referred to, and revising the rules framed from time to time. The Central Board has power to appoint Superintending Inspectors, but as no provision is made in the law for their payment this power is seldom exercised, and, except for a short time in 1897–98, the services of such an officer have not been at the disposal of the Board. The District Medical Officers are ex-officio Sanitary advisers to the Parochial Boards, but in Kingston a Health Officer is employed by the Mayor and Council, and the Boards throughout the Island employ Sanitary Inspectors. In Kingston, the sewerage works, the water and gas supply, the markets and slaughter house, are under the control of a Board of General Commissioners appointed by the Governor.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall, Temperature, Direction and Force of Wind.

On account of the conformation of the Island, which is intersected by a high range of hills running from east to west, the climate is very varied and the rainfall very unequal in the different districts.

In the month of January, the temperature in the plains ranges from a maximum of 85° to 87° Fahrenheit to a minimum of 62° to 65°, while in June the maximum would be 88° to 90° and the minimum 67° to 70°. At the Hill Gardens in January the maximum is about 65° and the minimum 55°, and in June about 70° and 57°.

For computing the rainfall, the Island is divided into four parts, corresponding with fair accuracy to the variations of the severity of the seasons in each. The North-eastern Division

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comprises the parish of Portland and portions of St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. Mary and St. Ann; the Northern includes parts of Hanover, St. James, Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Mary; the West Central (and Central sub-division) include parts of Clarendon, Manchester, Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, St. James, Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine; and the Southern, parts of St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland. The highest hills attract the greatest number of rainclouds, and the hills themselves and any plains lying in the immediate vicinity to the northward or eastward experience the most frequent rainfall, because for ten months of the year the wind is either E., E.N.E., or N.E., while in the months of October and November it is variable. In October the fall rains, which are the heaviest and most general, come from the South-east.

During 1899 the rainfall in the different divisions was :—

Division.	Inches.
North Eastern ...	103·89
Northern	58·44
West Central ...	103·26
Southern	74·16
Mean	84·94

but for the last three decades it has been for the whole Island :—

Years.	Inches.
1870–9	67·41
1880–9	66·54
1890–9	76·15

The variations in rainfall according to locality will be better appreciated when it is stated that at Moore Town in Portland in 1898 the fall was 268·26 inches, while at the Lunatic Asylum in Kingston it was 30·7, and at Rose Hall in St. James 29·72 inches.

The year just passed was one of drought and flood. The spring rains (May) were only half the average, while in October and November 23·72 and 14·99 inches fell.

How severe the floods were in the North-eastern District may be judged from the fact that at Moore Town in October, November and December, the fall was 30·86, 62·27 and 36·20, or a total of 129·33 inches for the quarter.

DIVISION VIII.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The following tables show the comparison of the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services during the three years ended 31st March 1900 :—

REVENUE.

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897–98 ...	4,869 10 3	16,984 3 0	21,853 13 3	373 16 2	574 7 7½	82 2 0	22,883 19 0½	5,085 12 6	27,969 11 6½
1898–99 ...	4,832 14 2¼	16,605 19 11¾	21,438 14 2¼	392 9 11	594 2 3	125 13 5	22,550 19 9¼	6,101 9 0	28,652 8 9¼
1899–00 ...	3,649 7 4½	16,476 4 11½	20,125 12 4	378 18 10	633 16 8	157 2 8	21,296 13 4	5,629 17 0	26,926 10 4

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897–98	5,263 1 4	2,965 2 8	10,479 6 11	859 0 3	5,140 0 0	5,060 17 6	29,772 8 8	7,686 5 3	37,458 13 11
1898–99	5,388 1 10	3,014 11 5	10,652 4 0	1,938 6 11	5,140 0 0	5,001 9 10½	31,134 14 0½	7,707 11 4	38,842 5 4½
1899–00	5,484 19 0	2,994 15 9	9,827 3 9½	2,418 12	5,140 0 0	2,986 2 6	28,851 13 10½	8,721 4 11½	37,572 18 10

It appears from the above that postal revenue in 1899–1900 was less by £1,254 6*s.* 5¼*d.* than that of the preceding year, and that telegraph revenue was less by £471 12*s.* 0*d.* The decrease in postal revenue occurred almost entirely under the head of "Packet" or ocean mail postage, inland postage having fallen off by only £128 11*s.* 7¼*d.* The decrease on packet postages was no doubt due to the reduction of foreign postage from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* per half ounce. The fact that the decrease on this item has only been £1,200 shows that there has been a considerable increase in the number of letters sent away from Jamaica. It may be mentioned in this connection that the Imperial Post Office estimated that the loss to Jamaica on the adoption of the Imperial Penny Postage Scheme would be £1,500.

The total revenue for the Post Office for the year was less by £1,722 18*s.* 8*d.* or about 6 per cent less than that for 1898–99.

The expenditure for the year under review shows a decrease of £1,269 6*s.* 6*d.*, which is accounted for partly under the head of Inland mail conveyance and partly under the head of "Services."

The decrease in the cost of conveyance of the Island Mails has been principally due to the discontinuance of contracts and the assumption by the Public Works Department of the work of carrying mails.

The statements also show that for the last three years there has been an annual excess of expenditure over revenue of about £10,000. This is due partly to the fact that the contribution paid by the Colony to the cost of the Royal Mail Service under the contract for the conveyance of the mails is in excess of the actual receipts for postage on ocean-going letters, and partly to the fact that all official correspondence, which used to bring in to the Post Office a revenue of £2,500 is now passed free. There is of course a corresponding decrease in the expenditure of other departments.

It must also be remembered that in a country like Jamaica, sparsely populated, and where much of the carriage of mails has to be done for long distances by road, whilst the Government has aimed at maintaining good and constant postal facilities on grounds of general policy and advantage, there must be great difficulty in keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue. Further efforts must, however, in present circumstances be made towards this end.

The number of letters and postcards received and despatched during the year under review was 5,073,350 or 82,627 in excess of the year before.

The number of registered letters dealt with during the same period was 202,467 or 12,946 in excess of the year before.

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It is gratifying to note that although in the last two years nearly half a million registered letters were dealt with, there was not a single case of miscarriage or loss.

The public have not to any great extent taken advantage of the scheme for the insurance of ocean-going letters. The Postmaster reports that from November, 1899, to the 31st March, 1900, there were only 11 letters with declared value of £504 19*s.* 0*d.*, despatched, and 9 letters with declared value of £211 19*s.* 0*d.*, were received.

The number of parcels received and despatched during the year was 15,978, of which 11,864 were received.

This number was an increase of nearly 600 over the preceding year, and the increase was no doubt in some measure due to the introduction of the new simplified scale of postage.

The number of ocean mails despatched and received was 3,468, as against 3,300 received and despatched during the preceding year.

It will be noticed that every year the opportunities for the despatch of ocean mails are greater. There are now two lines of steamers, the "Atlas" and the "United Fruit Company's" boats, which carry mails regularly (for there are many casual opportunities of sending a mail) to and from the United States, and these afford opportunities of communicating with Europe. There are also the usual fortnightly contract mails conveyed by steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with great regularity to England.

There was a falling off in the number and amount of money orders issued between Jamaica and the United States of America, and Jamaica and Canada. The money order transactions show that the issue of orders in Jamaica on other countries was less by the sum of £3,240 17*s.* 5*d.* than that of the previous year, while the issues of other countries on this Colony were in excess by the sum of £37 19*s.* 8*d.*

The net commissions which accrued to the Colony as a result of the money order transactions detailed above, was £378 18*s.* 10*d.*, as against £392 9*s.* 11*d.* for the year 1898–99.

There was an excess of £1,792 4*s.* 0*d.* in the value of postal orders issued in 1899–1900 over those issued in 1898–99.

The Postmaster states that the electric car service is of great utility for carrying post office letter carriers and telegraph messengers. £100 is paid annually to the West India Electric Company for this convenience.

The receipts from the telegraphs have already been given in the tabulated statement at the beginning of this report. The number of messages sent during the year under review was 93,812, as against 97,368 in the preceding year.

The number of telegraph stations in existence at the end of the year was 70, there having been one new one opened during the year.

Telephones.

There are no Government telephone services in the island, but several telephone lines are maintained by private companies in Kingston and other principal towns.

DIVISION IX.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REGULAR FORCES.

At the close of the year 1899-1900, there were in this Colony three officers on the General Staff and a strength of 1,726 of all ranks belonging to the regular forces. The total expenditure for the year on these forces was £127,609 8*s.* 2*d.*, which was defrayed from Imperial funds.

(B.) MILITIA.

On 31st March, 1900, the numbers of officers, non-commissioned officers and men on the strength of the Jamaica Militia, were :—

Kingston Artillery Militia	..	...	165
Kingston Infantry Militia	...	...	605

a total for both arms of 770. From the 1st April, 1899, to the 31st March, 1900, there were enrolled in the artillery 21, in the iufantry 65, and during the same period there were discharged from the artillery 24, and from the infantry 79.

The annual training of both artillery and infantry took place in January last, and was in every way satisfactory. The artillery proceeded as usual to Port Royal, where there are batteries of heavy guns. While at Port Royal the corps is regarded as part of the garrison, and the men are treated in every respect as are the regulars.

The infantry were encamped at Up Park Camp, on the open plain surrounding the War Department buildings. In this corps it has hitherto been the practice to pay the men the ration allow-

ance of 7*d.* per day, and allow them to provide their own food. This year, however, the men were rationed precisely as if they were in the field. Cooking was done in field kitchens, constructed on the regulation pattern, and rations served out daily to messes. The result was satisfactory in every way.

The progress of both corps in knowledge of professional duties and in general efficiency has been very favourably reported on by the Officer Commanding the troops, who has stated that he considers the militia to be now capable of rendering valuable aid to the regular troops in time of need.

(C.) CONSTABULARY.

The police (*see* Division VI., *A. supra*), numbering 17 officers, 135 sub-officers, and 618 constables, are drilled and trained in military exercises and in shooting. They are armed with Martini-Enfield carbine and sword bayonet.

DIVISION X.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1899-1900 was, on the whole, a year of improvement and promise in the material prosperity of Jamaica, and although the experience of the latter months of the period were most disappointing, it cannot be said that the community did not in its course make substantial advance towards escape from the continued depression and anxieties of the three preceding years or at any rate improve its prospects of so doing.

A recapitulation of the totals of revenue and exports discussed above will support this conclusion, viz. :—

Years.	Exports.	Revenue.
	£	£
1895-1896	1,873,105	646,103
1896-1897	1,470,241	591,864
1897-1898	1,448,443	540,509
1898-1899	1,662,543	600,271
1899-1900	1,868,079	624,623

The island was in fact recovering its lost ground, although the export trade had only regained that year the level of the average of the preceding five years period, which was £1,857,701. A steady increase of investment in the planting of fruit was proceeding, the extensive new plantations of orange and grape fruit were maturing, and cattle pens were shaking off the effects of drought and disease. This sound foundation for increase in future prosperity remains, but the community as a whole had been drained of its available ready money and resources by the preceding series of lean years.

In the parishes of Clarendon and Trelawny the advantages of the rise in sugar prices were discounted by withering droughts in the season of the spring rains; the autumn season brought, on the 29th of October, a rainy day of exceptional severity, 20 ins., more or less, of downpour, accompanied by violent winds, caused widespread destruction throughout the island, and especially in the fine Banana districts of the north-east and east. Great damage was also done by this storm to the provision grounds of the peasantry, a mischief that only fully revealed itself when the crops came to be reaped. The immediate and direct loss caused by this storm is partially indicated by the exports, which for the first six months of the year 1900, were upwards of £250,000 less than in the corresponding half of the year 1899, and by the Customs and Excise revenue which very soon afterwards fell off, and still fail to come up to the rate of their yield last year. The total loss by the storm and by the drought of the preceding spring was, of course, very much more than is shown by their mere effect on the exports. The bulk of the population living from hand to mouth, any such calamity instantly shows its effect in a sudden arrest of spending power, and "scarcity of money" the prevailing phrase at such periods in discussions on the condition of the island is a literally true phrase at such times, although, owing to the bounties of soil and climate, it may not indicate prevalence of poverty of a painful or distressing character, except among those classes that are unable to profit by access to those bounties. More real distress is probably caused in Kingston than in the country districts by such conditions. The scarcity of money created throughout the island by the long period of depression, and renewed before the country had time to recover by the disaster of last October, is exemplified by the following list of remissions of parochial taxes recently granted, on proof that the householders liable had no property worth distraining on.

JAMAICA, 1899–1900.

Number of taxpayers relieved and amounts of taxes remitted by the Revenue Commissioner from the 1st April, 1899, to 31st July, 1900 :—

Parish.	No. of Taxpayers.	Amount remitted
		£
Kingston	1,367	2,274
St. Andrew	183	224
St. Thomas	128	160
Portland	76	89
St. Mary	49	53
St. Ann	109	89
Trelawny	599	833
St. James	220	121
Hanover	12	21
Westmoreland	553	826
*St. Elizabeth	374	235
Manchester	29	23
Clarendon	360	566
St. Catherine	516	684
Total	4,575	£6,198

A similar tale is told by the railway returns, as shown by the following comparative statement of goods and passenger traffic from October, 1899, to September, 1900, as and for the 12 months preceding :—

* List submitted but not yet approved at date of Return.

Month.	Goods and Cattle.		Passengers.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
October	4,260 14 7	8,195 2 5	3,085 15 2	2,917 14 5
November	7,834 9 0	7,452 1 0	3,410 0 3	2,434 15 2
December	6,446 17 5	6,022 0 3	4,497 16 5	3,278 11 1
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
January	6,088 18 0	4,118 2 9	3,873 15 9	3,545 11 6
February	5,159 14 5	5,381 1 1	3,608 3 11	3,148 18 7
March	5,517 6 3	3,645 12 3	3,809 11 10	3,617 4 7
April	5,313 1 0	4,443 0 0	4,348 1 4	3,565 14 5
May...	5,843 15 6	5,178 17 5	4,266 6 1	3,312 14 4
June	4,524 3 0	4,311 10 7	3,823 12 8	3,423 9 11
July	4,913 2 7	4,114 10 8	4,397 11 4	3,333 3 5
August	5,053 3 1	3,613 9 3	4,058 13 8	3,458 5 7
September	6,728 14 5	3,486 0 8	3,631 16 8	2,792 1 1
Total	77,683 19 3	57,961 8 4	46,811 4 1	38,828 4 3

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Total, 1898–99, £124,495 3*s.* 4*d.*; 1899–1900, £96,789 12*s.* 7*d.* Decrease in traffic receipts, £27,705 10*s.* 9*d.* or about 22¼ per cent., exhibiting the enduring effects of the check which began to show themselves immediately after the end of October, 1899, in which month the traffic receipts were £3,766 7*s.* 1*d.* in excess of those of October, 1898, whereas for each subsequent month they have been far less than those of the preceding year.

The Government began the year in financial difficulties, and a report on the financial condition was being prepared by Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I. His ultimate recommendations were :—

(*a.*) the passing of an Import Tariff Bill, which should give a revenue of £350,000 a year.

(*b.*) the increase of taxation on land.

(*c.*) the imposition of an Income tax at the rate of 6*d.* in the £.

(*d.*) the transfer to general revenue of quit rents, now reserved for the improvement of parochial roads, and of the licence duties for agricultural produce dealers, now carried to a special fund.

(*e.*) an excise duty on matches made in Jamacia.

(*f.*) the grant of assistance by the Home Government by loans, or by guaranteeing loans, to cover the floating deficit, to improve and equip the Jamaica railway and to cover the new debt of £150,000 which would be created when the railway should be vested in the Government on completion of the winding-up proceedings.

Sir D. Barbour's report was published in July, and about the same time there was published a report on the Railway by Mr. Elliott Cooper, an Engineer who had been specially employed to investigate its condition. Mr. Cooper estimated that an expenditure of not less than £110,000 would be required to put the Railway into good order and to equip it in such a manner as to enable it to earn a satisfactory profit.

It may be well to note further that the pending transfer of the Railway to the Colonial Government was to impose upon the Government the obligation of issuing £1,475,600 of 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, together with charges immediately payable, estimated to amount to £154,445, for arrears of interest due to Bondholders of the Railway, Stamp Duty and expenses on conversion of their Bonds into inscribed stock, and other charges of the transaction. These charges and obligations would take effect as soon as proceedings in the Supreme Court of Jamaica should be concluded.

On the meeting of the Legislative Council in March, and on the introduction of a new Tariff Bill to provide the amount of revenue mentioned above, there arose certain constitutional difficulties which extended into the year under report, but the bill eventually became law.

No further immediate action was taken on Sir D. Barbour's fiscal recommendations, but provision was made by the Imperial Parliament, in accordance with his suggestion, for lending £150,000 at 2¾ per cent. to the Colony to cover the floating deficit, £88,000 at 2¾ per cent., to pay arrears of interest due to the Railway Bondholders; £110,000 at 2¾ per cent. for Railway improvement and equipment; and £105,000 at 3½ per cent. to cover advances made to the Kingston General Commissioners for improvements and Sewerage Works in Kingston and for Water Works. No provision was made in aid of the Railway Inscribed Stock Loan of £1,475,600.

The proceedings for the winding up of the Jamaica Railway Company being still incomplete at the end of March, 1900, the railway remained in the hands of the trustees for the first mortgage bondholders. This continued interregnum further impaired the efficiency of the railway as regarded both administration and equipment, and deferred the prospects of the Government being able to render it a more serviceable instrument for the traffic of the Island. This appeared the more regrettable, because in the early months of the year 1900 a contract was negotiated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies with Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company for a direct service of steamers between Jamaica and England, specially designed to buy and carry fruit. The subsidy of £40,000 a year to be given to this line will be contributed in equal shares of £20,000 each by the Imperial and Colonial treasuries. The service is to commence in February, 1901, and will doubtless cause increasing calls upon the carrying capacity of the railway. In anticipation of the inception of this service, there has already been a great extension of the planting of bananas and other fruit throughout the country, and it is expected that the result of the new connexion will be a considerable increase in the trade of the Island. At the close, however, of the year under report and up to the date of writing, there was and continues a remarkable stagnation of trade, caused generally by the above-mentioned exhaustion of ready money throughout the community, combined with the high cost of cotton goods and other principal imports and the hesitation of merchants to place orders so long as the disorganisation of prices, freights and industries, arising directly or indirectly out of the war in South Africa, and the subsequent complications in China, continues unabated.

The experiences of the year show that any forecast as to the future prospects of trade must be highly speculative, but certain

JAMAICA, 1899–1900.

premises can be stated with assurance. There has been a considerable extension and some improvement of cultivation in the Island, and assuming that no calamity occurs there must be in the course of next year a very largely increased supply of bananas and citrus fruits available for export. Whether they will be profitably exported, and trade increased, will depend, first on whether good prices are offered by American buyers, who have lately been offering very poor prices; and secondly, on the development, the possibility of which has still to be proved, of a trade with the United Kingdom. It does not appear possible to expect much improvement in the profits from sugar and coffee, two older and really more reliable staples of the Colony, without an improvement in production which can only be effected by central factories for sugar and central curing establishments for settlers' coffee. There is now little inducement to a small settler to cure his small output well, because the wholesale buyer can only give him the price which the average quality of the settlers' crops, with which it must be sold, will justify, and this price is hardly remunerative, whereas well-cured coffee in a sufficiently large line could fetch double the price. On the other hand, the settler, not putting much value on his own time and labour, will hardly be persuaded to sell coffee to a factory in the berry for less than he can get for it cured in his own imperfect fashion. A careful study of the actual resources of Jamaica, whilst it gives an encouraging impression of the possibilities of comfortable maintenance for the inhabitants, impresses also with a sense of the limited and precarious character of the margin available for export at remunerative prices. Fruit, logwood, and pimento are exports which depend entirely for profit on prices and seasons which cannot be controlled. The prices of rum, coffee, cocoa, and to some extent those of sugar and other products, can be improved and their yield increased by attention, but this attention is likely to be diverted rather than stimulated by profitable seasons with other and less laborious crops. A very good season with good prices will cause an impression of prosperity, and this the more immediately because what is earned will be as promptly consumed, and, owing to the fact that it is hardly possible for any one to spend a "quattie" (1½*d.*) in Jamaica on anything except native grown food without contributing at least a farthing to the revenue, and that as soon as money is earned it is pretty sure to be spent, any spurt of prosperity will immediately reflect itself in an increase of revenue. The country has, however, very little reserve of internal industry producing commercial values. In a season that is favourable for the native-grown food supply, but not for exportable produce, the peasants are not much better furnished with purchasing power than they are in a season when ground provisions are scarce. The price of such provisions in such circumstances goes down to a ridiculous figure. Yams from Hanover are carried on mules or asses over the mountains and

sold in the plains of Westmoreland at 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Because of the abundance of food, there is less inducement to take work at wages on estates producing a surplus for export, and consequently the buying of imported food falls off, and the revenue with it. The mainstay of the Customs revenue is the onerous duty on flour (about 50 per cent. ad valorem) and this is of course affected by local abundance. In times such as the Island has recently experienced, estates have not been able to offer for unskilled and unreliable labour a wage that can attract or retain the labourers. These accordingly, especially in depressed districts like St. Elizabeth, have drifted away from their old connexions and are not available for work if offered. They seek to take up grounds for themselves in the mountains or emigrate to Central America. The proprietors of estates producing on a large scale for export, whether of sugar or fruit, have more and more to rely upon imported Coolies, a costly form of labour, but on the whole very valuable to the Colony. 615 Indian immigrants were imported in June, 1899, for banana and sugar estates.

It has been necessary since the beginning of the present year 1900, to study very carefully the economy of the Colony, with special reference to the financial recommendations of Sir David Barbour and the new obligations that were falling on general revenue.

As was indicated above in the observations on the revenue and expenditure, there was a very large reduction of expenditure during the year, much of which was due to diminutions of the fixed establishment. Among the more important of these was the abolition of the offices of one district engineer and one superintendent in the Public Works Department, the amalgamation of the resident magistracies of St. James and Trelawny, the re-arrangement and reduction of medical districts, the abatement of the salary of the Inspector General of Police (on a new appointment), and the abolition of a first-class clerkship in his office and of two third-class Inspectorships, the abolition of one Inspectorship of schools and the reduction of the salary of the deputy keeper of the records. A scheme was also drawn up by a special committee for saving upwards of £1,700 a year by further reductions in the judicial establishment. Effect has been given to this scheme in regard to a considerable number of offices in the course of the current year.

It is evident that the financial administration of the Colony must continue for some time to be a matter of considerable difficulty and uncertainty. Whilst on the one hand it is essential to give all possible encouragement to agriculture and the investment of capital, the government is being forced towards the expedient of putting new taxes on cultivation and profits, at the same time it is compelled to retrench and to postpone expenditure on the maintenance and improvements of roads and to run into more debt in order to make the Island railway efficient.

A considerable amount of extraordinary expense was imposed upon the Public Works Department by the damages done to roads and bridges by the autumn storms, but notwithstanding this a rigid parsimony throughout the year kept down the total expenditure of this Department to a comparatively low figure.

Only £6,187 was spent on new works, £4,257 being for the new mountain road between Buff Bay and Hardware Gap. Of this amount £2,216 was paid for lands for portions of the road already completed. The cutting of the road was continued, and at the end of the financial year it was nearing completion, but a considerable amount of work remained to be done in the way of building retaining walls and culverts and in shaping and metalling.

£355 was expended out of the loan raised for bridges in Portland and for interior roads in St. Thomas.

£1,344 was spent on the enlargement (by prison labour) of the St. Catherine's district prison, but by the sale of stores and materials of an aggregate value of £1,093, the nett expenditure for the year was reduced to £251. The completion of this work will enable the Middlesex and Surrey County gaol to be closed.

A further payment of £1,494 was made to the architect employed to design the proposed new public offices for Kingston, making the total cost of plans, and specifications to date, £5,366 19*s.* 8*d.*

There is no early prospect or possibility of the construction of these buildings being undertaken.

The Rio Cobre Irrigation Works in St. Catherine extended their usefulness and increased their profits during the year. The nett earnings have increased from £1,154 in 1890-91, to £4,266 in 1899-1900, and there are now 10,578 acres under irrigation, of which 5,325 is returned as banana cultivation. Progress was made with the arrangements for guaranteeing by agreements with the landowners, the interest and sinking fund of this approved loan for irrigation in Vere, and shortly after the close of the year it was found possible to take steps for beginning the laying out of the canal.

The special attention of the Government is and must be increasingly devoted to the improvement of the Colony's agriculture. The creation of an Agricultural Department, the modification of the functions of the existing department of Public Gardens and Plantations so as better to serve the practical needs of the Island, the appointment of an agricultural lecturer under the Imperial Department of Agriculture centred at Barbados, and of an agricultural chemist, the increased provision by the new code for grounding elementary scholars in understanding of agriculture, the arrangements for training

teachers, show altogether a considerable degree of real progress in this direction.

At the same time, the year has been notable for attempts to prepare the way for improved trade, both by the arrangements above mentioned for the direct line to England, and by the negotiation of a reciprocity convention with the Government of the United States of America, to secure, in return for certain abatements in the duties levied here on imports coming chiefly from that country reductions of the United States duties on sugar, citrus fruits, pineapples and other Jamaica produce, and the maintenance of the free importation of bananas. This convention, however, is not yet ratified.

SYDNEY OLIVIER

King's House, Jamaica,
31st October, 1900.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 328.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 297.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1901.

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The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
299	Sierra Leone	1899
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	1899–1900
315	Southern Nigeria	1899
316	Grenada	1899–1900
317	Jamaica	1899
318	British Guiana	1899–1900
319	Christmas Island	"
320	British Solomon Islands	1900
321	Lagos	1899–1900
322	Bermuda	1899
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	1900
325	Gambia...	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Conditions during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 328.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 297.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
25th June, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1900, together with a Report thereon by the Acting Commissioner.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

9564—875—7/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, 1900.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following comparative statement and table give the heads of revenue and expenditure, and the amounts received under those heads, for the years 1899 and 1900, as well as the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years 1896–1900 :—

Revenue.

—	1899.		1900.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties	—	3,205 15 9	—	3,280 0 2
Royalty on Salt exported ...	—	2,656 8 2	—	2,684 4 7
Port Dues :—				
Light	747 16 4	—	733 6 4	—
Wharf	78 16 6	—	90 17 6	—
		826 12 10		82[illegible] 3 10
Licences and Internal Revenue :—				
Dog Licences	24 5 0	—	22 4 6	—
Liquor Licences	130 0 0	—	163 15 0	—
Auction Dues...	33 1 10	—	22 19 6	—
Fines and Forfeitures ...	31 10 7	—	38 8 6	—
		218 17 5		247 7 6
Payments for Specific Services :—				
Storage...	57 0 11	—	28 8 2	—
Fees of Office	86 0 3	—	105 17 9	—
" " Court...	44 12 9	—	66 3 3	—
" " Cemetery	1 16 0	—	2 5 0	—
Rent of Market Stalls ...	10 0 0	—	8 11 6	—
Grant in aid of Mail Service	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—
		449 9 11		461 5 8
Post Office	—	302 18 11	—	1,282 17 1

Revenue—continued.

—	1899.		1900.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue from Government Property:—				
Sales of Crown Land ...	34 12 10	—	33 1 9	—
Rents	57 3 9	—	62 6 3	—
Sales of Water	94 5 6	—	84 6 11	—
Other Receipts	2 16 3	—	0 10 11	—
		188 18 4		180 5 10
Interest	—	175 5 2	—	260 9 10
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	8 8 9	—	19 8 3
Total	—	8,032 15 3	-	9,190 2 9

Expenditure.

—	1899.		1900.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.
Pensions	—	407 9 3	—	400 5 11
Commissioner's Department ...	—	2,325 7 0	—	2,317 9 10
Judicial " ...	—	560 2 7	—	553 5 6
Police " ...	—	464 14 9	—	486 10 3
Prisons " ...	—	187 4 6	—	181 5 6
Medical " ...	—	476 14 4	—	544 8 2
Paupers	—	335 18 6	—	307 12 11
Education	—	600 0 0	—	600 0 0
Registration and Vaccination ...	—	27 5 7	—	24 5 5
Public Market	—	21 0 0	—	40 17 8
" Library	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Miscellaneous:—				
Direct West India Cable Company, news supply.	120 0 0	—	120 0 0	—
Printing	100 0 0	—	129 0 6	—
Stationery	38 2 2	—	27 4 10	—
Insurance Waterloo	6 0 0	—	6 0 0	—
Unforeseen Contingencies ...	63 9 7	—	21 17 5	—
		327 11 9		304 2 9

Expenditure—continued.

—	1899.		1900.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Post Office	—	530 17 2	—	749 2 0
Lighthouse Department	—	310 3 7	—	237 15 6
Public Works:—				
Department	332 11 3	—	397 9 5	—
Recurrent	328 9 2	—	746 3 9	—
Extraordinary	359 0 2	—	39 17 3	—
		1,020 0 7		1,183 10 5
Drawbacks and Refunds ..	—	—	—	42 4 3
Total	—	7,644 9 7	—	8,052 15 8

Total Revenue and Expenditure for five years, 1896–1900.

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue ...	9,706 19 2	9,477 7 4	7,232 6 8	8,032 15 3	9,190 2 9
Expenditure...	7,382 10 10	8,384 9 2	8,061 4 5	7,644 9 7	8,052 15 8

The total of the revenue for 1900 exceeds by £1,157 7*s.* 6*d.* the similar total for 1899. This result is principally due to the issue, towards the end of the year, of a new set of postage stamps. The old issue was bought up by speculators, and there was also a fair demand for the new issue.

The expenditure of 1900 exceeded that of 1899 by £408 6*s.* 1*d.*, the difference being due to a greater outlay on public works and to expenses incurred in plates and dies for the new postage stamps.

The surplus on the year's working was £1,137 7*s.* 1*d.*, which is to be added to the existing surplus balance from previous years of over £7,500.

(B.) TAXATION.

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was a balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1900, of £8,654 8*s.* 11*d.*, as set out in the annexed table :—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance brought forward from 1899		7,517 1 10
REVENUE for 1900 :—		
Customs	3,280 0 2	—
Miscellaneous	5,910 2 7	
		9,190 2 9
		16,707 4 7
EXPENDITURE for 1900 :—		
Departments	6,565 2 6	—
Public Works	1,183 10 5	—
Miscellaneous	304 2 9	
		8,052 15 8
Balance to be carried to 1901	—	8,654 8 11
ASSETS :—		
In Colonial Chest	1,168 7 2	—
* With Crown Agents	1,190 16 6	—
With New York Agents	668 10 8	—
With Treasurer Jamaica	568 9 8	—
Advances due	5 0 0	—
Arrears of Revenue	—	—
Bonds for Import duties	24 6 0	—
Bonds for Auction duties	—	—
Investments, Government funds ...	5,900 0 0	—
Do. Savings Bank do. ...	200 0 0	—
Do. in Jamaica Savings Bank	707 12 5	—
		10,433 2 5

* Includes £1,042 5*s.* 10*d.* remittances maturing and in transit.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES—*continued.*

LIABILITIES :—	£ s. d.	£ s d.
Salaries	—	—
Pensions	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—
Deposits	107 19 11	—
Salt Pond Maintenance Fund... ...	309 7 1	—
Board of Education Fund	85 1 1	—
United Kingdom money orders ...	—	—
Jamaica do. ...	222 5 9	—
Turks Islands Savings Bank	1,053 19 8	—
		1,778 13 6
Balance of Assets ...	—	8,654 8 11

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Dependency has no public debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

American and British gold, an occasional Bank of England note, with British silver and Jamaica nickel coinage, constitute the currency of the Dependency. American silver dollars, half dollars, and quarter dollars circulate to a large extent, and are accepted at the Treasury at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar.

(F. AND G.) FINANCES OF MUNICIPALITIES OR PUBLIC BOARDS.

There is no municipality, and no public board which levies rates or has sole control of any funds.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The dutiable articles imported into the Dependency which contribute over £100 per annum to the Customs revenue are shown in the following comparative table :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Duty.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flour, wheat...	2,738 barrels	2,421½ barrels	2,190 1 4	1,963 5 1	513 7 8	454 0 8
Lard	49,680 lbs.	46,960 lbs.	602 17 5	687 6 2	103 10 0	97 16 8
Meat, salt	131,040 "	127,072 "	1,712 16 6	1,905 17 6	273 0 0	264 14 8
Spirits	2,579¾ gallons	3,539½ gallons	340 11 8	534 3 1	585 3 6	609 12 11
Sugar	148,697 lbs.	146,568 lbs.	1,170 1 6	1,227 4 6	414 10 5	386 2 7
Tinned provisions	1,568 packages	1,717 packages	1,082 3 4	1,210 3 4	108 4 4	121 0 4
Textile fabrics	772 "	816 "	4,419 6 8	4,869 9 2	441 18 8	487 8 11

The following table comprises the chief articles of import on which no duty is payable :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1899.	1900.	1899.			1900.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Beans and peas - -	945 bushels	724 bushels	389	7	3	312	18	6
Bran and oats - -	2,529 packages	2,614 packages	751	9	9	705	17	5
Coffee - - - -	6,035 lbs.	7,809 lbs.	68	16	11	97	10	10
Confectionery- - -	238 packages	247 packages	199	15	10	237	8	6
Cordage - - - -	119 coils	133 coils	188	9	6	204	18	3
Corn - - - -	2,609 bushels	1,721 bushels	331	9	9	184	3	9
Crockery and glassware -	202 packages	157 packages	172	9	3	266	6	2
Fish, salt - - -	26,300 lbs.	26,300 lbs.	249	9	8	235	8	4
Fruit and vegetables -	2,176 lots	1,658 lots	1,757	16	8	1,206	12	5
Government stores - -	419 packages	298 packages	188	11	1	331	16	7
Hay - - - -	717 bales	1,786 bales	87	4	9	245	7	6
Hominy and samp - -	675 packages	741 packages	342	10	9	389	9	3
Jewellery, &c.- - -	23 ,,	30 ,,	36	14	4	52	11	9
Machinery - - -	36 ,,	150 ,,	75	18	9	1,644	0	8
Meal, corn - - -	871 barrels	810 barrels	393	2	0	381	0	0
Molasses, syrup, &c. -	5,263 gallons	3,288 gallons	289	13	7	185	19	2
Mules - - - -	4	5	60	0	0	130	15	0
Stationery, &c. - -	77 packages	203 packages	121	12	3	209	19	8

The chief article of export is salt, of which there was exported :—

—	Quantity.	Value.			Royalty Paid.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1899	1,821,490 bushels	21,138	8	7	2,656	8	2
In 1900	1,806,274 ,,	23,491	11	3	2,634	4	7

The quantity of salt exported was 1,806,274 bushels, which is some 15,000 less than in 1899, but still about 200,000 above the average. Although the quantity of salt exported was less than

that for the previous year, yet the value was greater, being £23,491 11*s.* 3*d.*, as against £21,138 8*s.* 7*d.* for 1899, in consequence of the increased price offered.

The export of "sisal grass" was valued at £5,080 15*s.* 5*d.*, as against £7,493 12*s.* 9*d.* last year. These figures might seem to indicate that the fibre industry is decreasing, but this is not the case. The area under cultivation is increasing, and there has in reality been a much larger output of fibre this past year than in previous years, but the prices ruled somewhat lower, and there was some difficulty in getting the fibre shipped before the close of the year.

The sponge export direct to the United States—which covers only those sponges which are gathered and shipped by local enterprise, as opposed to those which are taken away from these waters by Bahamas fishermen without affording any profit to the Dependency—was valued at £1,800, as against £1,100 last year, about treble the average of the last ten years.

It is highly satisfactory to note the growth of the fibre and sponge industries, as they not only afford fair prospects of good returns from the capital which has been laid out in them, but they also assist in materially improving the condition of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands, which would, without these industries, be very miserable.

The import duties show an increase of nearly £75 over 1899, which is chiefly owing to a larger importation of lumber and spirits.

The total value of the imports and exports for the last five years is as follows :—

—	1896.			1897.			1898.			1899.			1900.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - -	30,245	4	4	33,239	2	7	27,066	16	0	25,707	11	3	29,564	2	4
Exports - -	31,497	14	5	43,308	15	5	24,810	12	4	31,909	19	2	34,584	1	0

(B.) MANUFACTURES.

The chief or main industry is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The price was maintained at six cents during the whole year, as the result of a mutual arrangement entered into between the local producers and the dealers in the United States, by whom the trade is apparently controlled. The only other two industries worthy of noting are the extracting of fibre from the sisal grass and the curing of sponges. These industries are in the hands of enterprising companies and merchants, and have a successful future before them. One of the fibre companies is laying down tramways, which will enable them to handle their fibre more economically.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, &c.

Agriculture in the Dependency is practically confined to a few scanty provision fields in the Caicos Islands and a few patches of guinea corn, grown chiefly for the fodder afforded by the stalks. The barren nature of the soil, coupled with the absence of rainfall, makes anything else impossible.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

Twenty-one grants were made in 1900 under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896, comprising 169 acres.

The value of land, other than town lots, is very small.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table is annexed of the steam and sailing vessels inward and outward during the past two years. The steamers are those of the Clyde line from New York to Dominican ports, at uncertain dates, but about tri-weekly, which touch at Grand Turk, both on the outward and homeward voyages, taking labourers for the Dominican trip to work the cargo, and landing them on return. There is also the monthly steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line from Halifax to Jamaica, which is under contract with this Government to convey the Turks Islands' mails :—

Sailing Vessels.

Nationality.	1899.				1900.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	265	20,159	262	20,034	222	18,510	227	18,528
Dominican	11	137	10	130	15	1,021	13	120
Dutch	1	97	1	97	—	—	—	—
French	2	186	2	186	6	755	6	755
Haytian	12	170	10	142	7	106	6	53
United States	39	23,025	39	23,025	44	23,607	44	23,124
Total	330	43,774	324	43,614	295	43,999	296	42,580
Steamers.								
British	25	17,343	25	17,343	24	16,248	24	16,248
Norwegian	1	401	1	401	—	—	—	—
United States	32	57,514	32	57,514	42	85,782	42	85,782
Total	58	75,258	58	75,258	66	102,030	66	102,030

A comparative statement of total shipping for the last five years is also annexed :—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards ...	131,106	164,751	120,278	119,032	146,029
Outwards ...	130,572	163,623	122,829	118,872	144,610
Total ...	261,678	328,374	243,107	237,904	290,639

These figures do not include men-of-war which have called at the Dependency.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The principal measures passed during the year were :—

Ordinance No. 2 of 1900.—To impose other duties of Customs on imports than those now payable.

By this ordinance, which will take the place of the present tariff ordinance when brought into force, the existing tariff is somewhat modified. It was passed in consequence of a reciprocity treaty with the United States, by which, if ratified, the Dependency is to obtain a reduction of the duty levied on salt, and certain other advantages, in consideration of reciprocal concessions in the duties on imports of United States origin. The Governor-in-Chief's assent to the ordinance will not be given until the treaty is ratified. The time for the ratification of the treaty by the United States Government has been extended to March, 1902.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1900.—For granting certain privileges to vessels calling at the ports of the Dependency for orders, or for taking on board provisions, water, or fuel for consumption on board of such vessels.

This ordinance was passed in order to induce vessels to make this Dependency a port of call for orders. To such vessels the Dependency is absolutely a free port, and should the master of any such vessel engage a pilot, which is optional, he can do so on

payment of half the ordinary fees. The main object of the ordinance is to induce vessels to frequent the port, and thereby enable salt proprietors to obtain a charter for the shipment of their salt on better terms than could probably be secured were a vessel not near at hand. The ordinance has already shown satisfactory results.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

A sum of £600 per annum is set aside by ordinance for the work of education in the Dependency.

There are six schools, of which four are in the Caicos Islands.

Education is not compulsory, and the main difficulty that has to be contended with is the irregular attendance of children.

The majority of the teachers are trained men from Jamaica and an inspection is held once in two years by an officer of the Jamaica Education Department when possible to make such arrangements.

(B.) Secondary Education.

There is no provision for secondary education. The children of the better class usually obtain their education in Jamaica, the United States, or Canada.

(C.) Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural Schools.

Nil.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A., B., C., D.) Hospitals, Asylums, Poor Houses, Reformatories.

There are no institutions of this class in the Dependency at the present time, but a portion of the old poor house has been set aside as a place where any infectious disease or serious case for operation or otherwise may be placed under the care of an attendant, temporarily engaged It is very rarely required.

Lunatics are sent to the asylum in Jamaica.

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	115	119	210 8 8	221 7 2	352 13 8	257 15 4	605 6 4	568 18 2
Salt Cay	44	38	12 4 11	118 7 2	13 14 2	61 16 3	48 10 5	105 1 4
Cockburn Harbour ...	27	29	100 6 10	94 9 1	59 3 9	58 9 0	340 8 11	376 9 0
Total	186	186	323 0 5	434 3 5	425 11 7	378 0 7	994 5 8	1,050 8 6

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force consists of :—

At Grand Turk—a corporal, four constables, and two district constables.

Salt Cay—one constable and one district constable.

Cockburn Harbour—one constable and one district constable.

The other Caicos Islands—eight district constables.

The total cost of the upkeep of the force in 1900 was £486 10*s.* 3*d.*

(B.) PRISONS.

The one prison of the Dependency is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison in 1900 was two. Long-sentence prisoners are usually sent to serve their time at Jamaica, but fortunately there are rarely any prisoners of this class.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1900 was 131, against 176 in 1899.

Of the offences reported in 1900, 40 were for offences against the person; six were for prædial larceny; 15 were for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 70 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts in 1900 was 103, against 130 in 1899.

These convictions are classified as follows:—30 for offences against the person; six for prædial larceny; 10 for offences against property, other than prædial larceny; 57 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—Two for offences against the person; 10 for other offences.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the inferior courts, 22; in the Supreme Court, 3.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The total population, as shown by the census just taken (1901), was 5,350, being an increase of over 600 since the census of 1891.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health during 1900 was good, but, towards the close of the year, there was a slight epidemic of measles and whooping cough in the Caicos Islands, which was generally supposed to have been imported from Hayti and San Domingo.

(C.) SANITATION.

The Towns and Public Health Ordinance of 1895 gives power to deal with nuisances generally, and provides for the exercise of precautions in case of epidemics, for the cleaning of streets, the regulating of slaughter yards, and other kindred matters.

Refuse can, without difficulty, be deposited in the sea, and the soil is of a nature that readily absorbs impurities.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) The rainfall is small, averaging about 26 inches during the year.

(2.) Th temperature is not excessive, and is rarely unpleasantly hot, owing to the strong and constant sea breeze. During the so called "winter months" the climate would compare favourably with that enjoyed in any other portion of the globe.

During the month of June a station of observation was established at Grand Turk by the Weather Bureau of the Department of Agriculture of the United States, for the purpose of improving the Bureau's West Indian hurricane service. This will prove of great benefit to the community in foretelling the approach of storms.

Tables of rainfall and temperature are attached. The readings at Grand Turk from July are taken from the Weather Bureau observations. The temperature readings before July are somewhat misleading, as they are observations of temperature taken at 10 a.m., and not of the lowest or highest temperature recorded during 24 hours :—

RAINFALL.

For the Year 1900 *compared with the average for the previous seven years.*

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
January	1·73	1·46	2·08	6·08
February	1·14	2·42	1·77	2·08
March	·15	·58	1·05	·98
April	4·05	2·80	2·81	2·77
May	·35	1·07	·42	2·75
June	—	·82	1·48	·92
July	·97	·58	1·63	·50
August	5·12	4·92	5·98	5·30
September... ...	3·73	1·04	·60	3·98
October	2·76	2·05	5·03	7·22
November... ...	2·24	2·13	3·16	—
December	1·35	1·79	2·91	—
Total inches ...	23·59	21·66	28·92	32·58
Average for 7 years 1893–99	24·61	21·21	19·64	35·67

Temperature.

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
	Degrees Fahrenheit.		
January	80	76	78
February	80	75	77
March	82	75	78
April	83	73	78
May	84	80	82
June	86	81	83
July	91	75	83
August	91	70	83
September	91	70	82
October	91	65	83
November	89	69	79
December	86	68	77

(3.) The wind is usually equable and blows strongly, the prevailing direction being from the south-east.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The mails are brought to, and despatched from, the Dependency by a monthly steamer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under contract, and also by the steamers of the Clyde line from New York tri-weekly. These latter, unfortunately, do not sail on

schedule time, so that it is not possible to arrange for a regular despatch from the United Kingdom by that route, but letters that arrive at Halifax soon after the departure of the monthly boat are sent on to New York, and thus usually arrive here some days earlier than they would if they waited at Halifax for the next monthly steamer. By far the larger portion of the mails for the United Kingdom go north by the New York steamers; letters so despatched get to their destination in a shorter time by a week or more than they would by the longer Halifax route.

The island of Grand Turk is in telegraphic connection with Bermuda and Jamaica by the cables of the Direct West India Cable Company, which opened its Grand Turk station in January of 1898.

There is no telephone service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Nil.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1. The general condition of the Dependency is brighter at the present time than has been the case during the last few years, owing to the steady demand and the better price that obtains for its staple commodity, salt. This has been brought about by an arrangement entered into between the local producers and the dealers in the United States. Certain dealers in the States have agreed to take all the salt our local producers can produce, at a minimum price of six cents a bushel, on the understanding that the producers sell to no other dealers in the States. This agreement is not in writing, and of course may be broken through at any time, being in the nature of an arrangement for mutual accommodation only. The arrangement does not affect transactions with dealers outside the United States. It is hoped that a still better price may be obtained when the reciprocity treaty entered into by the Dependency with the United States is ratified. Six cents is an improvement on the five cents obtained in 1899, but at the same time it leaves but a small margin of profit, and little or nothing for improvements. The salt proprietor's life is a hard and anxious one, and he has to guard all his expenses most carefully to maintain his balance on the credit side.

2. The sisal hemp industries at East and West Caicos appear to be doing very well. The areas under cultivation have been greatly increased during the last year.

3. Mr. E. J. Cameron, the Commissioner, was absent from the Dependency from the 30th April to the 23rd May, on vacation leave, and from the 11th August until the close of the year on vacation and half-pay leave. During those periods his duties were performed by the Judge of the Supreme Court, who holds a dormant commission to administer the Government in the absence of the Commissioner.

GEOFFREY P. ST. AUBYN,

Acting Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

7th May, 1901.

LONDON:
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1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 351.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1900-1901.

(For Report for 1899-1900, *see* No. 317.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1902.

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The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
327	Bahamas...	1900
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899–1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigraiton.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 351.

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1899–1900, *see* No. 317.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
31st December, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900-1901.

2. I regret that shortness of staff and pressure of important current work in the Colonial Secretary's office have unavoidably delayed the completion of this report.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

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JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR 1900–1901.

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X. GENERAL REMARKS.

I. FINANCE.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

At the beginning of the financial year on the 1st April, 1900, the deficit on the General Revenue Account of the Colony stood at £123,027.

The year's revenue amounted to £760,387 and the expenditure to £763,662, showing a deficit on the year's transactions of £3,275, and increasing the standing deficit to £126,302 on the 31st March, 1901.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue for the two years :—

Heads of Revenue.	1900–1901.	1899–1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	337,416 11 4½	353,765 1 3	—	16,348 9 10
Port, Harbour and Light House Dues ...	5,046 15 3½	4,906 19 11	—	139 15 4½
License, Excise and Internal Revenue ...	136,710 7 0	153,925 7 3¼	—	16,215 0 3¼
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements and Irrigation Receipts.	60,067 17 4¾	55,313 2 7¾	4,754 14 9	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	26,616 12 7½	26,444 12 11¼	171 19 8¼	—
Railway Receipts, seven and a half months ...	71,153 7 2	—	71,153 7 2	—
Railway Balances taken over	48,701 3 0	—	48,701 3 0	—
Railway Stores	15,097 15 0	—	15,097 15 0	—
Rents	2,297 15 9	2,518 7 4	—	220 11 7
Interest	17,745 1 1	19,858 11 5	—	2,373 10 4
Miscellaneous Receipts	8,328 0 9¾	5,987 1 10½	2,348 18 11¼	—
Quit Rents, transferred from Parochial Road Reserve Fund.	9,128 13 4	—	9,128 13 4	—
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	738,039 19 10	622,719 4 7¾	115,320 14 2¼	—

Land Sales	1,515 9 0	2,011 10 0¼	—	496 1 0¼
Total Local Revenue	739,555 8 10	624,730 14 8	114,824 14 2	—
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	200 0 0	—	200 0 0	—
Total Revenue	739,555 13 10	624,730 14 8	115,024 14 2	—
Net Increase	—	—	115,024 14 2	—
Imperial Loan in aid of Deficit, General Revenue Account.	20,000 0 0	—	20,000 0 0	—
Imperial Loan in aid of expenses of conversion of Railway Debt.	631 10 0	—	631 10 0	—
Total for General Revenue Account...	760,386 18 10	625,131 14 8	135,255 4 2	—

Revenue.

The most conspicuous feature in the Revenue returns is the failure of the yield of taxation.

Customs Duties yielded £16,348 9*s.* 11*d* less than in the previous year and £22,583 8*s.* 8*d.* less than the estimate.

Port Harbour and Light House Dues £139 15*s.* 4*d.* more than in 1899-1900, but £823 4*s.* 8*d.* less than the estimate.

JAMAICA, 1900-1901

License, Excise, and General Internal Revenue £17,215 0*s.* 3½*d.* less than in the previous year, and £19,914 less than estimate.

Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, &c., £2,486 2*s.* 7¼*d.* less than estimate, although £4,754 14*s.* 9*d.* more than received in the previous year, partly owing to increase of duties.

Thus, under these four heads, which include practically all the Tax Revenue, there was received altogether £28,669 less than in the year 1899-1900 and £45,807 9*s.* less than the estimate for 1900-1901.

The railway became the property of the Government on the 16th August, 1900. The estimate of receipts for 12 months, on the assumption that it would be handed over before the year began, had been £125,000. The proportion of this amount for seven and a half months would be £78,125; but the receipts brought to account within the period amounted to only £71,153 7*s.* 2*d.*, a shortage of £ 6,971 12*s.* 10*d.* The Cash balances taken over with the railway from the Colonial Bank and the Trustees of the First Mortgage Bondholders amounted to £48,701 3*s.*, instead of £55,000 as had been anticipated. The difference of £6,298 17*s.* was largely due to special expenditure by the railway company for the repair of storm damages in the first half of the year 1900 in excess of receipts. On the other hand stores to the value of £15,097 15*s.* were also taken over of which no estimate had been made.

£20,000 was brought to the credit of General Revenue Account by an instalment of the loan of £150,000 authorised by the Imperial Government to cover outstanding deficit previously accrued.

A further sum of £631 10*s* was brought to credit of General Revenue Account, being part of the Imperial Loan of £88,000 for the payment of interest due on the First Mortgage Bonds of the Jamaica Railway, in excess of the amount required for this purpose. This surplus was transferred in aid of the expenses of redeeming the First Mortgage Bonds and issuing three and a half per cent. Inscribed Stock in exchange, towards which £9,128 13*s.* 4*d.* was also appropriated by transfer from surplus of Quit Rents standing to credit of the Parochial Road Reserve Fund.

Excluding the three items last mentioned as not being actual revenue receipts of the year, the revenue amounted to £730,627, against an estimate of £765,886, a shortage of £35,259, and excluding, for parity of comparison, the other railway receipts, the revenue for 1900-1901 amounted to £595,675, or £29,457 less than the foregoing year's corresponding revenue of £625,132.

General Expenditure.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900–1901.	Expenditure, 1899–1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt:—Interest	139,165 6 3	91,384 8 10	47,780 17 5	—
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent Inscribed Stock.	48,706 0 0	—	48,706 0 0	—
Management	132 1 10	132 3 3	—	0 1 5
Management—Expenses of issue of Railway Inscribed Stock.	9,760 3 4	—	9,760 3 4	—
Sinking Funds	23,369 19 2	20,175 13 4	3,194 5 10	—
Redemption of Debt	190 0 0	—	190 0 0	—
Pensions...	24,351 15 0½	23,932 5 5	419 9 7½	—
Governor and Staff	6,584 0 7½	5,874 4 8	709 15 11½	—
Privy Council	103 8 6	179 5 7	—	75 17 1
Legislative Council	1,257 9 7½	1,146 1 7	111 8 0½	—
Colonial Secretariat	5,181 19 10	4,463 9 6	718 10 4	—
Public Works Department	12,751 4 9	13,397 15 10	—	646 11 1
Lands Department	2,401 5 11½	1,916 8 2½	484 17 9	—

General Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900–1901.	Expenditure, 1899–1900.	Increase	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Railway Expenditure (7½ months)	48,923 9 11	1,557 6 9½	47,366 3 1½	—
Railway Debts paid by order of the Court ...	2,364 18 0	—	2,364 18 0	—
Railway Extension Track	14 16 8	—	14 16 8	—
Audit Department	4,461 9 6	4,114 14 11	346 14 7	—
Treasury	4,604 9 11¼	4,315 4 8½	289 5 2¾	—
Government Savings Bank	3,227 3 3½	3,149 5 2	77 18 1½	—
Clerks Parochial Boards	946 17 6	900 0 0	46 17 6	—
Immigration Department	880 1 4	1,231 6 0¼	—	351 4 8¼
Stamp Department	864 6 9½	1,143 1 7	—	278 14 9½
Excise Internal Revenue and Customs... ...	41,223 18 8½	38,548 18 10¾	2,674 19 9¾	—
Postal Service	28,653 16 3½	28,818 9 5½	—	164 13 2
Telegraph Department	7,514 10 2	7,396 15 1½	117 15 0½	—
Judicial	40,308 16 10	40,047 12 0½	261 4 9½	—

Ecclesiastical	2,090 0 2	2,235 0 11	—	145 0 9
Medical	49,512 9 5½	47,589 5 8	1,923 3 9½	—
Government Laboratory	721 11 8	495 19 8	225 12 0	—
Constabulary and Prisons	74,846 12 9	73,766 1 2	1,080 11 7	—
Reformatories	3,029 6 5	3,235 19 0	—	206 12 7
Industrial Schools	1,332 8 6½	1,329 1 3¼	3 7 3¼	—
Education	56,070 19 0½	59,981 10 9½	—	3,910 11 9
Harbours and Pilotage	2,187 12 7½	2,263 3 9	—	75 11 1½
Military	12,212 3 5	13,353 0 9	—	1,140 17 4
Cable Subsidy	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
Direct Steamship Subsidy	4 7 6	—	4 7 6	—
Registrar-General's Department and Island Record Office.	4,835 8 4½	4,947 7 10¼	—	111 19 5¾
Registration of Titles Department...	942 19 9	998 10 9	—	55 11 0
Registration written back to Deposit	620 7 0	—	620 7 0	—
Government Printing Office	7,452 0 1	7,375 8 3	76 11 10	—
Institute of Jamaica	1,776 4 10	1,749 12 0	26 12 10	—

General Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900–1901.	Expenditure, 1899–1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Board of Supervision	484 5 7	436 2 10	48 2 9	—
Public Gardens and Plantations	5,232 17 6	5,059 16 10	173 0 8	—
Agricultural Lecturer	464 18 7	—	464 18 7	—
Miscellaneous	8,904 11 8½	10,032 7 0½	—	1,127 15 4
Public Works and Buildings	54 395 0 11	57,366 9 5	—	2,971 8 6
Public Credits written off from Sundry Loan and Advance Accounts.	9,444 1 8½	—	9,444 1 8½	—
Lighthouses	1.542 13 8	1,262 0 6	280 13 2	—
Lighthouse Credits written off from Advance Account.	2,540 14 8¾	—	2,540 14 8¾	—
Taxes and Insurance	2,566 2 0¼	3,141 5 10	—	575 3 9¾
Total Expenditure	763,662 7 10¾	593,927 3 8¼	—	—
Nett increase	—	—	169,735 4 2¼	—

The great addition to Debt Charges is noticeable, the total for the year being £221,323 10*s.* 7*d.*, against £111,692 5*s.* 5*d.* in the previous year, besides which £87,368 10*s.* was paid to First Mortgage Bondholders of the railway out of borrowed moneys for arrears of interest due on their 4% Bonds. The same Bondholders received £48,706 for arrears of interest on the three and a half per cent. Inscribed Stock issued to them, a sum which was balanced with curious exactitude by the £48,701 taken over as railway balances, and which is included in the Debt Charges paid out of General Revenue this year, as well as £9,760 3*s.* 4*d.* paid for expenses for conversion of Railway Debt. Excluding these last two items, the Debt Charges belonging to the year amounted to £162,857 7*s.* 3*d.*, showing an increase in normal Debt Charges of about £51,165, which is due to the three and a half per cent. Railway Inscribed Stock, and to which a further charge of nearly £15,000 for Sinking Fund on that Debt will be added in the financial year 1901-1902.

A saving of £8,578 7*s.* 3*d.* was effected on the estimate of Debt Charges by postponing the raising of loans authorised for Railway Equipment and in aid of deficit.

Most of the Departmental accounts show excesses of expenditure over estimate and over their totals of the preceding year. This is owing in almost every case to the payment of thirteen months' salaries within the year, the March salaries having been previously paid and brought to account in April.

The excess over the estimate for the Registration of Titles was due to the writing back to the credit of the "Assurance Fund" of £620 7*s.* erroneously charged against the funds for plans and diagrams since the year 1891.

The estimate of the expenditure of the railway for the whole twelve months was £90,000, besides £2,364 18*s.* falling due to be paid for certain debts under the order of the Supreme Court on its transfer to the Government. The proportional estimate for the period of seven and a half months, during which it was in the hands of the Government, is £56,250; but the actual expenditure for that period was kept down to £47,366 3*s.* 1½*d.*, saving £8,883 16*s.* 10½*d.*

The original railway estimates for the twelve months had anticipated an excess of £35,000 in receipts over expenditure. The actual excess of general receipts over expenditure brought to account in the seven and a half months appears as £23,787 4*s.*, which is at the rate of more than £35,000 a year.

As stated above, the Government also paid altogether £145,834 13*s.* 4*d.* for charges and interest due on the transfer of the railway, and it has incurred permanent charges of £66,400 a year for interest and Sinking Fund of new debt in addition to those of the pre-existing Railway Debt.

There was a saving of £1,093 6*s.* 11*d.* on the estimate, and of £646 11*s.* 1*d.* on the previous year's expenditure for the staff of

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

the Public Works Department, due to rigidly parsimonious administration and the vacation of several offices.

On the estimates for Public Works and Buildings for the year there was a saving of £10,611 19*s.* 1*d.*, and on the expenditure of the previous year of £4,688 17*s.* 8*d.*, representing the severe retrenchment rendered necessary by the failure of the Revenue.

On the other hand there were written off against the accounts for Public Works and Buildings the following amounts not expended in the year but standing hitherto to the debit of certain loan or advance accounts.

(1.) Depreciation of stores and expenses of working of P.W. Store Department, £1,726 0*s.* 9*d.*

(2.) Spanish Town Waterworks.—Balance outstanding from loan from General Revenue Account £1,525 7*s.* 3*d.* (These Waterworks having become the property of the Government no purpose was served by keeping this account open.)

(3.) Preliminary expenses, plans, estimates and specifications for new public offices, hitherto standing debited against the account of a loan to be raised for the buildings, now postponed indefinitely, £5,366 18*s.* 8*d.*

(4.) Part cost of brick kiln at General Penitentiary, hitherto standing as an advance to the Kingston General Commissioners, total, £9,444 1*s.* 8½*d.*, written off from credit balances.

A balance of £2,450 14*s.* 9*d.* on the Negril Point Light House Advance Account was similarly written off.

Excluding these amounts so written off, with the £620 7*s.* written back to the Land Titles Assurance Fund and the £9,760 3*s.* 4*d.* spent for Railway Conversion charges, the expenditure amounted to £741,297 1*s.* 1¼*d.*, against an estimate of £752,855 13*s.* 1*d.*, showing a saving of £11,558 12*s.* on the estimate, or about £23,688 if allowance is made for the payment of thirteen months' salaries in the year.

Excluding from the revenue the £20,000 Imperial Loan, the excess of the expenditure over revenue was £23,275 9*s.* But, as has been explained, £12,605 4*s.* of the amount brought to account as expenditure was merely a writing off of imaginary credits in the ledger and not actual expenditure of the year, whilst about £12,130 may be accounted for by the bringing of the March salary payments to account within the year, at the close of which their amount would otherwise have been actually a liability of the Government. And, in fact, had not sound accountancy demanded these corrections, the actual revenue of the year would have appeared as exceeding the actual expenditure.

It follows that the financial position of the General Revenue Account has not really deteriorated during the year, but may be regarded as having improved by about £1,460, although the balance of liabilities as shown in the statement of Liabilities and Assets has increased by £3,275, and £20,000 has been borrowed in aid of deficit.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the values of imports and exports in the past five years, as assessed by the Customs Department :—

Year.	Exports.				Imports		
	Island Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896–97	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612
1897–98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381
1898–99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432
1899–1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865
1900–1901	1,738,523	20,820	37,733	1,797,076	1,621,794	30,883	1,652,677
Total	7,831,001	118,024	297,357	8,246,382	8,621,709	165,258	8,786,967
Average	1,566,200	23,605	59,471	1,649,276	1,724,342	33,051	1,757,393

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

The total value of exports in 1900-1901 was noticeably lower than in the preceding year but still higher than in any other year of the last five, while the imports were the lowest of the period.

The estimated value of products of the Island exported was less by £59,473 than in 1899-1900, and that of articles imported for home consumption was less by £111,872.

The year 1889-1900 was the first since 1886-1887 in which exports exceeded imports, and the proportion of the excess increased in 1900-1901.

The explanation of this course of trade is probably to be found in the fact that the investments of borrowed capital in railway extensions and other public works and private undertakings has come to an end, whilst increased debt charges on the borrowings, public and private, of recent years have now to be paid for by the excess of exports. Whilst the free expenditure of borrowed money was proceeding, the distribution of wages both stimulated the importations of foreign goods and withdrew industry from the production of exportable goods. Under this influence and that of concurrent low prices, sugar cultivation fell off and much of the established coffee cultivation was neglected. The taxation necessary to pay for increased debt charges has now consequently to be levied on partially diminished resources and the purchasing power of the community bears a less proportion to its exports than formerly. There are, however, as shown by the following return, some healthy and encouraging indications of a substantial increase both in quantity and price of exports.

TABLE EXHIBITING THE INCREASES OR DECREASES IN QUANTITY, VALUE, AND PRICE OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

The following table exhibits the increases or decreases in

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or Decrease (as shown by + or —) on 1899–1900.	
	1899–1900.	1900–1901.	1899–1900.	1900–1901.	Quantity	Value
	Cwt.	Cwt.	£	£	Cwt.	£
Cocoa	20,041	23,450	60,123	64,488	+ 3,409	+ 4,365
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
Cocoanuts ...	18,011,568	13,555,778	54,035	41,345	— 4,455,790	— 12,690
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Coffee	83,606	85,907	142,130	157,485	+ 2,301	+ 15,355
	Bunches.	Bunches.			Bunches.	
Fruit—Bananas	8,046,404	8,248,485	603,480	618,636	+ 202,081	+ 15,156
	Number.	Number.			Number.	
" Oranges	107,444,200	88,825,650	145,050	115,473	—18,618,550	— 29,577
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Ginger	20,205	26,530	60,615	66,324	+ 6,325	+ 5,709
	Tons.	Tons.			Tons.	
Logwood ...	28,871	34,006	77,971	98,618	+ 5,135	+ 20,647
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Pimento ...	123,973	100,547	173,562	110,602	— 23,426	— 62,960
	Gallons.	Gallons.			Gallons.	
Rum	1,569,187	1,404,405	130,766	152,244	— 164,782	+ 21,478
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.	
Sugar	390,215	295,007	195,107	165,941	— 95,208	— 29,166
Value of 10 chief products exported.	—	—	1,642,839	1,591,156	—	— 51,683
Miscellaneous products.	—	—	155,157	147,367	—	— 7,790
Value of all products exported	—	—	1,797,996	1,738,523	—	— 59,473

quantity, value, and price of the 10 principal Exports, viz.—

Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1899-1900.		Price.	Remarks.
Quantity.	Value.		
+ 17	+ 7·3	1899-00: 60 s. 0 d. per cwt. 1900-01: 55 0 „ „	Value has increased fourfold in decade. Price rising generally. 1898-99 50s. 10d. per cwt.
— 24·7	— 23·5	1899-00: 57 3 „ M. 1900-01: 61 0 „ „	Value has about trebled in decade. Price declined, but rising again. 1898-99, 57s. 3d. per M.
+ 1·6	+ 8	1899-00: 34 0 „ cwt. 1900-01: 36 8 „ „	Value about half. Price little more than half that of 10 or 12 years ago; again rising. 1898-99, 29s. 5d. per cwt.
+ 2·5	+ 2·5	1899-00: 1 6 „ bunch. 1900-01: 1 6 „ „	Value more than doubled in decade. Price fairly steady. 1898-99, 1s. 3d. per bunch.
— 17·4	— 20	1899-00: 27 0 „ M. 1900-01: 26 0 „ „	Value more than doubled in decade. Prices lower in last two or three years. 1898-99, 24s. 11d. per M.
+ 31·3	+ 9·4	1899-00: 60 0 „ cwt. 1900-01: 50 0 „ „	Value 1900-01 nearly four times that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price lower that year, but rising generally. 1898-99, 57s. 10d. per cwt.
+ 17·7	+ 26·5	1899-00: 54 0 „ ton. 1900-01: 58 0 „ „	Value 1900-01 between a third and a quarter of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 100s. in 1893-94; declined, but seems to be brightening. 1898-99, 52s. 6d. per ton.
— 18·9	— 36·3	1899-00: 28 0 „ cwt. 1900-01: 22 0 „ „	Value 1899-00 exceptional, 1900-01 about double that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 1900-01 about average formerly. 1898-99, 32s. 9d., abnormal.
— 10·5	+ 16·4	1899-00: 1 8 „ gallon. 1900-01: 2 2 „ „	Value 1900-01 about three-fifth that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 1900-01 far beyond that of late years, and approximates that formerly obtained. 1898-99, 1s. 4d. per gallon.
— 24·4	— 15	1899-00: 10 0 „ cwt. 1900-01: 11 0 „ „	Value 1900-01 little more than half that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price which had declined greatly, appreciably improved. 1898-99, 8s. 4d. per cwt.
—	— 3·1	—	—
—	— 5·1	—	—
—	— 3·3	—	—

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

The falling off in quantity of pimento, rum and sugar was due to short crops resulting from unfavourable seasons. The price of pimento, moreover, fell from 28*s.* to 22*s.* per cwt. Rum and sugar realised improved prices, that of rum resulting, notwithstanding the short output, in an increase of value by £21,478.

The general purchasing power of the labouring class, so far as it depends on these industries, is, however, far more affected by the bulk of the crop than by the price it ultimately fetches.

Logwood shows an increase in quantity, price, and total value, the last by £20,647. Logwood extract was valued at £31,599, in place of £15,881 in 1899-1900.

The exports of tobacco also showed a decided improvement, native-made cigars, cigarettes, and leaf-tobacco totalling—

—	1900-1901.			1899-1900.			Increase.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cigarettes	1,957	19	0	311	12	0	1,646	7	0
Cigars	15,634	0	3	11,530	0	10	4,103	19	5
Leaf tobacco	5,067	10	0	1,404	10	0	3,663	0	0
Total	22,659	9	3	13,246	2	5	9,413	6	10

altogether £9,413 more than in 1899-1900.

Capital and skill appear to be now employed in the tobacco industry with improving results.

The bee-keeping industry, which is almost entirely in the hands of persons of limited means, shows remarkable improvement, honey having increased in value in five years from £1,891 to £10,739. This fact indicates the exercise of increased intelligence and industry.

The export of bananas suffered considerably from the effects of violent storms of rain and wind in the autumn of 1899, otherwise, no doubt, this staple would have shown a far greater increase. Great interest attached to the endeavour of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. to establish a market for bananas in England. Their steamers receiving a subsidy of £40,000 a year (£20,000 from the Imperial Government and £20,000 from the Government of Jamaica) took their first two fortnightly cargoes at the close of the year under review. They are under contract to buy and ship not less than 20,000 bunches by each fortnightly steamer, but the venture can only be successful, or, indeed, of appreciable importance to this branch of the trade of the Island, if it is found possible to establish an export of much greater volume. This it is the hope and expectation of the contractors to be able to do.

The export of cattle, sheep, and fowls, and of yams and other ground provisions to Cuba, which developed during and after the late war in that Island, has now practically ceased with the establishment of good government and renewal of cultivation there. Thus, the value of exported cattle fell from £24,881 to £4,791, and that of yams from £3,220 to £1,201.

The exports of the last five years have been distributed as shown in the following table:—

Destination.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01.
United Kingdom	27·4	22·0	20·6	19·2	18·8
United States	56·6	62·3	59·1	63·6	63·8
Canada	1·2	1·4	1·4	1·6	1·8
Other countries	14·8	14·3	18·9	15·6	15·6

The decrease in exportations to the United Kingdom and the corresponding increase in those to the United States are attributable to the fact that about 45 per cent. of the exports now consists of fruit, a highly perishable article, much of which it has hitherto been impossible to ship to England.

The effect of the institution of the direct line of steamers in stimulating British trade with Jamaica will be anxiously watched.

The following table shows the relative proportion of the chief items of export in the last five years:—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.
Sugar	10·1	8·3	9·8	10·8	9·5
Rum	8·4	6·3	6·1	7·2	8·8
Coffee	14·4	11·4	10·5	7·8	9·1
Dyewoods	11·6	8·9	8·8	4·8	6·2
Fruit	34·3	42·8	41·4	45·0	45·2
Pimento	5·2	3·6	8·3	9·7	6·4
Minor products ...	16·1	18·7	15·1	14·7	14·8

Sugar, fruit, and cocoanuts are shipped almost entirely to the United States; the proportion of the first staple which went to the United Kingdom in 1900-1901 was only about one-fourteenth. 38,880 bunches of bananas went by the new direct line to England. Rum still finds its principal market in the United Kingdom. In 1900-1901 three-fourths of the coffee

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

went to France and the United States, the remaining fourth almost entirely to the United Kingdom. The United States and Russia took most of the logwood; the United States and United Kingdom three-fourths of the pimento, and most of the ginger; France shares with both in cocoa as well as coffee; Germany in pimento.

Imports.

As already stated, these, excluding specie, decreased by £111,872. Decreases occurred under all heads of any importance. The principal decrease was in manufactured articles, on which alone it was £97,540, a shrinkage of nearly 10 per cent. on the previous year's figure. The shrinkage on raw materials was £7,820, or over 10 per cent., while that on live animals, food, &c., was only £6,514, or less than 1 per cent. The importation of live cattle diminished under the restrictions of the cattle quarantine laws and the continued effect of the heavy import duty. All kinds of alcoholic beverages, except whisky, show a falling off, as did bread, biscuit, butter and butter substitutes, corn, provisions, and flour. The decrease in the value of flour by £18,683 was, however, accompanied by an increase in quantity of 4,276 lbs. Salted beef, pork, and fish of all descriptions showed an increase in value by about £15,000, due generally to higher prices.

The imports of condensed milk and rice rose in value by £6,708 and £3,269 respectively. The steady increase for many years past in importations of condensed milk in a country so favourable for milch cattle is not a satisfactory sign. Importations of chemical and natural manures appreciably increased, the latter totalling £6,628.

Among the manufactured articles, the greatest decreases in textiles are on wearing apparel and slops £12,036, cotton piece goods £20,543, and woollen unmixed £13,990, the last being partially set off by mixed woollens £10,499. Boots and shoes show a decline of £10,168, and wooden building materials, both lumber and shingles, of £10,593. There has been a very noticeable curtailment in building operations in the Island within the last two or three years. The imports of agricultural machinery show a satisfactory increase of £21,318.

The following table shows the respective proportions in which imports were obtained from various countries in the past five years:—

Country.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900	1900–01.
United Kingdom	49·9	47·2	44·7	47·2	45·4
United States	39·4	43·0	45·1	43·0	43·0
Canada	8·2	7·1	7·1	7·1	8·4
Other countries	2·5	2·7	3·1	2·7	3·2

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

No mines have been worked in Jamaica for many years past. Several copper mining enterprises were embarked on in former times, but the quantity of ore extracted has not repaid the cost of working. Small quantities of gold, silver, platinum, and other metals have occasionally been found.

The principal manufactories of the Island are the sugar works and the rum distilleries attached to them. The coffee and cocoa curing works may also be regarded as factories. The Blue Book Returns for the year enumerated 80 other minor manufactories, as against 83 in 1899-1900 and 76 in 1898-1899. These establishments are of small importance, mostly employing but two or three hands. The greatest number of persons are employed by the Kingston match factory and by a factory in Saint Ann's for extracting essential oil from limes.

Amongst establishments of this class there were:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
Tanneries	26	24
Cigar and cigarette factories	18	19
Breweries	11	9
Aerated water factories	7	7

Ice, soap, bricks, cornmeal, and rice, logwood extracts, cocoanut oil and cocoanut butter are also manufactured to a small extent in this Island.

Fishing is carried on by more or less primitive methods for Island consumption, to a considerable extent off the coasts and to a moderate extent in the rivers. The river fisheries are preserved by a close season and by provisions of law forbidding the use of explosives and of nets with too fine a mesh.

(C.) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC GARDENS AND PLANTATIONS.

From Hope Gardens, its head station and principal distributing centre, the Botanic Department sold in 1900-1901 75,037 plants and 578 cocoa pods (for seed), and gave away 7,521 plants. The total number of plants distributed was 76,847 economic and 5,711 ornamental plants; total, 82,558 plants. In the previous year 115,839 economic and 16,265 ornamental plants, total, 132,104, were distributed from Hope. In 1899-1900, 2,605 plants, nearly all economic, were distributed from Castleton; and in 1900-1901, 4,825.

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

Budded citrus and pineapple plants and cocoa pods are occasionally obtained from planters for applicants, and it is now the general policy of the Department not to compete with private growers when they are able to supply demands for young plants. Sometimes applicants are referred direct to a private grower, in other cases, where the applicant lives a long way off from the grower, the Department obtains the plants or pods and packs and distributes them free of charge.

15,494 citrus plants were distributed during the year by the Department. Two or three years ago the demand was chiefly for citrus. The nursery work at Hope is regarded as the most important business of the Department, it being necessary to keep large numbers of plants in stock to meet possible demands. 90,000 plants are now available for distribution. Among economic plants, besides cocoa and citrus, rubber plants, nutmegs, coffee, kola, grape-vines, cane tops, timber trees, &c., were in demand in 1900-1901.

The gardens at Hope are made attractive to visitors by well-kept lawns and beds of ornamental plants. The new orchid house, erected during 1900-1901, is stocked mainly by interchanging Jamaica orchids with exotic species obtained from noted nurseries abroad. The Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies considers it to be the most beautiful collection in the West Indies. Whilst it has become necessary to keep down expenditure to the lowest figure consistent with efficiency, the Director points out that experts in the work undertaken by the Department are astonished at the results obtained with the amount available.

With a view to economy and to enable increased attention to be paid by the Department to the interests of agriculture, a rearrangement of the expenditure of the Department was effected this year on the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture. The grant for labour at Castleton Gardens was reduced by one-third, and the Superintendent of the Hill Gardens was transferred to Hope Gardens, and the former Superintendent of Hill Gardens, Mr. Cradwick, who has proved a very efficient agricultural instructor, has been enabled to devote his whole time to agricultural lectures and demonstrations throughout the Island. A larger appropriation was also thus made available for carrying on the agricultural experiment station at Hope Gordens, under the supervision of a committee subsidiary to the Board of Agriculture, with the Director of Public Gardens as Chairman. At this station elementary school teachers and training college students have received annual courses of instruction from Mr. Buttenshaw, the Imperial lecturer on agriculture, and Mr. T. J. Harris, of the Botanical Department.

1,784 copies of the Bulletin of this Department are distributed monthly, 1,244 of which are sent abroad, whilst other copies are sent to enquirers for information. In 1900 articles were published on agricultural principles, the chemical composition of

bananas and plantains, on fibres, fodder, medicinal, rubber and spice plants, diseases and insect pests of plants, manures, &c. Eleven works were obtained for the library.

The following are brief notes of the botanical work done with a view of providing the proper cultivation or treatment for exportation of the chief economic plants grown in the Colony.

Bananas.

A conference was held in December, 1900, and the discussion has resulted, the Director of Public Gardens considers, in some advance in knowledge and also in changes in methods of cultivation. Twenty-three varieties of banana are being experimentally cultivated at Hope Gardens. The planting of cocoa with bananas, to succeed them as a permanent crop, has been strongly advocated by the Board of Agriculture and by the officers of the Botanical Department, and the travelling agricultural instructor has induced many planters to adopt this culvation.

Citrus Fruit.

The best stocks for budding for navel oranges are found to be the rough lemon and sour oranges, and for grape fruit the sour lemon. Navel oranges and grape fruit in Jamaica thrive well in hot dry plains, but require systematic irrigation.

Grapes.

Grapes were cultivated largely for many years at Hope, but, though the vines grow vigorously, it has been found impossible there to rely on weather both warm enough and sufficiently dry for them to ripen. A few plants are now cultivated to give instruction in pruning, thinning bunches, &c. But grapes thrive and ripen well and have proved a profitable crop in and about Kingston, near the sea. Apprentices trained at Hope are sent out at the proper season, on application, to prune vines.

The black "Barbarossa" is found in Jamaica to be the heaviest cropper with the handsomest appearance.

Coffee.

561 plants of the Liberian variety were distributed. All the varieties are thriving. The agricultural instructor makes a point of instructing small settlers how to secure good full berries, an important point as, with the low prices current consequent on the immense production in Brazil, only fine coffee is worth cultivating.

Kola.

509 seedlings distributed. The Director of the Botanic Gardens, Cameroons, states that the variety of kola grown here (*Cola vera*) is the best edible variety, and the trees grown are much finer than any he has seen in West Africa.

Mangoes.

An experiment was made in shipping mangoes. They were picked when just full, handled very tenderly, packed about twelve together in small boxes with large holes for ventilation, and were successfully exported. Mango trees grow luxuriantly in Jamaica, and bear immense crops of this delicious fruit, which might, with care in shipping, be made an important article of export.

Nutmegs.

1,214 seedlings distributed. The important experiments in grafting with a view to the propagation of female trees were continued.

Pineapples.

The agricultural instructor advises that large tracts of land in Vere and St. Elizabeth appear to be suited for this fruit.

Rubber

2,704 plants were distributed; all the varieties are doing well.

Sugar cane.

Three and a quarter acres are planted out with 62 varieties from all parts of the world; 36 new varieties were obtained from Demerara and 8 from Barbados. 15,103 tops were distributed. There is a large demand now for new seedling canes.

Tobacco.

Four acres have been planted out for investigation into the proper methods of cultivation and curing, and the help of a Cuban tobacco planter secured for the latter.

(D.) LAND GRANTS, SALES, &c.

Grants.

Two patents of forfeited land, amounting together to 710 acres, were conveyed to the West India Improvement Company during the year under the provisions of the Railway Law 12 of 1889, making a total of 74,433 acres granted to this Company as part of the consideration for the extensions of the railway provided by them. Over 2,000 acres still remain to be granted.

The Company has not made any use whatever of the lands acquired by it and is now in liquidation, the interests in this land being in dispute between several parties. It is much to be regretted that so large a portion of the best lands in the Island should thus remain useless and unprofitable, but the Government are helpless in the matter, being bound by the provisions of the railway contract and of the law.

The Vigas plantation, amounting to 240 acres, which had been leased by the Directors of the Milk River Bath, was conveyed to the directors in fee simple, for the nominal consideration of a payment of ten shillings, to be held in trust for the purposes of the Bath.

Sales and Leases.

Sixteen parcels of Crown land, all of small extent, were sold during the year, exclusive of sales to small settlers, on the instalment purchase system. 66 leases of land were effected at a total rental of £200 19*s*; 56 of these were of small lots in the neighbourhood of Kingston.

Sales under the Instalment Purchase System.

588 applications to purchase land under the system were received, and 442 lots aggregating 3,879½ acres were surveyed and assigned. Since the year 1896 the Government has been selling Crown land in holdings not exceeding 50 acres to purchasers who are permitted to pay for the land and the cost of surveying by instalments distributed over ten years. If within this period the purchaser brings one-fifth of his holding into bearing in permanent crops, one-fifth of the purchase money is remitted. In the year 1900-1901 the Surveyor General reported that he experienced increasing difficulties in collecting the instalments of purchase money. Payment is generally delayed till the point of forfeiture is reached; this remissness imposes much trouble and cost on the Department. The ability of the settlers to pay for these lands in the moderate instalments required is, however, evidenced by the fact that out of 1,177 lots sold during the period of over four years in which the scheme has been in operation only 16 have had to be actually taken back owing to lot holders failing to pay their instalments. The greater part of this area consisted of abandoned estates recovered to the Crown by forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents, and occupied by squatters who paid rent only when absolutely forced to do so, and whose cultivation had no permanent value.

Forfeitable and Forfeited Lands.

Notifications have been published during the year of 20,669½ acres liable to forfeiture for non-payment of quit rent and land tax, while 10,969 acres have been finally forfeited.

The forfeitures last year aggregated 3,908½ acres.

(E.) SHIPPING.

There was a considerable and general decrease in the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Island during the year. The number of vessels entered decreased by 150, and the tonnage by 25,055 tons. This decrease was principally in visits of small vessels; sailing vessels were 113 fewer and steamers 37 fewer. This falling off was chiefly due to the decrease in the trade which sprang up with Cuba during and after the war in that Island.

The Island is merely a port of call for most of the lines of steamers which visit it, and the shrinkage therefore is of less moment to trade than it might appear at first sight.

The following is a comparative summary of vessels and tonnage for the past five years:—

Year.	Reported.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1896–97	Sailing, 343	66,447	361	70,557
	Steam, 688	672,955	694	678,946
	1,031	739,402	1,055	749,503
1897–98	Sailing, 348	70,238	346	71,388
	Steam, 712	710,623	709	708,695
	1,060	780,861	1,055	780,083
1898–99	Sailing, 445	71,058	457	76,218
	Steam, 975	839,391	972	841,052
	1,420	910,449	1,429	917,270
1899–1900	Sailing, 394	64,425	387	64,172
	Steam, 793	832,636	793	832,278
	1,187	897,061	1,182	896,450
1900–01	Sailing, 281	49,076	276	48,448
	Steam, 756	822,930	754	821,770
	1,037	872,006	1,030	870,218

There was a notable decrease in the entries of British tonnage at the close of the year, two lines of steamers being transferred to foreign flags, involving so far as this Island is concerned a loss to British tonnage of 160,456 tons distributed between 104 vessels. On the other hand, the inauguration of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service in February, 1901, is calculated to add to our inward British tonnage a minimum average of 49,270 tons devoted entirely to the interests of the Island.

The loss to British tonnage and gain to foreign for steamers during the year was:—

—	1899-1900.		1900-1901.		Loss.	Gain.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British steamers ...	1,427	570,317	315	452,613	117,704	—
Foreign steamers...	366	304,527	441	370,317	—	65,790

The average tonnage of British steam vessels considerably exceeded that of foreign, thus:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
	Tons.	Tons.
British steamers ...	1,236	1,437
Foreign steamers ...	832	839

The British sailing trade with Jamaica is mostly carried on by small inter-colonial vessels, many being from the Cayman Islands.

The greater number of foreign vessels trading with Jamaica are Norwegian and American. In 1900-1901 259 of the former entered, and 174 of the latter, against 221 and 150 respectively in 1899-1900.

III. LEGISLATION.

The following are the more important laws passed during the session of 1900 which were assented to during the year under review, viz.:—

Law 6 of 1900.—This law amends the Succession Duty Law 20 of 1898. It makes accrual by survivorship of joint property

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

a succession, provides for various cases of dispositions of property, &c.

Law 7 of 1900—The Criminal Law Appeal Law, 1900.—This law amends the law regulating appeals from the judgments of Resident Magistrates sitting in the Resident Magistrates' Court in criminal cases.

Law 8 of 1900—The Coast and Harbour Lights Law, 1900—vests lighthouses and harbour lights in the Colonial Secretary, and the care and management of lighthouses in the Director of Public Works and of harbour lights in the Marine Board. It provides for the payment by ships (except ships of war) and by pleasure yachts of dues not exceeding 3*d*. per ton registered tonnage, the rate to be fixed in Privy Council and the proceeds to be carried to General Revenue.

Law 11 of 1900 consolidates the law relating to coroners.

Law 13 of 1900.—This law constitutes the town of Port Royal, and the strip of land called the Palisadoes on which it is situated at the entrance to Kingston harbour, a separate parish, except for elections to the Legislative Council. It also constitutes a Parochial Board of five members, viz., the senior naval officer at Port Royal, chairman, an Admiralty or navy officer, and an army officer, both nominated members; and two members, elected by the townsfolk triennally. The War Department and Admiralty property are exempted from rates leviable by the Board in consideration of fixed annual contributions to the revenue of the parish.

Law 14 of 1900—The Town Police Law, 1900—enables the provisions of the Kingston Police Laws to be applied to such other towns not being in that parish as the Governor in Privy Council may think fit.

Law 16 of 1900 enables moneys received from Quit Rents, and standing to the credit of the Parochial Board Reserved Fund, to be applied to such purposes and in such amounts as may from time to time be authorised by resolution of the Legislative Council.

Law 17 of 1900—The Landlords' Bailiffs Law, 1900.—This law limits the privilege of appointment as landlords' bailiffs to such persons as may be recommended by two Justices of their parish, after certain enquiries by the chief police officer of the parish. The law also fixes a schedule of fees and enables rules to be made for regulating the bailiffs' duties.

Law 18 of 1900 provides for certain actions at law arising from contract or tort for amounts exceeding £15 or such other minimum amounts as the Governor in Privy Council may fix, which were formerly disposed of in the Resident Magistrates' Court for Kingston, being tried instead by a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, the object being to relieve the lower Court of such proportion of its civil work as would enable certain

economies to be effected in the establishment of Resident Magistrates' Courts.

Law 19 of 1900 enables the Director of Public Works to relieve any Parochial Board at its request and with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council, for such period as may by circumstances be determined, of the care and management of any system of water supply.

Law 21 of 1900—The Tax Collection Law, 1900.—This law changes the date of commencement of the tax collecting year from the 1st August to the 1st April, being the date of the commencement of the official financial year of the Government. It also enables assessed taxes, exceeding in amount eight shillings per annum, to be paid in four equal quarterly instalments, provided payment be made in the first month of the quarter concerned.

Law 23 of 1900 enables the Governor in Privy Council to make bye-laws for the regulation of land used for an artillery or rifle range, a school of gunnery or like purpose.

Law 26 of 1900—The Soap Excise Duty Law, 1900.—This law imposes an excise duty of tenpence per box of soap weighing 56 lbs., or less or more duty proportionately to the contents, and license duty of £1 for each soap manufactory; it also provides for the giving of returns, inspection of factories, &c. The import duty of 3*s.* 1*d.* per box of soap of 56 lbs., equal to about 50 per cent. of the cost of imported soap, acted as a high protective duty in favour of local manufacturers of soap who paid only the usual *ad valorem* duty of 16⅔ per cent. on raw materials.

Law 27 of 1900 repeals former Marine Board Laws and consolidates and amends their provisions.

Law 28 of 1900—The Tobacco Duty Law, 1900.—This law repeals the Cigar and Cigarettes Duty Law, 1897, except as to rights, liabilities, &c., incurred thereunder.

The requirements of the former law were found onerous and difficult to enforce in many respects. The new law applies only to manufacturers, and requires any person making cigars, whether for sale or not, to take out a license of 5*s.* per 10,000 cigars, or fractional part; and any person making cigarettes and pipe tobacco (except "rope" tobacco) to take out one of 5*s.* It also imposes a duty of 1*s.* per 100 cigars, 1*d.* per 100 cigarettes, and 6*d.* per lb. tobacco. The keeping of stock books, Government inspection, &c., is further provided for.

Law 30 of 1900 amends the Spirit License Law of 1896 by allowing the sale of spirits on passenger coastal steamers, and also relaxes the provisions of the former law as to the process for renewing license, obtaining transfers where licensed, dimensions of premises, &c. It adds a penalty for a retailer failing to keep a stock book.

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Law 33 of 1900 repeals former provisions of law regarding arbitration, provides for reference to a single arbitrator unless otherwise specified, for appointment by two arbitrators of an umpire, &c.

Law 34 of 1900—The Parochial Finance Law, 1900.—This law simplifies the keeping of parochial accounts, consolidates the Poor, Sanitary and General Purposes Funds and Rates into one general fund and rate for each parish, and allows of separate local rates being levied for purposes benefitting a particular town or district of any parish.

Law 35 of 1900 enables Parochial Boards to appoint inspectors of food offered for sale, and makes better provision for preventing the sale of unwholesome food.

Law 36 of 1900 enables the Governor to borrow from the Imperial Treasury, to meet the deficit in the Colony's assets, a sum or sums not exceeding in all £150,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Loans Act, 1899.

Law 37 of 1900 provides for meeting from Jamaica funds one half of the subsidy payable by this Government to the contractors for the direct steamer service with the United Kingdom.

Laws passed during the Session of 1901, *before the* 31*st March.*

Law 1 of 1901—The Jamaica Railway Vesting Law, 1901.—The law confirms the First Mortgage Bondholders of the Jamaica railway in their position as holders of Inscribed Stock, and prescribes the steps to be taken for securing the payment of interest due to them. It formally vests the railway in the Government, which assumes liabilities of the railway company with those of the trustees of First Mortgage Bondholders and releases the trustees absolutely.

Law 2 of 1901 places constables on probation for three months after enlistment, so as to enable their services, when not likely to be useful, to be dispensed with, instead of only for misconduct or on a medical certificate as in the former law.

Law 4 of 1901 repeals the Patent Law so far as it makes forfeitable patent rights not brought into operation within two years.

Law 5 of 1901.—As calcium carbide was coming into use for lighting purposes, this law brings the substance, as a dangerous explosive, into a similar category to petroleum as to its storage and sale, requires licenses to be taken out, &c.

Law 6 of 1901 appropriates quit rents and produce protection duties to general revenue, except so far as proceeds of quit rents are required to pay moieties of the salaries of superintendents of Parochial Boards.

Law 7 of 1901 makes persons in possession of unoccupied houses in Kingston liable to a rate of 9½*d.* in the pound in 1900-1901, and in subsequent years to a rate not to exceed one-fourth of the general rate (*see* under Law 34 of 1900).

Law 9 of 1901—The Land Tax Law, 1901—provides additional revenue by imposing in place of those formerly leviable under various laws a new sliding scale of higher rates, generally based approximately on the different values estimated from the cutivation of different products, and ranging from one shilling per acre for banana, cane land, &c., to one halfpenny per acre on woodland and ruinate. It also increases generally the taxes on holdings above five acres.

Law 10 of 1901 consolidates former assessment laws applicable to Kingston and amends them by providing for the appointment of a committee consisting of three City Councillors appointed by the Mayor and three members of the Kingston General Commission, with an independent resident of Kingston appointed by the Governor. The committee's functions are to investigate into and supervise valuations made by assessors appointed by them.

Law 12 of 1901—The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901.—The high duty on imported matches had seriously affected imports of matches and receipts from Customs duty thereon to the profit of local manufacturers. To remedy this while allowing a fair profit to these manufacturers, Law 12 of 1901 imposes a duty of 3*d.* on every gross of boxes of matches manufactured in the Island containing 50 sticks or less, and the payment of a license duty of £1 in respect of each manufactory.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A.) Elementary Schools.

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance at Inspection.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage on Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
										£
1899–1900	746	776	98,598	61,219	51,470	62·08	187	357	219	47,240
1900–1901	720	717	86,491	50,978	47,441	58·94	198	326	185	42,482

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

The above table shows decreases under all heads except that of the first class schools, whose increase in number out of a considerably diminished number of schools shows the tendency of the economies which have been put into force during the period. The same tendency was shown in 1899-1900 as compared with 1898-1899; the percentage of first class schools continues to increase, and that of third class schools to diminish, through the closing or amalgamation of the superfluous or inefficient, whilst that of the second class remains stationary.

A new Code was brought into force during the year, but most of the examinations were held under the provisions of the former Code. The results of the new Code cannot begin to be tested generally till next year, but improvement is already apparent in the best schools, which have made determined efforts to meet the requirements of the new Code. The good increase in first class schools, which now exceed for the first time the lowest class, shows apparently that the many changes in their work introduced by the Code have not had even a temporarily disorganising effect.

The closing and amalgamation of inefficient schools, together with the restriction of the age limit and the adoption of a stricter method of keeping the attendance register, are stated as the causes of the decrease in the number of names in the books. It is satisfactory that the result of amalgamations has generally been decidedly increased efficiency.

The falling off in average attendance since October 1st, 1899, which began when the new age limit came into force, excluding children below six years of age (except in a few infant schools able to teach by Kindergarten methods), has been somewhat arrested this year, an improvement being especially observable during the last six months. Parents in districts where schools had been closed or amalgamated at first refused to send their children to a school a little further away than the one they had been accustomed to, but are now beginning to see the unwisdom of this refusal.

With a diminution in the number of schools and teachers, the amount of the grants-in-aid diminished considerably, but the increase in population and continued improvement in the quality of schools will naturally, unless further closings and amalgamations of schools are deemed necessary for financial reasons, lead to a gradual rise in the total amount of these grants. Expenditure in aid of voluntary training colleges was reduced from £3,470 in 1899-1900 to £2,660 in 1900-1901. The diminution in the grants to training colleges and to elementary schools resulted in a decreased expenditure under the head of Education from £60,000 in 1899-1900 to £55,236 in 1900-1901.

Training Colleges.

At the training college examinations held in December, 1900, 130 students and 24 teachers presented themselves. 111 of the

former passed, 29 with honours. Of the teachers 13 passed, none with honours. The percentage of students who passed was 85·4, as against 91·3 in 1899-1900. The Superintending Inspector of Schools explains that the proportion last year was an exceptionally high one. 65 per cent. of the teachers passed, a number much above the average. The number of teachers who present themselves for examination is rapidly increasing, *e.g.*, 9 in 1898-1899, 18 in 1899-1900, and 24 in 1900-1901.

In August, 1900, a course of lectures on agriculture was given to teachers at the Jamaica High School, 30 of whom were boarded and lodged there for three weeks. These teachers had daily instruction and practice in elementary agricultural processes at Hope Gardens under the supervision of the officers of the Station, and theoretical instruction from the agricultural lecturer, whose services are paid for by the Imperial Government. Besides these lectures on agriculture in the morning by Mr. Buttenshaw, in the afternoon lectures on cognate subjects, such as the preparation of produce for the market, were given by gentlemen specially qualified to deal with them. Some results from these lectures are already showing themselves, as the examiner at the training college examinations held four months later noted that the papers on agriculture showed greatly increased intelligence and grasp of the subject. Papers on domestic ecomomy also showed marked improvement. Manual training was taught at the Mico College with very satisfactory results, while practice-teaching and reading at training colleges generally also showed improvement.

At the examinations of pupil teachers and of volunteer candidates for trade scholarships, for admission to training colleges and for exhibitions at other schools, 415 pupil teachers presented themselves, of whom 250 passed, as against 480 last year with 259 passes, the percentage of passes being 60·2 against 53·9 last year. 469 volunteer candidates presented themselves, of whom 210 passed, as against 662 last year with 190 passes, the percentages being 42·7 in this and 28·7 in the previous year. While these figures show, as did those of 1898-1899, the marked inferiority of the volunteer candidates compared with the pupil teachers, the figures for the three years evidence a more rapid improvement in the former class, due in some measure, the Superintending Inspector of Schools considers, to the raising of the admission fee to the volunteer examination, but also to the taking of greater pains in the preparation of candidates.

Elementary Schools.

Progress or otherwise in these schools may be briefly summarised as follows from the reports of the inspectors.

Reading and recitation are still in general very unsatisfactory, though the use of the tropical readers, which convey information about matters of daily interest, and the blackboard exercises and methods of teaching junior standards inculcated in the new Code have had good effects. More care is shown in writing and written composition, the improvement in the latter being largely due to the new Code. But the results are still disappointing. Some improvement is shown in writing, but little in mental arithmetic, or in sums requiring thought instead of mere knowledge of rule.

In elementary science, of which agriculture forms a considerable part of the teaching, little improvement is shown, though there is an increased tendency in teachers to use practical illustrations and simple experiments which must in the long run be of benefit.

Drawing shows generally a want of accuracy, though one inspector notes improvement under this head.

Needlework.

The reduction in the grant has led to sewing, in some of the schools without a female teacher, being no longer taught.

School appliances show improvement.

The school accommodation provided is sufficient in most places for the average attendance. A number of schools have raised by subscription the amount necessary to entitle them to grants for school libraries.

The services of a trained Kindergarten teacher were secured during the year at the Kingston Board School for the infant department, and a number of teachers have been instructed in Kindergarten methods.

Agricultural Grants.

The work done at some of the schools obtaining these, and teaching agriculture practically in school plots by raising vegetables, &c., is very satisfactory, but the expenditure generally exceeds the income from the Governments grants and sales of produce, and as manager or teacher must meet the deficiency, the number of these schools does not tend to increase.

The teaching staff is still, in the opinion of the Superintending Inspector, inadequate both in number and quality. The employment of additional women teachers continues to increase in favour, and the inspectors, as in previous years, comment favourably upon the results.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS under the REGULATION of the JAMAICA SCHOOLS COMMISSION.

School.	Locality.	Students 31st March, 1901.		Infants.	Results at Cambridge Local Examinations, 1900.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Entered.	Passed.	Honours.
Jamaica High School.	St. Andrew...	59	—	—	31	31	17
Wolmers, Boys	Kingston ...	105	—	—	29	25	11
Wolmers, Girls	Do. ...	—	152	—	37	26	7
Titchfield Higher Grade.	Port Antonio	14	—	—	—	—	—
Titchfield Elementary.	Do.	122	108	86	—	—	—
Ruseas, Boys ...	Lucea ...	25	—	—	4	1	—
Ruseas, Girls ...	Do. ...	—	14	—	—	—	—
Mannings, Boys	Savanna la Mar	35	—	—	8	6	—
Mannings, Girls	Do.	—	31	—	12	6	—
Munro and Dickenson's—Boys ...	Potsdam, St. Elizabeth.	58	—	—	14	14	3
Girls ...	Hampton, St. Elizabeth.	—	64	—	17	15	3
Middle Grade...	Manchester...	25	—	—	9	5	—
Vere Elementary Schools (8).	Vere District, Clarendon.	717 (Boys and Girls).	—	—	—	—	—
Beckford and Smiths.	Spanish Town	24	—	—	1	1	—

University College, attached to the Jamaica High School, provides facilities for local study for degrees in arts and science at the London University. The work of the endowed secondary schools throughout the Island is tested annually under the Cambridge University local examination scheme.

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

The results of the examination held in December, 1900, were satisfactory for nearly all the schools and highly creditable in the case of the Jamaica High School, Wolmers School, and the schools of the Munro and Dickenson's Trust. One of the High School students, Mr. J. C. Sharp, was placed first in the senior list among all the candidates from England and the Colonies. He gained six marks of distinction, and the High School 20 of such marks in all. Miss C. G. Pearman, the best candidate at the local examination among the senior girl students, gained not only the Cambridge University prize of £12, but also a scholarship of the value of £30 a year for three years at Girton College.

Provision is made at the High School for the practical training of scholars in agricultural science at the Government Botanic Gardens and agricultural experiment station, adjoining the school premises.

The Government agricultural lecturer, Mr. Buttenshaw, devoted during the year a few hours weekly to teaching agriculture to High School boys, and also gave lectures at University College to boys from any school, and to other students.

Drawing was added to the subjects at the High School. Wolmers School entered, for the first time, for the examinations of the Royal Drawing Society, with 69 candidates, of whom 52 passed, 19 with honours.

An examination of Titchfield Higher Grade School was conducted by an inspector of schools, who reported very favourably but recommended certain changes in the curriculum, rendering it more "commercial" than "classical." These recommendations were adopted by the Schools Commission. The curriculum of the Titchfield Elementary School was also reorganised in accordance with the inspector of schools' recommendation.

New schemes have been adopted for the Wolmers, Mannings, and Manchester and Vere Trust Schools. On the recommendation of the Schools Commission, the winner of the Jamaica Scholarship, hitherto a £200 scholarship, tenable for three years, has been allowed to elect in future to receive either £150 for four years or £120 for five years.

Shortwood Training College for Female Elementary School Teachers.

This College is now managed by a Board of Governors, who receive a Government grant of £1,200 a year. There were 30 students in training throughout the year, all of whom presented themselves for examination in December; 27 passed, 7 with honours.

The Manual Training School at Hanover Street, Kingston, which has been formally placed this year under the Board of Education, has classes in woodwork for boys, which are open to

other schools, and also for teachers. The girls' department of the school was closed at the end of 1900, as funds did not permit of work suitable for girls being arranged for. Kindergarten work is also taught.

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

Average number 29, as against 23 last year. A reduction in the scale of fees largely accounts for the increase. This school was very favourably reported on on examination.

In addition to the above schools and colleges are the Mico, St. Josephs, and Bethlehem Training Colleges for teachers, which are aided by Government grants, and numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. 23 of the more prominent are noted in the Blue Book Return on Education.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The following summary gives the principal particulars regarding the Industrial Schools of the Colony for the year under review as compared with the preceding :—

—	Under control of Government, with Board of Visitors (advisory).		Under control of the Roman Catholic Church.		Under control of Church of England.	Total Boys in Industrial Schools.	Total Girls in Industrial Schools.	Total Industrial School Children.
	Hope (Boys).	Shortwood (Girls).	Alpha Cottage.		Belmont (Girls).			
			Boys.	Girls.				
Inmates :—								
31st March, 1900... ...	39	35	40	30	6	79	71	150
31st March, 1901... ...	40	31	39	33	10	79	74	153
Health	Good.	Good, except for epidemic of influenza.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Good.	—	—	—
Cost per child	10·792*d.* per diem.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

At Hope School the older boys receive practical training in cultivation, nursery garden routine, application of insecticides, &c., and instruction in agriculture from the Superintendent of Hope Gardens. Younger boys attend to domestic duties and keep grounds and roads in order. Twelve of the oldest boys are constantly employed at the Hope Experiment Station. Of six boys discharged as time expired, five are now employed at the public gardens and one by an employer to whom he had been previously licensed. The boys at Alpha Cottage do field and garden work, also attend to horses and poultry, cook, and paint and colour-wash the buildings. The girls at Alpha Cottage also do garden

work four hours daily, wash, make and repair clothes, cook, bake, &c. Girls at Belmont in addition to these duties make hats, baskets, brooms, and mats. Basket-making is also carried on at Shortwood, with other elementary industries.

Elementary education is imparted at each school. The marks gained are only reported for Alpha Cottage and Belmont, showing that these schools were graded as first class. Religious instruction is given at all.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

(1.) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Year.	Number refused admission for want of room, &c.	Indoor Patients.								Outdoor Patients.		
		Number treated.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not relieved.	Deaths and percentage to cases.	In hospital at end of year.	Operations.	Deaths, persons operated on, and percentage.	Number of poor treated.	Casualties attended to.	Prescriptions dispensed.
1898–1899...	4,419	3,758	2,420	771	106	272 7·23	189	1,924	10 ·52	864	8,962	22,264
1899–1900...	3,392	3,448	2,504	375	124	257 7·45	190	1,062	16 1·5	751	6,768	15,504
1900–1901...	3,170	3,142	2,258	297	132	258 8·21	197	1,041	18 1·7	794	5,141	11,618

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

The above table shows that the services rendered by the hospital have been reduced during the three years, both as regards indoor and outdoor patients, and that the death rate among all patients and among patients operated on has increased, in the latter case considerably. This is owing to the more rigorous exclusion of other than urgent cases. Many patients are received in a moribund condition. Of the 258 deaths in 1900-1901, 70 occurred within 72 hours after admission. The study of economy has not diminished the efficiency of the treatment of those admitted, but the cases treated were on the whole of a more serious nature than in the previous year.

The most noteworthy diseases treated during the year were:—

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Enteric fever ...	28	9	Very severe type.
Tubercle	69	27	Death rate much higher than last year.
Malarial fevers ...	561	29	Severer type than last year and higher mortality.
Influenza	26	1	Mild type.
Venereal	200	5	

Cases of venereal disease treated were far more numerous than last year, those of the other diseases named considerably less, but generally of a severer type. The Superintending Medical Officer attributes the marked decrease in enteric fever to the improved sanitary condition of Kingston, and considers that the lessening of malarial fever was influenced by the small rainfall.

The daily average of beds occupied during 1900-1901 was 201. Whilst the extension of the hospital accommodation must for the present be delayed from want of funds, patients have now, in some cases, the Superintending Medical Officer reports, to be discharged before they are thoroughly convalescent so as to make room for the more pressing cases.

The financial statistics for the three years ended 31st March, 1901, given below show a considerable increase over the preceding year in amounts received from paying patients, a slight decrease in total expenditure after deducting these amounts, and a slight increase in the annual cost of each patient.

That cost is, however, appreciably less than in 1898-1899, and markedly less than in 1897-1898, when it was £43 0*s.* 2¾*d.*, or £5 15*s.* 11¾*d.* more per patient annually.

Financial Return—Public Hospital, Kingston.

Return showing the cost of each patient after deducting the several amounts passed to the credit of the hospital for the years ending 31st March, 1899, 1900, and 1901 :—

Year.	Daily number of beds.	Gross expenditure for the year.	Amount of dues paid into the Treasury.	Actual expenditure after deducting amounts passed to credit of the hospital.	Annual cost of each patient.	Daily cost of each patient.	Number of patients treated.	Average cost of each patient treated per annum after deducting amounts passed to credit of the hospital.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1898–1899... ...	205	8,375 13 5½	274 14 5	8,100 19 0½	39 10 4	0 2 1¾	3,758	2 3 1¼
1899–1900... ...	203	7,753 0 0	205 16 2	7,547 3 10	37 3 6¾	0 2 0¼	3,448	2 3 9
1900–1901... ...	201	7,846 7 11	366 10 10	7,479 17 1	37 4 3	0 2 0½	3,142	2 7 7¼

(2.) *Maternity Hospital, Kingston.*

The following table gives particulars other than financial of this hospital for the year 1900-1901, compared with the two preceding years:—

Year.	Patients.			Infants.		Pupil Nurses.	
	Number Admitted.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Operations.	Number of Births.	Number of Still-born.	Entered.	Completed Terms.
1898–1899	500	7	60	502	60	11	10
1899–1900	580	9	—	560	66	10	9
1900–1901	483	9	42	468	42	8	9

The ages of patients admitted ranged from 14 years to 40, about one-fifth of the number being under 20 years. The medical officer of the institution calls attention to the small average size of most of the infants at birth, the greater number weighing less than seven pounds. Poverty of physique appears to be indicated as prevailing among those who avail themselves of the Maternity Hospital.

(3.) *Public General Hospitals.*

There were 12,215 admissions to Public General Hospitals during 1900-1901, classified as follows:—

Indentured immigrants	8,257
Poor persons admitted without charge	3,132
Constables	553
Paupers	38
Paying patients	135
	12,115

The out-patients were 19,426, of whom 15,787 were indigent poor, the remainder being constables and prisoners. 75 midwifery cases were also treated.

It will be seen that East Indian immigrants contributed two-thirds of the cases admitted. The present Immigration Law requires an immigrant to be either at work or in hospital, otherwise many might be treated as out-patients. Further, about 75 per cent. of the immigrants are stated to pass through the

hospitals within the first year of their indenture, when they are becoming acclimatised.

The deaths in the hospitals were only 299, being 2·46 of the 12,215 admissions. The highest rate was 6·77 at May Pen, and the lowest 1·06 at Lionel Town Hospital. There were 1,162 operations, the mortality rate being only ·66. 507 beds were occupied in the 19 hospitals, an average of 26 beds to each. Admissions are restricted owing to the financial state of the Colony, and there is space for many more patients than are admitted.

The total expenditure on the hospitals for the year (not including the salaries of the district medical officers who control them) was £12,986, being on an average from £25 to £26 for each bed.

The most prevalent diseases were fevers, skin affections, venereal and other diseases of the urinary and generative system, diseases of the digestive system, local injuries, and rheumatic and respiratory affections. Of 12,637 cases recorded as treated, malarial fevers, mostly of a mild character, numbered no less than 4,179, and skin affections 2,334, the latter largely occurring among East Indian patients. The venereal cases treated, 449 in number, are reported to be unfortunately only a fraction of the whole number requiring treatment. In these cases, as also in rheumatic affections (425 hospital cases), sufferers too frequently neglect to seek admission till their ailments have become chronic.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

(1.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

Year.	Number of Persons under Treatment during the Year.	Number in Asylum on 31st March.	Average Number Resident.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged.	Recovered.	Died.
1898–1899	953	767	775	168	123	119	63
1899–1900	956	819	789	189	69	64	68
1900–1901	1,019	868	844	92	92	92	59

Notwithstanding the increase in admissions and in the average number in residence, the deaths were less than in either of the two preceding years, and the number of recoveries amongst those admitted greater in proportion. The death-rate, 5·79 per cent., was lower than that of last year, 7 per cent. (which is approximately the rate in England), and still lower than the average of the last ten years, 7·22 per cent.

The increase in the number of persons treated has been marked of late years; twenty-five years ago (1876–77) the number was 429, as against 1,019 in 1900–01, and 10 years ago (1891–92) it was 704.

The following are the financial particulars for the three years under comparison:—

Year.	Expenditure.				Minor Funds.	Weekly Cost per Head.
	Met from Poor Rates.	Met by Paying Patients.	Met from General Revenue.	Total Expenditure.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898–1899...	11,767 0 9	359 10 8	1,524 12 8	13,651 4 1	1,356 16 5½	0 6 7
1899–1900...	11,514 19 3	454 9 1	1,590 1 9	13,559 10 1	1,380 1 4	0 6 4
1900–1901...	12,333 1 8½	525 8 5	1,510 9 6	14,368 19 7½	1,369 19 2½	0 6 3

The total expenditure in 1900–1901 is necessarily greater owing to the considerable increase of 63 patients treated over the number last year, but the cost per head has diminished in each of the three years under comparison.

(2.) *Lepers' Home.*

Year.	Admissions.	Discharged and Absconded.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 100.	Remaining at end of Year.	Re-admission. of Lepers.
1898–1899	22	11	20	13·6	118	5
1899–1900	30	5	20	13·5	123	6
1900–1901	22	8	15	10·3	122	1

Of the admissions 2, 3, and 3 in each year respectively were non-lepers.

That the care and treatment of the lepers proper is not becoming less successful would appear from the fact that the average death-rate of the five years 1890-1896 was 12·3 per cent., while that of the period 1896-1901 was 11·77 per cent. The death-rate in 1900-1901, 10 per cent., was lower than in any of the ten years, except 1895-1896 and 1897-1898, when it was 8·62 and 8·96 respectively.

Four persons were discharged during the year, two being found to be non-lepers, and two because bond had been given for their proper treatment in private seclusion. Four persons absconded.

The Medical Superintendent notes that the number of admissions is decreasing yearly; he considers there is not much concealment of the disease among the poorer classes, and that the evidence at hand shows a steady decrease in the disease in this community due to the institution of the Lepers' Home, and, in his opinion, increasing knowledge of sanitary matters among the peasantry.

Treatment by subcutaneous injections of a soluble salt of mercury, of anti-strepto-coccic serum or of chaulmoogra oil has been tried with beneficial results, but the greatest obstacle to the effectual treatment of leprosy has been that the afflicted as a rule do not seek admission until the disease is far advanced.

(C.) POOR HOUSES AND POOR RELIEF.

The following statement shows the principal pauper statistics for the year 1900-1901 as compared with 1899-1900 :—

Year.	Estimated population.	Registered poor, casual poor, and orphans and deserted children.	Number of paupers.			Percentage of paupers to population.	Pauper expenditure, excluding charges for lunatics and industrial school children.	Charge per head of population.	Cost of each pauper for year.	Ratio of paupers to population.
			Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.					
							£	d.	£ s. d.	
1899–1900 ...	745,100	7,198	3,723	811	4,534	·61	24,948	8·04	5 10 0	1:164
1900–1901 ...	758,000	7,465	3,887	806	4,693	·62	26,260	8·31	5 11 9	1:161

Particulars for the several parishes for the year 1900–1901.

Parish.	Estimated population.	Registered poor, casual poor, and orphans and deserted children.	Number of paupers.			Percentage of paupers to population of parish.	Ratio of paupers to population of parish.	Pauper expenditure, excluding charges for lunatics and industrial school children.	Charge per head of population of parish.	Cost of each pauper during the year.
			Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.					
									s. d.	£ s. d.
Kingston (including Pt. Royal).	57,000	1,483	987	206	1,193	2·1	1:48	6,828	2 4·9	5 14 3½

St. Andrew...	45,000	432	194	80	274	·61	1:164	1,537	8	5 12 0
St. Thomas...	38,000	322	125	54	179	·46	1:212	1,377	8·7	7 13 10¼
Portland ...	38,000	334	169	27	196	·52	1:194	1,302	8·2	6 12 10¼
St. Mary ...	51,000	215	79	72	151	·3	1:337	1,317	6·2	8 14 5¼
St. Ann ...	64,000	349	199	47	246	·38	1:260	1,568	5·9	6 7 6¼
Trelawny ...	37,000	395	187	30	217	·59	1:170	1,131	7·3	5 4 2¾
St. James ...	41,000	590	232	13	245	·6	1:167	1,260	7	5 2 10¼
Hanover ...	38,000	393	229	40	269	·71	1:141	1,092	7	4 0 1½
Westmoreland	63,000	576	259	39	298	·47	1:211	1,493	5·7	5 0 0¼
St. Elizabeth	74,000	341	150	31	181	·24	1:408	1,130	3·7	6 4 10¼
Manchester...	66,000	891	511	—	511	·77	1:129	1,790	6·2	3 6 10½
Clarendon ...	68,000	477	220	64	284	·42	1:239	1,665	5·9	5 17 3
St. Catherine	70,000	670	344	103	447	·57	1:174	2,801	8·6	6 5 3¾

The numbers of registered poor, &c., and of paupers, increased in 1900–01, both positively and in proportion to population. The percentage of paupers, 6·2 per 1,000, instead of 6·1 in 1899–00, was nevertheless below the average, 6·36, for the five years ended 31st March, 1901.

Expenditure on paupers was £26,260 against £24,948 in the previous year, and showed a slightly increased charge per head of population and greater cost of each pauper.

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

The table giving details in respect to the several parishes shows wide differences in the ratio of paupers to population and in relative cost. The ratio varies from 1 in 48 in Kingston to 1 in 408 in St. Elizabeth. This parish, with St. Mary, where the ratio is 1 in 337, has the lowest number of paupers to support, but each spends more per head than any of the others. Per head of population the charge is lowest in St. Elizabeth, viz., 3·7*d.*, and highest in Kingston, 2*s.* 4·9*d.*

In Kingston the increase of pauperism is a serious social and economic problem. The estimated population is about one-thirteenth that of the Island, but the number of paupers and expenditure thereon is about one-fourth of the totals for the Island. The number has doubled within the last fourteen to fifteen years from 580 on 1st January, 1887, to 1,195 on 1st April, 1901. In the other thirteen parishes on the contrary, notwithstanding the increase of population, the aggregate number of paupers had decreased during the same period from 3,984 to 3,498.

Notwithstanding certain instances in which defective pauper administration was brought to light by the Board of Supervision, there is good reason to believe that the majority of the Parochial Boards are successfully endeavouring to improve their administration of poor relief and to reduce its cost to the community as far as possible.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

Stony Hill Reformatory.

—	31st March, 1900.	31st March, 1901.	1899–00.	1900–01.
Boys in reformatory section	97	100		
Girls in reformatory section	9	15		
Boys in industrial school	60	49		
	166	164	166	164
Daily average number of inmates			163	165
Discharged (all boys)			42	43
Percentage of boys discharged during the three years ended respectively 31st March, 1900, and 31st March, 1901, who were reconvicted.			4·54	4·66
Died			2	1

Stony Hill Reformatory—continued.

—	1899–1900.	1900–1901.	1899–1900.	1900–1901.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	—	—	3,102 10 7	2,945 1 9
Less earning by labour and sale of articles.	325 19 2	314 11 1	—	—
Reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children.	992 10 4	817 8 5	—	—
Total	1,318 9 6	1,131 19 6		
Net cost to general revenue			1,784 1 1	1,813 2 3
Valuation of work bringing in no return in money			907 0 1	931 13 10
Gross cost per head, per diem			1*s.* 0·51*d*	11·73*d.*
Gross cost of superintendence and instruction in school, trades, &c., per head, per diem.			5·77*d.*	5·77*d.*
Gross cost of diet per head, per diem			3·08*d.*	3·99*d.*
Average earnings of each boy			6 18 0¾	6 12 3

Four-fifths of the inmates are of ages between 12 and 16.

The boys were employed as usual in gardening and field work, also as carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, tailors, and bakers, the girls in washing, mending, and sewing. There are 33 acres of land under cultivation by the boys.

The health of the inmates was good. Twenty cases of mild influenza occurred in April, 1900. There was one death from cerebral degeneration.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The following table shows a comparative statement of the chief transactions of the Government Savings Bank during the past five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, including Interest.		Amount of Withdrawals.	
		Government.	Ordinary.	Government.	Ordinary.
		£	£	£	£
1896–97...	29,719	35,923	204,613	25,284	209,178
1897–98...	30,660	45,026	183,759	34,023	195,751
1898–99...	31,870	47,084	189,480	29,345	183,344
1899–00...	32,880	34,302	195,141	59,921	194,744
1900–01...	33,659	42,420	177,964	40,041	198,135
		204,755	950,957	188,614	981,152
		1,155,712		1,169,766	

The number of ordinary deposit accounts in 1900-1901 was 33,177. The table shows that, while depositors have increased steadily in number, deposits show a tendency to decline; while in three of the five years ordinary withdrawals exceed ordinary deposits, the total of withdrawals, £981,152, exceeding the total of deposits (together with interest), £950,957, by £30,195.

The fact that before 1897 interest at the rate of 3 per cent. was allowed whereas only 2½ per cent. has since been given, may partly explain this decrease.

The deposits, without interest, were less in 1900-1901 than in any year since 1888-1889 inclusive, while withdrawals were more than in any previous year. Deposits which had been generally rising in amount up to 1895-1896, shrank markedly in 1896-1897, concurrently with a marked decline in the value of exports in that year. The number of private depositors of small sums apparently fell in 1897-1898, not from a decline in deposits, the total of which exceeded those of 1896-1897, but from the transfer of nearly 3,000 accounts, chiefly of small sums which had not been operated on for years, to the "Suspense Ledger."

The number rose again in the following year and has since increased steadily, as the following table shows, notwithstanding a steady decrease in deposits as shown in the previous table:—

Year.	Private Deposits.			Government Deposits.	Total.
	£5 and under.	Above £5.	Suspense Ledger.		
1896–97... ...	21,402	7,260	673	384	29,719
1897–98... ...	19,518	7,066	3,641	435	30,660
1898–99... ...	20,523	7,162	3,707	478	31,970
1899–00... ...	21,485	7,264	3,641	470	32,860
1900–01... ...	22,471	7,113	3,593	482	33,659

It may be remarked on comparing increase of deposits of £5 and under with decrease of the total sum deposited (*see* previous table) that the poorest class in this Colony have practically no means of investing their savings except in the Savings Bank, and to a smaller extent in building societies (whose operations are now considerably less than a few years ago), and in Friendly Societies. This class will apparently continue to make as much use as formerly of the Savings Bank. An analysis of a classified return of deposits during ten years, furnished in the report of the manager of the Savings Bank for 1900-1901, shows further that, along with a steady increase in the number of small deposits, there is no marked decrease of larger ones, indeed there is an increase in deposits ranging between certain amounts until those exceeding £200 are reached.

There has, however, in the five years under comparison been a decrease in number of most of the accounts above £5, and in all classes of accounts above £50.

Deposits increased during the year only in the parishes of Clarendon and St. Andrew, and decreased in the other twelve parishes, principally in Kingston (among "ordinary" deposits). There were heavy decreases also in Westmoreland, Portland, St. Elizabeth, and St. Thomas, in the order named.

The assets of the bank on the 31st March, 1901, were £450,868, as against £468,616 on the 31st March, 1900, a decrease of £17,748. The decrease in 1900 compared with 1899 was £25,179.

These assets were distributed in the two years as follows:—

Securities held.	1899-1900.	1900-01.
	£	£
Consols, 2¾ per cent.	20,405	20,405
Inscribed Stock	227,201	231,601
Debentures	204,328	176,128
	£451,934	£428,134
Government of Jamaica	16,367	22,654
Cash in hand	315	80
Total	£468,616	£450,868

The uninvested amount (Government of Jamaica and cash in hand) for which the Treasurer was accountable was, it will be seen, about 5 per cent. of the total.

After payment of interest to depositors and the expense of management for the year, there remained a balance of £3,434 profit to be carried to General Revenue, as against £2,997 in the previous year. The profits so earned during the 31 years of the bank's existence have been £37,594.

There were 13 branches of the Savings Bank open during the year, the same number as in 1899-1900. Fifteen sub-branches were open on the 31st March, 1901, six having to be closed during the year. The branches are open daily, and also those sub-branches which are worked by officers of the Postal and Telegraph Department.

Other sub-branches are opened one or more days in the week.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police on the 31st March, 1901, was 775, two less than on the corresponding date in the preceding year; the actual strength 770, as in the preceding year. There were also 761 district constables, making an effective strength for both branches of the force of 1,531, as against 1,521 on the 31st March, 1900.

The principal duties, besides patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the Constabulary during the past five years are indicated in the following return :—

—	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	8,351	7,330	7,183	8,669	7,504
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,780	1,629	1,264	1,375	1,557
Number of search warrants executed	142	148	188	119	151
Number of persons summoned	19,537	17,785	17,084	20,248	18,087
Number of persons subpœnaed	27,161	27,161	25,784	26,073	29,668
Number of prisoners escorted	11,542	12,081	8,912	8,175	9,053
Number of seizures under revenue laws	309	854	605	745	908
Number of post-mortem investigations ordered	641	703	527	550	395

By means of systematic patrolling of sugar estates and the outlying districts of country parishes, many offences against the Rum Duty Law have been detected, often at great risk, and sometimes injury to the constables affecting arrests. The detective force has also done excellent work, though numerically not strong enough to cope fully with the crime of the Island. In Kingston, for example, with 55 miles of streets, the available force of detectives and other constables is only sufficient to maintain proper supervision over 10 miles of streets, patrolling by mounted orderlies having to take the place in the suburbs of regular beat duty. In the present state of the public finances, however, no increase in the strength can be provided for. A good report is given of the conduct and discipline of the force.

(B.) PRISONS.

—	Year ended 31st March.					
	1900.			1901.		
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	1,088			1,265		
Number on last day of year	1,237			1,233		
Commitments—						
To prisons	3,624			4,237		
To lock-ups	932			1,021		
Total	4,556			5,258		
Reconvictions	1,305			1,548		
Deaths	34			58		
Executions	—			2		
FINANCIAL.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross expenditure	18,340	18	8½	18,803	7	3¼
Gross earnings in cash	4,584	15	0½	4,106	4	8
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	13,756	3	8	14,697	2	7¼
Cost per prisoner	12	12	10¼	11	12	4¼
Estimated value of labour yielding no pecuniary return.	8,499	8	9½	8,849	19	11
Estimated value of bricks, lime, &c., manufactured and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,847	7	8	3,237	7	7½

The prisoners in custody on the 31st March, 1901, were 1,233, exclusive of those in local lock-ups. This number was 103 in excess of the average (1,130) on the last day of the five years ended on 31st March, 1901.

2. The state of health at the General Penitentiary improved as compared with the last quarter of the preceding year. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 695 (547 males and 148 females). The deaths were 25, or, proportionately to the daily average number, 35·97 per thousand. There were 740 cases of sickness, 575 being of influenza and 48 of malarial fever. The 25 deaths occurred exclusively among sufferers from the remaining 117 cases of sickness, 6 being from Bright's disease and 4 from senile decay.

The enlargement of the St. Catherine district prison having been completed by prison labour, the Middlesex and Surrey County gaol was closed on the 31st January, 1901. The large number of prisoners habitually in custody at the St. Catherine prison renders the task of providing hard labour for the prisoners very difficult. It has, however, been found possible to extend the employment of prisoners in cultivating land by using ground adjacent to the railway station, which came this year into the possession of the Government. Endeavours are being made to arrange for the increased employment of prisoners in agricultural labour, both as a means of discipline and training and for the supply of food for the prison.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Comparative Table.

Offences as classified in Police Reports.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01.
I. Offences against the person.	6,653	6,500	5,389	5,693	5,091	3,140	3,008	2,410	2,432	2,440
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	394	350	313	335	373	264	229	206	217	243
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	5,700	5,488	4,226	4,262	4,807	3,021	2,995	2,270	2,424	2,756
IV. Malicious offences against property.	169	162	244	156	135	43	39	70	59	49
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	25	25	33	26	23	9	8	17	17	6
VI. Other offences	16,201	14,329	13,573	15,712	15,232	10,188	8,969	8,639	10,630	10,597
Totals	29,142	26,854	23,778	26,184	25,661	16,665	15,248	13,612	15,779	16,091

Principal offences under above heads :—										
I. Murder, including infanticide.	16	13	6	6	17	1	7	1	—	2
Manslaughter	17	12	14	9	14	5	4	1	5	6
Cutting and wounding ...	835	861	600	450	407	449	476	349	235	227
Common assault	4,928	4,688	3,955	4,369	3,961	2,238	2,029	1,614	1,687	1,786
II. Burglary, housebreaking, shopbreaking, &c.	375	339	292	314	320	253	224	201	213	229
III. Simple larceny	2,264	2,143	1,870	1,933	2,151	1,073	1,013	917	1,036	1,206
Prædial larceny	2,171	2,147	1,493	1,360	1,808	1,277	1,309	920	825	1,085
IV. Arson	29	29	29	26	35	3	5	6	7	6
VI. Disorderly conduct ...	5,097	4,098	3,816	4,377	4,079	3,658	2,826	2,752	3,332	3,122
Obscene and abusive language	3,585	2,869	3,070	3,060	2,879	2,035	1,584	1,774	1,868	1,765
Trespass	973	883	604	855	743	482	471	325	458	414

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

This table shows that the total number of offences has but slightly varied from that for the preceding year. Offences against the person have diminished under most heads, while those against property committed without violence have increased considerably under the head of simple larceny, and particularly under that of prædial larceny, although they have diminished under nearly every other head. The reason given by the inspectors of police for the increase in simple larceny is that of poverty. In many instances the accused are women with infants who have been deserted by the fathers of their children. In the case of prædial larceny, poverty is stated to be the principal cause only in certain districts. In St. Mary, for instance, where the convictions more than trebled those of the previous year, and were in nearly every instance for larceny of bananas, many of the thieves themselves possess flourishing plantations. There appears reason to conclude, however, that in times of depression owners of property are more disposed to prosecute, and that the number of cases is swelled by prosecutions for trifling larcenies; thus, it is reported that in some parishes the majority of cases consisted in the pilfering of a sugar cane or two. The cases of disorderly conduct and indecent language, whilst they have decreased throughout the Island generally, continue to increase in Kingston.

VII. VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population compared with Figures of Last Census.

The population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1901, is computed to have numbered 755,730 persons (males, 366,058; females, 389,672), an increase on the number on the 31st March, 1900, of 10,626 (males, 5,455; females, 5,171), a much smaller accretion than in any of the preceding five years.

During the ten years following the Census of 1891, the population is estimated to have increased by 60,110 males and 56,129 females, or a total of 116,239 persons.

The state of the public finances precluded the taking of a Census in 1901.

In its absence, the increase of registered births over deaths may be presumed to give a fairly accurate indication of the true population, when corrected by reference to the number of persons migrating to and from the Colony.

The arrivals and departures of passengers at Kingston and Port Antonio (the port at which by far the greatest number of vessels call) during the ten years ended 31st March, 1901, have been tabulated and show an excess of arrivals of 8,785 persons.

This number does not include soldiers and East Indian immigrants. In the absence of information as to the countries contributing to the excess of arrivals, the Registrar General offers the conjecture that it is due to persons who emigrated to Central America more than ten years ago having returned to their homes.

The mean population for 1900-1901 is estimated at 750,413 persons. The birth, death, and marriage rates are based on this estimate.

The following table shows that in the year 1900-1901 births, deaths, and marriages decreased compared with 1899-1900. The rates per thousand on the mean population are given in italics:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1899–1900	31,259	16,880	3,767
	42·2	*22·8*	*5·0*
1900–1901	26,869	16,243	3,221
	35·7	*21·6*	*4·2*
Decreases	4,390	637	546
	6·5	*1·2*	*0·8*

The five years ended 31st March, 1901, show the following comparisons in number and in rates per thousand with the preceding five years:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Illegitimate Births.
Five years ended 1895–96	128,724	73,350	17,359	78,065
Average	25,745	14,670	3,472	15,613
Do. rate per 1,000...	*38·4*	*21·9*	*5·1*	*60·6°/*
Five years ended 1900–01.	141,287	80,422	16·037	88,527
Average	28,257	16,034	3,207	17,705
Do. rate per 1,000...	*38·8*	*22·1*	*4·4*	*62·3°/₀*

JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

It will be seen that, comparing the second quinquennium with the first, there has been a slight increase in the birth and death rates per thousand, but a noticeable decrease in the rate of marriage and increase in the rate of illegitimacy. For the first five years the births aggregate 128,724, made up of 50,659 registered as legitimate and 78,065 as illegitimate. For the next five years the total is 141,287, of which the births registered as legitimate contribute 52,760, a slight increase as compared with the previous quinquennium, and the illegitimate 88,527. During the quinquennium the Registrar General has computed the differences in percentage rates of mortality among infants under one year of age, and finds it far less among those born in wedlock, the average of which is 13·68, whilst that of illegitimates is 19·89.

The records of the May Pen Cemetery, Kingston, also show that a small percentage only of the still-born children buried there are the offspring of married persons.

(B.) Public Health, General State of.

The public health of the Island was generally satisfactory throughout the year. Except in May and June the average mortality was less than in the previous year and considerably below the recorded average of the last two decades. There were no epidemics. There were few cases of the acute gastric ailments which prevailed in certain districts last year, and there was a diminution in the number and severity of malarial fevers, owing presumably to a decrease of rainfall in some districts. Bowel complaints and other diseases of the digestive system occurred with some frequency, owing principally to the use of unwholesome food and impure water. The water supply of the towns is usually good, but the country districts pond water, contaminated by surface refuse, is the chief source of supply in the dry seasons.

Considering the salubrity of the Colony, the death rate is rather high. The present estimated population is about 756,000. The births during the year were 26,869, or 35·54 per thousand; the deaths 16,243, or 21·48 per thousand. A large percentage of these deaths occur among infants. In Kingston the mortality in 1900-1901 of infants under one year of age was 358 out of 1,379 recorded deaths at all ages, and it is heavy throughout the Colony.

The prevalence of sickness and death is promoted by the improvident and insanitary habits of the people, who show as a rule an utter disregard of the simplest hygienic laws. The overcrowding of small huts without ventilation, and the habit of sleeping on earthen floors, conduce to the spread of skin affections, tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases, and rheumatism; while venereal diseases, ulcers, &c., frequently become

incurable through neglect to invoke proper medical aid till the malady has thoroughly established itself in the system.

In Kingston the medical officer reports an improvement on the conditions of last year. There were no cases of small-pox, yellow fever, whooping cough, or scarlet fever, and only three of measles. Influenza both here and in the country districts prevailed at times, but in a mild form, being at its worst in May, when there were 13 deaths attributed to it in Kingston. There was a marked decrease of zymotic diseases under some heads, which is ascribed to the construction of sewerage works and also to the energy of the "health officer" and sanitary officers of Kingston in isolating cases as far as possible.

The death-rate of Kingston, estimated at 29·5 per thousand, that of the Island generally being 21·61, is considered in excess of what local surroundings might be expected to induce, and is swelled by the influx of diseased to Kingston for treatment as in or out-patients of the Public Hospital, &c. It is noted also that 28·5 per cent. of the deaths occur in that hospital, the lunatic asylum, or other institutions whose patients come to a very great extent from country districts. The death-rate in Kingston shows remarkable fluctuation according to the period of the year; with an average of 29·5, the maximum in May, usually an unhealthy month, was 48·2; that in September only 15·9 per thousand. The data for ascertaining the general causes of this fluctuation are not yet complete, though it is observed that the hot dry months show usually the less amount of sickness. 16,474 persons were vaccinated as compared with 10,268 in 1899-1900. 15,488 vaccinations were successful. The cases are almost all those of infants, as re-vaccination is rarely resorted to for young persons or adults.

The prevalence of yaws in the outlying districts was considerably reduced during the year. This loathsome disease yields readily to treatment, but is propagated by the prevalence of the idea among parents and guardians that all young persons must undergo the complaint.

(C.) Sanitation.

The Superintending Medical Officer reports favourably on the efforts of Parochial Boards generally to effect sanitary improvements in their respective districts during the year.

(D.) Climate.

(1) *Rainfall;* (2) *Temperature;* (3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

Jamaica being a mountainous Island, with numerous ranges of hills rising in the extreme eastern portion to 7,423 feet in the Blue Mountain Peak, and averaging from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in the central and western portions, has a considerable variety of

JAMAICA, 1900–1901.

rainfall and temperature. For purposes of meteorological record the Island is dealt with in four divisions.

The mountainous north-eastern division is comparatively cold and rainy, with isolated districts where the rainfall is from 180 to 220 inches annually.

The west central region comes next in elevation, coolness, and rainfall. The northern is largely an elevated undulating tableland, intersected by limestone ridges; the southern portion contains the principal plains in the Island. The two last-mentioned divisions are comparatively dry. The prevailing winds are generally east, east-north-east, and north-east, except on the southern sea-coast, where they blow from the south-east; the rain-clouds discharge chiefly along the lofty north-eastern and central ranges trending west. North-easterly and northerly winds also bring rains to the extreme west.

The north central and the southern divisions are the driest, and possess a real tropical temperature over large areas near the sea, especially in the dry plains on the southern sea-board. Although Jamaica is between 17 and 18 degrees of north latitude, the temperature over two-thirds of its area, owing to the high elevation, is, except in the middle of the day and from July to September, balmy and somewhat similar to that of southern California in the moderate temperature and absence of great variations throughout the year.

The rainfall varies remarkably comparing one year, or even one decade, with another.

In last year's report the averages for three decades ending with the calendar year 1899 were given as 67·41, 66·54, and 76·15 inches. In 1900 the average rainfall for the whole Island was 69·65 inches, and for each division compared with 1899 it was as follows:—

Division.	1900.	1899.
	Inches.	Inches.
North-eastern ...	96·91	103·89
West Central ...	79·84	103·26
Northern	50·67	58·44
Southern	51·15	74·16
Whole Island ...	69·65	84·94

The rainfall of 1900 was fairly normal, that of 1899 exceptional.

The following are the rainfall and temperature of a few localities:—

(I.) LOWLANDS NEAR SEA-LEVEL.

a. Negril Point lighthouse (in the extreme west).
Rainfall 1900 ... ... 40·20 inches.
Mean temperature... ... 79·5° F.
Highest temp., Sept., 1900, 88°; lowest, Feb., 69·8°.

b. Kingston Public Garden.
Average rainfall in 29 years, 35·1 inches.
Average mean temperature in 29 years, 79·1° F.

c. King's House Garden, four miles from Kingston, elevation 400 feet.
Average rainfall for 21 years, 48·24 inches.
Average mean temperature for 21 years, 78·1° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 90·9°; min., Dec., 60·6°.

d. Hope Gardens, at the foot of the hills 5½ miles from Kingston, elevation 700 feet.
Average rainfall for 20 years, 53·75 inches.
Average mean temperature for 20 years, 72·8° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 89·9°; min., Feb., 63·1°.

(The three last preceding stations, being all on the Liguanea plain, illustrate the changes with varying elevations towards the hills.)

(II.) BLUE MOUNTAIN RANGE.

a. Orange Garden (Resource, near Cinchona), elevation 3,700 feet.
Rainfall in 1899 ... ... 94·58 inches.
Rainfall in 1900 ... ... 67·58 „
(No official particulars as to temperature.)

b. Hill Gardens (Cinchona), elevation 4,907 feet.
Average rainfall in 30 years, 103·75 inches.
Average mean temperature in 30 years. 62·9° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 72·5°; min., March 53·9°.

c. Blue Mountain Peak, elevation 7,423 feet.
Rainfall in 1899, 171·28 inches; in 1900, 219·09 inches.
Mean temp., 1899, 56·75° F.; in 1900, 57·47° F.

The maximum recorded temperature at the Blue Mountain Peak in 1900 was 72·9° in April, May, and September; the minimum, 36·8° in January. The temperatures have been taken on one day in each month by an officer of the Botanical Department.

VIII.—POST OFFICES AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The following tables show respectively the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services in each of the three years ended 31st March, 1899, 1900, and 1901.

REVENUE.

Year.	Postages. Packet.	Postages. Inland.	Postages. Total.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898–99 ...	4,832 14 2¼	16,605 19 11¾	21,438 14 2¼	392 9 11	594 2 3	125 3 5	22,550 19 9¼	6,101 9 0	28,652 8 9¼
1899–00 ...	3,649 7 4½	16,476 4 11½	20,125 12 4	378 18 10	633 16 8	157 2 8	21,296 13 4	5,629 17 0	26,926 10 4
1900–01 ...	3,754 14 1½	17,369 10 2	21,124 4 3½	384 3 0	616 17 0½	87 4 5	22,212 8 9	4,714 15 3	26,927 4 0

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries. Head Office.	Salaries. District Offices.	Mail Conveyance. Inland.	Mail Conveyance. Ocean.	Mail Conveyance. Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.	Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898–99	5,388 1 10	3,014 11 5	10,652 4 0	1,938 6 11	5,140 0 0	5,001 9 10½	31,134 14 0¼	*9,039 9 2	40,174 3 2½
1899–00	5,484 19 0	2,994 15 9	9,827 3 9½	2,418 12 10	5,140 0 0	2,986 2 6	28,851 13 10½	*8,721 4 1½	37,572 18 10
1900–01	5,915 9 2	2,956 4 9	8,510 17 5	2,507 10 7	5,140 0 0	3,360 6 2½	28,390 8 1½	*8,592 5 7	36,982 13 8½

* Includes expenditure on maintenance of Telegraph Lines by the Public Works Department.

Revenue.

The total revenue of the year 1900-1901 was almost exactly that of the preceding year, a falling off in Telegraph Revenue of £915 1*s.* 9*d.* being slightly exceeded by an increase in the Postal Revenue of £915 15*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a net comparative balance in favour of 1900-1901 of £ 13*s.* 8*d.* The decrease in Telegraph Revenue is attributed by the Postmaster to the continued depression in business and in general spending power.

Expenditure.

There was a net decrease of £461 5*s.* 9*d* on postal and of £128 19*s.* 4½*d.* on telegraph expenditure, making together £590 5*s.* 1½*d.* The considerable saving of £1,316 6*s.* 4½*d.* was effected in the cost of Inland Mails conveyance, following upon one in the preceding year of £825 0*s.* 2½*d.*, making a total in the two years of £2,141 6*s.* 7*d.* saved under this head. This has been effected by the transfer to the Public Works Department of the duty of conveying a considerable number of the Inland Mails formerly carried by private contractors. A reduction of £158 10*s* 3*d.* was effected in the maintenance of telegraph lines by the Public Works Department. The total expenditure of the Department exceeded total revenue by £10,055 9*s.* 8*d.*, £3,877 10*s.* 4*d.* of which was the loss on telegraph service. The excess of the cost of Ocean Mails over postage received for foreign letters accounts for the greater part of the balance. The Postmaster estimates that were official correspondence and telegrams charged for an additional revenue of about £2,500 would be credited to the Department.

The new direct mail service between Kingston and Bristol by the steamers of the Imperial Direct Line (Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company) was begun on the 16th February, 1901. These steamers arrive at and leave Kingston in the weeks alternating with those of the arrival of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers, and make the passage in about twelve and a half days.

Postal Business.

The following statement shows the total estimated number of letters and post cards passing outward and inward through the General Post Office during the three years under comparison:—

—	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01
Inland Mails	1,379,565	1,444,242	1,458,832	1,677,673	1,569,122	1,599,019
Ocean Mails	400,076	421,304	475,150	443,238	492,346	523,609
	1,779,641	1,865,546	1,933,982	2,120,911	2,061,468	2,122,628

Adding the above outward and inward mails and mails recorded at district post offices, which are not so distinguished, we find:—

—	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
Through General Post Office ...	3,900,552	3,927,014	4,056,610
Through District Post Offices ...	1,080,071	1,146,336	1,182,573
	4,980,623	5,073,350	5,239,083

The numbers of parcels from abroad dealt with in 1900-1901, 17,544, exceeded those of 1889-1900, viz., 15,878, by 1,566; and those of 1898-1899, 14,901, by 2,643. The increase in letters, postcards, and parcels during the year is particularly noticeable in correspondence with other countries. Thus on Inland letters and postcards passing through the General Post Office the increase was 44,487 in a total of 3,057,851, whereas on correspondence with other countries the increase was 85,109 in a total of 998,759. A large increase in foreign correspondence also occurred in 1899-1900, compared with 1898-1899. These large increases in foreign correspondence are no doubt due to the reduction in the rates for letters posted to the United Kingdom and British possessions from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* per half ounce, and in the case of parcels to the adoption on the 1st November, 1899, of the triple scale of postage.

Telegraphs.

The business of this branch declined greatly during the year, only 85,052 messages having been sent and received, as against 96,812 in 1899-1900, a decrease of 11,760. Since the resumption by the Government of the railway, several local post offices have been transferred to the railways stations, thus increasing the use made of the services of the station agents, who have much time on their hands, and serving the convenience of travellers. This policy will be extended as opportunities present themselves. Posting boxes are now provided also on passenger trains.

Mail Coaches.

Subsidized by the Postal Department, and carrying passengers as well as parcels, and mail carts, furnished by the Public Works Department, and carrying parcels only, earned £1,059 19*s.* 9*d.*, or £359 18*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1899-1900, owing chiefly to the discontinuance of some of the passenger services.

Money Orders.

11,431 money orders, of a total value of £32,216 4*s.* 3*d.*, were issued on other countries, as against 11,835 for £39,242 7*s.* in 1899-1900. Other countries issued on Jamaica 3,498 for £9,36[illegible], against 3,240 for £8,408 7*s.* 2*d.* The principal decrease in issues from Jamaica occurred in those on the United Kingdom, which were less by £4,935 3*s.* 6*d.* This decrease in such orders has been pretty continuous for many years past, and is attributed generally to diminished trade with the mother country, but it was observable last year in the transactions with other countries also, except British Guiana, and is attributed by the Postmaster to the effect on trade of the increase in the *ad valorem* duty on manufactured and many other kinds of goods from twelve and a half to sixteen and two-thirds per cent. A new money order exchange with Bermuda was established during the year.

Postal Orders.

192,174 orders, with a face value of £30,194 4*s.* 6*d.*, were issued as against 197,255 for £31,198 15*s.* in 1899-1900.

IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) Regular Forces.

At the close of the year 1900-1901 there were in the Island three officers on the general staff and a strength of 1,726 of all ranks belonging to His Majesty's regular forces. The strength in 1899-1900 was the same. The expenditure from the Imperial Funds in the Colony for these forces during the year was £119,430, as against £127,609 in the previous year. The sum of the allowances granted from the General Revenue of the Colony to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men in compensation for import duty, also of the amount paid as lodging allowance to certain officers formerly accommodated at buildings now transferred to the Colonial Government, was £7,016 13*s.* 6*d.*, as against £7,329 2*s.* 4½*d.* in 1899-1900.

(B.) Militia.

On the 31st March, 1901, the militia numbered 687 of all ranks, 135 belonging to the garrison artillery and 547 to the infantry.

These forces are drawn entirely from Kingston and the immediate neighbourhood.

The annual training took place in January last. The artillery practised at Port Royal, where there are batteries of heavy guns; the infantry were under canvas at Up Park Camp.

The General Officer Commanding reported very favourably on the results of his observations of the force, not only at the annual inspection but on other occasions where he had an opportunity of seeing the corps engaged in practice. He considered that the artillery would in time constitute a valuable aid to the defence of the Colony, and that the result of the year's training of the infantry militia was most satisfactory both in parade drill and in field duties.

(C.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

The police (*see* Division VI. (A) *supra*), with an actual total strength of 770 officers, sub-officers, and constables, are drilled and trained in military exercises and in shooting. They are armed with Martini Enfield carbines and sword bayonets.

X. GENERAL REMARKS.

I have but little to add to the exhaustive information furnished in the foregoing statements. Though I fear it cannot be said that the Island made any decided progress towards improved prosperity during the year under review, I think it may fairly be maintained that there was no further decline. The marked increase in the value of exports over those of the years 1896-1899, though they did not equal those of 1899-1900, may be taken as an encouraging sign.

The failure of the revenue from taxes to meet expectations was unfortunate, and caused the Government much anxiety and perplexity, but the exercise of the most rigid economy and the carrying out of retrenchment in every branch of administration, where it could be effected without impairing efficiency, made up for much of the loss incurred, and under normal conditions the balance between revenue and expenditure would probably have been on the right side.

The dead weight of "charges for debt," which so enormously increased during the year, principally in consequence of the heavy payments arising out of the unfortunate railway contract, is the incubus which weighs down the Colony, and renders the task of establishing a financial equilibrium so difficult and burdensome.

The Government have striven and are striving to do their best to avoid any additional taxation, which they feel the people can with difficulty bear, but with this "millstone about their necks" their position is a painful and perplexing one.

The resources of Jamaica are, however, great, and with the incentive to increased cultivation and, therefore, larger exports, which it is hoped will be afforded by the establishment of the direct line to England, I trust the time may soon arrive when the present difficulties and depression may pass away, and an era of hopefulness and prosperity dawn upon this, at present, unfortunate Colony.

A. W. L. HEMMING,

Governor.

King's House,

31st December, 1901.

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1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 363

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 328.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
341	Ceylon	1900
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 363.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 328.)

ACTING GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,
25th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith one copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1901, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Administering the Government.

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p12484—875—8/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1901.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Dependency for the year 1901 amounted to £9,030, which is less by £160 than the revenue of the previous year, but which compared with the average annual revenue of the five years 1895-99 shows an increase of £675.

2. The Customs duties yielded £3,537, an increase of over £275 on the previous year and on the average receipts from Customs of the five preceding years.

3. There was also an increase on the previous year of nearly £300 under the head of Revenue from Government Property. This is due to the payment of the balance of £300 on the sum of £1,350 for the purchase of 3,768 acres of land at West Caicos purchased for the purpose of fibre cultivation.

4. The receipts from interest were £133 less during the past year, the explanation being that the interest on investments for the latter half of the year was paid and brought to account in January of this year, and not taken credit for and brought to account before payment, as was done in the accounts of 1900.

5. The most marked drop in the revenue for the year compared with the revenue of the previous year will be found under the head of Post Office, and is due to a decrease of receipts from stamp speculators.

6. In 1900 a rush was made on the introduction of a new issue of postage stamps to purchase the remaining stock of the old issue, with the result that the receipts under the head "Post Office" increased from the annual average of the previous five years of £622 to £1,282 for the year. The sale of the new issue of stamps was not so great in 1901 and Post Office receipts fell to £868. For the current year the sales of postage stamps to collectors promise to be still less.

7. The following statement shows the several heads of revenue collected in 1901, compared with the year 1900 and the annual average for the preceding five years:—

Revenue.

—	1901.			1900.			Annual average, five years 1895 to 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duties	3,557	9	3	3,280	0	2	3,270	5	4
Royalty on Salt exported ...	2,517	16	4	2,634	4	7	2,532	19	5
Port Dues	774	13	8	824	3	10	789	6	6
Licences and Internal Revenue	222	13	2	247	7	6	300	2	9
Payments for Specific Services	432	18	1	461	5	8	408	19	5
Post Office	868	18	7	1,282	17	1	622	15	4
Revenue from Government Property.	474	16	6	180	5	10	234	9	3
Interest	126	15	4	260	9	10	176	3	7
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	54	0	5	19	8	3	17	5	11
Total	9,030	1	4	9,190	2	9	8,352	7	6

8. The expenditure amounted to £7,989, leaving a balance of revenue over expenditure of £1,040.

9. There are no points of special interest to be noticed in the expenditure of 1901. The expenditure was of a normal character, and, although some £180 above the average annual expenditure of the years 1895-99, was under that of 1900.

10. Summarized, the expenditure of each of the years 1900 and 1901 was:—

—	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Pensions	400	413
Personal Emoluments	4,092	3,922
Other Charges	2,358	2,058
Public Works...	806	1,141
Miscellaneous...	396	455
Total	8,052	7,989

11. The expenditure of 1901 under the several items, compared with the expenditure of 1900 and the average expenditure of the preceding five years, may be seen on reference to the following statement:—

Expenditure.

—	1901.			1900.			Average, five years 1895 to 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pensions	413	0	0	400	5	11	467	10	6
Commissioner's Department ...	2,196	18	11	2,347	9	10	2,290	3	4
Judicial	530	14	3	553	5	6	554	18	7
Police	476	18	2	486	10	3	458	0	7
Prisons	182	19	4	181	5	6	210	5	10
Medical	467	8	3	544	8	2	419	0	5
Paupers	339	7	0	307	12	11	288	13	6
Education	600	0	0	600	0	0	575	1	4
Registration and Vaccination ...	21	15	6	24	5	5	28	17	5
Public Market	21	0	0	40	17	3	21	0	0
Library	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
Miscellaneous	404	6	7	346	7	0	307	2	11
Post Office	532	11	9	749	2	0	535	10	8
Lighthouse Department	279	16	4	237	15	6	280	10	11
Public Works Department ...	331	4	9	397	9	5	219	9	7
Do. Recurrent... ...	770	4	11	746	3	9	664	13	6
Do. Extraordinary ...	371	1	1	39	17	3	432	19	10
Total	7,989	6	10	8,052	15	8	7,803	18	11

12. The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure for 1901 and each of the previous five years:—

—	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	9,030	9,190	8,032	7,232	9,477	9,706
Expenditure ...	7,989	8,052	7,644	8,061	8,384	7,382

13. No changes were made in taxation during the year. The inhabitants enjoy a freedom from direct taxes. The Customs Tariff, which has remained unaltered since the year 1884, is not a heavy one, the "Free" list being about the longest of any British Colony in the West Indies.

14. The Dependency has added to its assets during the year, by excess of revenue over expenditure, the sum of £1,040, which added to the balance of the previous year gives a total balance of assets on the 31st December, 1901, of £9,695.

Of this sum, £6,900 is invested in:

1. Queensland 3½ per cent. stock ... £1,000
2. Victoria 4 per cent. stock ... 1,500
3. South Australian Debentures ... 1,000

4. Jamaica 4 per cent. stock ...	£400	
5. Jamaica Savings Bank	1,000	
6. Cash lent against scrip unissued Lagos loan	1,000	
7. Ditto ditto Sierra Leone loan	1,000	
		£6,900
And lent out at interest by Crown Agents		1,000
Making a total of ...		£7,900

profitably placed.

15. Of its available balances the Dependency had in 1891 out at interest the sum of £1,000, which in 1896 had been increased to £4,500, and which last year had reached the sum of £7,900. These figures show that the financial position is being slowly but surely strengthened.

16. The several items forming the assets and liabilities of the Dependency on the 31st December, 1901, may be seen on perusal of the following statement:—

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Salt Pond Maintenance and Improvement Fund ...	260	1	9
Board of Education	106	9	7
Deposits	25	11	0
Money Orders—			
United Kingdom	91	13	8
Jamaica	696	9	0
Savings Bank Funds	1,178	11	4
	2,358	16	4
Balance of Assets	9,695	3	5
	£12,053	19	9

Assets.	£	s.	d.
In Colonial Chest	843	14	4
Cash—			
Crown Agents	702	19	8
New York Agents	393	7	3
Jamaica Treasurer	511	1	5
Remittances maturing and in transit	282	0	0
Bonds for Import Duties	207	12	2
Invested Funds—			
Government	7,900	0	0
Savings Bank	1,213	4	11
	£12,053	19	9

17. The Colony is free from public debt.

18. The currency is composed of British gold and silver coins of all values. American gold is also a legal tender, the double eagle, $20 (£4 3*s*. 4*d*.), passing for £4 2*s*., the eagle, $10(£2 1*s*.8*d*.), for £2 1*s*., and the half eagle, $5 (£1 0*s*. 10*d*.), for £1 0*s*. 6*d*. American silver dollars, half dollars, and quarter dollars are also in circulation at 4*s*. to the dollar. Smaller coinage is supplied by the Jamaica nickel tokens 1*d*., ½*d*., and ¼*d*. Gold is scarce, and, as there is no paper currency and no limit to the tender of silver coins, nearly the whole of the cash transactions of the place are made in silver.

19. There are no municipalities. The public streets in the towns of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour are maintained by the Government out of general revenue.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

20. The trade returns for the past year are satisfactory as compared with previous years. The total imports were valued at £30,817, an increase of £1,200 on the value of the imports of 1900 and on the average of the previous five years.

21. The total exports were valued at £40,148, an increase of £5,500 on the exports of 1900.

22. Of the total exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony represented £39,751, an increase of £6,362 on the year 1900 and £9,863 on the average of the previous five years.

23. As regards the imports of 1901, there is nothing very special to note in considering the details, beyond small increases on the previous year under food and textile fabrics and an increase, equal to a third, on spirits. The duty collected on spirits in 1901 was £817, an increase of £208 on the duty collected under this head during the previous year.

24. Of the total value of imports, £3,110 came from the United Kingdom, £4,092 from British Colonies, and £23,614 from foreign countries.

25. The imports from the United Kingdom were made up of textile fabrics £1,644, gin £267, crockery and earthenware £50, paint £75, electrical apparatus £55, and straw hats £99. The value of the remaining articles imported from the United Kingdom were less than £50 in each case.

26. Of the imports from British Colonies, articles to the value of £2,046 came from Jamaica and £1,341 from Canada. The imports from Jamaica of £50 and over in value were made up of aerated waters £62, ale and porter £53, rum £340, cigars £61, cotton textiles £143, sugar £397, Government stores £145, lumber £209, and shingles £50. Canada supplied us with bread and biscuit £100, butter £53, vegetables and fresh fruit £126, hay, oats, and bran £233, cotton textiles £61, sheep £137, galvanized

roofing £54, codfish £100, cured fish £80, flour £58, lumber and shingles £73, and sugar £52.

27. Of the imports from foreign countries, £21,605—70 per cent. of the total imports of the Dependency—came from the United States of America. It seems accordingly unnecessary to specify particularly the imports from that country, more especially as a reference to the following tables will afford ready data respecting the details of the chief articles imported and at the same time show the principal imports upon which the bulk of our Customs duties are collected:—

CHIEF ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

—	1900.		1901.		Rate of Duty.
	Value.	Duty.	Value.	Duty.	
	£	£	£	£	
Books and Stationery	363	—	214	—	Free.
Boots and Shoes ...	990	99	999	99	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Butter	721	69	673	66	8*s.* 4*d.* 100 lbs.
Cheese	194	22	213	26	6*s.* 3*d.* 100 lbs.
Flour, Wheat ...	1,963	454	2,186	513	3*s.* 9*d.* a barrel.
Hardware	233	23	251	25	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Hay, Oats Bran, and Corn.	1,134	—	1,146	—	Free.
Lard	687	97	825	103	4*s.* 2*d.* 100 lbs.
Lumber	879	72	375	27	Pitch pine, 9*s.* p. M. Other, 6*s.* p. M.
Machinery and Tram Rails.	1,644	—	1,707	—	Free.
Meat, Salt	1,905	264	2,183	275	4*s.* 2*d.* 100 lbs.
Medicines	412	41	429	42	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Milk, Condensed ...	594	59	593	59	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Oil, Kerosine ...	412	55	290	39	1*d.* a gallon.
Rice	794	89	776	75	1*s.* 100 lbs.
Soap	301	58	347	66	3*s.* 100 lbs.
Spirits	534	609	706	817	4*s.* 6*d.* a gallon.
Sugar	1,227	386	1,280	420	Refined, 8*s.* 4*d.*, 100 lbs. Other, 4*s.* 2*d.* 100 lbs.
Tea	169	62	154	59	6*d* a lb.
Textile Fabrics ...	4,869	486	5,164	496	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Tinned Provisions ...	1,210	121	1,242	124	10 per cent. *ad. val.*
Tobacco	482	58	495	54	Cigars, 10*s.* 1,000 Manufactured, 8*s.* 4*d.* 100 lbs. Other, 4*s.* 2*d.* 100 lbs.
Vegetables and fresh Fruit.	1,195	—	1,115	—	Free.
		3,124		3,385	
Total Customs Revenue for the year.	...	3,280	...	3,557	

28. The total value of imports for the year 1901 and the previous five years may be gathered from the following table:—

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value of Imports.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896 ...	3,284 8 3	2,935 1 9	24,025 14 4	30,245 4 4
1897 ...	3,478 7 10	4,443 10 8	25,317 4 1	33,239 2 7
1898 ...	3,305 9 1	3,155 13 6	20,605 13 5	27,066 16 0
1899 ...	2,684 18 2	3,289 3 6	19,733 9 7	25,707 11 3
1900 ...	3,385 1 11	3,939 10 4	22,239 10 1	29,564 2 4
1901 ...	3,110 15 6	4,092 2 1	23,614 5 11	30,817 3 6

29. As regards details of exports, there was a decrease from 1,806,274 bushels of salt, valued at £23,491, exported in 1900, to 1,726,245 bushels, valued at £22,782, exported in 1901. Taking the average of the previous five years, the export of salt in 1901 showed a decrease of 30,627 bushels, but it may be said a larger quantity of salt would have been exported in 1901 had it not been for the want of suitable freight towards the end of the year.

30. Our salt was shipped during the years 1900 and 1901 to the following markets:—

—	1900.		1901.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£
Canada	238,438	3,738	203,765	3,334
St. Pierre	34,853	566	45,957	733
Bermuda	3,590	45	190	2
Jamaica	62,275	790	59,254	745
Hayti	11,534	145	5,388	67
St. Domingo	20,110	256	10,710	133
Cuba	—	—	2,176	27
United States	1,432,458	17,898	1,398,755	17,737
South America	—	—	50	under £1
Newfoundland	3,016	50	—	—

31. The salt shipped to the American market obtained six cents a bushel for "coarse" and eight cents for "fishery," a price in each case fixed upon by the dealers in New York with the principal salt proprietors here on the understanding that all salt from the Turks and Caicos Islands for the markets in the United States passed through their hands.

32. There was an increase in the export of fibre from 349,482 lbs., valued at £5,080, exported in 1900, to 461,183 lbs., valued at £6,551, exported last year. Of the fibre exported last year 46,704 lbs., valued at £653, was shipped to Halifax and 414,479 lbs., valued at £5,898, to the United States.

33. The sponge industry has also had a successful year, and shows the substantial increase from £3,950, the value of sponge exported in 1900, to £9,277, the value of sponge exported in 1901.

34. This is an industry that unfortunately is not carried on wholly by the people of this place. Of the value of £9,277 of sponge exported last year, £6,615 was shipped to the Bahamas, and may be said to represent the gatherings taken from the Caicos Banks by the schooners from the Bahama Islands, leaving only £2,662 as the result of local enterprise. The sponge collected by the people of the place was done up in 1,051 bales and shipped to the United States.

35. Of the export of turtle shell, 120 lbs., valued at £120, represents the catch of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and was shipped at Jamaica. The Bahamas schooners carried off from these waters 899 lbs. of shell, valued at £817.

36. The following table shows the several exports, produce and manufacture, of the Colony, during the years 1900 and 1901:—

EXPORTS, PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURE, OF THE COLONY.

—	1900.				1901.			
	Quantities.	Value.			Quantities.	Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cotton ...	—	—			lbs. 2,250	14	1	8
Fish, Salt ...	packages. 67	190	4	0	packages. 25	186	4	2
Horses ...	2	6	0	0	1	3	0	0
Salt	bushels. 1,806,274	23,491	11	3	bushels. 1,726,245	22,782	13	10
Shells	box. 1	0	10	0	—	—		
Sisal Grass (fibre).	lbs. 349,482	5,080	15	5	lbs. 461,183	6,551	5	3
Sponge ...	strands. bales. 73,100 691	3,950	15	0	strands. bales. 49,500 1,051	9,277	4	8
Turtle ...	lbs. 1,128	17	16	0	lbs. —	—		
Turtle Shell ...	669	652	4	0	1,019	937	0	0
		33,389	15	8		39,751	9	7

In 1899 the value of salt exported amounted to £21,138, and sponge to £2,004—in both instances below the exports of last

year. On the other hand the fibre industry had a very good year and returned an export of £7,493, the highest value since the industry was started.

37. The total value of exports of the Colony for the year 1901 and the previous five years is given in the following table:—

Year.	Value of Exports, Produce and Manufacture, of Turks and Caicos Islands, to—			Total Value of Exports.
	United Kingdom	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896 ...	240 0 0	6,850 12 9	24 300 0 10	31,497 14 5
1897 ...	—	11,374 6 0	29,790 18 1	43,303 15 5
1898 ...	—	6,608 11 9	16,930 5 7	24,810 12 4
1899 ...	—	4,650 8 1	26,871 4 10	31,909 19 2
1900 ...	291 4 0	7,384 1 1	25,714 10 7	34 584 1 0
1901 ...	—	12,290 0 6	27,461 9 1	40,148 17 1

38. Enjoying no direct line of communication with the United Kingdom, exports from this Dependency intended ultimately for the London market have been sent to Halifax or New York for re-shipment to England. This accounts for no exports being shown, with the exception of two small amounts in 1896 and 1900, as having been made to the United Kingdom. The fibre exported last year to Halifax, valued at £653, was shipped for the home market.

39. A temporary arrangement has been made by which the fibre crop of the present season of the West Caicos Plantation is being taken direct to London by the monthly steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from Jamaica, calling at West Caicos on her way home.

40. There were 23 grants of small plots of land, comprising in all 190 acres, made during the year. Of these 17 were by purchase at an average price of six shillings and sixpence an acre. There was also one grant of 3,768 acres by completed purchase at seven shillings and a penny an acre at West Caicos. Of this land about 1,800 acres are under sisal (fibre) cultivation and new land is being planted out.

41. The shipping, steamers and sailing vessels, entered inwards and outwards at the ports of this Dependency may be seen from the following table:—

Steamers.

Nationality.	1900.				1901.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	24	16,248	24	16,248	27	18,010	27	18,010
United States	42	85,782	42	85,782	46	93,648	46	93,648
Total	66	102,030	66	102,030	73	111,658	73	111,658
Sailing Vessels.								
British	223	18,510	227	18,528	177	15,565	170	14,710
Dominican	13	114	13	120	23	340	25	348
French	6	755	6	755	7	939	7	939
Haytian	7	106	6	53	9	164	6	140
United States	46	24,514	44	23,124	35	23,077	40	25,478
Total	295	43,999	296	42,580	251	40,085	248	41,615

With one exception the steamers entering and clearing during the year 1901 were the subsidized steamers of the Pickford and Black line from and to Halifax once a month, and the steamers of the Clyde line from and to New York at intervals of from 10 to 18 days according to the season of the year.

42. The following table gives a comparative statement of total shipping, omitting ships of war, inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Inwards.			Outwards.		
	Steam.	Sail.	Total.	Steam.	Sail.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1897 ...	106,072	58,679	164,751	106,072	57,551	163,623
1898 ...	81,983	38,295	120,278	81,983	40,846	122,829
1899 ...	75,258	43,774	119,032	75,258	43,614	118,872
1900 ...	102,030	43,999	146,029	102,030	42,580	144,610
1901 ...	111,658	40,085	151,743	111,658	41,615	153,273

LEGISLATION.

43. Nine ordinances were passed during the year, the principal being No. 3, "To consolidate, define, and amend the Law of Evidence," and No. 9, "To repeal the existing law on the subject of education and to make further and other provisions in lieu thereof."

44. The Evidence Ordinance is adopted from the Indian Evidence Act. The chief alteration from the law as it existed is that in all criminal proceedings the accused and the husband and wife of the accused are made competent witnesses.

45. The object of the new Education Ordinance is referred to in the next paragraph.

EDUCATION.

46. The primary education of the Dependency is under the care and management of a Board, the Government making an annual grant of £600 for the purpose. Out of this grant six Government schools, with teachers in charge on fixed salaries varying from £40 to £90 a year, are maintained, and assistance given to two private schools in the sparsely populated districts of "the Bight" and "Five Cays" in the Caicos Islands. These schools are the venture of two widows who receive an allowance of ten shillings a month each to keep them going.

47. No fees are charged at the Government schools. At the two private schools a charge is made by the schoolmistress of 1½*d.* a week for each child. When two or more children of the same family attend the fees for each child are slightly reduced.

48. The average number of children on the books of the Government schools during the year 1901 was 548 with an average attendance of 302. The cost of each school with the number of pupils on the roll may be seen from the following table:—

Government School at	Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Cost during 1901.
Principal Settlements.			£
Grand Turk	163	79	95
Salt Cay	49	31	66
Cockburn Harbour	100	68	86
Caicos Islands.			
Kew	74	49	65
Blue Hills	79	34	62
Lorimers	83	41	72

49. The average number attending the two private assisted schools was about fifteen at each school.

50. It is a general complaint with the teachers that they cannot get the parents to send their children regularly to school. In the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour the excuse given is the want of decent clothes. In the Caicos Islands the same excuse is at times made, but more frequently it is that the children are wanted to assist their parents in cultivating the family field or plantation.

51. In the Caicos Islands the attendances compare well with the attendances at the schools in the principal settlements. This goes much to the credit of the parents of the children and the children themselves, as in some instances the distances from the

homestead to the school are great and the condition of life quite different to that in the principal settlements. In these outlying Caicos Islands the head of a family has, as a rule, his plantation of ten acres or more to cultivate. It is to his plantation that he looks in a great measure for the daily bread of his family. Should his cultivation be neglected and his crop fail him he lacks other sources of any more secured nature for the support of his wife and children. Education has done much for the people of the Caicos, but it has not as yet tutored them to provide against a rainy day. They cultivate only for their immediate wants, and they live as they reap.

52. To improve the attendances at the schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, an ordinance was passed last year to enforce regular attendance. The principles of the compulsory sections of the ordinance have been taken from the law of Bermuda. Under the ordinance the parent or guardian of every child over six and under thirteen years of age living within a mile and a half of the Government school is liable to the payment of a school rate of ten shillings for each half year. To be relieved from the payment of this school rate the Board of Education must be satisfied—

(1) That the child has attended school at least four days out of every five days on which the school had been open during the half year.

(2) That if the attendances have not been regular, the absences are due to sickness or infirmity, or to some other reasonable cause satisfactory to the Board.

(3) That if not a pupil at the Government school, the child has been receiving during the half year sufficient education by private tuition; or

(4) That the child has reached the age of ten years and has been granted a certificate by the Board of his ability to read and write and of a knowledge of elementary arithmetic.

The result of this legislation is awaited with interest. The ordinance has not been in operation for a sufficient time to comment on its working.

53. The total expenditure from the Education grant of £600 last year amounted to £578, leaving a balance of some £21 to be carried forward to the credit of the Education fund for this year.

54. The census taken last year showed that of the total population of 5,287, there were 2,409 who could read and write and 706 whose attainments did not extend beyond being able to read.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. There are no hospitals, asylums, or reformatories in the Dependency. The population is too small and scattered throughout the several islands of the Dependency for the establishment of such institutions at any centre, if even the necessity for such institutions were felt. The hospital that was established some years ago at Grand Turk was closed after being opened several years, as it was found that it was not wanted. The inhabitants generally speaking are a strong healthy race of African descent comparatively free from zymotic and febrile diseases. At Grand Turk accommodation is provided in a separate and convenient building for the treatment of infectious diseases. This accommodation has not been required for the past seven years and then only for two cases of yellow fever landed from a vessel in harbour.

56. Any person of unsound mind not likely to recover and requiring trained care and treatment is sent to the lunatic asylum at Jamaica, at the cost of this Dependency, for maintenance in the asylum. The paupers are given out-door relief, which amounted last year to £214, a rate of about £5 16*s.* per annum to each pauper on the list.

57. To turn from the unfortunate to the more fortunate. The total sum standing to the credit of 186 depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1900, was £1,050. By deposits during 1901 of £600 and withdrawals of £462, 183 depositors had standing to their credit at the end of the year the sum of £1,187.

58. The following statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1901, is satisfactory, showing as it does that the liabilities of the Savings Bank are fully covered by moneys invested in the name of the Bank.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	Assets.	£	s.	d.
Due Depositors, including Interest.	1,187	19	3	Invested in Jamaica Government Debentures.	200	0	0
Cash due Public Chest	37	1	1				
Assets in excess of Liabilities.	23	16	3	In Jamaica Government Savings Bank.	1,048	16	7
	£1,248	16	7		£1,248	16	7

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

59. There has been no change in the strength of the police force during the past year. The force consists of a corporal, six constables, and twelve district constables.

The cost of the police in 1901 was £476, compared with £486 in the previous year.

60. The prison, which has separate cell accommodation for ten male and four female prisoners, is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison during 1901 was 1½ compared with 2 the average for the previous year. The cost for the year was, for prison staff £150, for other charges £32 19*s.* 4*d.*

The total number of offences reported to the magistrates was 69, made up of 21 cases against the person, 11 against property other than praedial larceny, and 37 other offences. Of these, 14 cases were dismissed by the magistrate, 54 summarily convicted, and one referred for trial in the Supreme Court.

61. Of the 54 summarily convicted, 41 were fined, one went to prison in lieu of fine or surety, 3 were sentenced to peremptory imprisonment, and 9 bound over. The one criminal case before the Supreme Court for the year resulted in an acquittal.

62. The following comparative table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in the Courts of this Dependency for the last five years:—

—	1897.	1898	1899	1900.	1901.
Offences reported to Police ...	181	195	176	131	69
Persons apprehended or summoned	176	184	175	128	69
Summary Convictions—					
Offences against the person ...	34	30	51	30	16
Prædial larceny...	5	3	7	6	—
Offences against property ...	17	5	7	10	7
Other offences	66	83	65	57	31
Convictions in Supreme Court—					
Offences against the person ...	2	1	2	2	—
Prædial larceny...	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against property ...	4	3	1	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	10	—
Persons acquitted—					
Magistrates' Courts	43	58	38	22	14
Supreme Court	5	2	4	3	1

63. The greatly reduced number of offences reported to the police during 1901 compared with previous years may be attributed to fewer complaints of a trivial nature having been made.

VITAL STATISTICS.

64. The census taken on the 1st April, 1901, returned the total population of the Turks and Caicos Islands on that date at 5,350 persons. Of these 63 were on board vessels in the harbour not belonging to the Dependency. Deducting the 63 the population proper of the Dependency was 2,204 in the Turks Islands and 3,083 in the Caicos Islands, in all 5,287. There were 2,714 children of 15 years and under, leaving only 2,573 persons of more mature age. Of the total population of 5,287, 4,991 (2,263 males and 2,728 females) were natives of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

65. The returns of 1901 give an increase of 543 on the population taken by the census of 1891, but there has been no very marked increase in the last 40 years, as may be seen on reference to the following table:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1861	2,128	2,244	4,372
1871	2,274	2,449	4,723
1881	2,232	2,500	4,732
1891	2,211	2,533	4,744
1901	2,408	2,879	5,287

66. With an average annual birth rate for the decade of 38 per thousand and death rate 20 per thousand—an increase of three per thousand in the birth rate and a decrease of four per thousand in the death rate compared with the rates given for the previous ten years—the small increase of the population in the last ten years and the excess in the number of children up to 15 years of age over the rest of the population may be accounted for by emigration to Hayti, St. Domingo, and Cuba, where employment is readily found by the natives of this place.

67. The population of 1901 was composed of

—	Males.	Females.	Total
White	150	192	342
Coloured	572	791	1,363
Black	1,686	1,896	3,582
Total	2,408	2,879	5,287

and the occupation given as

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Professional	49	30	79
Domestic	17	153	170
Commercial	100	25	125
Agricultural	160	273	433
Industrial	1,016	789	1,805
Indefinite and non-productive ...	1,066	1,609	2,675
Total	2,408	2,879	5,287

68. Touching the civil condition of the people, 748 males and 803 females were married. There were 70 widowers and 241 widows, leaving 3,424—1,590 males and 1,834 females—unmarried.

For the year 1901 there were 218 births and 163 deaths compared with 198 births and 133 deaths in 1900.

69. The general state of the public health of the Dependency may be viewed as good. At Grand Turk during the period March to August, 1901, there were, however, several cases of whooping cough resulting in 26 deaths, chiefly of infants of two years and under, out of a total of 57 deaths for the year. There were also a few cases of measles and influenza at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour; otherwise the Dependency was free from diseases of zymotic type.

The porous nature of the sandy soil of these low-lying flat islands leaves little to be done by man in the way of drainage. In his report for last year the Government Medical Officer wrote: "There is no system of draining off rainfall and waste water; nature disposes of these in an admirable rapid way, by means of the hot sun, strong winds, and porous soil."

70. The climate of these Islands is healthy, but as relaxing as most tropical climates for persons of European descent. The scarcity of fresh meat, fruit, and vegetables, and the frequent resort to "canned" provisions, make, however, the conditions of life in the Turks and Caicos Islands yet more enervating to such persons.

71. The rainfall during the past year recorded each day at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk,—Latitude 21.21 N., Longitude 71.07 W., height above mean sea level 11.3 feet,—was 29.52 inches, about five inches more than the average of the previous ten years. Rain fell on 154 days, the heaviest fall in the 24 hours being recorded on the 26th August, when 3.30 inches fell. On that day the wind from the south-east measured 36 miles an hour, the maximum force for the year.

72. The maximum heat registered was 94 degrees in the shade on 25th September, and the minimum temperature 53 degrees on

the 21st February. On that day the wind was from the north-west and reached the velocity of 34 miles an hour.

73. The following table gives the mean readings for each month of the year of the Barometer, the Thermometer, and the Anemometer, and the total rainfall for each month:—

Month.	Means.				Actual Rainfall recorded.
	Barometer 7.30 a.m.	Air Temperature.		Wind Force. Miles per hour.	
		Max.	Min.		
January ...	30·06	81	68	11	1·84
February ...	30·06	82	69	9	·22
March	30·09	83	71	14	·79
April	30·01	84	72	9	·38
May	29·99	86	74	10	·98
June	30·03	90	78	13	·70
July	30·01	88	75	13	4·83
August	30·02	89	77	12	5·05
September ...	29·97	90	77	10	·95
October ...	29·91	88	74	8	4·86
November ...	29·99	82	70	11	5·19
December ...	30·03	82	70	11	3·73

The direction of the wind was observed from the north on 24 days, the north-east on 46, the east on 124, the south-east on 116, the south on 23, the south-west on 8, the west on 4, and the north-west on 20 days.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE.

74. We have no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service. Our mails are brought by the subsidized steamer of the Pickford and Black line leaving Halifax about the 15th of each month for Jamaica calling at Bermuda and Grand Turk en route. The subsidy paid by this Dependency is £500 a year, half of which is contributed by the Imperial Government. The length of the voyage from Halifax to Grand Turk is seven days. The steamer leaves Jamaica on her return journey about the 27th of each month, and two days later calls at Grank Turk, proceeding via Bermuda to Halifax. The bulk of our mails are, however, carried to and from New York direct by the steamers of the Clyde line, which sail at intervals of from 10 to 18 days and make the voyage between the two places in five days. By these steamers letters from this Dependency, transhipped at New York, have been delivered in London on the fourteenth day after leaving here.

75. The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1901 was £868, made up of

Receipts.			
Sale of Stamps		£262	
Commission on Money Orders		44	
Sale of Stamps to Collectors		562	
			£868
Expenditure.			
Local		25	
Conveyance of Mails	£507		
Less Contribution from Imperial Government	250	257	282
Net Revenue Post Office			£586

76. The estimated number of letters and postal matter beyond the seas dealt with by the local post office during the year 1901 may be seen on reference to the following table:—

—	United Kingdom.		Other Places.		Total.
	From.	To.	From	To.	
Letters	2,500	2,600	11,500	12,500	29,100
Postcards	90	100	100	112	402
Newspapers	7,000	728	12,000	4,000	23,728
Book packets	160	38	175	30	403
Parcels	157	20	113	53	343

77. Money orders to the value of £1,567 were issued in the Dependency during the year 1901 on the United Kingdom, and orders for £361 drawn in the United Kingdom paid in the Colony. The money order transactions with other places abroad amounted to £1,247 issued and £45 paid in the Dependency. The bulk of these transactions was with Jamaica.

78. The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica is landed at Grand Turk. The Company supply a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made to them by the Dependency. The telegraph rate to England is 3*s.* a word, to Halifax 2*s.*, and to Jamaica 1*s.*

GENERAL.

79. A brief comparison of the condition of these islands fifty years ago with their state to-day may here find a suitable place. In 1852, with a population of 3,260, the total revenue of the Government, from all sources, was £10,690 and the expenditure £10,370. The imports were valued at £29,460, and the exports

produce and manufacture, of the Colony at £22,166. Of the exports 1,061,776 bushels of salt alone represented £22,034.

80. During the succeeding twenty-five years the population had increased to 4,723. The revenue of the Government reduced to £7,500 with an expenditure of £7,100. This was due to retrenchment consequent on the annexation in 1873 of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica, a move brought about by the people of the Islands themselves, as they considered their separate administration was costing them too dearly. The value of imports at that time fell to £22,900, while the value of the exports had increased to £26,700. Of this sum £23,000 represented the value of 1,641,384 bushels of salt exported.

81. To-day, viewing the trade of the place generally, the position is satisfactory. Without increase of taxation, indeed it can be said with a reduced tariff, the annual revenue has increased to £9,000 with an expenditure of £8,000 and the value of the imports has increased to £30,800 and exports to £39,700. Of these exports 1,726,245 bushels of salt represent £22,780. Practically speaking our markets remain unchanged, the United States still doing the bulk of our trade.

82. It results therefore that while the market price of salt has fallen off, and salt no longer forms 99 per cent. of the exports, the production of salt has increased and the total value exported has remained unchanged during the last fifty years

83. Although it is to the salt industry of these islands that we owe, and ever will owe, our existence, yet the growth within recent years of two other industries has helped to cement the satisfactory financial position of the Dependency to-day. I refer to the sponge industry and to the fibre industry—more especially to the fibre industry.

84. A quarter of a century ago sponge gathering afforded but little employment for the people. The value of sponge exported from these islands averaged about £100 annually. Ten years ago, *i.e.*, in fifteen years, the industry had increased its export to £600. Last year the value of sponge exported amounted to £9,277. There are at present three sponge establishments working in the Caicos Islands where the sponge is gathered on the banks. The sponge is not of the quality of the Mediterranean sponge, but it finds a ready sale in the United States market at a fair price.

85. It is only within the last twelve years that fibre growing has been attempted. The first exportation of fibre was made in 1890 when £49 worth was shipped. Five years later, in 1895, 95,788 lbs. of fibre, valued at £620, were shipped. Last year 461,183 lbs. were exported, valued at £6,551.

86. With regard to the agricultural resources of the Dependency there is little to say in respect of the cultivation of the

Turks Islands, where salt produced from sea water by solar evaporation is the sole industry, and where the climatic conditions are favourable to its production. The absence of rain for weeks at a time, with a hot dry wind—by which alone the salt is produced—and a sandy soil, make cultivation of any sort next to impossible and but little is consequently attempted. According to the census of last year there were 9 male and 15 female agricultural labourers in the Turks Islands. Even these, or some of these, may have been on a visit from the Caicos Islands at the time of taking the census, so small is the attempt at cultivation.

87. In the Caicos Islands the soil is somewhat less sandy and the climatic conditions better suited to crop growing. The annual rainfall in those islands is about 35 inches compared with an average of 24 inches in the Turks Islands. But even here, unfortunately, cultivation is an uphill task and the people grow but little beyond their own wants. Fruit and vegetables are imported from Hayti and St. Domingo for the Turks Islands market. It is in the Caicos Islands that the two fibre plantations are situated and working successfully—one at East Caicos and the other at West Caicos. They have about 2,200 and 1,800 acres of land under cultivation respectively, and are each extending their areas of cultivation. On the East Caicos there are four, and on the West Caicos plantation two, fibre cleaning machines worked by either steam or oil. Each machine is capable of turning out 1,000 lbs. of fibre a day.

88. There are several thousand acres of vacant land in the Caicos Islands suitable for fibre growing, which, if properly planted out, would give, in from three to four years—should the present price of fibre, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* a pound, be maintained—a fair return for money invested.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Commissioner,

Turks and Caicos Islands.

Grand Turk,

24th May, 1902.

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1902.

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No. 373.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1901-2.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 351.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1902.

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No. 373.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1900–1901, *see* No. 351.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica, September 30th, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, in accordance with standing instructions, the following observations in regard to the statistical returns of this Government embodied in the Blue Book of the Colony for the year ended on the 31st March, 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. Annexed (Tables I. and II.) are returns of the General Revenue and Expenditure of the Government for the year of report (1901-1902) compared with those of the preceding year 1900-1901.

General Revenue Account. Revenue and Expenditure.

3. On the 1st of April, 1901, there was a deficit on the General Revenue Account of £126,302. Omitting fractions of a pound sterling, the total amount brought to account as General Revenue during the ensuing twelve months now under review was £774,837, and the amount brought to account as Expenditure £751,699, showing a surplus of £23,138 and reducing the deficit to £103,164 at the close of the period.

4. Of the amount shown as Revenue, however, £12,456 is accounted for by transfers made, with the authority of the Legislature, from the credit of certain funds accumulated in

former years and hitherto held in reserve for special purposes. The actual pecuniary receipts of the year might accordingly be properly stated as £762,381.

Tax Revenue.

5. Of this total, the sum of £535,791 was the proceeds of taxation, comparing with £499,692 drawn from corresponding sources in the previous year, and showing an increase of £36,099, or 7·2 per cent., in the Tax Revenue. Part of this increase was due to the improved yield of established taxes, part to better collection and the recovery of arrears, and part to additional taxation.

Improved Yield of Taxes.

6. Of the taxes in the rates of which there had been no change the following may be specially noted as having yielded increased amounts:—

	£
Customs Duties, increase	7,489
Rum Duty	1,810
Port and Harbour dues	605

Increase in Shipping.

The addition to the receipts from Port and Harbour Dues is owing to increase in the number of steamers that called at the Island. The significance of this increase (172 vessels, with a tonnage of 136,337) will be further analysed in the course of this Report. It reflected the growth of the fruit trade and a moderate but appreciable improvement in general business, which began to exhibit itself in the last months of the year in an increase in the consumption of imported and excisable goods, and also, it may be mentioned, in the Returns of Railway Traffic. Until after the close of the year 1901, however, the Revenue Returns showed practically no elasticity.

Import Duties.

6. The final yield of Customs Duties, improved as it was, still remained £8,860 below the amount (£353,765) received in the year 1899-1900 on the same tariff, and the Collector General considers that in a year of average prosperity, according to the past experience of the Island, this tariff ought to produce not less than £360,000. By this test the year under review is exhibited as one of continued depression. The estimate of Customs receipts for the year now current has, in accordance with the conditions prevailing when the estimates were framed, been placed at £350,000.

7. Customs Duties furnished last year about two-thirds of the total Tax Revenue. The most noticeable fluctuations in the yield from specific commodities were:—

Decreases.

	£
On salt fish	1,612
On salt pork	2,229
On rice	1,746
On cornmeal	345

Increases.

On salt	649
On flour	2,179
On soap	1,517
On unspecified merchandise (16⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*)	8,462

The Collector General suggests that these figures indicate a substitution of native for imported fish and pork in consumption, and of wheaten flour for cornmeal and rice. The rise in the *ad valorem* duties shows increased general spending power on textile and other manufactured goods.

Excise—Rum Duty. Methods of Rum Distilleries.

8. The increase in the yield of the excise duty on rum reflects the slight improvement in prosperity mentioned above as experienced towards the close of the year, though the total was no less than £10,234, or just ten per cent. below that of the year 1899-1900. A certain amount of Revenue due under this head is believed to be lost, chiefly during crop-time, in consequence of the consideration that has been shown to rum-distillers in the desire not to hamper their industry by excessive restrictions. The regulations in force do not furnish the Revenue Department with the power of ensuring accurate record of the amounts of spirit distilled, the methods of the majority of still-houses are lax, unscientific and conducive to waste, and the pilfering and consumption of undutied rum by employés are widely prevalent, and are admittedly in many cases winked at by the distillers and book-keepers. It has hitherto been judged, however, that the introduction of effectual mechanical precautions to prevent the stealing of rum would be impossible without introducing a risk of impairing the special qualities of the more valuable Jamaica rums, and that some possible loss of excise Revenue would be the lesser of two evils to the community. Mr. J. Steele, C.B., a highly experienced officer of the Imperial Inland Revenue Department, spent some time in the Island during March and April, 1902, investigating the

conditions of distillation on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and I am under the impression that he will be able to make some suggestions in regard to the management of distilleries that may be of advantage both to the proprietors and to the public Revenue.

Match Duty.

9. An excise duty, at the rate of 6*d.* per gross of boxes of fifty sticks, was imposed during the year on matches manufactured in this Island, intended as a partial set-off to the Customs duty levied on those imported. The absence of any internal duty had practically extinguished the Customs revenue from this article, the high import duty acting as a prohibitive protection. The new duty yielded £583 10*s.* This yield will no doubt be considerably higher in future years seeing that a large amount of stock had been put out in anticipation of the duty. The Customs duty on imported matches shows an improvement of £81 7*s.* in this year.

Soap Duty.

10. A similar excise duty on soap imposed in the course of the previous year yielded £298, whilst the Customs Import Duty on soap increased under its influence by £1,517.

Stamp Duties.

11. The net yield of Stamp Duties showed an increase of £4,698. The duties had in some instances been augmented, but the increase in the total yield would have been accounted for by the death duties received on a single large estate.

Agricultural Produce Dealers' License Duties.

12. The proceeds (£1,924) of the duties on licenses required to be taken out by dealers in Agricultural Produce (for police purposes and to check the stealing of produce), although not a new tax, were carried this year for the first time to the credit of General Revenue instead of as heretofore to a special fund. The accumulated balance (£11,305) of the fund was likewise taken over.

Taxes Increased and Better Collected Land Taxes.

13. The yield of the three taxes now levied on land in aid of General Revenue shows a large increase. Part of this was due to improved collection and the ingathering of arrears, part to increases in the rates, imposed for the purpose of meeting, in part, the newly assumed charges for the Railway Debt and the subsidy to the Direct Imperial Steamship Line.

Change of Tax Year.

14. Comparison is to some degree, moreover, affected by the fact that the period of the year of assessment for these branches

of Revenue was altered in 1900. In order to bring it into correspondence with the financial year, as established for the accounts of this Government in all other respects, the assessed tax year which, by a survival from former custom, began on the 1st August, 1900, was terminated on the 31st March, 1901, and the amounts leviable in that period were assessed as for two-thirds of a year only.

Quit Rents.

15. The effects of this alteration and of better collection and recovery of arrears are indicated by the returns from Quit Rents. These are a uniform tax of one penny per acre on land (except where the tax has been redeemed). In the year 1900-1901 they yielded £6,567, which was paid into the Parochial Road Reserve Fund. In the year under review they yielded £8,220, of which £1,636 was employed for the payment of Superintendents of Parochial Roads and Works through the above-mentioned fund, and the balance, £6,584, transferred to General Revenue Account, to which the nett proceeds of this tax, after providing for these salaries, are now by law appropriated. The total improvement in collection was thus £1,653, or more than 25 per cent.

Holding Tax.

16. The Holding Tax is a direct tax on land, assessed on the area of holdings, but decreasing in its average rate per acre as the size of the holding increases. Prior to the year of account it was payable at the following rates:—

	£	s.	d.
For every holding not exceeding 5 acres	0	2	0
For every holding exceeding 5 and not exceeding 10 acres.	0	3	4
For every holding exceeding 10 and not exceeding 20 acres.	0	4	8
For every holding exceeding 20 and not exceeding 50 acres.	0	5	4
For every holding exceeding 50 and not exceeding 100 acres.	0	6	8
For every holding exceeding 100 and not exceeding 200 acres.	0	10	0
For every holding exceeding 200 and not exceeding 500 acres.	1	0	0
For every holding exceeding 500 and not exceeding 800 acres.	1	10	0
For every holding exceeding 800 and not exceeding 1,000 acres.	1	16	8
For every holding exceeding 1,000 and not exceeding 1,500 acres.	2	13	4
For every holding exceeding 1,500 acres	3	0	0

17. For the year under review the rates of the Holding Tax were altered to the following:—

	£	s.	d.
For every holding not exceeding 5 acres	0	2	0
For every holding exceeding 5 and not exceeding 10 acres.	0	3	4
For every holding exceeding 10 and not exceeding 15 acres.	0	4	8
For every holding exceeding 15 and not exceeding 20 acres.	0	6	0
For every holding exceeding 20 and not exceeding 30 acres.	0	8	6
For every holding exceeding 30 and not exceeding 50 acres.	0	13	6
For every holding exceeding 50 and not exceeding 75 acres.	1	0	0
For every holding exceeding 75 and not exceeding 100 acres.	1	6	0
For every holding exceeding 100 and not exceeding 150 acres.	1	15	0
For every holding exceeding 150 and not exceeding 200 acres.	2	8	0
For every holding exceeding 200 and not exceeding 300 acres.	3	2	0
For every holding exceeding 300 and not exceeding 400 acres.	4	0	0
For every holding exceeding 400 and not exceeding 500 acres.	4	16	0
For every holding exceeding 500 and not exceeding 600 acres.	5	10	0
For every holding exceeding 600 and not exceeding 750 acres.	6	5	0
For every holding exceeding 750 and not exceeding 1,000 acres.	7	0	0
For every holding exceeding 1,000 and not exceeding 1,500 acres.	8	0	0
For every holding exceeding 1,500 acres	10	0	0

The rates on holdings not exceeding fifteen acres thus remained unaltered, whilst those on larger holdings were raised on an increasing proportion, not so far, however, as to bring the tax to a uniform rate per acre.

18. The net amount yielded was £24,539, against £13,384 brought to account in the previous twelve months, an improvement of £11,154 10*s*. Part of this remarkable increase is accounted for by the curtailment of the previous tax year to eight months; but much of it is due to greater efficiency in collection. No less than £5,444 is the amount of arrears of previous years recovered, £7,957 is computed to be due to the increase in the rates of the tax (the estimate was £7,721), and about £11,138 to be the amount that would have been collected

of the tax due for the year on the old rates. The amounts collected within the year in the four previous complete tax years have, however, only averaged £10,389. The tax this year was collected on 72,010 holdings, the average number on which it had been collected in the four preceding complete years having been only 63,138; whilst arrears were collected from 28,097 holdings, the average number on which arrears had been collected in the four preceding complete years having been 13,943.

19. The statement of these figures can hardly fail, I think, to arrest attention, and may justify a brief digression in explanation, and in exposition of some interesting points in the recent history of direct taxation in this Island, which I shall offer when I come to deal with the subject of local taxation.

Property Tax on Cultivated Lands.

20. Taxation on land was also increased for the year 1901-1902 by the imposition of special rates per acre on land, according to the manner of its employment, in aid of General Revenue, in addition to the rates of the same character levied (under the name of Property Tax) for Parochial Road Revenue, and for General Revenue on lands planted in bananas and cocoanuts. The following table shows the total rates in force for the year as compared with the rates previously in force for the Parochial Property Tax:—

—	Previous Rate.		Rate during Year reviewed.
	To Parochial Road Funds.	To General Revenue.	
	d.	*d.*	*s. d.*
For every acre or part of an acre—			
In arrowroot, canes cocoa, coffee, ginger, tobacco.	3	—	1 0
In bananas and cocoanuts ...	—	3	1 0
In corn, ground nuts, cotton, tobacco, vegetables, or ground provisions.	3	—	3
In Guinea grass, or Para grass	1	—	3
In common pasture, pimento common pasture, and pimento.	¾	—	2
In wood and ruinate	¼	—	½

21. The total amount yielded in the year by the increased tax was £14,023. Out of this £5,394 was paid to Parochial Road Funds in lieu of the former Property Tax, leaving £8,629 to the credit of General Revenue Account. Allowing for the amount which, approximately, would have been received for General Revenue from the old tax on banana and cocoanut plantations, the yield of the additional taxation is computed to

have been £7,609. The estimate was £6,714. There are doubtless still some arrears to be gathered in. The total amount received from taxes on lands in Jamaica in this year (arrears included) was £46,782, of which £39,752 was for General Revenue and £7,030 for Parochial Funds. The Land Taxes, therefore, amount this year to about 7·4 per cent. of the total General Tax Revenue.

22. The gross total increase in the yield of the Quit Rents, the Holding Tax, and the taxes on cultivated lands carried to General Revenue over that of the previous year was £20,976, of which, apparently, £15,566 was due to increase of taxation and the remaining £5,676 to improved collections and the effects of the change of the tax year.

Education Tax (not increased).

23. The Education Tax, which is a limited rate on houses ranging from 2*s.* to 12*s.*, in aid of the expenses of Public Education, yielded £11,229 against £9,658 in the previous year, owing partly to the above-mentioned change in the tax year and partly to better collection of current dues and arrears. The total public expenditure for education for this year, I may observe, was:—

		£
Provided by law (Secondary Schools)	...	5,569
Voted on estimates	...	54,249
Total	...	59,818

The Education Tax pays less than one-fourth of the total of the grants-in-aid of elementary schools.

24. The revenue from sources other than taxation, and excluding the transfers of £12,456 from accumulated special funds, amounted to £226,590, the principal item being that of Railway Receipts, £118,215. This item might appear to show a falling off from last year's railway figures, £134,952, but the basis of comparison needs explanation.

Railway.

The Government took over the Jamaica Railway from the trustees of the bondholders of the late Jamaica Railway Company on the 16th August, 1900, with £48,701 to its credit in cash, and £15,098 in stores, &c. From the 16th August till the 31st March, 1901, the Railway Revenue brought to account by the Treasurer was £71,153, making, with the above-mentioned balances, £134,952 of receipts, as shown. But the gross revenue earned by the railway during the whole of the twelve months ended 31st March, 1901, was only £109,728 against £118,215 received in the year 1901-1902, which thus shows an improvement in gross revenue of £8,487, or about 7¾ per cent. I will

deal presently with the railway as an investment of capital, in which aspect it shows a heavy annual financial loss, but I may here observe that the revenue in 1901-1902 exceeded the working expenses by £40,253. In 1900-1901 the excess, for the whole of the corresponding twelve months, was only £20,788, although from the seven and a half months of that period during which the railway was in the hands of the Colonial Government the excess of receipts over expenditure was £21,725, that is to say at a rate very little short of £35,000 a year.

Post Office and Telegraphs. Irrigation Receipts.

25. There is a satisfactory increase of £2,146—more than 8 per cent.—in the receipts through the Post Office, the factors of which will be indicated when I some to deal with the report on that Department; and an advance of £639 in the proceeds of the sale of the water from the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canal. This increase is, however, partly accounted for by the better recovery of dues and arrears.

General Expenditure. Transfers in Account.

26. The total of General Expenditure (£751,699) included, under the head of Public Works and Buildings, sums amounting to £1,979 expended in previous years which had been charged to suspense accounts in anticipation of repayment from loans or otherwise. In order to clear the Colony's balance sheet, without recourse to further borrowing, these amounts were written off as expenditure.

Actual Expenditure.

27. The actual expenditure incurred during the year might accordingly be properly stated as £749,720, or £12,661 less than the amount of the actual revenue as similarly corrected above.

Debt Charges.

28. A decrease of £11,963 is shown in the total expenditure as compared with that of the previous year. The permanent charges of debt were swelled by the addition of £10,984 for annuities on Imperial Loans for Railway Expenses and in aid of deficit, and by the expenses of management on the new issue of £1,493,400 Railway 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock. There is, however, an apparent nett diminution of £29,860 in Debt Charges, owing to the circumstance that in 1900-1901 special payments amounting to £48,706 had to be made on the transfer of the railway for arrears of interest due to the recipients of the 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock to which the bondholders of the defunct railway company became entitled.

Increases of Expenditure.

29. There were increases of expenditure under twelve other heads of Appropriation, amounting to £53,749, the principal being under—

	£
Railway	26,673
Direct Imperial Mail Subsidy	18,329
Pensions	1,981
Real Property Valuation	1,772
Agricultural Services	1,545

Decreases.

The second and third of these items represent permanent increases of expenditure, but on the other hand there were decreases under thirty-three other heads of Appropriation, amounting altogether to £34,452, and representing to a large extent the results of careful economy and retrenchment.

30. The apparent increase in Railway Expenditure (from £51,288 to £77,961) is by comparison with only seven and a half months' expenditure in the previous year. The Railway Expenditure for the whole of the twelve months of that year, by the trustees and the Government together, was £88,940, or £10,979 more than the total of 1901-1902, which thus shows a reduction of 12½ per cent. in working expenses combined with an increase as mentioned above of 7¾ per cent. in receipts.

Direct Line.

31. This was the first year of the new Direct Imperial Mail Service for the carriage of mails and fruit, for which Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company receive a subsidy of £40,000 per annum paid in equal shares by the Imperial Government and the Colony. The contract is for ten years from February, 1901. The full amount of the subsidy was not brought to account within the year.

Valuation of Real Property.

32. The expenditure for the valuation of Real Property was incurred, under circumstances which will be more fully explained in due course, for the purpose of providing a basis for the reform and consolidation of the taxes on houses and lands.

General Results.

33. The financial results of the year were, on the whole, satisfactory, but they have not been attained without difficulty and anxiety. The Revenue (£762,381, excluding transfers) exceeded that of the previous year (which with the exclusion of similar items was £730,627) by £31,754, but fell short of the estimate by £7,115. A deficit was only avoided by the economies which

kept the expenditure £16,804 below the total appropriations, notwithstanding the inclusion of charges amounting to £4,902 not provided for on the estimate, for expenses of the Railway Loan Conversion, the Valuation of Real Property and the transfer from Suspense Accounts above-mentioned. The last two months of the year, with their marked improvement in revenue from Customs, excise, and railway alone converted the bare equilibrium which would have been effected by the rigid control of expenditure into the moderate but very acceptable surplus above recorded.

34. At the date of writing this I am able to record that the above-mentioned improvement in the Revenue has been and is being steadily maintained, and I will, in my concluding general observations, comment briefly on the latest aspect of the financial positions of this Government, reverting now to the returns for the financial year completed on the 31st March last.

The Public Debt.

35. Charges of Debt made up so large a proportion—nearly one quarter—of the total expenditure, that a somewhat close examination of the composition of the Public Debt may be of some interest. On the 31st March, 1902, this was as shown in the appended table. (See Table III.)

In this table, Division I. represents obligations established by law to pay certain annuities and interest on funds borrowed or deposited.

Division II. represents the Public Debt of the Colony in the ordinary sense of the term, being the amounts borrowed on negotiable securities or from the Imperial Government.

Division III. represents amounts borrowed by the Government and lent to the Kingston General Commissioners, who repay the annual charges to General Revenue Account.

Division IV. represents amounts borrowed directly by the Kingston General Commissioners and the Vere Irrigation Commissioners under the guarantee of the Government. The charges are met from the Revenues of the Commissioners.

Division V. represents amounts borrowed at interest by Parochial Boards from the Island Treasury.

Divisions I. and II., therefore, indicate the total annual debt charges falling on General Revenue. The charge under Division I. (ii.) is subject to fluctuation, those under Division I. (i.) and Division II. are constant and remain so until new debt is incurred or the redemption of old loans completed by the maturing of Sinking Funds.

37. With regard to Division II. it must be observed that the Government is liable to be called on to issue 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock to the further amount of £44,100 so soon as the title thereto, now in litigation, or not established, is decided, and also

that further debt to the amount of £44,000 is being incurred for the improvement of the railway, by borrowing from the Imperial Government on an annuity to repay principal and interest in twenty years, interest being charged at the rate of 2¾ per cent. These two additions to the debt will respectively increase the annual charges by £1,985 and £2,889, bringing them to a total of £171,309 under this Division and increasing the total nett annual charge on General Revenue (Divisions I. and II.) to £185,105.

Borrowing Powers in Suspense.

38. There is, moreover, legal authority for the raising of further loans for Public Buildings and Mountain Roads to the amount of £176,000 on Inscribed Stock, but there is no intention at present to incur this additional debt.

Recent Debt Charges.

39. Out of the total annual charge of £171,309 above-mentioned, no less than £82,521 will have been imposed upon the Treasury since the 1st April, 1900, £80,206 per annum having accrued through the obligation of the Colonial Government to pay off the bondholders of the railway and to put the line in efficient working order, and £2,315 to pay off a loan of £20,000 in aid of the deficit on General Revenue Account.

Old Consolidated Debt.

40. The Public Debts of the Colony have from time to time undergone consolidation, more or less complete, effecting reductions of interest in consideration of extensions of period. These processes render any analysis of the investments represented by the existing debt rather difficult, and I will not attempt to go back beyond the consolidation effected in the year 1869, when a number of old 6 per cent. debts were consolidated by an issue of 5 per cent. debentures.

Further Consolidation and Conversion.

41. In the year 1882 a fresh consolidation was effected by the issue of 4 per cent. Debentures to the amount of £400,700. Of these Debentures, Stock to the amount of £114,260 was applied to redeeming the 5 per cent. Debentures of 1869, £102,680 to redeeming Debentures issued by the Kingston Commissioners (this amount will be found in Division III.), £95,653 to redeeming Irrigation Debt, £44,100 for Rio Cobre Irrigation Debentures, and the balance to redeem Debentures issued at various times for the construction and improvement of main roads, telegraphs, and public and parochial buildings.

42. Of this Consolidation Debenture Loan, £20,800 was paid off, £319,300 was converted by later operations into £316,147 10*s*. Four per cent. Inscribed Stock, local and English issues, and £60,600 remains at Debenture Debt in Division III. It appears that by the effect of these successive conversions some parts of the Island's debt will have attained a very venerable age by the time they are finally extinguished.

Investments Represented by Present Debt.

43. The General Public Debt as it stands may be analysed into the following abstract of investments:—

Loans for	Amount.	Annual Charges.
	£	£
Railway outstanding	2,389,700	117,159
(To be added	88,100	4,874)
	2,477,800	122,033
Bridges and Roads (£100 unexpended) ...	40,720	19,720
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	120,076	6,278
Coolie Immigration	95,653	4,783
Public Buildings (£37,000 unexpended) ...	107,804	4,390
Hotels	63,475	4,795
Kingston Improvements	24,560	1,228
Telegraphs	14,972	748
Deficit (Imperial Loan)	18,235	2,315
Old Consolidated Debts, &c. (balances outstanding).	99,763	5,019
Total Outstanding	3,343,958	166,435
Add for New Railway Debt ...	88,100	4,874
Total incurred	3,432,058	171,309

The Railway Investments.

Railway Debt on Old Government Railway.

44. For the purchase, equipment, and extension of the old Jamaica Railway the Colonial Government borrowed in all, under five different Debenture Loans, £833,100.

45. Of the sum of these Debentures £44,400 has been paid off out of General Revenue and £625,200 has been converted for Inscribed Stock, £619,979 at 4 per cent. and £8,000 at 3½ per cent. The annual charge on these stocks for interest and Sinking Fund is £31,359.

46. £6,000 remains due on Debentures at 4½ per cent. and £157,500 at 4 per cent., altogether causing a constant annual charge of £10,468, of which in the current year 1902-1903 £6,558 will be paid for interest and £3,910 for redemption of Debentures.

47. The total now outstanding on account of debts incurred for the railway before it was sold in 1890 is accordingly £791,478 10*s*., which is being annually reduced by the difference between an annuity of £10,468 and the interest payable on the amount of Debentures left outstanding each year.

Sale of Old Railway.

48. When the Jamaica Railway was sold under Law 22 of 1889, the Colonial Government received from the promoters of the Jamaica Railway Company £100,000 in cash and Second Mortgage Debentures for £700,000 to bear interest after interest should have been paid on the First Mortgage Debentures, on which £1,500,000 for developing the railway was to be borrowed. The Second Mortgage Bonds are now valueless.

Payments for Lands for New Track. Grants of Crown Lands.

49. On the other hand, out of the £100,000 received in cash, the Colonial Government has had up to date to pay £90,919 for the purchase of lands for the railway extension tracks and has conveyed to the promoters 76,800 acres of Crown Lands in part consideration for the extensions

New Debt Incurred.

50. On the failure of the Jamaica Railway Company, the Colonial Government became liable to issue to the bondholders Inscribed Stock to the nett amount of £1,493,400, to bear interest at 3½ per cent. Up to the 31st March, 1902, such stock to the amount of £1,449,300 had been issued, two bonds for £100 each had been repaid by the Government, and the balance, £44,100, is held for assignment to the parties who may be entitled to it; the title to £38,000 of it is in litigation and the remainder has not yet been claimed. When the whole of it has been assigned the annual charge, as stated above, will be £67,203 on this part of the Railway Debt. The amount of the liability accrued up to date on this account has been charged as expenditure and carried to a Reserve Account for disbursement when claimed.

Imperial Loans for Arrears of Interest and Equipment.

51. On taking over the railway the Government also borrowed from the Imperial Government £88,000 to pay off the arrears of interest due to the First Mortgage bondholders, and obtained power to borrow £110,000 to put the railway in a proper working condition. Up to the 31st March, 1902, £66,000 had been borrowed for the latter purpose; the remaining £44,000 will probably be borrowed in the course of the present year.

52. These loans, which bear interest at 2¾ per cent., are repayable in twenty years by an annuity of £65 13*s.* 6*d.* per £1,000 to cover interest and repayment. As the annuity had begun to be paid in 1901-1902 on the amount then borrowed the capital debt outstanding on the 31st March appears as £148,961.

The full annual charge when the railway improvements are completed will be at the rate of £13,003.

Summary.

53. The Railway Debt Charges may accordingly be thus summarised:—

—	Interest.	Repayment.	Total.
Old Railway Debt—	£	£	£
Debentures	6,558	3,910	10,468
Inscribed Stock	25,080	6,279	31,359
	31,638	10,189	41,827
New Railway Debt—			
Inscribed Stock	52,269	14,934	67,203
Imperial Loan	4,445	8,558	13,003
	56,714	23,592	80,206
Total.	88,352	33,681	122,033

Nett Profit and Loss.

54. The receipts of the railway in 1901-1902 exceeded the expenditure (as has been stated) by £40,253. This rate of profit will doubtless be increased during the current and future years, but at such a rate a deficiency of £48,100 a year for interest alone, or of £81,780 a year for total Debt Charges, is imposed on the tax payers by the railway.

55. The old railway was a sound and advantageous investment. The returns from the extensions made by the Jamaica Railway Company cannot as yet be compared with their cost to the tax payers. It can hardly, I think, now be questioned that a continuance of the former policy of gradual progressive extensions of the Government railway would have proved more profitable than its sale and extension under the arrangements made in 1889.

Bridges and Roads (Roads and Bridges Debt.)

56. In addition to £16,100 included in the Consolidation Loan under Law 17 of 1890 and subsequently converted into 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, the amount of £400,000 altogether has been borrowed, principally during the course of the last ten years, for the construction and improvement of bridges and roads, and applied as shown below:—

—	Borrowed to 31st March, 1902.	Expended to 31st March, 1902.
	£	£
St. Thomas and Portland Bridges ...	120,000	119,409
Bridges – Law 20 of 1892.	100,000	97,338
Parochial Road Reconstruction ...	146,000	138,879
Main Roads	34,000	44,278
Total	400,000	399,903

Portland and St. Thomas.

57. Of the loan for Saint Thomas and Portland bridges, £61,400 was issued on Debentures at 4 per cent. interest. Debentures for £6,200 have been redeemed, and Debentures for £4,500 converted into £4,320 Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent. £43,740 was borrowed on Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent., and £14,860 at 3½ per cent. The liability now outstanding for this loan is accordingly £113,620. The annual charge for interest on the whole loan issued is £4,470, and for Sinking Funds, £1,445.

Island Bridges.

58. The £100,000 for Jamaica bridges was borrowed on Inscribed Stock, £34,000 at 4 per cent. and £66,000 at 3 per cent. interest, and 1 per cent. Sinking Fund.

New Main Roads.

59. The Parochial Road Reconstruction Loan was borrowed on Inscribed Stock, £140,000 at 4 per cent.

60. Out of a total contemplated loan of £100,000, £34,000 has been borrowed for mountain roads on Inscribed Stock at 3 per cent. interest. The amount of £10,278 spent in excess of this amount may be regarded as having been provided for out of the proceeds of the other loans, the accounts of which had on the 31st March unexpended balances to their credit amounting to £10,374.

61. The annual charges referable to the amount of these investments, according to the amounts actually spent up to date, may be abstracted, in round figures, as follows:—

—	Expenditure.	Interest.	Repayments	Total.
	£	£	£	£
St. Thomas and Portland Bridges (Debentures at 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent. and 3 per cent.)	119,400	4,470	1,445	5,915
(Credit 5 per cent. on £600 unexpended.)	—	24	6	30
	—	4,446	1,439	5,885
Jamacia Bridges Loan (66,000 at 3 per cent. and £34,000 at 4 per cent.)	97,350	3,234	973	4,207
Parochial Main Roads...	138,900	5,556	1,389	6,945
Inscribed Stock: Mountain Roads (34,000 at 3 per cent. and £10,250 at 4 per cent.)	44,250	1,430	1,443	1,873
Old Main Road Debt (Consolidated.)	16,100	644	161	805
Unexpended (in Treasury)	100	4	1	5
Total...	416,100	15,314	4,406	19,720

Profit and Loss.

62. I think that it is generally recognised that the money spent on bridges and main roads has on the whole been well invested. Some parts of the new roads and some of the bridges, perhaps, may not yet appear to justify their construction, but the greater part of the work must be recognised to have been absolutely indispensable to the maintenance of the Colony. Without these works the fruit industry could never have been developed as it has been, and the Island must have fallen into deeper depression than it has ever had to experience. But beyond this advantage, I think that it would be hard to deny that the expenditure of the profits on the increased traffic made possible probably repays to the Revenue, in customs and excise duties, the full amount of the interest and sinking funds on these debts. It must indeed be borne in mind that the new roads and bridges have added considerably also to the expenditure of the Public Works Department for annual maintenance. I believe, however, that further improvement and reconstruction of roads, as funds become available, is not only advisable, but indispensable, for the increase of the prosperity of the Island. All progress in this regard has been practically suspended under the financial difficulties of the last few years.

63. I regret that I cannot claim that the construction of the only mountain road that has been completed has been the most

economically advantageous investment possible. The money might even, I think, with more immediate profit, have been spent on other roads included in the mountain road scheme, and still more advantageously, in my judgment, on certain lowland roads.

The road, however, from Gordon Town as far as Newcastle, is of appreciable and increasing value. From Newcastle into the Buff Bay River Valley it is at present only an interesting demonstration of the ability of the Public Works Department.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works (Irrigation Debt).

64. The total amount borrowed for this undertaking was £126,600. Of this, £6,300 has been repaid, £44,100 was included in the 4 per cent. Consolidation Debenture Loan of 1880 (Law 19), and subsequently again converted for Inscribed 4 per cent. Stock; £13,600 was converted directly from Debentures into £13,376 Inscribed Stock, £5,376 at 4 per cent. and £8,000 at 3½ per cent. £62,600 remains due on Debentures at 4 per cent. interest. The total debt outstanding is thus £120,076.

65. The annual charges for interest and Sinking Fund on the Inscribed Stock amount to £2,833 and on the Debentures outstanding to £3,445, altogether £6,278.

Irrigation Revenue and Expenditure.

66. The receipts from the works exceeded the working expenditure in 1901-1902 by £5,810, being a deficiency of £468 on the total actual payments by the Government, but more than providing for interest, which at 4 per cent. on the original capital would be £5,064, or on the outstanding unredeemed capital £4,803. The receipts, it may be observed, were exceptionally high owing to the more effectual collection of arrears. The earnings for the year were £6,936, being £129 less than in the preceding year, but the collections amounted to £7,553. The sale of logwood from the canal banks provided £123.

67. Apart from the balance of the amount of these works with General Revenue as an investment they have proved of essential importance in the development of the banana industry in Saint Catherine's Parish.

Coolie Immigration Debt (Old Immigration Fund).

68. This amount, which was included in the Consolidation Loan under Law 19 of 1880 and subsequently converted into 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, represents the extent of the insolvency of the old Immigration Fund the liabilities of which were assumed by General Revenue Account.

Public Buildings.

69. In the Consolidation Loan under Law 19 of 1880 there was included provision for £7,804 borrowed for the erection and

repairs of Public and Parochial Buildings. This Stock was subsequently converted into Inscribed 4 per cent. Stock.

70. In the year 1897, £100,000 was borrowed on Inscribed Stock at 3 per cent. for the extension of Public Buildings under the Public Buildings Loan Laws No. 6 of 1893 and No. 4 of 1894, which authorised the following amounts to be borrowed:—

	£
For Prisons	30,000
For Lunatic Asylum	40,000
For the Public General Hospital, Kingston	40,000

Of this amount, to the 31st March, 1902, £63,014 had been expended, leaving £36,986 to the credit of the Loan Account with the Treasurer. The progress of the works at the charge of this account, with the exception of the buildings of the Saint Catherine District Prison, has been practically suspended for some years, the unexpended balance of the loan having been employed in support of the Treasury balances in lieu of borrowing from the Imperial Government on account of the deficit on General Revenue Account. Such works as are considered most pressing and expedient will be proceeded with as the condition of the Treasury balances renders it convenient and advisable.

71. The present state of the account may be analysed in round figures, as below:—

—	Expenditure.	Interest.	Repayment.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Old Public Buildings Debt...	7,804	312	78	390
New Public Buildings Debt	63,000	1,890	630	2,520
Unexpended in Treasury ...	37,000	1,010	370	1,480
Total	107,804	3,312	1,078	4,390

Jamaica Hotels.

72. This debt represents the amount of Debentures at 3 per cent. issued by the Government of Jamaica in aid of the erection of the under-mentioned hotels:—

—	Debt.	Interest.
	£	£
Myrtle Bank	33,900	1,017
Constant Spring	14,800	444
Rio Cobre	7,775	233
Moneague	7,000	210
Total	63,475	1,904

In addition to the interest an annuity of £12,891 is invested to repay the Debentures at maturity.

73. The Myrtle Bank Hotel is now let to a company in connection with the Direct Line Steamers, at a rent of £500 and with the option of purchase for £15,000.

The Constant Spring Hotel is let to the same company rent free for three years on condition of £3,000 being spent in improvements within that period, and with an option of purchase for £10,000. Much more than £3,000 has already been spent by the company. The other hotels are still in the possession of the companies which founded them but which do not repay to the Government the amount of the Debenture interest, and these hotels are therefore liable to forfeiture at the option of the Government.

Guaranteed Debt.

74. The local debt guaranteed by the Public Treasury was increased during the year by £16,500 borrowed on Debentures issued by the Vere Irrigation Commissioners who are expending £35,000 on the construction of a canal and reservoir for the irrigation of sugar estates in Lower Clarendon. An account of this undertaking will be given in dealing with the work of the Public Works Department for the year.

Parochial Debt.

75. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury, for loans at 4 per cent. for water works, markets, and other public improvements were reduced during the year from £87,873 to £73,023, an abatement of £14,850.

Loan Expenditure.

76. The amount of expenditure charged during the year against Public General Loan Funds was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Railway.			
Jamaica Railway—			
Interest	504	0	0
Equipment	40,447	18	2
Public Works.			
Bridges—			
Law 20 of 1892	2,382	12	7½
Public Buildings—			
Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894 ...	769	2	11
Mountain Roads—			
Law 13 of 1895	257	2	10
	£44,360	16	6½

Kingston Streets.

77. There was expended by the Kingston General Commissioners from Loan Funds—

Kingston Street Reconstruction—
Law 31 of 1890 ... ... £962 7 0

Vere Irrigation.

78. The Vere Irrigation Commissioners spent £14,266 out of the proceeds of Debentures issued under the Vere Irrigation Law. 1897, for survey and construction of their works, an account of which will be found in the paragraph dealing with the Public Works of the year.

(C.) LOCAL FINANCE.

79. The Revenues and Expenditure of the local Administrative Bodies during the year were as shown below:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
Kingston—	£	£	£	£
General Commissioners..	38,690	36,433	2,257	
Mayor and Council General Fund.	25,661	25,653	8	
Road Fund	5,123	5,007	116	
Other Parochial Boards—				
General Funds	61,313	64,847	—	3,534
Road Funds	37,148	34,156	2,992	
Total	167,935	166,096	1,839 Nett.	

80. The total balances to the credit of the Kingston General Commissioners and the Parochial Boards at the Treasury on the 31st March, 1902, were:—

	£
Kingston General Commissioners ...	11,660
Parochial Boards (including Kingston) ...	30,053

Parochial Finance Law.

81. This was the first complete year during which the Parochial Finance Law 34 of 1900 was in full effect. By that law accounts and rating were simplified by consolidating the Poor Funds, the Sanitary Fund, the General Purposes Fund and the Surplus Fund of the parishes into a single General Fund for each parish, and the several rates into a General Rate, and the expenditure of parochial funds was made subject to the approval of the Governor on detailed estimates framed in the same manner as the General Estimates.

Rise of Parish Rates.

82. In 1886-1887, the first year of the existence of parochial Boards under their present constitution, the average of the total rates for all purposes in Kingston and the thirteen country parishes was 1*s.* 10*d.* in the pound of assessed value of houses, the Poor Rate averaging 1*s.* 7¼*d.* For the eight months, 1900-1901 when the consolidation of rates and extended control came into force, the rates in the same parishes averaged 2*s.* 7¼*d.*, showing an average increase of 42 per cent. in the rate of the House Tax during the period. The average amount of the Poor Rate (included in this) had increased to 1*s.* 11½*d.*, a rise of slightly over 22 per cent. I may observe that the rates for the current year 1902-1903 show a decreased average, viz., 2*s.* 6½*d.*, which there is reason to hope may indicate a turning of the tide.

83. In connection with the comments I made in paragraph 18 on the subject of the yield of the Holdings Tax the following observations may be of interest.

84. In the year 1886-1887 the average of the House Tax for all purposes was, as stated, 1*s.* 10*d.*

In that year the tax for the year was collected on 77,269 houses and yielded altogether £55,428.

85. Ten years later, in 1896-1897, the average rate was 2*s.* 3*d.* It was collected for the year on 66,313 houses, and arrears were collected on 6,532, yielding altogether £54,898. In the following year, 1897-1898, the collection of House Tax touched its lowest level, a rate averaging 2*s.* 8*d.* was collected on 58,664 houses and with arrears collected on 9,187 yielded only £52,886.

86. In 1899-1900, a rate averaging 2*s.* 6¾*d.* was collected from 56,372 houses, the lowest number recorded as paying their dues within any year, but arrears were paid on 13,362, and the total yield was £61,726.

Improvement in Collection 1900-1901.

87. In the eight months' period of 1900-1901, the current rate of 2*s.* 7¼*d.* was collected from 55,745 houses, and arrears from 12,944, that is to say very nearly as many receipts were given as in the previous 12 months, and the total yield was £52,996.

88. In 1901-1902 a rate averaging the same amount was collected within the year on 64,346 houses, and arrears on 17,312 houses, yielding altogether £62,858. The total number of receipts given for House Tax was no less than 81,658, being higher than in any year since 1895-1896, when it was 82,547.

89. The course of these collections, like that of the collections of Holding Tax shows conspicuously a great increase in energy and efficiency of collection during the last two years. I shall

return presently to the bearing of these figures on questions of the incidence of taxation which have occupied much attention during late years.

90. In any criticism of parochial finance with regard to the increase of rates to which I have called attention it must be borne in mind that, so far as the Poor Rate is concerned, the parochial expenditure has been swelled, beyond the possibility of control, by the increase in the cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics, which in 1886-1887 was £4,971, and 1901-1902 £12,333.

Parochial Road Funds.

91. The Road Funds of the parishes are dependent upon the Road Tax, levied on wheels and stock used on the roads, and the Property Tax to which reference has already been made. In certain parishes, notably St. Mary's Parish, where the soil is very unfavourable for road making and road maintenance, but very favourable for the growth of bananas, the great recent increase of traffic has rendered the local road funds inadequate for the proper maintenance of the parochial roads, and proposals have been made for an increase of the local Road Taxes.

(D.) Direct Taxation.

An Ever-burning Question.

92. A seemingly disproportionate amount of discussion and complaint, both verbal and in the Press, of official correspondence and of unrecognised labour by public servants, continually arises about the subject of the petty direct taxation on houses and lands in this Island for local or general purposes. It seems disproportionate because, although in some cases the sums involved are no doubt considerable in proportion to the immediate means of those liable, the whole amount of these direct taxes is but a small fraction of the taxation which is paid without complaint and collected with no corresponding trouble and friction. I have mentioned that last year when the Property Taxes for general revenue had been increased by 50 per cent., they were only 7 per cent., say one-fourteenth part of the whole tax revenue; but there was certainly far more than fourteen times as much fuss made about them as about the whole of the rest. The parochial House and Property Taxes during the six years following the imposition of the Holdings Tax averaged nearly three times the amounts of the Quit Rents and Holdings Tax together. Since 1896, when the Education Tax was added for General Revenue, the parochial taxes on property have averaged about twice the amount of those for General Revenue. The parochial taxes form, therefore, the heaviest part of the burden of direct taxation on property, and, consisting as they do almost entirely of the House Tax, it is they that are the principal source of complaint and difficulty.

93. I append certain tables (Tables IV., V. and VI.) illustrative of the history of this class of taxation in Jamaica during recent years. The amounts involved may not appear considerable, but the matters they cover bulk very large in our local politics and greatly affect the temper of our community.

94. Table IV. gives an abstract of the returns from direct taxation in houses and lands since 1886.

Table V., a summary of the returns from the Holdings Tax only since its enactment, showing the number of holdings on which the tax was collected for each year, and the arrears.

Table VI. shows the total yield of the House Tax for all purposes, the number of houses paid on, and the average per house paid in each year on the houses that did pay.

95. I make the following observations on these returns; they are open to qualifications and exceptions, but I believe them on the whole to be true.

96. The average Jamaican peasant-householder, although he cannot be said to be indigent, and is not on the whole politically averse to paying his taxes, but rather the contrary, finds great difficulty, partly external and economic, partly characteristic and temperamental, in getting together the money to pay them when due. When pressed to do so, he is more sorry for himself, and complains more loudly, than the representatives of his class, far worse off, in most other countries.

97. Moreover, in Jamaica as elsewhere, the tax-gatherer is traditionally regarded as a cruel and extortionate person, and as it is not possible to employ men of very exalted character or intelligence as bailiffs or runners when legal process has to be resorted to, there are no doubt occasionally cases of hardship in connection with levies for taxes. These are made a great deal of, and quite reasonably so; but in general great care and consideration are exercised by the Collector-General's Department in their proceedings.

98. Thirdly, the class to which the peasant-proprietor has chiefly to look for sympathy and advice is that of the Ministers of religion of all denominations; and though these no doubt, as a rule, encourage him to recognise his duties of citizenship, still they are themselves in direct competition with the tax-gatherer for his contributions, by which their ministrations are chiefly supported, the regular fee for church membership being threepence weekly. It would not be human nature that when they find the householder is behindhand with his Church Dues they should not express a somewhat excessive sympathy with his grievances about the taxes, and should not in the Press or the Legislature make the most of his complaints of "oppression." And as they are the class that next to the Government chiefly

works and speaks in behalf of the inarticulate peasant class, there is a tendency for the difficulty of paying taxes to obtain an exaggerated public expression.

99. So much, I hope, may be stated without offence or injustice.

Increased Taxes.

100. In the year 1890-1891 there was added to the existing direct taxes the Holdings Tax, and in 1896-1897 the Education Tax. These taxes (which for the bulk of the taxpayers are at the rate of 2*s*. per holding and 2*s*. per house, respectively) were imposed with practically the general consent of the population, the former to pay for a great extension of country roads, the latter in consideration of the abolition of fees in all elementary schools.

Diminishing Yield.

101. In each case, however, the effect of the imposition of the new tax was to diminish the number of persons who paid their taxes due within the year; that is to say that, although the added burden was small and reasonable, it overweighted the means and goodwill of a certain number, and, although the total yield of taxation increased, it did not (as Table IV. shows) increase by the full amount yielded by the new tax. There was a considerable loss on the others, and arrears began to assume heavy proportions.

Depressed Times.

102. When, in addition to these direct results of the increase of taxation with which the Collector-General's Department did not find itself immediately able to cope, there supervened a depression in trade and industry, due to bad seasons and fall in prices, the difficulty increased, and the taxes were in many cases a really oppressive burden. But the law provides that in all cases of genuine inability to pay the Parochial Board concerned may remit the taxes due, and this power has at all times been freely exercised.

Crippling of the Collector General's Department.

103. In the spring of 1897, with the purpose, presumably, of effecting economy in General Expenditure and relieving the pressure of taxation upon their constituents (in accordance with election promises) the elected members of the Legislature adopted the extraordinary step of striking off from the Collector-General's vote for the year the provision for the pay of the "runners" whose business is to serve notices of assessment for taxes and otherwise to carry out the arrangements prescribed for their collection.

Abolition of Surcharge.

104. Moreover, in 1893, the penalty of "surcharge" for failing to make an ingiving of property taxable had been abolished. This surcharge, it must be understood, was not a penalty for non-payment of taxes, but for not making an ingiving to the Collector, whereby he is put to the necessity of sending out a runner to serve an assessment. The surcharge was to cover the costs thus imposed by those who neglected their legal duty upon their fellow citizens who did not neglect it. By making an ingiving, whether the taxes were paid or not, the surcharge could be avoided.

Threatened Insolvency of Parochial Funds.

105. The Collector-General's Department was thus temporarily crippled, and the payment of direct taxes became, to a large extent, a voluntary obligation. The result was an increase of arrears, and of burdens upon those who continued to pay, and a condition of parochial finance which led Sir D. Barbour to form the opinion that the Parochial Boards were insolvent. The General Revenue taxes, being fixed, did not increase, but the Parochial House Tax was bound to, and did, go up.

Insolvency Averted.

106. Sir D. Barbour's apprehension, I am glad to say, has been proved mistaken. The proper way to relieve rates is not to retrench in the machinery for levying them but in the expenditure which they are levied to defray, and at the same time to insist rigorously on their payment by all who can pay them.

Improved Position.

107. This policy has been followed out by the Government in legislation and in administration during the last two years. The provision for surcharges for not making the ingiving has been restored and facilities for the payment of taxes by quarterly instalments have been given. The result has been that even in a period of continued depression the current taxes have been better collected and a larger amount of arrears recovered than for years previously, and this with no proportionate amount of hardship to the payers. Complaints have been made, and many, though not deemed entitled to remission, have no doubt found a difficulty in paying, but the great bulk of the recovery has been made from persons who could well manage to pay and who, under the laxity of collection that had been temporarily rendered inevitable, would have evaded payment and thrown the burden on their neighbours.

The Parochial Boards for the most part now recognise the need for retrenchment. The growth of parochial expenditure in proportion to the rateable values, has, I hope, been

checked; the rise of the rates in certain parishes has reached a turning point, the parochial exchequer is in a sounder position than it has been for a long time, and the improvement in collection, for which the Collector-General's Department deserves the greatest credit, having effected it in a year in which it had the added burden thrown upon it of making a valuation of all real property in the Island, cannot fail, I trust, to enable still further reduction of rates to be effected in the next few years.

Need of Reform of Direct Property Taxes.

108. At the same time, it appears unquestionable, and the Government has adopted the view, that the total burden of the present direct taxes on the poorest class of property-holders is onerous and unfair, especially that of House Tax, houses alone bearing practically the whole of the local expenditure other than that on roads. A readjustment is needed, not only on grounds of equity, but, because as matter of practice it is better to have a low tax that can be collected upon the poorest class than a tax that must either be remitted or collected at the cost of unquestionable hardship to the taxpayers and excessive expense to the Government.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

109. Annexed is a table (VII.) showing the values of the imports and exports in the last five years as assessed by the Customs Department.

Increase of Exports.

110. The value of the Island produce and manufactures exported during the twelve months of 1901-1902 was assessed at £1,823,684, an increase of £85,161, or about 5 per cent. on the amount of last year's returns. British and foreign products and manufactures to the value of £38,727 and £76,731 in coin or bullion were also exported, making a total of £1,939,142, to compare with last year's total of £1,797,076, a gross increase of £142,066.

Increase of Imports.

111. The value of all imports was £1,699,525, an increase of £46,858 over last year's total, £1,652,677. The imports included £30,135 in coin or bullion.

Export Trade.

112. The exports of Island products (although I feel bound to say that I think the values under certain items are probably somewhat over-estimated, and in other cases perhaps under-estimated) show a substantial and satisfactory increase and, on the whole, a continuous progress during the five years for which the figures are given. This year's total is £165,597, or 10 per cent., above the annual average of the period, £1,658,087.

Excess of Exports.

The excess of the value of exports over imports, £239,617, or upwards of 14 per cent., was noticed last year and commented on as follows in last year's Blue Book Report:—

"The explanation of this course of trade is probably to be found in the fact that the investments of borrowed capital in railway extensions and other public works and private undertakings has come to an end, whilst increased debt charges on the borrowings, public and private, of recent years have now to be paid for by the excess of the exports. Whilst the free expenditure of borrowed money was proceeding, the distribution of wages both stimulated the importations of foreign commodities and withdrew industry from the production of exportable goods. Under this influence and that of current low prices, sugar cultivation fell off, and much of the established coffee cultivation was neglected. The taxation necessary to pay for increased debt charges has now consequently to be levied on partially diminished resources, and the foreign purchasing power of the community bears a less proportion to its exports than formerly."

Heavy Remittances (Foreign Profits).

113. I may add that the Colonial Government alone has to remit more than £200,000 a year to England for debt charges, shipping and telegraph subsidies and other public expenditure. A considerable amount of the value of the fruit exports must remain in the United States as profits of the United Fruit Company, and the claims of other creditors and investors may well be presumed sufficient to account for the balance of this excess, which I shall expect to prove to be normal so long as we do not resume the borrowing of large amounts of capital from abroad for expenditure in the Island.

Principal Staples of Export.

Table VIII. gives particulars of the exports this year and last of the ten leading products of the Island. It will be observed that bananas head the list, with a value of £825,288,

nearly 45 per cent. of the total value of exports for the year. By adding the value of other fresh fruit, viz.:—

	£
Oranges	102,780
Grape fruit	7,671
Limes	441
Mangoes	726
Pineapples	2,361

we get a total of £939,167 as the value of perishable fruit exported—more than half the total.

Banana Trade (Trade with England by Direct Line).

114. The banana trade showed an improvement of one-third in amount and value. The number of stems exported rose from eight and a quarter millions to eleven millions. This improvement was to be expected having regard to the great increase in the area planted during the last few years, and would have been realised earlier but for the disastrous storm of October, 1899. Cold weather and continuous heavy rains in the autumn of 1901 also somewhat retarded the maturing of the spring fruit of 1902 and impaired its size, but on the whole the year 1901-1902 has been a good and profitable year for the banana industry. In Sir A. Hemming's Report on the Blue Book of last year the institution of the Direct Imperial Line of Steamers was referred to as a good augury for the fruit trade. These steamers began their service in February, 1901, being under contract to carry 20,000 bunches of bananas to England every fortnight. The following statement shows the total amounts and values of fresh fruit carried to England by this line during the 12 months of 1901-1902. The similar exports by the Royal Mail Line are shown for comparison:—

—	Direct Line.				Royal Mail.			
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d
Bananas, bunches...	643,846	48,288	9	0	9,401	605	1	6
Oranges, No. ...	5,610,850	7,294	2	0	2,794,075	3,632	6	0
Pines, dozen ...	5,733	1,146	17	8	1,214	242	13	8
Mangoes, packages	1,525	331	1	8	346	108	8	4
Fruit, other kinds...	—	2,013	19	8	—	935	1	1
Total	—	59,074	10	0	—	5,524	0	7

So far as the actual addition made to the volume of the fruit trade is concerned, the effect of this experiment might not appear considerable. The quantity of bananas carried is less than one

quarter of the mere increase in the export of that staple for the year, and had the fruit not been sent to England it would doubtless have gone, though possibly at some loss of price, to the United States. Important results have, however, been achieved, in regard to the development and prospects of the fruit growing industry. It has been proved that bananas can be carried to England in a marketable condition. It has been proved that a large demand for them may be expected at a paying price, and an independent company has been formed to run, without a subsidy, a second fortnightly service for the purchase of from 30,000 to 40,000 bunches each trip. It is recognised by all concerned that if such ventures are to be successful the volume of the trade must be multiplied by a large factor, and those who have invested large capital in the enterprise are well qualified and determined to effect this. As yet, however, the value of the fruit exported to England is little more than 6 per cent. of the total. For the sale of the balance we have still to rely entirely on the American market.

Experiment by the Royal Mail S. P. Company.

115. A very regrettable check to the enterprise of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in connection with the promotion of the fruit trade occurred during the year. This Company had allowed one of their vessels, the "Para," to be fitted with a large compartment for the transport of fruit under the safeguard of what was known as the Lawton process, whereby the maturing of fruit was to be suspended by the exhaustion of oxygen from the chamber. Mr. Lawton, the inventor of the process, in concert with the United Fruit Company, prepared a shipment of bananas for transport to England, but on the second day of the voyage an explosion occurred in the fruit hold, Mr. Lawton and two of his assistants were killed, and the experiment was summarily concluded.

Orange Trade.

116. The quantity and value of the oranges exported showed a decline. This is not, in my opinion, altogether to be regretted. The orange trade has still to be put on a proper basis, and it appears that only the discipline of failure will teach some Jamaica shippers how alone this can be done. In the years 1899 and 1900, when great quantities were shipped, much harm was done to the reputation of Jamaica oranges by wholesale consignments of undersized and immature fruit and of other stuff rendered worthless by careless picking and bad packing. The trade can, I believe, by careful handling be made more valuable to the Island than it has ever yet been, but this can be effected only by repairing and fostering the good name of Jamaica fruit in the markets of the United States and Great Britain. Proposals for a bill to control the quality of exported fruit have

been formulated by a committee of the Agricultural Society representative of the orange trade, but the proposals have not altogether commended themselves to some of the principal shippers. A steadily increasing quantity of fine oranges of selected varieties is now coming into the market from planted groves, the produce from which, even if not in all cases superior to the native "wild" fruit, is less liable to be injured in picking and can be packed to greater advantage. The export of grape-fruit, which shows little recent advance in value, may be expected to increase before long in like manner.

Dependence on Fruit Precarious.

117. However acceptable may be the development of the fruit trade it cannot be regarded as quite satisfactory that the Island should only have been saved from a decline in the value of its exports by the increase in the production of bananas, the most perishable and precarious of its staples. The increase in the value of this export appears at £206,652, and I think that it is probably over-estimated by the rating of 1*s.* 6*d.* a stem adopted by the Collector of Customs. This rate, however, is the same as that followed in the statistics of the last two previous years, and as there has not been any fall may fairly serve for comparison. The price of the full-sized bunch (nine hands and upwards) at the shipping place ranges from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* according to season, and is highest at the busiest time. But the bunches are by no means all of them full-sized, and four eight-hand bunches are paid for as three, four seven-hand bunches as two full-sized bunches. Unless, therefore, the proportion of full-sized bunches is high, it seems doubtful whether the average price for the whole year would prove to have been as high as 1*s.* 6*d.* per stem exported.

118. The only other exports that are credited with substantial increase in value are cocoanuts (£20,473), cocoa (£18,436), logwood (£5,176), and fustic (£7,637).

Cocoanuts and Cocoa.

119. Improved prices and demand for cocoanuts increased the quantity exported by 30 per cent. in total amount, and in value by nearly 50 per cent. The quantity of cocoa exported rose by no less than 70 per cent., notwithstanding a fall in price of from 10*s.* to 15*s.* per cwt., and realised 30 per cent. more in total amount. This increase is among the most satisfactory features in the year's economy. It may be taken to indicate that a considerable amount of young cocoa has been planted among bananas as a permanent crop and otherwise, and is beginning to come into bearing. The cocoa crop of the Island is, however, as yet insignificant in importance compared with what it might, should, and I hope shortly will be. Great attention has been

paid by the Agricultural Department to the encouragement of this cultivation.

Logwood (Course of Trade in Logwood.)

120. The export of logwood shows an increase of 20·8 per cent. in quantity and a little over 5 per cent. in value. Price was lower, but it still pays those who have logwood on their properties to cut and ship. Upwards of 5,000 tons were consumed in this Island by the West India Chemical Works, which exported logwood extract valued at £26,145. The following statistics furnished to me by Mr. C. E. De Mercado, of Kingston, of the arrivals of Jamaica logwood and roots at the ports of Hamburg, Havre, and of the United Kingdom for the years 1897 to 1901 are of interest. The trade with the United Kingdom, it will be noticed, has fallen from 11,589 tons in 1897 to 1,765 tons in 1901:—

—	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.
Imports into Hamburg—					
Straight	500	180	170	200	500
Roots	650	1 250	900	1,800	3,100
Imports into Havre—					
Straight	4,785	4,995	6,875	2,845	4,560
Roots	1,795	3,990	4,545	2 820	3,605
Imports into United Kingdom—					
Straight and Roots ...	1,765	733	1,476	4,988	11,589

121. The place of Jamaica wood and roots has been largely taken by Haitian roots. Formerly these roots used not to be dug in Haiti, but of recent years they have been dug there largely. Moreover, the high rate of exchange that has been ruling in Haiti has enabled the exporters of the wood to accept comparatively low prices in gold, thus keeping down the price of Jamaica wood.

122. The comparative survival of the Havre trade will be noticed. This is probably due, in part at least, to the protective shipping policy of the French Government. The effect of their *sur-taxe d'entrepôt* is to draw consignments direct to Havre for orders.

Fustic.

123. There has been a marked increase in the price and demand for fustic during the past year, which still continues. I have been informed that this has been due to the brisk market for khaki dye-stuffs, and especially to changes in the uniform in the German Army.

Coffee.

124. The quantity of coffee exported increased by 17,219 cwt., or more than 20 per cent., but the value fell from £157,484 to £152,091, or 3·4 per cent. The Island crop was abundant, but the return disappointing.

The enormous crops produced in the Brazils have kept the price very low. In the autumn of 1901, on its being reported that there would be a smaller crop there, the prices showed a considerable improvement, equal, in Jamaica ordinary sorts, to from 6*s*. to 7*s*. per cwt., but later came information that there would not be such a falling off in the Brazil crop as had been anticipated, and that even if there were the accumulated stocks would be sufficient to keep prices down, and the markets again receded.

Low Price due to Bad Curing.

125. There can be no doubt, however, that the principal falling off has been in the ordinary sorts which are roughly cured by drying the cherry in its double skin and removing this by pounding in a mortar, and that the washed kinds, whilst much lower than they were in former years, obtain much better prices in comparison. Despite the low prices, if in those districts where the coffee is not pulped and washed the settlers who grow the bulk of our ordinary coffee were to combine, as they have done in some instances, to obtain pulping machines and hulling mills and to cure their coffee properly, there can be no doubt that the export value of our coffee would be increased by about 25 per cent. Indeed, this is a moderate estimate. During the fluctuations of the last two years the prices of these better cured coffees have kept comparatively steady, although, of course, steady at lower prices than formerly. Another circumstance which has been pointed out to me by Mr. De Mercado is that whilst at times it has been almost impossible to sell the ordinary grades of Jamaica coffee, the grades of Jamaica washed coffee have invariably met with a ready sale.

Unfortunately, the lack of water in Manchester and other limestone coffee districts renders the proper washing of coffee a matter of difficulty for a population who will not be persuaded to build tanks even for their domestic supply.

Rum.

126. The export of rum increased by 17,605 gallons, but decreased in value by £27,818, owing to a fall in prices. The companion export, sugar, shows similar ill-fortune. The crop was good, the export increased by 26,653 cwt., but the value fell by £29,237.

Sugar, Great Fall in Price.

During the year under review the prices of sugar have ranged extremely low, there being a fall as between the first month

of the financial year, viz., April, 1901, and the last month of the financial year, March, 1902, of £2 10*s.* per ton. Comparing the first quarter of the year 1901-1902 with the first quarter of the year 1900-1901, we find that there has been a drop in price of about £1 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Comparing the second quarters of these years, there is also a marked falling off in the comparative average values, probably amounting to £2 per ton. The third quarter of 1900-1901 showed a difference in value of about £2 5*s.* per ton, and the last quarter a difference in value of about £3 5*s.* per ton.

127. The netting value in the Island on the 31st March, 1900, of muscavado testing 89° was £10 5*s.* per ton; its netting value on the 31st March, 1901, was £8 per ton, and on the 31st March, 1902, £5 17*s.*, a drop of 43 per cent in two years.

Precarious State of the Sugar Industry.

128. These are conditions under which it is impossible for any but a few sugar estates to pay their way. The future of the industry depends on the results of the abolition of bounties under the Brussels International Sugar Convention of this year, which are still uncertain. It is doubtful how many estates can hold out until those results are established.

Pimento.

129. The exports of pimento fell off by about 28 per cent. in amount and value, the decline in value being £31,314. The crop of the year 1901 which would in ordinary conditions govern the statistics of the year 1901-1902 was some 30,000 bags smaller than the previous crop, but for the reason that it came after two very large crops its shortness did not improve prices. It would appear, however, that during the past few years the growers have obtained better prices for pimento than they usually realised hitherto. There is reason to believe that the consumption of the article is somewhat on the increase, and Jamaica commands the supply.

Ginger.

130. The decline in the quantity and value of ginger appears to be due to decreased production of recent years, though the prices of the year showed a slight improvement.

Honey &c.

131. Honey and beeswax are products which promise well and are increasingly popular with enterprising managers of small properties in the Island. It is regrettable that an increase in the export of honey gave no increase in value. Intelligent attention is being given to this industry, and the recent formation of a strong Beekeepers' Association will probably do much

to maintain the standard of quality and the reputation of Jamaica produce, upon which the stability of prices will depend.

Annatto.

132. The export of Annatto fell in quantity by about 80 per cent. and in value from £5,800 to £1,643. This was owing to the cornering of the entire market by an American trust.

Relative Importance of Principal Exports.

133. The following statement shows the relative proportions of the chief exports of Island produce during the last five years:—

—	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900	1900–01.	1901–02.
Sugar	8·3	9·8	10·8	9·5	7·0
Rum	6·3	6·1	7·2	8·8	6·4
Coffee	11·4	10·5	7·8	9·1	7·8
Dyewoods	8·9	8·8	4·8	6·2	6·2
Fruit	42·8	41·4	45·0	45·2	51·6
Pimento	3·6	8·3	9·7	6·4	4·0
Minor products ..	18·7	15·1	14·7	14·8	17·[illegible]

Imports.

134. Analysis of the imports into the three classes prescribed for the Board of Trade returns shows that

In Class 1, food, drink, and narcotics, there is a decrease this year of £24,269.

In Class 2, raw materials, an increase of £10,472, and

In Class 3, manufactured articles, an increase of £61,395.

135. The shrinkage in Class 1 is apparently due, as has been above suggested, to increased consumption of Island produce, the price of some imported foodstuffs having advanced, whilst seasons were favourable and local supplies abundant and cheap. The increase in raw materials and manufactured articles indicates an advance in general purchasing power and demand for commodities, especially wearing apparel and other soft goods, which increased by £52,074. The importations of wheaten flour (a commodity which here stands on the boundary line between necessity and luxury) increased by 9,103 barrels in quantity and £8,192 in value.

Destination and Sources of Exports and Imports.

136. There was a considerable increase (561 head) in the importation of sheep (which might have been bred in the

Island). The subjoined tables show the proportions in which the exports and imports of the year were divided between their several destinations and sources:—

Destination of Exports.	1897-98.	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01.	1901-02.
United Kingdom	22·0	20·6	19·2	18·8	21·1
United States	62·3	59·1	63·6	63·8	65·6
Canada	1·4	1·4	1·6	1·8	1·6
Other countries	14·3	18·9	15·6	15·6	11·7

Survey of Imports.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.	1901-02.
United Kingdom	47·2	44·7	47·2	45·4	46·8
United States	43·0	45·1	43·0	43·0	43·3
Canada	7·1	7·1	7·1	8·4	7·0
Other countries	2·7	3·1	2·7	3·2	2·9

British Trade.

137. A small increase in the percentage of both branches of trade with the United Kingdom is observable. This is attributable, no doubt, to the improved facilities afforded by the new Direct Line and to the purchases of fruit for conveyance by it. The increase in imports was entirely in manufactured goods, of which the United Kingdom supplied 68 per cent. (value £642,994). Of raw materials, 85·1 per cent. came from the United States and only 13·1 per cent. from the United Kingdom, whereas in the two preceding years the proportions were as below:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-01.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	33·2	20·3
United States	63·8	75·8
Other Countries...	3·0	3·9

Coal Trade.

138. The supply of coal is passing to the United States owing to differences both in freight and cost. The superiority of English steam coal is not sufficiently pronounced to countervail this tendency. Welsh coal has been recently imported for the Government railway, but the results have been unsatisfactory

and the experiment has proved too costly to be repeated, so long as American coal remains at its normal price.

(B.) Shipping.

Increase of Trade.

139. The returns of shipping for the year show 242 sailing vessels reported, against 281 in 1900-1901, a decrease of 39 in numbers and 5,109 in tonnage.

In steam vessels an increase is shown, from 756 to 928, 172 in numbers and 136,337 in tonnage.

106 more steamers entered at Port Antonio, 76 more at Kingston and 10 less at the other ports of the Island.

Nationality of Tonnage.

140. The number of British steamships reported was 15 less, and the decrease in British tonnage 11,636, notwithstanding the accession of the Imperial Direct Line. There was an increase of 187 in entries of foreign steamers, distributed as below:—

American	27
Cuban	12
German	56
Norwegian	72
Russian	20

During the year 105 steamers arrived from the United Kingdom, as against 81 in the previous year, an increase of 24; whilst 89 cleared for the United Kingdom against 61, an increase of 28. The increase was due to the regular fortnightly running of the steamers of the Imperial Direct Line, which began in February, 1901.

141. From the United States 634 vessels entered, against 468 in the previous year, 611 cleared for the United States against 488, increases of 166 and 123, respectively, corresponding with the advance in the fruit trade with the United States.

Causes affecting Nationality and Destination of Tonnage.

142. The decrease in British and increase in American tonnage is mainly due to the transfer to the Hamburg American Company of the steamers of the Atlas Line, formerly under the British flag, trading between New York, Kingston, and Central America. It may be pointed out that there is a continuous tendency for Island produce destined for Europe to be shipped direct to Havre or Hamburg, instead of as formerly by way of London. Even where goods are not sold direct to foreign countries a gradually increasing proportion is being sent to Havre for

orders, in consequence of the French surtax on Colonial produce coming into France by way of any foreign port. If a merchant sends his goods to London and the market there is not favourable he is unable to ship it to France, but if it is shipped first to Havre he has a better opening for the French market, and can, if this is unfavourable, ship thence to London or elsewhere. In illustration of the results of these conditions it may be noted that in addition to the steamers of the Hamburg-American Line which sail to Havre once a month from Kingston, the Royal Mail Company have found it advisable, besides their regular English-bound steamers, to put on a monthly steamer which goes direct to Havre first and thence to London.

(C.) Land Grants, Surveys and Crown Lands.

Surveys.

143. The Surveyor-General reports that 258 lineal miles of survey work have been done in the year, divided into 148 miles of forfeited lands and laying out of roads, and 110 miles on account of sales of lands. Several surveys of some importance have been undertaken, among them that of the Accompong Maroon lands in St. Elizabeth and Point Hill in St. Catherine. In the case of the Maroon lands the lines had been run 30 years ago, but the Maroons had cut down all the mark-trees, and when remonstrated with for trespassing on surrounding lands belonging to Government declared that they did not know the lines. It became necessary, therefore, to re-run and mark the lines. There was much opposition from the Maroons to the work, culminating at last in a disturbance. With police aid, however, the running of the lines was completed.

Grants of Land to Settlers.

144. The sale of land to small settlers continues to progress. During the year 347 applications were received for 2,516 acres, and 373 lots, aggregating 3,157 acres, were surveyed and allotted to the applicants. From 1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1902, a total of 1,827 applications have been received covering 16,735 acres, of which 1,479 applications have been satisfied, covering 16,184 acres. The total amount paid to 31st March by small settlers on account of the purchase of land is £6,339 16*s*. Out of the 16,735 acres that have been allotted, only 323 acres have reverted to the Crown through failure of the purchasers to pay their instalments, and of these, 167 acres have been re-sold to fresh purchasers; the net forfeitures for non-payment of instalments during the past five years are, therefore, only 156 acres, or less than 1 per cent. of the lands allotted. These facts show that this method of selling land to purchasers is much more suitable to the character of the general population than the rental of small predial tenancies. The experience of the Department indicates that it would be well to do away with the renting of

land altogether and to substitute purchase in fee simple, the purchase money being payable by instalments. There is a good deal of trouble to get the purchasers to pay their instalments, most of them delaying payment to the point of forfeiture, but, on the other hand, many tenants do not pay at all, and it is impossible to recover the rent in any way.

Improvements of Lands Granted (Road Question).

145. Reports that have been received from the several bailiffs and observations by the surveyors show that progress is being made in the cultivation and settlement of the lands purchased; some of the lands that were sold five years ago have undergone great improvement in the building of houses and of cultivation. On other lands, again, little or nothing has been done. On all sides, however, it is represented that if roads were provided more would be done. These demands are receiving attention, and facilities of access will be improved as circumstances warrant. Owing, however, both to the necessity for economy in expenditure and also to certain conclusions of policy arrived at by the Governor in Privy Council, some check has been put on the alienation of Crown Lands in remote districts and the construction of roads to approach them. There can be no doubt that the mileage of roads already open in the Island is very large as compared with the area alienated from the Crown and cultivated. Including railways and main and parochial roads there are open to traffic in the Island 6,540 miles of road, and as there are 1,967,684 acres alienated and tax paid according to the Collector-General's returns, this gives an average of one mile of road to each 300 acres of alienated land. But of this, no less than 1,273,106 acres is in wood and ruinate, mostly uselessly and unproductively held, and contributing very little to the exportable produce of the Island. Of the alienated acreage, 694,580 acres are returned as in cultivation and pasture, and this gives an average of 105 acres to each mile of road. Omitting the pasture, the land in cultivation is returned at only 177,664 acres, which gives the surprisingly low average of only 27 acres of cultivation to each mile of road. These figures show that too large an area is unproductively held in proportion to the mileage of roads open, a fact that is obvious to anyone who travels in the Island. The low taxation on land that has hitherto ruled, and the readiness with which grants of land were made, by the Crown in past years on condition of payment of only one penny per acre quit rent has been a direct inducement to the population to spread itself over the land unproductively. The result has been that the more land that was taken up in past years the more roads have had to be made to give access to such land, until at last in some parishes the funds available for maintenance of roads are quite insufficient for the purpose, and much of the land already taken up is held so unproductively that it can yield little more in taxation to maintain them. The produc-

tion, therefore, from the small area of cultivated land is burdened with maintaining means of access to lands unproductively held.

146. Concentration would remedy this, and concentration could be accomplished by utilizing the areas already secured by roads and unproductively held for the settlement of the population before opening up fresh areas and making more roads.

147. The policy has accordingly been adopted of completing means of access to Crown lands already alienated, to which roads have been promised, before making roads elsewhere, and henceforward not to open Crown lands to settlement in remote and inaccessible districts so long as there are unalienated Crown lands fit for settlement to which special roads have already been made or promised or which are already accessible from old public roads. The propensity of settlers to flock to new lands is bound up with the wasteful and disastrous traditional methods of crop-growing which it is one of the most pressing interests of the Government to supersede by intelligent agriculture. The new districts are sought because there is old woodland to burn, and when their fertility is exhausted their occupiers are worse off because further from centres of civilisation, education and employment than they would be if they had taken up lands in old settled districts and cultivated them in a proper and permanent manner.

Lands Forfeited.

148. Lands to the extent of 7,347 acres have been forfeited to the Crown for non-payment of taxes during the past year, and 128,000 acres have been forfeited since 1894. This forfeiture of land is undoubtedly the most important and complicated work of the Lands Department, and gives the greatest amount of trouble and takes up the most time. To appreciate the position, it must be borne in mind that up to about 1820, nearly the whole Island had been granted out by Patent from the Crown subject only to payment of one penny per acre per annum quit rent. On the decline in the prosperity of the Island numbers of owners went away or died, or abandoned or sold their lands, and in process of time numerous small holders got into possesion either by purchase or by squatting, sometimes paying quit rents on portions of lands they were in possession of and sometimes not paying at all. On much of the lands that have been forfeited, or are being forfeited, or are to be forfeited to the Crown, there are numbers of these small holders, each one claiming and occupying two or three times as much land as he pays taxes on and in many cases not paying taxes at all. The claims are so complicated, and the possession so irregular, that much care and patience must be taken in dealing with these cases. Moreover, to effectively settle these cases, careful surveys are absolutely necessary to define the limits of the land tax-paid and belonging to holders, and the lands not paid on and forfeitable to the Crown. Without

survey work to actually mark off on the ground the lands vested in the Crown, forfeiture proceedings would be an utter waste of time and mere paper work. A very troublesome case in point was dealt with in Point Hill in St. Catherine in the year just closed. This is a property of 1,100 acres, of which only 500 acres was tax-paid. Yet the whole 1,100 acres was in possession of different parties and only a survey could disclose the limits of the lands tax-paid and non-tax-paid, and considerable difficulty was experienced in the work and much care and patience expended in it.

149. Much has been done in the past few years in this direction of defining the limits of forfeited lands, but a great deal more remains to be done which can only be accomplished by steady Survey work for years to come. It will undoubtedly pay well in the end as all these lands will, in time to come, as the population increases, be a valuable asset of the Government. To allow these lands to remain as they are would be bad both for the lands and the people occupying them.

Leases.

150. During the past year 58 leases have been effected at a rental of £447. The most important leases are those of the right to cut certain marketable woods on the Healthshire lands and Portland Ridge. Most of the other leases are of lands at Admiral's Pen, near Kingston, where quite a small township is now springing up, several neat cottages having been erected by the lessees. At this place and the North-West of Kingston, there are nearly 300 leases of town lots from the Government. As to the predial tenants holding small parcels of land in yearly tenancies subject to three months' notice, there are about 1,500 of these owing an average rent of 12*s.* per acre per annum. It follows, therefore, that they should have paid about £900 of rent. Less, however, than £600 was collected. It was found impossible to collect the rest in spite of the issue of some 200 levy warrants. In many cases it is impossible to collect the rent in any way. No rent is paid and there is nothing to levy on. The renting of land to small yearly tenants is in every way most unsatisfactory.

Expenditure and Receipts.

151. The total expenditure of the Department was £3,337 15*s.* 2*d.*, including £737 19*s.* 3*d.* spent in construction of roads to Crown lands.

The receipts for the year from sales and rents were £3,183 19*s.* 4*d.*

(D.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

No Mines.

152. It has been customary to include in the Annual Reports on the Blue Book a section reporting on mines, manufactures

and fisheries. The fact is, however, that Jamaica is not a mining or manufacturing country and does not supply the demand of its own consumers of fish. Such factories as exist are occupied for the most part with the preparation in bulk of agricultural products for export, sugar, rum, coffee, cocoa, logwood extract, leather, cigars and cigarettes, and a little cocoanut oil.

Sugar Factories.

153. The principal manufacturing industry, that of sugar and rum has long been suffering from the effects of the European bounty system, which has practically excluded Jamaican sugar from the British market. The countervailing duties imposed by the United States of America have, however, preserved that market to our exporters. I have commented above on the enormous drop in price that has occurred during the last two years in consequence of fiscal efforts of European beet growers to make the most of the bounty system whilst it should last. Notwithstanding this discouragement, the remaining sugar estates of Jamaica have held their own with remarkable determination and enterprise. They have the advantages of soils and seasons very favourable to the growth of the cane; so much so, that there is no part of the West Indies where sugar cane can be grown at a less expense than in parts of Jamaica. They have also the advantage of a good name and price for their rums, and they convert a larger proportion of the total yield of their canes into rum and less into sugar than is the rule on the estates of other West Indian Colonies. There has been a good deal of improvement of late in the machinery of sugar works, and had it not been for the sudden and crippling fall in prices there would have been considerably more, while the acreage returned as in cultivation in sugar cane increased from 25,616 acres in 1900-1901 to 26,535 in 1901-1902.

Rum Surtax.

154. The long-standing grievance of West Indian producers of rum in regard to the surtax of fourpence per gallon (in excess of the Internal Excise Duty) imposed on spirits imported into the United Kindom has during the year been receiving the attention of the Imperial Government. The West Indian Royal Commissioners of 1897, in the course of their report on the condition and prospects of the sugar industry expressed their opinion that this surtax was an anomalous and unfair protective import duty and a grievance to the West Indian rum distillers, for which a remedy or compensation should be sought. I have mentioned that His Majesty's Government, with a view to ascertaining the conditions by which any attempt in this direction must proceed have in the course of this spring deputed Mr. John Steele, C.B., late of the British Inland Revenue Department, to visit the West Indies and examine the methods and processes

of rum-distillery and the character of the excise restrictions established in these Islands. Mr. Steele's report will be awaited with interest, not only in connection with the fiscal controversy out of which the mission arose, but also as a commentary on the methods of distilleries in this Island.

Rum Distillation.

155. In this connection I think it of interest to quote the following observations from a report addressed to the Government by Mr. H. H. Cousins, the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist.

"So long as a puncheon of Jamaica rum exceeds, equals, or even approximates in value to a ton of sugar, individual estates in Jamaica would be quite justified in adhering to their own manufactures rather than grow canes for a central factory. Improved milling and good still-house management should keep the present type of sugar estate in a sound position industrially.

"The records of still-houses in the Island show great variations in the yield as well as in the quality of the rum from apparently identical materials. I estimate from personal observations that an increased yield of fully twenty-five per cent. should be reasonably expected from intelligent and accurate control of the preliminary fermentation in the manufacture of common and medium quality rums. Mr. H. and others who have to do exclusively with the flavoured rums for the German market state that enormous sums are annually lost through defective still-house management in this branch of the industry.

"Although essentially an empirical process there is no reasonable doubt that chemical and mycological control could establish certain crucial data for securing reasonable certainty and uniformity in the manufacture of 'German' rum. Should the flavoured rum industry succumb to the insidious competition of the German Compound-ether-specialist, the only hope for Trelawny would be a revival of high-class drinking rums and an organised campaign to protect the trade mark 'Jamaica rum' in the home market."

156. In correspondence arising out of the report of the Government chemist from which the foregoing extracts are taken, I have recommended that a chemist specially qualified and experienced in the study of fermentation should be engaged by this Government to assist in the study and improvement of local processes of rum manufacture.

Commercial Agency.

157. Proposals have also been submitted to you with a view to the appointment of a special agency to protect the commercial interests of the Island in the manner suggested.

(E.) Agriculture and Agricultural Services.

Sugar Industry.

158. The growing of sugar cane, with its attendant industries of stock-keeping and estate maintenance, and its subsidiary industries of cattle and mule breeding is the most important and developed branch of agriculture subsisting in the Island. Though the value of fruit exported now far exceeds that of sugar and rum, the agriculture of the fruit industry and of the bulk of the small cultivation of other exports is elementary, undeveloped, or indeed positively retrogressive. The decay and extinction of the sugar industry in certain districts has so impaired all conceptions of agriculture, that the community has an immense task before it to establish and re-create the art in regard to the products that must take the place of sugar and rum if our exports are to be steadily maintained.

Old Agriculture.

159. The old agriculture of the Island may be said to have consisted of—

(1.) The agriculture of the sugar industry, with the largely subsidiary industry of pen-keeping.

(2.) The agriculture of the coffee industry and

(3.) The agriculture of the provision ground.

Most of the land-owners had also sources of income in their crops of pimento, logwood, or oranges, but these were all wild products, and the pimento and orange trees suffer rather than profit from such operations as are performed on them under traditional methods.

160. The agriculture of the coffee industry may be distinguished in to that of the large high-mountain and other estates, manufacturing high-priced coffee, and that of the small land-owners, producing low-priced "settlers' coffee."

Coffee.

161. Coffee generally has suffered heavily from low prices and many estates have gone out of cultivation, but the decline of the settlers' coffee production has been the most serious loss to the peasantry. Their agriculture was never what it might have been and has been in general deteriorating for many years past, and their curing processes were always primitive. The fall of prices has discouraged them from maintaining such agriculture as they had, and very many have ceased to attempt to cure their coffee in even their old unsatisfactory method. I have already referred to this state of things in dealing with the coffee export.

Provision Grounds (Fire-Stick Cultivation).

162. The agriculture of the provision ground is an art developed by the negroes in slavery time and brought within the

limits of its principles to a high level of successful result. But its principles are destructive and disastrous, being based upon the talisman of the fire stick. Moreover, it has always suffered from the blight of the inevitable "prædial larceny." It demands new ground, with forest growth to burn on it, remote from the haunts of pilferers. When the fertility of the accumulations of humus and the stimulus of the ashes of burnt bush are exhausted (in two or three years) new ground has to be sought.

163. There was and could be no stock-keeping in this system of cultivation. The provision grounds were remote from the house, hence stock could not be watched. The land therefore got no manure and the children of the labourer no milk. The foundation and type of the system was the slaves' provision ground on the back land or "mountain" of the estate where he lived and worked.

164. Jamaica is an Island where the evils of hunger and cold are seldom if ever pressing. Even in towns no one, except poor respectable white and coloured people, starve. If anyone in the country is ashamed to beg, he is not probably ashamed to steal, and food can always be stolen. A tolerably comfortable community might conceivably be maintained here with very little foreign trade. Money prices and wages could be nominal, and the clergy and professional classes would have to be paid in kind and in services. But if the population is to have clothes and hardware, education, police, law courts, and a public medical service it must not only be able to turn some of its products into money, but it must import commodities, and therefore, as its needs of this character increase, it must maintain and increase its exports. When sugar was failing, Jamaica had fortunately a stand-by in logwood, pimento and oranges, it also had its coffee, and certain minor products such as ginger and annatto. The great substitute for the sugar export, that of bananas, has only developed largely in a few parishes. The banana could no more take the place of sugar in certain districts than sugar could regain its former position. There is only a small proportion of the Island whose soil and climate promise it a permanent future. There is only a small proportion in which even central sugar factories could maintain the sugar industry. The agriculture of the banana, at first experimental, has had to be discovered, and is still being developed in large estates. Some capital is required, and the more we adopt bananas as a permanent staple crop the more will a proper system of agriculture needing capital be recognised as essential. It is fortunate that the planting of bananas, combined with that of cocoa and with attention to other staples hitherto classed as "minor products" offers an opening for the development of a class of small farmers with moderate capital but operating in a larger and more intelligent method than the "small settlers," that neither sugar planting nor pen-keeping

afforded. Cane farming as a source of supply to central factories may possibly in the future afford another opening to agriculturists of this class.

Agricultural Departments and Institutions.

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

165. The Government and the Jamaica Agricultural Society, an invaluable organisation founded in 1895 largely through the influence of Governor Sir Henry Blake, have during recent years been working in many directions to promote the evolution of the agriculture essential to the changed conditions of the Island. The amount of organisation effected has been very considerable, and although little effect on the wealth of the country could be expected to have been produced within the period, some results are beginning to be noticeable.

166. The Agricultural Society consists of the society proper with a large representative Board of Management, sub-committees for special purposes and a number of affiliated branch societies in different districts. The society receives an annual grant from General Revenue which has recently been at the rate of £1,200. It publishes a most useful and practical monthly journal which reaches every member of the society and its branches. On the public establishment of the Island there are four Departments concerned in a greater or less degree in promoting the interests of agriculture, the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, the Department of the Island and Agricultural Chemist, the Education Department, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, which furnishes an Agricultural Lecturer subordinate to the Commissioner of the Department (Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G.) whose office is at Barbados.

Board of Agriculture.

167. The work of these four agencies in agricultural matters is co-ordinated and controlled by the Board of Agriculture, of which, as Colonial Secretary, I have had the honour from its establishment to be Chairman. The Board includes, *ex officio*, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, who, however, can but rarely take part in the proceedings, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations and the Goverment Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, together with four members nominated by the Governor (including the Archbishop of the West Indies, who is Chairman of the Jamaica Schools Commission), and two appointed by him on the nomination of the Agricultural Society.

The Secretary of the Board is the Lecturer in Agriculture of the Imperial Department. There is thus close co-operation and adjustment of effort between the different public departments

concerned, and the co-operation with the Agricultural Society is strengthened by the Director of Public Gardens being the Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Management of that society and Chairman of all its special committees. All the members of the Board of Agriculture, moreover, are as it happens also members of the Board of Management of the society. This compound organisation attacks the task of maintaining by scientific development the old staple agricultural and pastoral industries of the Island, introducing new industries and revolutionising the small agriculture of the peasantry.

Work of Experiment Station (Sugar Cultivation).

168. To assist the sugar industry the Board of Agriculture, through the committee of its experiment station at Hope Gardens, which also supervises experimental work on estates throughout the Island, arranges and has conducted in the past year field trials of fertilisers and methods of cultivation of sugar cane, soil analyses and surveys, comparative field trials of seedling varietal canes and the raising of new canes from seed. It is hoped, as I have already explained, that it may be able as the result of observations made last year also to render valuable assistance to the distillery branch of the same industry.

Other Crops.

169. In the same direction of effort manurial experiments were conducted on estates with bananas, pines, coffee and tobacco. The general plans and management of these experiments were carried out by the staff of the laboratory; the plots were visited and supervised by the Agricultural Instructor of the Government in the course of his lecturing tours. About 18 tons of artificial manures were obtained and distributed by the Chemists' Department at a cost of from £2 to £4 per ton less than that quoted by a local firm for mixed fertilisers.

170. The Agricultural Society has always devoted special attention to the maintenance and improvement by importations of the quality of stock in the Island, especially of horse kind, pigs, goats, ducks and poultry. It has continuously endeavoured to promote and to assist to success the local Agricultural Shows of branch societies, at which the exhibition for prizes of minor products is always a leading feature. The society during the year under review has employed two agricultural instructors, one in Manchester and one in St. Ann, especially with a view of reviving the settlers' coffee industry in those districts, but also in furtherance of the more general purpose I have referred to of revolutionising the peasant agriculture of the Island. These instructors are directly superintended by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations. The Government has also (under the Board of Agriculture) one agricultural instructor

who gives lectures, or rather practical demonstrations, in all parts of the Island, and a second officer (the Superintendent of Castleton Gardens), part of whose time has now been assigned to this same kind of work.

Agricultural Revolution Aimed at.

171. The revolution of small agriculture that is aimed at involves the abandonment of fire-stick cultivation, the abandonment of the nomadic renting and devastation of new ground, the attaching of cultivation to the house spot or accessible centres, where the children of the household can both learn how to make themselves useful and do so, the fencing of grounds, the respect for ownership, the keeping, folding, penning and stabling of stock both as a source of food and profit and for manure, the proper cultivation and pruning of coffee, cocoa, oranges and similar permanent crops, and the proper picking, curing and preparing them so as to fetch better prices than they do now; the demonstration that with proper care ground provisions can be grown as well in the settlement and at the homestead as on new ground in the mountains and at much less cost of labour and time.

Prizes for Holdings.

172. In order to promote this revolution the Agricultural Society, through its local instructors co-operating with the Government Agricultural Instructor, has offered prizes for competition in selected districts to be awarded (under three classes) to the best settlers' holdings, regard being had to the quality and appearance of the house, the cultivation, and the stock. This competition has aroused great interest in the districts affected and has been successful beyond expectation.

Educational Methods (Training of Teachers).

173. In pursuance of the same purpose, the new Education Code provides, as reported last year, for agricultural instruction in elementary schools. To qualify the elementary school teachers to give such instruction is the chief duty of the Agricultural Lecturer of the Imperial Department, the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, who gives courses of lectures at the Training Colleges and occasionally to teachers at various centres about the country. Unfortunately, at present, the Inspectors of Schools have no special knowledge of the subject and cannot give as much guidance as is desirable to the teachers. The third year students at the Mico Training College attend at Hope Gardens every Saturday for lessons and lectures in agriculture and horticulture. Two batches of elementary school teachers received a month's course of agricultural training, both

practical and theoretical, one batch of 60 at Hope Gardens in July and another of 18 at Bethlehem in September. Those who attended at the former were boarded at the Mico Training College and supervised by the Superintendent of that Institution. A feature of this course was the giving of a series of afternoon lectures to the teachers by planters and other qualified persons on irrigation, bee-keeping, geology, the preparation of produce, botany, small stock, poultry, water, grape vines, insect pests, the teaching of elementary science, and "How to make small holdings pay without borrowing capital."

Apprentices.

174. Apprentices are attached to Hope Gardens for training in agriculture and the handling of fruit trees, tobacco, &c.

Instructors.

175. The scope of the activities of the agricultural instructor and its close connection with that of the agricultural societies is indicated by his report of his work for the year. Lectures and demonstrations were given in all the parishes of the Island except Portland, which had been visited just before the year began. The subjects treated of included cocoa, coffee, citrus fruit, kola, cocoanut, logwood, grapes, sugar cane, bananas, ground provisions, vegetables, tobacco, ploughing, forking, trenching, draining, subsoiling, manuring, mulching, liming, budding, grafting, propagation by cuttings, circumposition, layering, and other methods of propagation. The instructor enquired into and reported on diseases of logwood, cocoanuts, cocoa, coffee, and citrus plants; he assisted in arranging and judging at nine Agricultural Shows and in the formation of six new branch agricultural societies. He reports that his lectures and demonstrations were as a rule well attended, the best and most intelligent audiences being found in districts where the small peasant-owner predominates. The increase in Agricultural shows and the interest taken in them is marked and entirely satisfactory, but progress in the quality of the exhibits is not so marked. Great progress has been made with the curing of cocoa, less (for want of machinery) with that of coffee. With regard to citrus fruits, he is of opinion that the imported varieties are on the whole no improvement on those already native to the Island. His investigations of the cocoanut result in the distinction of at least five well-defined varieties, of which seeds have been planted at Hope Gardens with a view to ascertaining whether they hold their type or vary, and to improvement by selection. The grape industry offers promise and should be developed with profit to meet the demands of the tourist season. With this object vines will be pruned so as to make them bear in February. He has interesting observations to make of the effect of the wet autumn on the banana crop and the need for deep drainage and tillage.

176. The Superintendent of Castleton Gardens has also done useful work in the districts accessible from the Gardens.

Hope Experiment Station.

177. At the Hope Gardens the work of the experiment station presided over by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations in concert with the Island chemist, was carried on under the general scheme adopted by the Board of Agriculture, which may be shortly summarised as follows:—

I. To provide opportunities for the study of the staple crops of the Island, the conditions under which they are grown, the results obtained by different methods of cultivation, manuring, and by the introduction of new varieties, the monetary value of such methods or varieties, the diseases and pests attacking them, the methods of preparing the products for the market, and the management of farm animals.

II. To give information on all such matters by publication of leaflets and bulletins, by instruction to boys in High Schools, boys from Elementary and Industrial Schools, apprentices, students in the Training Colleges, elementary school teachers, and generally by conferences amongst planters and pen-keepers.

178. At the Hope Experiment Station it was decided to deal with the following plants in the manner indicated:—

(a.) *Sugar Cane.*—To grow 12 stools of each variety, planting in the spring and again in the autumn for the purpose of having them tested by the chemist;

To raise seedlings from the canes grown at Hope, and to cultivate for trial the best varieties from elsewhere.

(b.) *Tobacco.*—To grow 4 acres and to cure it.

(c.) *Cocoa.*—To plant out an acre for the purpose of studying close and wide planting, the value of shade, pruning, manures, and different varieties.

(d.) *Bananas.*—To form a collection of varieties, to study the plant in its growth, and, if possible, to raise new varieties.

(e.) *Coffee.*—To compare the products of different varieties.

(f.) *Pine-apples.*—To form a collection of varieties and to raise new varieties.

(g.) *Citrus Plants.*—To form a collection of various stocks.

(h.) *Nutmeg, Rubber,* and other economic plants; methods of grafting and other problems.

Citrus Fruit Conference.

179. A conference of two days' duration was held for the discussion of the interests of the citrus fruit industry, resulting

in the drafting of a Bill for the regulation of the fruit trade. The Bill was introduced in the 1902 Session of the Legislative Council, but had not been carried through all its stages when the Council adjourned. Papers were also read at the Conference dealing with methods of cultivation, varieties, insect pests, and were published in the bulletin of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations.

Botanic and Ornamental Gardens.

180. The work of the Department other than that devoted to the Hope Experiment Station is indicated in the following notes.

181. At Hope 25½ acres of ornamental grounds were maintained with plant houses, orchids, ferns, and other delicate plants. 90,722 plants were distributed; 65,708 economic and 15,438 ornamental sold, and 9,576 given away.

182. The Herbarium was maintained and added to.

183. The Hill Garden at Bell Vue (Cinchona) in the Blue Mountains was kept in order.

184. The orange trees at Resource (near Cinchona) were maintained; but this garden is not now cultivated, all the varieties having been brought down to Hope Gardens for propagation. Castleton Gardens have been maintained in good order at a reduced expenditure, as has also the Parade Gardens at Kingston. These gardens are of purely ornamental and botanic interest.

Barbados Agricultural Conference.

185. The Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Mr. J. Shore, on behalf of the Agricultural Society, Mr. McFarlane, Superintendent of the Mico Training College, the Reverend W. Simms, Principal of the Jamaica College at Hope, and Mr. W. Buttenshaw, Lecturer in Agriculture, attended and took part in the Agricultural Conference held at Barbados in January, 1902, in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural Education at the Laboratory.

186. Towards the close of the year a scheme was drawn up on the initiation of the Island chemist for giving at the Laboratory and Hope Gardens a thorough system of scientific and practical training in agriculture. This scheme will, it is hoped, be brought into operation in the autumn of 1902.

General Position

187. Taking into consideration the organised work reviewed in the foregoing survey, together with the arrangements for manual training which will be described in the section of this

Report dealing with Elementary Education, I think it may be claimed that this Island is, on the whole, well in advance of any other West Indian Colony, if not of any other British Colony not having responsible Government, in the extent and activity of its public organisation for the promotion of agricultural knowledge. Nor has the activity developed within recent years been devoid of effect. In all parts of the Island there is an awakened and increasing interest in and desire for information on agricultural questions concurrent with a remarkable and steady increase of cultivation and, to some extent, an improvement of methods. The harvest from this development has been delayed by unfavourable seasons and low prices; but the year under review was on the whole a year of abundant yield, and this current year promises to be even better. A few favourable years will immensely strengthen the progress of agricultural improvement by demonstrating its pecuniary value.

III.—LEGISLATION.

188. Table IX. is a Schedule of the Laws, twenty-five in number, of the Session of 1901, assented to or reserved by the Governor for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

189. Of these the following may be considered to deserve special notice:—

Fiscal.

190. Law 6.—The Quit Rents and Produce Protection Duties Appropriation Law.

Law 9.—A Law to impose additional taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.

Law 12.—The Match Excise Duty Law.

Law 25.—The Stamp Duty Laws Amendment Law.

These four laws were fiscal measures in aid of General Revenue, and their effect has already been referred to in my comments on the finances of the year.

Reformatory.

191. Law 13.—The Reformatories and Industrial Schools Law, Amendment Law, gave the superintendents of such schools a certain power of tutelage and control over children discharged from such schools until they reach eighteen years of age.

Police.

192. Law 15.—The Produce Protection Laws, Amendment Law, and

Law 21.—A Law in aid of the Laws relating to Prædial Larceny, were, together with a Bill to amend the Vagrancy

Law which was drafted for the approval of the Secretary of State before introduction, designed to mitigate the prevalent curse of the thieving of growing produce which so gravely impedes the agricultural progress of the Island.

193. Law 15 revised the conditions for the licensing of persons to buy and sell agricultural produce, with a view to improving police control.

Praedial Larceny Bill.

194. Law 21 was a more controversial measure and met with considerable opposition in its passage through the Legislative Council. It provided that whenever any person should be found in possession of any article of agricultural produce of certain specified kinds under such circumstances as should cause any police officer, or constable, district constable, or other person properly authorised to act under the provisions of the Law, to suspect that such article had been stolen or had been received with knowledge that it had been stolen or had been in any other way dishonestly come by, it should be lawful for such constable or authorised person to arrest the suspected person without a warrant and to take him, with the suspected article, before a Justice of the Peace or a Clerk of the Courts; and that if, after enquiry, the Justice of the Peace or the Clerk of the Courts should be of opinion that the suspected person did not give a satisfactory account of the manner in which he had become possessed of the article, such person might be detained in custody or bound over to appear before the Resident Magistrate at his next convenient sitting:

That on the trial of such person before a Resident Magistrate the burden of proving that he became honestly possessed of the article suspected to have been stolen should be upon the person himself, and that if he should fail to satisfy the Resident Magistrate that his possession of the article was honest, it should be deemed *primâ facie* evidence of his guilt, and the Resident Magistrate might convict him of being unlawfully in possession of the article:

That any person so convicted might be sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding six months, and upon any subsequent conviction for a period not exceeding twelve months: that any convicted person might, on a first conviction, be sentenced to be whipped, with a number of strokes not exceeding twenty-four, and that upon any subsequent conviction within three years of the first offence it should be obligatory on the Resident Magistrate to order the convicted person to be so whipped.

195. This Law was disallowed by His Majesty on the advice of the Secretary of State.

Parochial.

196. Law 17.—"The Parochial Boards Laws Consolidation Law, 1901," was a useful measure, embodying the effect of recent reforms, and superseding nine laws previously in force or partially so, but introducing no innovations of any importance.

Agricultural.

197. Law 18.—"A Law to regulate the sale of Agricultural Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs," provided for the protection of buyers of chemical manures and prepared foods for cattle, by requiring the composition of such substances to be certified by the Island chemist.

Law 22. The Valuation Law.

Defects of Present Property Taxes.

198. I have detailed above the somewhat bewildering series of small incoherent imposts out of which the present taxation on real property in this Island is built up.

Contemplated Reforms.

199. It has for many years been generally recognised that the established system of land and house taxes was unsatisfactory, and repeated proposals have been made, after careful consideration, for its improvement. These proposals have generally advocated the fair application of the principle of an assessment on the value of real property, and, as the indispensable foundation for such assessment, the making of a cadastral survey of the Island and the establishment of a valuation roll of properties have been contemplated. The project for a cadastral survey, which was provided for by Law 8 of 1891, was abandoned in consequence of the opposition of land-owners, ostensibly on the plea of expense, and the difficulty of the anticipated expense had hitherto stood in the way of any formulation of proposals for an assessment without survey. Moreover, it had been recognised that any projects that might be set on foot for reforming these taxes would certainly provoke opposition from those whose taxation was likely to be thereby increased, and that such opposition, accompanied as it was sure to be by misrepresentations and misunderstandings which would create unrest and suspicion among the mass of the simple-minded and ignorant peasantry, would make any such reform a matter of practical difficulty out of all proportion to the legitimate objections to which it might give rise and to which any scheme must be expected to be open.

200. I have also detailed how the rates of the House Tax in most of the parishes had increased in recent years until, combined with the School and Holdings Taxes, it became a sensible burden on the poorest class. Remissions of taxes and arrears in collection began to assume serious proportions, with the effect of making heavier the burden on those who continued to pay during a period of increasing depression. At the same time the financial position of the Government was creating a demand for increased taxation of land, to be levied on a fairer principle than that of the Quit Rent and the Holding and Property Taxes; and this demand was made the more pressing and reasonable by the assumption by the Colonial Government of the burden of the Railway Debt and of the subsidy to the Imperial Direct Line.

201. Sir David Barbour, in his report on the finances of Jamaica made in 1899, recommended that the long ventilated reform of the Land and House Taxes should be carried into effect without further delay. Later in the same year, a committee, specially appointed, reported proposals for effecting this, viz., that a Real Property Tax should be assessed on the capital value of all real property in supersession of all the then existing taxes except the Quit Rent. The principle of this proposal was approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a despatch of the 20th February, 1900.

202. For reasons of which the two principal were that the Government had no data to work upon, and that in view of the political situation (all the elected members being absent from the Council) it was advisable to defer any attempt to recast so important a branch of the fiscal system, no action was taken in regard to this matter during the Session of 1900-1901. In the Session of 1901 two laws were passed, namely, Law 9, the temporary law above-mentioned to impose additional taxation on land in aid of General Revenue, and Law 22, a Valuation Law, to provide a basis for a permanent means of reform.

203. This law provided for the preparation of a Valuation Roll for the whole Island to show the value of all holdings of real property in each parish under three assessments, viz.:—

(1) The actual gross present value of the real property;

(2) The actual or presumable nett annual rental value of the real property; and

(3) The presumable nett value of the ground forming the site of the real property in a natural and unimproved condition in its present surroundings.

A Valuation Commissioner was appointed to direct, supervise and bring to completion the preparation of the Valuation Roll.

204. Every person in the possession of real property was required to make an ingiving of the value of his holding to the Collector of Taxes for his parish. If the Collector accepted the

valuation given in, it was entered on the roll; if he did not accept it and an agreement could not be come to, the value was to be finally settled by a Resident Magistrate. If no ingiving should be made, the Collector was to assess the value of the property, and in case of dispute the value was to be settled by the Resident Magistrate.

Results of Valuation.

205. The work of valuation imposed an immense amount of labour upon the Supervisor of Revenue Offices who was appointed to be the Valuation Commissioner, and upon the officers of the Collectorates, without any extra remuneration, and the work was most energetically and creditably carried out. The extent of the work may be estimated by the fact that no less than 121,756 separate holdings of real property in the country parishes and 8,335 in Kingston and Port Royal have been assessed and entered on the roll. The total values recorded are:—

—	Gross Value.	Rental Value.	Unimproved Value.
	£	£	£
Kingston and Port Royal ...	1,571,223	104,191	440,336
Country parishes	7,450,007	769,584	2,546,056

206. In reporting on the valuation, the Commissioner records his conclusion that with some few exceptions the larger properties have been fairly and equitably valued when it is remembered that the valuation has been made at a time of extreme depression; that the general tendency has been to under-estimate the gross value of small holdings, but that he does not think there is any reason to doubt that taking it as a whole the valuation may be relied on as furnishing the basis of a more equitable adjustment of taxation, if it is admitted that the principle of taxation according to value effects that end. He adds "Traversing the criticisms that have from time to time been directed at the valuation, I beg to say that in my opinion, and, considering the time and machinery at my disposal, the work has been as satisfactorily done as could have been anticipated; that cases of absurd over-valuation have been few, and these have been, or will be, in the ordinary course remedied; that cases of serious under-valuation have come under notice, but these, mostly by judicious correspondence, but in a few cases by adjudication by the Resident Magistrate, have been brought approximately in line with a fair standard; that difficulties have arisen by mixing up questions of the values of personal property with real property, but that the claims put forward that maturing crops of produce have been deliberately added to, and included with, the values of real property are untenable."

207. On the whole, I think it probable that the valuations do not represent the full value of the properties, but that the discount is general and fairly uniform, great care having been devoted by the Valuation Commissioner and his officers to preventing anomalies, so that as between one property and another the roll may be regarded as affording a satisfactory foundation for the assessment of rates on values.

208. The returns of valuation were not completed early enough to allow legislation on their basis to be brought to perfection in the Session of this spring, and the increased rates of Holdings Tax imposed in the Session of 1901 were re-enacted for one year by a law passed in April, 1902.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Elementary Schools.

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage in Average Attendance of number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
									£
1899–00	746	776	98,598	51,470	62·08	187	357	219	47,240
1900–01	735	717	88,625	47,441	58·99	202	329	183	42,482
1901–02	728	726	84,799	46,277	61·51	189	341	183	42,936

Diminution in Number of Schools and Attendance.

210. The table given above shows a continuance in the reduction of the number of Elementary Schools entitled to annual grants in pursuance of the policy of closing or amalgamating with other inefficient or superfluous schools. There is an accompanying reduction in the number of scholars on the books and in average attendance according to the monthly returns. The

falling off in the average attendance for the whole year is attributed, I think, to the following causes, namely—

(1) The closing of a certain number of schools;

(2) Want of means in the parents to provide clothing;

(3) The exceptional amount of rain and the number of rainy days between June 1st and December 31st, 1901, and

(4) The absence of compulsion or other effectual incentive to attendance.

Explanation.

211. With regard to (1) it may be explained that with a view to effecting economy and efficiency the number of Elementary Schools on the books of the Education Department has been reduced in the course of the last three years from 893 to 728, or by 18 per cent.; the schools struck off having either disappeared altogether or having been amalgamated with those of other denominations as Government or Undenominational Schools. On the 31st of March there were on the books of the Department 27 Government Schools and 35 (so-called) Undenominational Schools, the latter being schools which, whilst not classed as Government Schools, were under the management of Boards on which were ministers belonging to more than one religious denomination. There were 664 Denominational Schools. Notwithstanding these reductions, the Superintending Inspector of Schools in his report for the year expresses the view that, if it be not unreasonable to expect a few children to walk three or four miles in the cool of the morning and evening, the supply of public Elementary Schools approximates very closely to the present effective demand.

212. There can be no doubt that exclusive connection with a specific religious organisation conduces to the attendance at its Denominational School of the children of that congregation and of the immediate neighbourhood of the church or chapel, and that the influences which promote school attendance as a method of recruiting for the church congregation or as part of a corporate duty and a matter of sectional pride on the part of the parents are much weakened when the school is amalgamated, whether into a Government School or into a Voluntary School under joint management with that of other denominations. This has, I believe, been one reason why attendance has—unnecessarily and perhaps unreasonably—been temporarily impaired by amalgamation. So long as no Voluntary Schools are kept on the books that are not giving value for their money it does not appear that either frequency of attendance or financial economy are likely to be promoted by any extensive further conversion of Voluntary Schools into Government Schools.

213. Moreover, having in view the difficulty of resuscitating Voluntary Schools once closed and the higher comparative cost

that would be involved in establishing a new Government School when the need of the locality might again demand it, the Board of Education and the Government have been disposed to give grace to certain Voluntary Schools on the borderland of sufficient efficiency, and not to be hasty in closing them.

214. (2) Want of money for clothing has, in some districts especially, had some effect on the willingness of parents to send their children to school, but this cause was towards the end of the year losing in force. I have already referred to the increase in the importation of clothing materials towards the end of the year, showing increased purchasing power and disposition to purchase the requisites of school attendance. During the first three months of 1902 the attendance improved, probably owing both to better circumstances and to better weather. The average attendance in January, February and March was 55,347 against 54,347 in the corresponding three months of 1901, and 46,277 for the whole year, and the improvement on the monthly advances of 1901-1902 has continued in an even more marked degree since the close of that year.

Unpunctuality a Serious Evil.

215. The Superintending Inspector of Schools reports that "one of the most crying evils in our Elementary Schools is the fact that work is never, or hardly ever, really begun at the time fixed in the time-table. Very frequently the teacher is not there, and no attempt appears to be made to get the scholars in before the time fixed for roll call. In the neighbourhood of nearly every school in the Island groups of children may be seen, from half to three-quarters of an hour after the time fixed for the commencement of school, standing loafing about the roads. There are of course honourable exceptions, but unless the teachers of the Island as a body bestir themselves and put an end to this discreditable state of things the drastic remedy will have to be resorted to of requiring the roll to be called at the time fixed for the opening of school. The result would certainly be a great reduction in the average attendance, probably widespread evasion of the regulation, and many fines and other penalties, but unless there is some general improvement, such a regulation may become absolutely necessary."

Apprehensions of Retrogression in Education.

216. Some serious misgivings have been expressed by persons deeply interested in the promotion of sound education as to the prospects indicated by recent educational statistics. On the 17th July last a statement drawn up by the Archbishop of the West Indies was published on behalf of the Diocesan Council of the Church of England in Jamaica, from which I quote the following passages: "Attention needs to be called to the serious fact that while the population is increasing, the number of children attending school is diminishing, and the children are

not in school a sufficient number of days during their school life to reach a decent standard of knowledge even in reading, writing, and arithmetic; so that the education secured at present by the majority of children who attend school is intellectually less satisfactory than it was, in spite of the fact that the teachers are each year becoming more competent. Instead of being over-educated, as some people say, those who are on the books are under-educated, and large numbers are not on the books at all. The country must suffer terribly for this failure both immediately and in the future.

"I submitted this statement to Bishop Douet for his criticism and suggestions, and he has written as follows:—

"'By the report of the Education Board for the year ending 31st March, 1901, just published, it will be seen that the number of children in average attendance has fallen 16 per cent., and there is no doubt that the decrease in attendance will be found to be still greater when the returns are made up to 31st March, 1902. To this fact that only 50,987 children are in average attendance out of 120,000 who ought to be in school, is to be added what has been observed in many parts of the Island, a loss of interest in the education of their children on the part of parents. There is also a strong feeling abroad that, owing to the irregularity of attendance, children are compelled to leave school before they have acquired a sufficient education to be of any use to them in after life. Children who leave school in the third or fourth standard, as very large numbers of them do, cannot read intelligently, and are unable to write a simple English sentence, and will, within a year or two of leaving school, completely forget all they have learned.'

"Among the things urgently necessary to be done with as little delay as possible, is the gradual introduction, throughout the Island, of a system of compulsory attendance at Elementary Schools for a limited number of years, in the manner recommended in the Report of the last Education Commission. By making attendance compulsory, in the first year of its coming into force only on children six years old, and in the second year on children either six or seven years old, and in the third year on children either six, seven, or eight years old, and so on, the effect would be gradual, both as regards the demand it made upon parents to send their children to school, and as regards any extra cost to the Government due to an increase in numbers and need for further accommodation. If to this modified form of compulsion were added (until money is more plentiful) a relaxation of the present rule regarding space accommodation in schools (which though good in itself is not absolutely necessary in this country) an immediate large outlay for buildings would be avoided. We should then see the beginnings of a system which would prevent ultimate injury to the public through the up-growth of an ignorant population; for by these means every child would obtain, within a limited number of years, a definite, plain, useful education. This education would also, in the

case of many pupils, prove a stepping-stone to further advances in knowledge and practical power of serving themselves, their families and their country."

More Promising Signs.

217. These observations were written before the Educational returns for the year 1901-1902 were available for reference. It is true that there was in that year as a whole, as anticipated by Bishop Douet, a further reduction (though slight) in average attendance. On the other hand, the Superintending Inspector of Schools reports that there has been a great improvement in regularity of attendance and in the efficiency of the schools generally. This is especially the case in regard to the amalgamated schools. Whilst in some cases, though not in all, the total attendance has been diminished, the average marks per school have risen from 48 to 55, or by about 15 per cent. In one instance, instead of three average second class schools we have now one high first-class school, with very little falling-off in the total attendance. The Superintending Inspector of Schools thinks it likely that in the course of a year or two, when the situation is better understood the attendance may quite recover itself, and the amalgamations already carried out fully justify themselves on the score of attendance as they have done on that of efficiency and economy. I am, moreover, glad to be able to say that the facts of the situation do not appear to be altogether as apprehended by the Archbishop and Bishop Douet. The reports of the Inspectors of Schools do not bear out the impression that the education at present secured to those who attend is less satisfactory than it was, but represent the contrary, whilst in the four months, April to July, 1902, following the close of the year under report, there has been an increase of 10 per cent. in the school attendance. This will of itself cause an automatic increase in educational expenditure. The general introduction of compulsion would result in a further addition to this expenditure, for which the Public Revenue of the Island, according to recent experience, could not provide without a further increase of taxation.

Results of Year.

218. The teaching of the elementary subjects has yielded, according to the Inspector's reports, slightly improving results, but arithmetic, whilst more nearly on a par with reading and writing than formerly, is still in most instances the weakest of the three.

Under the New Code.

219. The year under review is the first in which nearly all the schools have been examined in accordance with the schedules of the Code of 1900. In the better schools, with trained and

competent teachers, laudable and fairly successful efforts have been made to meet the new requirements, not merely with slavish literalness but with a considerable amount of intelligence and power of adaptation. It is gratifying to find that the Inspectors generally report that the courses for the training of teachers in agricultural knowledge at the Hope Gardens and at the Mico Training College, and the lectures given at various country centres by the Lecturer in Agriculture provided by the Imperial Government, and the Agricultural Instructors of the Colonial Government, are bearing good fruit. The Superintending Inspector of Schools considers that, as already stated, the schools are improving in general efficiency and need not fear comparison with any others under similar conditions and disadvantages.

Improvements of System.

220. It may be said, generally, that within a few recent years an improved system of education and an improved method of training teachers has been established in Jamaica, and that the efforts of those who have promoted these changes are beginning to bear fruit. As regards primary education, the code has been amended so as to include, besides reading, recitation, writing, English, arithmetic and Scripture, regulations regarding manual training and agricultural science.

Manual and Technical Training.

221. I take the following account of the existing arrangements from "A Paper on Education in Jamaica in relation to skilled handicraft and Agricultural Work" written by the Archbishop of the West Indies at the request of and for publication by the Committee of Council on Education.

SECTION I.—MANUAL TRAINING AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE REQUIRED TO BE TAUGHT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN JAMAICA.

"(1.) *Manual Training.*—The primary schools are divided for the purpose of drawing and manual occupations into three divisions, lower, middle, and upper. The manual occupations in each case are based on a drawing scheme. The drawing ranges from kindergarten drawing and simple mechanical drawing in the lower division, to freehand drawing, drawing to scale, and geometrical drawing in the upper Division. The manual occupations based on the above course of drawing include colour work, clay modelling, paper and card board modelling, and simple modelling in wood.

(2.) *Agriculture.*—The Schools are also divided into three divisions for this subject, which is intended not merely to insure that a certain amount of information is acquired, but more especially to train the children in observation and inference by actual close touch with the objects and life around them. In the lower division a course of thirty-six lessons is given in animal and plant life, dwelling especially on the animals and plants found in Jamaica. In the middle and upper divisions more advanced general science is taught, and also more agricultural science, including the formation of soils, plant food, manures, and common objects of cultivation in Jamaica. All schools are required to illustrate the teaching in elementary science, general and agricultural, by experiments carried on by means of plants grown in pots and boxes.

SECTION II.—ADVANCED COURSE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

"(1.) *Manual Training.*—Workshops for the advanced course of manual training "woodwork" have been established at five town centres in the Island. The course includes mechanical drawing and advanced exercises in tool work. This is generally a two-year course for Standards V. and VI.

"(2.) *Agriculture and Horticulture.*—The advanced course for schools is a practical application, in out-door experiments, of the knowledge obtained in the schools. An experiment ground of not less than a quarter of an acre must be provided in which every boy above 11 years of age must be taught practical skill in all agricultural operations. The course is open to girls. An extra grant is given for proficiency in this course."

The above manual training and agricultural teaching is being introduced as rapidly as possible into the schools; but it cannot be pushed on very quickly, because teachers require to be trained to give the proper instruction in these subjects; and comparatively few of them have yet been so trained.

TRAINING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

9. The Education Code Syllabus for training colleges now requires (in addition to reading, writing, arithmetic, Euclid, grammar, geography, history and Scripture) that the following subjects be taught.

"(1.) *Manual Training.*—The first year students take a course including paper folding and designing, colour work, paper and card board modelling, clay modelling, simplified woodwork. Second and third year students take a more advanced course of drawing and manual training "woodwork" on the lines of English requirements in the same subjects. This course requires a thorough knowledge of orthographic and oblique projection drawing and the use of all the ordinary carpenter's tools.

"(2.) *Agriculture.*—In the first year, a course of elementary physics and chemistry, preparatory to the study of the life and food of plants, and to a knowledge of the composition of soils and manures, is laid down, This course is chiefly practical and experimental, but an intelligent knowledge of the Tropical Readers is also required. The Tropical Readers are two volumes, prepared and published at the instance of the Jamaica Board of Education, by Messrs. Blackie, for use in Jamaica schools, strongly recommended by Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, and now in use throughout the British West Indies.

"In the second year, agricultural science of a more advanced character is prescribed. This course includes a knowledge of the composition of the atmosphere and water and their action on plant life, the formation of soils, their cultivation, need for manures, structure of plants, plant life, germination and nutrition, together with a practical knowledge obtained in box-gardening and out-door cultivation with experiments and illustrations, as in the French Scheme of Agriculture for Elementary Schools.

"In the third year, the theory prescribed for the second year is amplified, and the instruction is mainly practical, the college lectures bearing upon this side of the subject. The course includes the knowledge of the proper use of agricultural tools, preparation of seed beds, sowing, transplanting, pruning, budding, grafting, destruction of insect pests, and the planting and care of common Jamaica crops."

The foregoing subjects are being thoroughly taught at the Mico College, which is practically the only one now in operation in the Island for the training of male teachers. The headmaster of the Kingston Manual Training School directs and assists the manual training at this College. The secretary of the college, an experienced practical botanist, directs the garden operations. The Imperial lecturer in agriculture shares in the teaching at this institution; and he also assists at the Shortwood and Bethlehem, and at the St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic) Training Colleges for girls, as it is deemed desirable for the female teachers to obtain as much of this instruction as possible.

The Manual Training School, Kingston.

10. *The Manual Training School Kingston*, is an institution established in 1897 by the Government, and managed by the Board of Education. It was established for two purposes:—namely, to provide a model elementary school on English lines; and to be the medium for introducing educational handwork into the educational system of Jamaica. The school consists of a boys' and kindergarten department with an aggregate average attendance of 450 pupils. A girls' department is in contemplation. A manual training "woodwork" department is a special feature of the school. The headmaster of the school is an English trained, certificated teacher, with special qualifications in manual training. He is assisted by an English trained kindergarten mistress, and a staff of native teachers. The curriculum of the school is that prescribed in the Jamaica Code for elementary schools. Special attention is given to educational handwork which is carried on throughout the school in the form of kindergarten occupations, manual occupations (drawing and colour-work), and manual training "woodwork." The latter is taken by all the boys in the school in Standard V. and upwards. Each boy receives two hours' instruction per week.

Classes for the training of teachers are held every week at the school. The subjects taken up are Kindergarten, drawing and manual occupation and manual training "woodwork." The latter class is affiliated with the City and Guilds of London Institute, and the Institute's examination in manual training "woodwork" was held locally each year 1899-1901. The work was sent to London to be examined. At the three examinations 21 native teachers passed the first year's examination, and 12 of these went on and passed the final, thus gaining the teacher's certificate granted by the institute. These teachers are being placed in charge of manual training centres as they are established. Four such centres have recently been opened.

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11. All the young men under preparation to be teachers in the primary schools have now to pass through the training above specified. Provision is made also for teachers who had gone out from college before this training was commenced, to come to Kingston, and secure the benefits of a course of manual training. Provision has likewise been made for an annual assembly of old teachers for the purpose of giving them some training in agricultural and manual work. This takes place at the Mico College and the Agricultural Experiment Station near Kingston. The present is the third year for this annual assembly. It has done much already to help existing teachers who passed through the college before agriculture was taught there; and they are thereby enabled to understand enough of the subject to enable them to teach it both theoretically and practically.

Special Schools.

12. As regards special schools the following can be reported:—

Efforts at industrial and agricultural training have long been made, with some partial success, at the Boys' Reformatory and Industrial School, and the Girls' Reformatory at Stony Hill; the Boys' Industrial School at Hope

Gardens; the Girls' Industrial School at Shortwood; the Belmont Orphanage for girls; and the Alpha Cottage (Roman Catholic) Industrial School. Further efforts for promoting agricultural education have recently been planned on an extensive scale by Bishop Gordon (Roman Catholic); and a commencement has been made towards their realisation. In reply to my enquiries, Bishop Gordon has given me information of which the following is a summary.

"The work at present is in its tentative stage, the resources available being limited. The general purpose is to train boys who have no other definite prospects in life. First of all they are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and have as much of agricultural education as can be obtained on a banana farm which is located near Spanish Town. Moral and religious training are an essential part of the plan. The children here are young, and have the benefit of being under the care of the sisters who aid in the management of the institution. The cost of maintaining the fifty inmates is met by the labour of those of them who can work.

"At the age of from 12 to 14 years it is intended to transfer them to a pen in the parish of St. James, where they will be given the opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of all that is done on Jamaica Pens; and the endeavour will be made to give them instruction in the most advanced methods of cultivating, harvesting and preparing for the market. [Pen in Jamaica means popularly, a grazing property and place for farming and small cultivation, as distinct from the large sugar or coffee properties.]

"The final stage of the plan is, their being transferred to land which has been secured in the parish of St. Mary. They are to work there on a co-operative system, which, however, is to give facilities for their becoming proprietors. The ultimate aim is to secure 'the formation of a God-fearing, hard-working, moral and religious, as well as intelligent peasantry, and to establish family life, which is the foundation of the morality, strength and happiness of a people. The first stage is accomplished, the second is struggling into existence, and the third is not begun.'"

It is to be hoped that this interesting experiment will secure a large measure of the success which the founder has in view.

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13. The following projects have recently been initiated.

"(1.) The establishment of a farm school under the control of the Government, and largely meeting the needs of the better peasant class whose children will either win scholarships available at this farm school or will pay about twelve pounds a year. The plans for this are in shape, but are delayed for lack of funds.

"(2.) The establishment of a special section in connection with one of the principal schools in Vere, for manual training, and the teaching of agriculture. This will probably come into effective operation soon.

"(3.) Under the auspices of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture, which is an official administrative body, and also of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which is a popular body, joint efforts are being made to give theoretical and practical agricultural instruction to adults and young people in numerous centres of the Island, by means of conversational lectures in the field with demonstrations and illustrations. Two specially trained men are thus working under the Board of Agriculture, and two others with large local general experience are giving partial services under the direction of the Agricultural Society. The aim is to popularise among the middle aged people and the younger folks who have passed out of the schools, the newer teaching and practice in all branches of agriculture. These lectures have proved very useful, and there is a growing interest in them. They effectively supplement the efforts made in the schools among the young."

ADVANCED TEACHING.

14. *Advanced Teaching.*—As regards more advanced teaching for the middle and upper classes, and for those from the lower classes, who may show special ability, there is the Experiment Station at the Hope Botanical and Agricultural Gardens, with a defined course of instruction in the laboratory under the highly qualified agricultural chemist. This institution is now getting into active operation. It has taken many years to secure that amount of popular interest and public support necessary to create it; but it will, before the close of this year, have methods in operation for giving (either free or at an almost nominal charge) complete technical training in agricultural chemistry and other subjects bearing on agriculture.

SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

15. *Secondary and Higher Education.*—The Jamaica College heretofore called "The Jamaica High School and University College" is a public Institution located close to the Experiment Station. It is a high class school of the ordinary kind, giving facilities for teaching in arts up to the standard of securing degrees from the University of London. But it has long aimed at developing a scientific side, with special reference to interesting boys in agriculture, and in the case of some (at the later stages of their education) securing for them special agricultural training at the Experiment Station now at last being established; and also to prepare some boys for taking the full technical course there. The Jamaica Schools Commission which manages this Institution, has also close relations of general supervision to a number of endowed schools in the Island, and is endeavouring to foster developments of scientific and practical teaching in all of them, with a view to the better fitting of the more advanced section of the community for higher technical training in Jamaica or elsewhere.

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16. These various efforts for modifying the instruction given to the young people of Jamaica, of all classes, are now passing out of the controversial and tentative stage into the practical and effective. There are still some persons who condemn the education being given; but these are chiefly persons who are not aware of what has been done to modify the system in all schools and in all grades of education during the last three or four years; or else they are persons who think it possible to teach nothing but trades and farming in schools. The endeavour is being made to secure thorough development of the intelligence of the children generally, with special stress upon those parts of ordinary book learning that are likely to be of most use to working folks; and to add those mental and practical preparations which are possible to be given in ordinary schools whereby mental tastes and physical aptitudes will be developed, and an interest created in the subjects which the pupils have to take up and work at later on. It will be a more wholesome training than the mere book learning of the past; and there is only one reason why the actual attainments in book learning should not be better than heretofore. That reason is the unfortunate restriction, at present, of educational advantages generally through lack of public resources * * * * The arrangements for making the teaching good and practical are being matured as fast as it is reasonable to expect. But the number of schools has been reduced, so that facilities for easy attendance in country districts are less; the number of years during which children may attend the schools at public expense has been reduced; but there is no compulsion, so that the attendance is casual and limited. This must be altered, or the advantages of the better methods will be lost to Jamaica because of the comparatively small number of children getting the full benefit of them."

222. I have thought it useful to include the whole of the foregoing rather lengthy summary in this Report in view of the very great importance which must be attached, in the economy of this Colony, to the aims and attempts therein recorded. I have already dealt with kindred educational efforts in reporting on the Agricultural Department.

Expenditure.

223. The total amounts expended on education in 1901-1902 and 1900-1901, respectively, were as below:—

For Elementary Education.	1901–02	1900–01
Grants to Elementary School Teachers	42,936	42,482
Building Grants	179	375
Administration Inspectors	4,819	5,222
Government Training College for Women Teachers ...	1,204	1,204
Grants to Training Colleges	2,431	2,660
Agricultural Courses for Teachers...	258	95
Board of Education and Printing	140	115
Total	51,967	52,153

For Secondary Education.	1901–02	1901–01
Annuities to Industrial Schools	5,244	5,244
Jamaica College	1,050	1,300
Scholarships	1,166	1,107
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	200
Total	7,660	7,851

224. This summary shows that the School Tax provides, as mentioned above, for about one-fourth of the amount of grants to schools, and about one-fifth of the total amount spent for elementary education.

225. I wish to mention a very promising movement that has been taking shape in the course of the year, dependent entirely on the voluntary effort and gratuitous public spirit of those who have been active in it. At the suggestion of the Senior Sub-Inspector of Schools, and in co-operation with school managers and teachers, public educational meetings have been held in several localities in Manchester. One purpose has been to impress upon parents the duty and the great importance of sending their children to school regularly and punctually until the limit of school age is reached. For the children above school age plans have been set forth for continuing their education under the supervision and guidance of teachers, and such aid as can be given by ministers of religion and their wives and others interested in the educational welfare of the people. As the outcome of this movement, which has just begun, improvement classes have been organised at five centres, some for the boys and young men and others for the girls and young women—the latter receiving practical instruction in domestic economy. These classes are arranged for a six months' course. Educational committees have been appointed in the several school districts to make general arrangements for the improvement

classes and to act as Voluntary School Attendance Committees to secure a more regular attendance of the children in the schools. Some parents among those who are in highest repute in the community have chosen to act with managers and teachers as the Educational Committee in their district, and are taking part in the work with earnest and intelligent interest. The formation of book-clubs, in small groups of four or six among the young men and young women, has been begun, and it is expected that this feature of the work will be of special value and will be an important auxiliary to the school libraries existing in the same districts.

Training of Elementary School Teachers.

Shortwood College.

226. Sufficient reference has, perhaps been made already to the Training Colleges and the Manual Training School. With regard to Shortwood Training College for Female Elementary School Teachers, which is managed by a Board of Governors appointed by the Governor, and which receives a grant of £1,200 a year, it may be mentioned that there were thirty students in training during the year, all of whom presented themselves for the Cambridge Local Examination. Twenty-three passed, three with Honours.

Examination of Teachers.

227. The usual examination of Training Colleges and teachers was held in December, 1901, with results as shown below:—

College.	Presented.	Passed.	Honours.	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.
First year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	24	21	6	6	7	2
Mico students, Antigua ...	8	5	1	1	2	1
Shortwood	12	12	1	1	2	8
Bethlehem	7	6	—	4	2	—
St. Josephs	4	4	—	—	—	4
Second year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	3	2	—	—	1	1
Mico students, Antigua ...	3	3	1	2	—	—
Shortwood	10	7	1	1	2	3
Bethlehem	5	4	—	1	3	—
St. Josephs	2	2	—	—	1	1
Third year students—						
Mico, Jamaica students ...	30	25	8	7	7	3
Shortwood	8	4	—	1	2	1
Bethlehem	5	4	—	1	3	—
St. Josephs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	121	99	18	25	32	24
Teachers	13	6	—	—	1	5
Teachers for permanent registration.	11	4	—	—	—	4

228. On these results the Superintending Inspector of Schools makes the following observations:—

"The percentage of passes amongst students has again slightly fallen from 85·4 to 81·8. The worst results were shown in the second year, the students in which for some reasons have not been quite up to the average standard from the time they were admitted. The number of teachers presented and the percentage of passes show also a decrease. The results of the examination of teachers for permanent registration are still unsatisfactory, and I fear they will continue to be so. Self-training, even in elementary branches of knowledge, is by many in Jamaica considered an impossibility, and consequently is often not attempted. Modern text books are prepared with such immense care that no possible difficulty on the part of the learner shall be over-looked that the instruction to be derived from them is far better and easier than nine-tenths of the oral instruction available in Jamaica, and the great aim of all teachers should be to make their pupils fond of reading and capable of pursuing their studies by themselves. Some of the best work in England is done by solitary students, but when a student in Jamaica is called upon to reach a certain standard of attainment to qualify himself for a professional career, whether as land surveyor, teacher or what not, the reply often received is, 'It is impossible; there is no one in my neighbourhod who can teach me.'"

Pupil Teachers.

229. The following are the results of the examination of pupil teachers held in July, 1901:—

Year.	Pupil Teachers.					Volunteer Candidates.				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.
Presented	117	70	57	75	319	304	94	5	134	597
Passed	22	44	31	51	148	49	37	16	67	169
Per cent. ...	19	63	54	68	46	16	39	25	50	28

230. "These results," the Superintending Inspector of Schools observes, "can not be called satisfactory, and indicate the need for far more careful preparation of the candidates for examination. No teacher in the Island should send up a candidate, as some did on this occasion, who cannot even transcribe a headline for a writing copy correctly."

Revision of Code.

231. During the year the Education Code was revised and amended in certain respects affecting the allotments of grants. The revised Code only came into force on the 1st May last, one month after the termination of the year under review. It may be well, however, to indicate briefly the effect of the most important modifications.

232. Under the old Code (in force during the whole of the year 1901-1902) a school with an average attendance of over 80 and under 150 could have one additional woman teacher (or, in a very few exceptional cases, two). The additional woman teacher's salary (*i.e.*, the grant available for paying it) was fixed at £20 a year. Many additional women teachers are highly qualified, registered, and even in some cases certificated teachers, others were novices with no training and slight qualification, but the salary was uniform for all. Under the new Code the amount available for the payment of assistants will vary with the size of the school, from £6 for a school of 80 to £48 for a school of 150. Managers are left free to make the best arrangements they can for staffing their schools with the means at their disposal, *e.g.*, with an average of 80 it will be hardly possible in most cases to do more than secure a pupil teacher (the special grants for whom are abolished) with an average of 120, and a grant under Article 114 of £30, either a superior assistant at £30 or a less highly qualified assistant at £24 and a pupil teacher at £6 may be employed, whilst the £48 available to a school with an average of 150 may be laid out in a number of different ways according to the special circumstances of the school. Managers of the larger schools with a considerable sum at their disposal will be able to secure, and pay well for, the services of highly qualified assistants; managers with less will have to be satisfied with assistants of lower qualifications or may even in some instances find it expedient to spend the whole of the sum at their disposal in providing assistance during those months of the year only during which the attendance is highest. In all cases they will go into the teaching market and secure the best that can be got for their money. On the other hand the Government will be paying a definite sum for the teaching of each additional scholar, a plan which is logical, and makes something like reliable estimates for the first time possible. The "unrecognised assistants" who have been allowed during the past year or two will cease to form a separate class. There will be no limitation to the staff that may be sanctioned by the Department so long as it can be provided with the grant available, but each member of it must have some qualifications.

233. In order, however, that managers may lay out their money to the best advantage they must clearly know how much is at their disposal. Hitherto the grant for each school year has been determined *at the end* of it, and if this system had

continued the management would have had nothing definite to offer to an assistant or pupil teacher. It is clear that a manager would secure a better assistant if he could offer him a fixed and definite salary for the year of £30 than if it were anything between £15 and £45, not to be determined until the end of the year. The further change has, therefore, been made of making the grant for a year dependent on the results of the examination at the beginning of the year so that each manager will see clearly a year ahead at all events, and can make fixed and definite arrangements with the staff for that year. The new Articles necessitate the revision of the financial arrangements with the staff at each inspection.

234. Another change in the Code affects the teachers' special grants on certificates. These grants have hitherto been nothing when the marks were under 42, £5 for marks from 42 to 55, and £10 for marks over 55. The anomaly therefore existed that a teacher who raised the marks of his school from 42 to 55 gained nothing in his special grant, whilst a rise from 41 to 42 marks or from 55 to 56 meant a gain of £5 to the teacher. The special grant now rises in exact proportion to the number of marks above 40, so that every gain of one mark has a definite value.

(B.) Secondary Education.

Table X.

235. A table is appended showing the number of scholars in the Secondary and other endowed schools of the Island and the results obtained in the Cambridge Local Examinations during the year.

236. The work of the Endowed Secondary Schools throughout the Island is tested annually under the Cambridge Local Examination scheme.

Creditable record for the Year.

237. The results of the examination held in December, 1901, were generally satisfactory, and very creditable in the case of the Jamaica High School, Wolmers' School for Girls, and the Schools of the Munro and Dickenson Trust at Potsdam and Hampton. Mr. R. W. Dodd, of the Potsdam School, was awarded the Jamaica Scholarship as the result of this examination. He achieved the highest record for Jamaica in distinctions in eight subjects, namely, Religious knowledge, Greek, English, Latin, French, German, Mathematics, and Applied Mathematics. The prize of £12 offered by the Syndicate at Cambridge for the best senior boy was also awarded to Mr. Dodd.

High School &c.

238. University College, attached to the Jamaica High School, continues to provide facilities for local study for degrees in Arts and Science at the London University. Provision is also offered at this Institution for the practical training of scholars in agricultural science at the Government Botanic Garden and Agricultural Experiment Station adjoining the school premises. The Government Agricultural Lecturer, Mr. Buttenshaw, continued to give instruction to the boys of the High School and to give lectures at University College open to other students.

Jamaica College.

239. The name "Jamaica High School and University College" has been changed to "Jamaica College" with a view to marking the unity of management of the Institution and of the work done by it, and its identity of character with other institutions doing similar work in the West Indies.

240. Scholars at Wolmers' Girls School were presented for the examinations of the Royal Drawing Society. In Division II. four candidates were presented for Honours, of whom three gained Honours and the fourth passed. Thirty-six entered for the Pass Division, of whom 25 passed. In Division I. 97 entered and 75 passed, 39 with Honours. One candidate for the History group of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination gained a First Class Certificate and distinction in English History and for Languages and Mathematics a full Honours Certificate. Another student gained a First Class in the Language group and a Second Class for Mathematics, and a distinction in Arithmetic. The same girl had already gained Honours in the Cambridge Senior Local, and on the joint results has gained a full Honours Certificate in the higher local examination.

241. A new scheme has been adopted for the Titchfield School, (Port Antonio) which provides separate governing bodies for the management of the Trust property and of the school.

242. Arrangements are being made with a view to providing for manual and agricultural instruction at a school at Alley, in Lower Clarendon, connected with the Vere Trust.

243. The results in the examinations of the University of London during the year have been as follows: three candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination in June, one passed in the First Division. Two sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts in July, one, who entered for Honours, was recommended for a pass. Two candidates entered for the Matriculation in January, both passed in the First Division.

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

244. The scholars numbered 34 as against 29 in the previous year. The increase is attributable to a reduction of the fees.

245. In addition to the above-mentioned schools and colleges there are the Mico, Shortwood, St. Josephs' and Bethlehem Training Colleges for Teachers which are aided by Government grants; the Manual Training School, Kingston; and numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. A list of these schools is contained in the Blue Book return on **Education.**

(C.) Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

Stony Hill Reformatory.

246. The Government Reformatory at Stony Hill for Boys and Girls is administered in combination with an Industrial School for Boys. The numbers, admissions during the year, &c., were as follows:—

—	1st August, 1901.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Dead.	31st March, 1902.
Reformatory boys	100	17	20	1	96
Industrial school boys ...	49	7	12	1	43
	149	24	32	2	139
Reformatory girls	15	6	1	—	20
Total	164	30	33	2	159

247. The boys are employed under qualified tradesmen in carpentering, smiths' work, tailoring, masons' work, bricklaying, cooking and baking, and in garden and field cultivation. The girls wash all the clothing and bedding of the Institution, make clothing, and clean their own premises. The boys did work valued at £1,013 0*s.* 6*d.*, of which £373 3*s.* 2*d.* was paid for in cash by customers for their labour and produce, and the balance, £639 17*s.* 4*d.*, was the value of repairs and other work done for the Institution and of produce consumed there. The girls did work valued at £189 1*s.* 4*d.*, earning £1 8*s.* 3*d.* in cash.

248. Special attention has been paid to agricultural work. Experiments have been carried out under the direction of the Board of Agriculture. The coffee produced has been carefully cured and 35 barrels shipped to England (with one barrel of cocoa) realised (after the close of the year) £64 19*s.* 4*d.*, which must be added to the earnings of the Institution already recorded.

249. The following summary shows the principal particulars regarding the other Industrial Schools of the Colony during the last financial year as compared with the preceding year:—

—	Hope.	Shortwood.	Alpha Cottage.		Belmont.
	Under control of				
—	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Roman Catholic Church.		Church of England.
Inmates:—	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Girls.
31st March, 1901...	40	30	38	33	10
31st March, 1902...	39	29	33	26	13
Health	Good	Fairly good	Excellent		No special Report.

250. The usual routine work at the several institutions has been maintained during the year, the boys for the most part being employed in field work and other outdoor labour, the girls being engaged in cooking, sewing, and laundry work.

251. Alpha Cottage again obtained a First Class at the annual inspection of the schools, and the Inspector of Schools who examined at Hope reported that on the whole the work of the school had struck him more favourably than it had done for some years past and that he hoped for further improvement.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

(1.) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

252. The Public Medical and Hospital Service of the Island is under the direction of Deputy Surgeon-General (retired) C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer.

253. The principal Government Medical Institution is the Public Hospital at Kingston. The Medical Staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer and two Resident Officers, with two Supernumerary Medical officers attached for duty, who are available for outside duty in cases of emergency. The number of the cases treated (3,729) in this hospital during the year

1901-1902 was the highest recorded. The daily average number of beds occupied was 207 against 201 during the preceding year; 4,255 applications for admission were refused; 7,929 persons were assisted as out-patients, an increase of nearly 2,000 over last year. There were 241 deaths, an average of 6·46 per cent. of the cases as against 258, an average of 8·21, in the previous year. This death-rate, the lowest recorded for many years, must be considered as extremely satisfactory when it is borne in mind that a great number of cases are admitted in an almost moribund condition and others suffering from advanced disease. Seventy per cent. of the deaths occurred within 72 hours of admission.

Principal diseases treated.

254. Malarial fever contributed the greatest number of cases, 226, with 18 deaths. There were 70 cases of tuberculosis, with 32 deaths, and 28 of enteric fever, with 12 deaths. 2,789 patients were discharged as cured; 347 as relieved; 156 as not relieved; and 196 remained in the hospital at the close of the year.

255. There were 1,107 operations performed, attended by a mortality of 16, or 1·44 per cent. The excellence of the nursing and sanitary arrangements is attested by these figures and by the entire absence of hospital disease.

256. The Superintending Medical Officer is well satisfied with the record and results of the year, which I consider deserves appreciative public acknowledgment. The buildings and accommodation of the female wards may not be in all respects so good as might be desired, but the devotion and ability of the staff supply compensation for such deficiencies, and the result is a very well-conducted and valuable Public Institution administered at a low rate of expenditure.

257. The average cost of each patient was at the rate of £36 4*s*. 9*d*. per annum, or 1*s*. 11¾*d*. per diem. The average cost of each case was £2 0*s*. 3*d*. These figures show an economy over the cost of last year. The total expenditure, not including repairs to buildings, was £7,501 12*s*. 8*d*. against £7,479 17*s*. 1*d*., although the number of in-patients rose from 3,142 to 3,739, and of out-patients from 5,935 to 7,929.

(2.) *Maternity Hospital, Kingston.*

258. The Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital is conducted by a matron, with assistants and pupil-nurses attached for training. The Medical Officer is also surgeon to the General Penitentiary.

259. The admissions during the year numbered 785, the highest since the hospital was opened, and 302 more than last year. This increased demand on the Institution severely taxed its capacity and the energies of the staff. There were, however, only seven deaths among the patients—four of these were ad-

mitted in a dying condition. Ninety-nine operations were performed. Eight pupil-nurses completed the course of training and 12 entered. The nett total expenditure was actually less than last year, the average cost per inmate was at the rate of £27 18*s.* 5*d.* per annum against £39 18*s.* 4*d.*, and the average total cost of each case £1 3*s.* 2*d.* against £1 18*s.* 10*d.*

260. This is in all respects an admirably conducted hospital, most creditable to the Matron and her assistants, and to the Medical Officer. The demands on its accommodation during the year were excessive; such over-pressure must tend to diminish its importance as a training institution for nurses for the benefit of the whole Island, and it has become necessary to place more restrictions on admissions. Whilst valuable aid is rendered to many respectable mothers, it is unfortunate that so much of the demand arises from among the lowest and loosest order of young women and girls of Kingston, and that a large proportion of the fortuitous progeny so carefully ushered into the world are born with impaired constitutions and enjoy little chance of proper nurture after they leave the hospital.

(3.) *Public General Hospitals.*

261. In addition to the Public Hospital at Kingston, there are 19 Public General Hospitals distributed over the Island under charge of the District Medical Officers in which, during the year 1901-1902 10,842 persons were treated, classified as below. The figures for the last year are also shown for comparison:—

—	1901–02.	1900–01.
Ordinary cases (free)	4,146	3,132
Indian immigrants	5,798	8,357
Paupers	154	8,257
Paying patients	162	135
Constables	576	553
Prisoners	6	—
Total	10,842	12,115

262. There were 273 deaths in these hospitals, a rate of 2½ per cent. 1,177 operations were performed, attended by two deaths, a mortality rate of ·17 per cent. Out-door patients were treated as below:—

Ordinary cases (free)	13,341
Indian immigrants	1,439
Constables	1,931
Prisoners	2,785
Parochial midwifery cases...	86
	19,582

Principal diseases treated.

263. The most prevalent diseases treated in these hospitals were malarial fevers (4,530 cases), skin disease (1,303), digestive (472), rheumatic (369), respiratory (299), and syphilitic (265). The diminution in the proportion of Indian immigrant cases to the large number to which attention was called in the last year's Blue Book Report is noticeable. It is to be hoped that this may indicate better acclimatisation of the latest batches of immigrants. The most frequented hospitals were those at Annatto Bay (2,135 admissions), Lionel Town (1,786), Port Antonio (1,308), Port Maria (929), Spanish Town (830), Hordley (592), and Buff Bay (543).

The high numbers in all of these (except perhaps Spanish Town) were greatly swelled by Indian immigrants.

264. The value of the work done by these hospitals in relieving suffering and in checking the spread of disease is very great, and would be far greater were cases sent in to them in earlier stages of illness. The treatment in them of skin diseases and ulcers, to which West Indian populations are very subject, and which yield readily to early attention but which if neglected, cripple the patient, is, I think, showing a marked impression on the prevalence of these affections.

265. The total nett expenditure on these 19 hospitals (not including the maintenance of the buildings or the salaries of the District Medical Officers who supervise and practise in them) was £7,930. A dispensary is also maintained at Glengoffe, the nett cost of which during the year was £86. From personal inspection of most of them I am able to bear witness to the general excellence of the administration of these institutions by the officers immediately responsible and their effectual supervision by the Superintending Medical Officer.

(B.) Asylums.

(1.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

266. Staff—one Medical Superintendent and two Resident Medical Officers.

267. There were 868 patients in the Lunatic Asylum at the beginning of the year, 863 at its close,—423 males and 440 females. 99 males and 83 females were admitted during the year, making 1,050 patients under treatment, or 31 more than last year. 109 patients were discharged and 78 died. The net expenditure on the institution was £14,213, the daily average number of patients 863, the average annual cost of each patient £16 9*s.* 5*d.* and the average daily cost 10·83*d.*, the same as during the last two years. A course of lectures was delivered

during the year by the Junior Resident Medical Officer to the attendants and nurses on the care and treatment of the insane, which proved both popular and beneficial.

Principal Causes of Death.

268. A large proportion of the deaths was due to pulmonary diseases which are in part attributed by the medical staff to the crowded state of some of the wards. The necessity for financial economy has hitherto made it impossible to occupy the new buildings, the construction of which was almost completed three years ago, but arrangements have now been made for equipping and utilising one of the new wards so as to relieve the existing pressure on the male quarters of the Asylum.

(2.) *Lepers' Home.*

269. The Medical Superintendent of the Lepers' Home at Spanish Town is also surgeon to the Spanish Town Public Hospital.

270. The excellent record of this Institution has been well maintained during the year. The Medical Superintendent reports well of the conduct of the patients and acknowledges the continued kindness and assistance of visitors and clergy. The school has been efficiently conducted, and the cultivation of the land taken in a few years ago continues to be of interest and profit to the inmates.

271. The number of admissions has been smaller than in any year since the Home was opened in 1879. Nine were registered, including two re-admissions, none of them recent cases. The Medical Attendant reports that leprosy is certainly becoming rarer in Jamaica, and is of opinion that, if it were added to the schedule of diseases to be compulsorily notified, the District Medical Officers could in their several districts prescribe such simple sanitary measures as would in a short time completely eradicate the disease from the Island. I am taking steps to pursue this suggestion. The death-rate was 11·4 per cent. of the total. Of 14 deaths from leprosy, 5 were accelerated by chronic kidney disease and 4 by chronic diarrhœa.

Intercurrent Diseases.

272. Certain intercurrent diseases specially manifested, viz., neuritis, inflammation of the eye and nose, dyspepsia, diarrhœa and kidney disease, Dr. Neish reports to be specially incidental to leprosy. He has no doubt that anaesthetic leprosy is a specific peripheral neuritis; the diseases of the eye and nose are set up by an invasion of the tissues of those organs by the *lepra* bacillus. The diseases of digestion he reports to be due partly to the very liberal scale of diet, partly to ulceration

of the intestines by the disease. Chronic inflammation of the kidneys he attributes occasionally to the invasion of the kidney by leprosy, but more commonly to trophic changes in the organ as a symptom of neuritis—it being especially marked in cases of anaesthetic leprosy.

(C.) Poor Houses and Poor Relief.

Administration of Poor Law.

273. Poor relief in this Island is administered by the various Parochial Boards under the general control of a Board of Supervision. It is based on the principle that any destitute person unable to work and earn the means of subsistence is entitled to relief. The giving of relief is in the hands of the Parochial Boards with a right of appeal, in cases of refusal of or of inadequate relief, to the Board of Supervision.

274. Tables XI. and XII. annexed furnish particulars of the numbers of persons maintained or relieved out of the Poor Rates and of the amount expended for these purposes in the year under review.

Lunatics, &c.

275. The statistics as to numbers of and expenditure on registered poor discriminate between relief given in the parishes to the ordinary outdoor and indoor poor and relief afforded outside of the parishes in Government Institutions for Industrial School children and lunatics. The former class of relief is in the hands of Parochial Boards and responds to good administration. The latter is practically beyond the control of Parochial Boards, seeing that all Industrial School children and lunatics, with very few exceptions, are committed, under the separate laws applicable, to these Institutions at the instance and through the instrumentality of persons other than Parochial Boards or their officers although the pauper funds of the parish bear the cost.

276. The total number of indoor and outdoor poor at the end of 1901-1902, viz., 4,998, shows an increase of 305 over that at the beginning of the year. This represents an increase in the percentage of paupers to the population of 0·02. If there be added the Industrial School children and lunatics the increases are reduced to 279 and 0·01 respectively.

Increases of Pauperism.

277. From the Report of the Board of Supervision it would appear that the chief increases are in the following six parishes, viz., Kingston (96), Trelawny (34), St. James (28), Hanover (57), St. Elizabeth (28), and Manchester (25), and that the chief causes of these increases are alleged to be the following—(1)

want of work, (2) inability of friends or relatives to continue aid formerly given, (3) the low prices of produce, (4) the want of a Poor House in Manchester, and (5) the general depression in the Island.

278. The Report, however, goes on to state—"It is satisfactory to note that there are five parishes, viz., Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, Westmoreland, and St. Catherine, where the number per 1,000 of population remains stationary or is reduced." In St. Mary and St. Catherine there are actual decreases of 7 and 2 respectively.

Expenditure.

279. The expenditure in the parishes was £25,259, as compared with £26,260 in the previous year. In connection with this apparent anomaly of a decrease in expenditure as compared with an increase in numbers it is to be remembered that the statements of numbers are based on those of the last day of the year under review and are not an average for the year, possibly also some retrenchment in the allowances in some of the parishes may have been affected. The total charge per head of population for all kinds of relief remains the same, viz., 1*s.* 1*d.*

280. The table giving details in respect of the several parishes shows considerable differences in the ratio of paupers and expenditure to population. The ratio of paupers to population varies from 1 in 39 in Kingston to 1 in 275 in St. Mary. The number runs up to over 200 in also St. Elizabeth and St. Ann. These three parishes are all parishes where a good Poor House has been made use of either recently or in the past not alone to afford a thorough and generous relief to those within its shelter but to act as a proper test to weed out improper applicants, although it is true that in one of those parishes the use of this test was pushed too far. In the charge per head of population these parishes also stand out among the lowest, *i.e.*, St. Elizabeth, 7*d.*; St. Ann, 8*d.*; and St. Mary, 10*d.*; but it is also to be noted that other three parishes, viz., Westmoreland, Clarendon, and Manchester, where the ratio in numbers is respectively 1 in 178, 1 in 191, and 1 in 115, have charges per head of population of 9*d.*, 9*d.*, and 10*d.* respectively.

281. In Kingston the large amount of pauperism still remains a serious problem, although of late years the rate of increase has been checked, with indeed in one recent year a reversal to a decrease, and it is to be hoped that a maximum has now been reached.

In Kingston the percentage of paupers to population and the charge per head of population stand at 2·56 and 3*s.* 5*d.*, while the mean rates for the remaining or country parishes are 0·64 and 11*d.* respectively.

(D.) Savings Bank.

Diminution of the Balance at Deposit.

282. The Government Savings Bank had at credit of depositors on the 31st March, 1902, £424,648 6*s.* 2*d.*, and held on account of this liability £420,847 10*s.* 7*d.* in investments and £3,798 15*s.* 7*d.* in cash. The balance of deposits had diminished during the year by £26,219, being the amount by which the total withdrawals, £232,983, exceeded the deposits, £206,764.

283. The following table shows the division of these transactions between official and private accounts and the comparative figures of the four preceding years:—

Year.	Number of Deposit as Accounts.	Deposits, including interest.		Withdrawals.	
		Government.	Ordinary.	Government.	Ordinary.
		£	£	£	£
1897–98	30,660	45,026	183,759	34,023	195,753
1898–99	31,870	47,084	189,480	29,345	183,344
1899–1900	32,880	34,302	195,141	59,921	194,744
1900–01	33,659	42,420	177,964	40,041	198,135
1901–02	34,537	44,519	162,245	49,769	183,213

284. The total number of depositors shows a continuance of its steady increase, but the total amount deposited during the year on ordinary accounts shows, as it did in 1900-1901, a decrease compared with the figures of the previous twelve months. This decrease in the year under review is £15,719, upwards of 8 per cent., whilst the withdrawals exceed the deposits by £20,968. The resulting diminution in the volume of depositors' balances was distributed pretty generally throughout the Island, as the following table shows:—

Parish.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Gain.	Loss.
	£	£	£	£
Kingston	87,878	93,017	—	5,139
St. Andrew	944	796	148	—
St. Thomas	4,353	5,758	—	1,405
Portland	10,036	12,507	—	2,471
St. Mary	7,975	9,242	—	1,267
St. Ann	6,515	6,233	282	—
Trelawny	3,826	4,189	—	363
St. James	10,461	11,955	—	1,494
Hanover	3,744	3,620	124	—
Westmoreland	4,684	8,780	—	4,096
St. Elizabeth...	2,994	5,899	—	2,905
Manchester	6,100	8,045	—	1,945
Clarendon	4,932	5,423	—	489
St. Catherine	7,502	7,750	52	—

285. These reductions in accumulated savings doubtless reflect the continuance of economic depression, but it is satisfactory to note at least that the amount of the withdrawals on ordinary account was less by £14,922 than in the previous year.

286. The Savings Bank is directly profitable to the Colonial Government, the excess of interest on investments over interest paid to depositors and all costs of management amounted in the year under review to £3,406, the income and expenditure being as shown below:—

Income.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Investments	16,365	15	6	Management ...	2,816	16	2
				Interest on Deposits	10,143	0	0
				Profit	3,405	18	11
	16,365	15	6		16,365	15	6

VI.—CRIME, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Police Statistics.

287. No special feature or exceptional condition is disclosed by the Criminal statistics of the year. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates by the police was 27,399, comparing with 25,661 in 1900-1901 and 26,184 in the previous year. The total number of convictions in the Circuit Courts was 128, comparing with 134 in 1900-1901, and in the Resident Magistrates' Courts 4,166, comparing with 4,618. The summary convictions before magistrates in Petty Sessions were 12,519 against 11,339 the previous year. Of the summary convictions 1,904 were for offences against the person (1,878 the previous year), 621, compared with 548, for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and the remainder for other offences, principally disorderly conduct, obscene and abusive language, cruelty to animals, and offences against Highway Laws.

288. Of the convictions in the Circuit Courts and Resident Magistrates' Courts 276 were for offences against the person (85 less than last year), 1,137 for prædial larceny (52 more than last year), 1,299 for other offences against property, comparing with 1,415 and 1,382 against 1,690 for other offences.

Absence of Serious Crime.

289. There is no general prevalence of, or propensity to, serious crime in the Island. On the other hand, there are certain persistent sources of trouble in the community, especially,—

"*Habitual Criminals.*"

(1.) A class of habitual and incorrigible criminals who pass in and out of the prisons and live by theft. There were in 1901-1902 1,244 re-convictions; of these 534 were second convictions, 279 third convictions, and 431 convictions for the fourth time or more.

290. There were in this year 1,493 habitual criminals under police surveillance; 1,056 of them were sent to the Penitentiary during the year and 870 were discharged from the Penitentiary. Of this class, however, only 125 were under obligation to report themselves to the police. The Inspector-General considers that if the law providing for police supervision in this method were more generally put into force by the Judges and the Resident Magistrate there would be a substantial decrease in crime. Criminals have a great objection to being compelled to report themselves periodically at a police-station. Those who were under this obligation gave the police little or no trouble during the year, and a sentence of two years' imprisonment with three or four years' police supervision would probably have a better effect on a criminal than three or four years without supervision and would be cheaper to the community.

Prædial Larceny.

(2.) The inveterate propensity to prædial larceny. There was a small increase in the number of convictions for this offence, due probably to increased vigilance and activity on the part of the police and the district constables, but there seems to have been, on the whole, a decrease in its prevalence during the year, though not in all districts. It appears, however, evident that, where the activity of the police has been supported by resolute administration of the law on the part of the Resident Magistrates, much has been done to abate the evil which, apart from these influences, tends to fluctuate inversely with the prosperity of the country and is less heard of in favourable seasons. It appears to have been most prevalent in the Parish of Manchester, where continued depression has been reported, owing to the low price of coffee.

Rowdyism.

(3.) An element of silly brutishness, exhibited in disorderly conduct, in the propensity to the use of violent, abusive, and filthy language, especially marked in Kingston but prevalent

all over the Island, and in cruelty and callousness in dealing with animals of all sorts. No less than 7,117 cases in the Courts were for disorderly behaviour or bad language. On the other hand, objectionable as are these propensities, it may be a question whether their prevalence justifies so large a tax on the time of the Courts and the police as is entailed by the number of summonses applied for on the most trifling provocation. It may be noted that intemperance in drink has little or nothing to do with the matter. Intoxication is rare, only 37 persons were summoned during the year for being "drunk and disorderly."

Police Force.

291. The allowed strength of the police during the year was 775—17 officers, 137 sub-officers, and 621 constables; at the close of the year the force was 26 below its authorised strength. The district constabulary have been well reported of in certain parishes. The Inspector-General states it would have been quite impossible for the heavy duties of the police to have been carried out without their assistance. He considers that an addition to the numbers of the regular force is requisite to enable it to meet the demands upon its services. It is unquestionable that these demands are increasing, and that the determination of the Inspector-General and his officers that the law shall be enforced to the best of their ability is continually finding wider occupation. For example, not only was the number of police cases augmented this year, as stated above, but, in carrying out the general patrol and other services performed, the constabulary travelled 720,445 miles in 1901-1902 against 671,845 in 1900-1901.

Prisons.

292. The prisons of the Island are under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police. These consist of the General Penitentiary for prisoners whose term of sentence is one year or more, and the St. Catherine District Prison for short term prisoners and persons awaiting trial, and certain local lock-ups for sentences of fourteen days or less.

General Penitentiary.

293. The daily average number of prisoners in the General Penitentiary was 663 against 695 for the previous year. There were 596 prisoners in custody there on the 31st March, 1902, against 637 on the 31st March, 1901.

294. The committals to the General Penitentiary during the year were 1,259, 60 more than in 1900-1901; to the St. Catherine District Prison (for short term prisoners and prisoners awaiting trial) 2,825 against 2,569 in the previous year. 1,003 persons were committed to local lock-ups for terms of imprisonment of 14 days and under.

St. Catherine's Prison.

295. The daily average of prisoners in the St. Catherine District Prison was 527 against 491 the previous year; the number in custody on the 31st March was 514 against 596. Altogether there were 1,110 prisoners at the close of the year against 1,233 at the beginning.

296. The deaths in the General Penitentiary were 30 against 25. The deaths in the St. Catherine District Prison were 36; in the previous year 22. There were no executions of capital punishment. The sanitary state of the prisons was satisfactory.

Expenditure and Earnings.—Employment of Prisoners.

297. The gross expenditure for these prisons during the year was £18,422, and the cash earnings of the produce of the labour of the prisoners £4,341, leaving a net cost of £14,081 or £11 16*s.* 8*d.* per prisoner per annum (on the average daily number). The total estimated value of labour not paid for in money was £8,943. This labour was employed in progressing with the new buildings at the St. Catherine District Prison, where there were erected during the year a kitchen with scullery, bake-house and stores, a work-shed and stores, quarters for two principal warders, alterations at the old Spanish Town Gaol to provide for accommodation for constables, office for the Superintendent and staff, and store rooms.

298. Prisoners from the General Penitentiary were employed in making extensive improvements at the Customs premises in Kingston, draining the yard, raising its level and the floor of the rum store, and making a sea-wall to the foreshore. About 1,600 cubic yards of metal, marl, broken bricks, gravel, sand, and other materials used in this work were supplied by the Penitentiary. Female prisoners did the washing not only of the prison but of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

299. The prisoners were otherwise employed as carpenters, coopers, tin-smiths, wheelwrights, masons, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, mat-makers, brick-makers, upholsterers, painters, printers, bakers, cooks, quarriers, lime-burners, and stone-breakers. At St. Catherine's Prison they were also employed in cultivating land, the value of the produce raised being £200. Arrangements have been made for purchasing 86 acres of land adjoining the prison, on which this form of employment will be largely extended.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, &c.

(A.) Population.

300. The population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1902, is estimated to have been 770,242. No census of the population was taken in the year 1901 owing to the need for economy, and the foregoing estimate of numbers has been arrived at by adding to the number of the population as estimated on the 31st March, 1901, the difference, 14,512, between the births and deaths registered during the year. The figure for the earlier date had been arrived at by a similar process founded on the results of the Census of 1891, and, it may be added, was framed without regard to the number of 8,785 persons who the Registrar-General in his Report for 1900-1901 stated had arrived in the Island in excess of the recorded departures during ten years' period. If account is taken of these the present population may be estimated in round numbers, at close upon 780,000.

Increase.

301. The natural increase of 14,512 in the year 1901-1902 represents on this basis a rate of 19·0 per 1,000 persons living. In the ten years ending 1900-1901 the mean rate of such increase was 17·0 per 1,000. The mean population on the 30th September, 1901, is estimated by the Registrar-General at 763,545, and this is the number on which the birth, death, and marriage rates for the year are calculated.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

302. The following table compares the births, deaths, and marriages in 1901-1902 and 1900-1901. The rates per thousand are given in italics:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1900–1901	26,869 *35·7*	16,243 *21·6*	3,221 *4·2*
1901–1902	31,268 *41·0*	16,756 *21·9*	3,202 *4·2*

303. There thus appears, as compared with the preceding year, an increase in births of 4,399 in number and 5·3 in the rate per 1,000, and an increase in deaths of 0·3 in the rate per 1,000. The latter figure is so small that the death-rate may be regarded as stationary. In the marriages there is a small actual decrease

of 19 in number, which leaves the rate practically unchanged at 4·1 per 1,000. The previous year, however, showed a decrease as compared with that preceding it of 546 marriages in number and 0·8 in the rate per 1,000. If the prevailing depression was accountable for the decrease in 1900-1901 the figures above given would show that it had at least proved practically to be no worse in 1901-1902, and an examination of the quarterly returns of marriages shows that, whereas in the December quarter of the year 1900-1901 the number was 50 less than in the corresponding quarter of the year before, in the March quarter of 1901-1902 the number had advanced to within 6 of that in the same quarter of 1900-1901. It is doubtful, however, whether in the case of the majority of marriages in Jamaica increasing prosperity is so large a factor in the increase of marriage as it is in some other countries.

Illegitimacy.

304. The percentage of illegitimate births in the year now under review was 64·0. This is a higher percentage than any in the preceding ten years, which, beginning at 60·6 in 1891-92 and remaining at about that figure for the next four years, have since 1896-1897 shown an almost continuous increase. During the last four years of depression in the Island, therefore, although there is to be traced to some extent the customary falling-off in the marriage rate which might be expected under such circumstances, there has not only been no corresponding falling off in the number of births but there has been an increase proportionately greater in those of illegitimate parentage. These results are more clearly shown in the following table in respect of the five years ended 1900-1901 and the single year 1901-1902:—

—	Yearly Mean for five years ended				1901–02	
	1895–96.		1900–01.			
	Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.
		Per cent.		Per cent.		Per cent.
Births	25,745	38·4	28,257	38·8	31,268	41·0
Deaths	14,670	21·9	16,034	22·1	16,756	21·9
Marriages ...	3,472	5·1	3,207	4·4	3,202	4·2
Illegitimate births	15,613	*60·6	17,705	*62·3	—	*64·0

*Of total births.

Illiteracy.

305. The percentage of illiterate persons among those married during the year under review was 44·00, in the preceding year it was 44·6, while in 1899-1900 it was 46·40, thus showing, although not very markedly, perhaps, the continuous decrease to be expected with the advance of education. The bridegrooms show the greater amount of literacy.

Death Rate.

306. The death rate, 21·9 per 1,000, does not in 1901-1902 vary much from the mean of the two preceding five-year periods. During the ten years the minimum rate was 20·9 in 1892-1893, and the maximum rate 23·0 in 1897-1898.

Cayman Islands Statistics.

307. In the Dependency of the Cayman Islands the births, deaths, and marriages were respectively 194, 44, and 24, which give respectively rates of 33·3, 7·5, and 4·1 per 1,000 of population.

308. In the matter of legitimate births these Islands are far ahead of Jamaica. Their percentage of illegitimate births stands at about one-seventh of that prevailing in this Island.

(B.) General Health.

309. The reports of the Medical Officer on the general health of the Island present nothing new or remarkable. There was no epidemic disease. A few cases of small-pox were imported, but these were promptly and effectually isolated and the disease stamped out before it had time to spread. The most prevalent forms of illness were malarial fever, chiefly of a benign type, pulmonary and rheumatic affections, digestive disorders, and skin complaints. There is nothing to be added to what has been written year after year as to the continuing causes of these diseases in the careless and insanitary habits of the majority of the population The infantile death rate maintains its high level directly owing to bad nutrition Milk is needed, and the people have not learnt either the need nor how to supply it. This is work for the Agricultural Society.

310. In this Island, as in most other West Indian Colonies, there is practically no characteristic general danger of health except marlarial fever, and this in Jamaica is not realised as a sufficiently serious matter to stimulate much practical interest in the new methods that are being devised for its extinction by attacks on the malarial mosquito.

311. The dangerous infectious diseases that continually afflict temperate countries—small-pox, diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever, measles, whooping-cough, bronchitis, influenza—are comparatively rare or are experienced only mildly. Yellow fever has for long been practically unknown and extinct except when old burial grounds and filth deposits have been disturbed at Up Park Camp and Port Royal. On the other hand the general neglect of hygiene, in housing, ventilation, clothing, food, water, and cleanliness of surroundings is such that in any less naturally favourable climate diseases would infallibly decimate the population. Dirt, ignorance, indolence, and incontinence are, it cannot be too often repeated, the chief sources of ill-health in Jamaica. For cleanly, intelligent, healthily occupied persons it offers, conversely, exceedingly healthy conditions.

(C.) Climate.

(1) *Rainfall;* (2) *Temperature;* (3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

Variety of Climate.

312. Jamaica being a mountainous Island, with numerous ranges of hills rising in the extreme eastern portion to 7,423 feet in the Blue Mountain Peak, and averaging 2,000 to 3,000 feet in the cenral and western portions, has a considerable variety of climate. The temperature of course decreases everywhere with the elevation in Jamaica; this decrease has been found to be at much the same rate as in other countries, namely, about one degree for every 300 feet.

Rainfall.

313. As regards the rainfall, the Island is divided in respect of the amount of fall into four divisions and in respect of seasons of fall into two. In all four divisions the May and October rains, or "seasons" as they are locally termed, are strongly marked. In the north-eastern and northern divisions which, roughly, embrace the northern half of the Island, extending, however, a little round to the south in the mountainous east and stretching not quite the whole of the Island's length to the west, there are in addition winter rains in December, January, and February. In the remainder of the Island, consisting of the west central and southern divisions, in addition to the usual "seasons" above referred to, there are as a rule summer rains in July and August. At times in the drier months of the year there are isolated localities where no rain falls, but at the majority of places there is never a month without some rain. Kingston, the chief town, is one of the driest places, and Port Antonio, only about 30 miles distant in a straight line but with

the Blue Mountain Range intervening, is one of the wettest, as far as actual fall goes. Visitors to the latter place, however, owing chiefly to the manner in which the rain falls there, do not experience the inconvenience from the showers that might, from the record, be expected.

314. In amount of fall the north-eastern division stands first with isolated districts sparsely settled where the total exceeds 200 inches. In such districts we have a good example of the effect of the vapour laden trade winds infringing on high mountain ranges.

315. The west central region comes next in elevation, coolness, and rainfall. The northern is largely an elevated undulating table-land of limestone ridges and valleys; the southern division contains the principal plains in the Island. The two last-mentioned divisions are comparatively dry.

Wind.

316. The prevailing winds are N.E. on the north side and S.E. on the south side of the Island; the trade winds being in each case partially deflected by the influence of the land into true sea breezes while in the centre of the Island and at considerable elevations the wind maintains the generally easterly direction of the trade wind.

Temperature.

317. The north central and southern divisions are the driest and possess a real tropical temperature in the plains, especially those on the southern sea-board. Although Jamaica is between 17° and 18° north latitude, the temperature over two-thirds of its area, owing to elevation, is, except in the middle of the day, say from July to September, soft and pleasant, and shows little variation throughout the year. It is said to resemble that of Southern California.

318. The average Island rainfall for the past three decades, 1870-1879, 1880-1889, and 1890-1899, is recorded at 67·41, 66·54, and 76·15 inches respectively. In 1901-1902 the average rainfall for the whole Island was 80·96 inches, as shown in the table below, which also gives the figures for each division as compared with those for the previous year:—

Divisions	1901.	1900.
	Inches.	Inches.
North Eastern ...	107·88	96·91
Northern	64·18	50·67
West Central ...	87·31	79·84
Southern	64·50	51·15
The Island ...	80·96	69·65

319. The rainfall for May, 1901, was below the average, but the belated "seasons" fell in June, in which month the deficiency was more than made up. The October "seasons" also did not fall in their usual volume in most parts of the Island, but the balance again was redressed in the following months. The autumn, speaking generally, was a rainy one. The total fall for the Island for the year was about 7 per cent. above the average. There was very continuous rainfall and a total considerably above the average in the latter half of the year in St. Mary's and the adjacent Northside parishes.

320. The following figures showing the Island rainfall for the past 36 years, which have been extracted from the Weather Report for December, 1901, are of interest. In the first year, 1866, there were about 50 rainfall relations, and in the last, 1901, about 138, so that the results for the different years are not strictly comparable, but for most practical purposes they may be regarded as showing correctly the variations in the fall of rain during the years mentioned:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Inches.		Inches.
1866	53·65	1884	56·90
1867	64·47	1885	59·86
1868	67·74	1886	90·61
1869	55·37	1887	70·66
1870	89·43	1888	72·11
1871	50·09	1889	74·15
1872	45·18	1890	64·42
1873	63·06	1891	84·70
1874	68·94	1892	72·98
1875	52·54	1893	86·49
1876	71·35	1894	75·39
1877	68·40	1895	71·62
1878	76·42	1896	68·61
1879	88·84	1897	77·59
1880	55·44	1898	73·84
1881	68·60	1899	85·82
1882	57·87	1900	69·65
1883	59·26	1901	80·96

321. At the close of the year there was issued by Mr. Maxwell Hall, the Government Meteorologist, an interesting Weather Report dealing with temperatures at Kingston and the connection between the frequency of sun spots, the mean maximum temperature and the rainfall in Jamaica.

322. In this report it was shown that a satisfactory formula for arriving at the mean temperature of any place in Jamaica is the following:—

$$\frac{M + m + 7\text{ a.m.} + 3\text{ p.m.} - 2^{\circ}}{4}.$$

When M represents the maximum temperature m is the minimum temperature, and 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. mean the 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. temperatures. If this formula is applied to the 18 years, 1881-1898, the mean temperature is shown to be 78°·8, varying from 75°·7 in February to 81°·6 in July. From the above-mentioned report I may quote the following figures:—The mean maximum temperature at Kingston is 87°·5, varying from 85°·6 in February and March to 89°·5 in July and August. The mean minimum temperature is 70°·8, varying from 67°·0 in January and February to 73°·5 in September.

323. The close of the financial year under review marked the severance of the connection of Mr. Maxwell Hall, M.A., F.R.A.S., F.R.Met. Soc., with what there remained of the Weather Service Establishment, which he established in the year 1880. Owing to the necessity for economy, this service had been partially cut down three years previously, and for the same reason, in the year under report, it was decided that the compilation of the existing Weather Report should be undertaken without further expense by the Island Chemist's Department. In effecting this change the Government expressed its recognition of Mr. Hall's valuable services in the cause of meteorology in Jamaica, a recognition which had also been accorded by his fellow-workers in the scientific world in Great Britain and the United States of America.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Receipts and Expenditure.

324. The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services in each of the three years ended 31st March, 1900, 1901, and 1902 (shillings and pence omitted):—

Revenue.

Year	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899–1900	3,649	16,476	20,125	379	634	157	21,297	5,630	26,927
1900–1901	3,755	17,369	21,124	384	617	87	22,212	4,715	26,927
1901–1902	4,383	17,954	22,336	446	615	113	23,510	5,010	28,520

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.*	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899–1900	5,485	2,995	9,827	2,419	5,140	2,986	28,582	8,721	37,573
1900–1901	5,915	2,956	8,511	2,508	5,140	3,360	28,390	8,592	36,982
1901–1902	5,668	2,951	8,055	2,258	2,177	4,409	25,517	8,398	33,915

* Includes expenditure on maintenance of telegraph lines by the Public Works Department.

The Postal Revenue shows an increase of £1,298 over that of 1900-1901; the Telegraph Revenue an increase of £296. The totals include the value of official telegrams sent, but not that of official postage services, which the Postmaster-General estimates at £2,500 a year.

325. The receipts from packet postages increased by £628; those from Inland postages by £585. The total receipts from packet postages (at 1*d.* per half-ounce for British and Colonial letters) amounted to £4,389 as against £4,832 in 1898-1899, the last year of the 2½*d.* rate. The loss incurred by the change of rate is thus within measurable distance of being made up. The increase in postal receipts stimulated by the improvement of communications with Great Britain and America reflects an improvement in business.

Correspondence.

326. The total number of postcards and letters estimated to have passed through the Post Office in the year was 5,424,814, as against 5,239,083 during the preceding year. The number of registered articles of mail matter included in the total was 236,921 as against 211,184. There was practically no loss or miscarriage of such articles.

Foreign Mails.

327. The total number of foreign mails made up during the year was 1,606, the number received 2,205, showing a total increase of 591 on the number despatched and received during 1900-1901.

328. The direct fortnightly mail service between Kingston (Jamaica) and Bristol (England), which was begun on the 16th of February, 1901, has been carried out during the year with, as a rule, commendable punctuality, and, together with the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which has also performed its contract in a satisfactory manner, has given the Colony weekly postal communication outwards and inwards.

329. The steamers of the United Fruit Company, certain of which are subsidised as mail steamers by the United States Government, as well as those of the Atlas Line (now absorbed in the Hamburg American Company's fleet), have as usual been made use of for the exchange of mails between the United States of America and Jamaica, and with the United Kingdom *viâ* the United States, America.

330. Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers, subsidised by the Government of Canada, have continued the monthly mail service between Jamaica, Turks Islands, Bermuda, and Halifax.

Mail Subsidies.

331. For the conveyance of ocean mails this Colony paid during the year—

	£	s.	d.
Contribution to subsidy, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	2,177	6	8
Proportion of postage to Imperial Post Office.	1,300	0	0
Transit dues paid to other countries	156	16	2
Gratuities for mails by non-contract vessels.	801	4	1
Total ...	£4,435	6	11

The annual contribution to be paid by this Government in respect of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's subsidy during the continuance of the existing contract has not yet been assessed by His Majesty's Government. Under the former contract this contribution was £5,140 per annum, but in consideration of the diminution in the amount of correspondence to be carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in consequence of the competition of the Direct Imperial Line, it will now be substantially less. A further abatement of £500 a year is to be made upon the amount that would be payable on such assessment, in consideration of the alteration of the route of the steamers since the present contract was made. The Royal Mail Company's steamer now touches at Trinidad on its journeys between Barbados and Jamaica each way, and is accordingly timed to reach the Island later and to leave it earlier than under the schedule of the original contract. On the other hand, some part of the subsidy of £20,000 a year payable to the Direct Line must be regarded as in respect of postal services, more especially having regard to the reduction effected by its establishment in the corresponding payment to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and in the amount paid for letters sent by the United States, America, which in the previous year was £1,046 2*s.* 4*d.* The diversion to the Direct Line of letters formerly sent by this route saved £245, notwithstanding a presumable increase in the number of letters, the final destination of which was in the United States or Canada.

Inland Mails.

332. The Inland conveyance of mails has been carried on at a cost of £7,447, as against £7,681 last year, including the payment of £2,700 to the Railway Department for transport. Much of the Inland mail carriage is effected by the Public Works Department which, having depôts and mule stables in all the parishes, has been able within recent years to take over at a

considerable saving much of the services formerly performed by contract. The coastal steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is also employed for conveying mail matter.

333. The mail coaches earned during the year £218 for passenger fares and £574 for the carriage of parcels; the amount of the passenger fares, less 10 per cent., is paid to the contractors for their services.

334. At the end of the year, there were 153 District Post Offices, as against 147 at the beginning. The policy of transferring District Post Offices to railway stations and appointing the station agents to be District Postmasters is being carried out wherever possible.

Money Orders.

335. The total number of money orders drawn on other countries during the year was 12,740, against 11,431 in the previous year; the amount, however, decreased from £32,216 to £30,098. The orders drawn by other countries on Jamaica were 4,001 for £10,327, against 3,498 for £9,366 in 1900-1901.

Postal Orders.

336. The face value of the postal orders sold for internal remittances was £30,356 against £30,339 in the previous year, and the number was also almost unchanged.

Nett Decrease in Expenditure.

337. This year shows altogether a nett decrease of £2,873 in the expenditure on postal services, which is accounted for by the reduction of the mail subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Telegraphs.

338. The Telegraph Department dealt with 91,898 messages against 85,052 in the previous year, and earned £296 more. The working expenses of the Department were £55 less. The total cost, including the maintenance of lines by the Public Works Department, was £8,398, the total receipts, £5,010, showing a loss of £3,387 as the nett cost of the services of this Department.

Parcel Post.

339. The parcel post showed a continued development. The parcels received from abroad numbered 14,138, those despatched 5,216—a total increase of 1,810 on last year. Customs duties to the amount of £2,716 were received on inward parcels. Notwithstanding the notification on the address forms, many senders of parcels still appear unable to resist the temptation

to endeavour to defraud the revenue, either by understating values or by sending dutiable articles undeclared through the ordinary post. The Department on the whole shows a healthy advance in the services and economy of all its branches.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Works.

340. No special Public Works of great magnitude or importance were carried on for the Government during the year. Expenditure from Loan Funds for public buildings was still kept in suspense owing to shortness of funds, but the buildings at St. Catherine District Prison were proceeded with at a cost of £769, the labour being supplied by the inmates. Extensive improvements were also made in the Customs yard and its foreshore by prison labour, as recorded in my report on the Prison Departments. A new laboratory for the Island Chemist was built at Hope and was ocupied by the Chemist before the close of the year. A portion of the old boiling house at Hope Gardens was altered so as to provide quarters for apprentices in agriculture. Expenditure of £632 was also incurred in providing a system of lights for Kingston Harbour. Other works were generally of the character of maintenance.

Roads.

341. The maintenance of main roads was in some parishes somewhat expensive, especially in Portland, St. Mary's, and St. Ann's, owing to the heavy and continuous rainfall of the autumn months. The average cost per mile for maintenance was £24 3*s.* 2*d.*, or £2 12*s.* 8*d.* per mile more than last year. The highest rate per mile was £58 3*s.* 10*d.* for St. Mary, the lowest £14 8*s.* 11*d.* for St. Elizabeth. The cost of making good extraordinary damages caused by floods in the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, and St. Catherine was £5,564.

342. The roads in St. Mary's parish suffered particularly throughout the year from frequent and heavy rain and floods. At the close of the year they were not in good condition, and special attention and expenditure has since been devoted to them. The rainfall between the 1st of September, 1900, and the 31st of January, 1901, was equal to the ordinary year's average. During this period of 153 days it rained at Richmond on 114. At the same time the traffic on these roads was unprecedentedly heavy, the shipments of bananas from the parish showing an increase of 36 per cent. and of cocoanuts of 42 per cent. on those of the previous year.

Vere Irrigation Scheme.

343. The Director of Public Works was engaged during the year in supervising the execution of the Vere Irrigation Works for the Vere Irrigation Commissioners. The scheme for these works comprises the head works or dam and sluice on the Milk River at St. Jago, in Lower Clarendon, to divert the water of the river into the main canal which runs in a south-easterly direction across the plain of Vere, and is intended to carry about 6,000 cubic yards of water per hour. Between St. Jago and the crossing of the Rio Minho at Dry River Estate, the canal will be carried over nine gullies by aqueducts, consisting of steel troughing carried on abutments and piers of cement concrete. At Dry River it will be carried under the Rio Minho by a steel syphon 650 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, and thence will continue, crossing four more gullies by means of aqueducts to Raymond's Estate, discharging into an impounding reservoir to be created there by the erection of a dam across the valley of the Raymond's Gully. The total length of the main canal will be 16 miles 7 chains, and that of the aqueducts about 2,000 feet.

344. The reservoir at Raymond's, which, in addition to the canal water collects a large amount of surplus drainage, is calculated to hold about 4,610,000 cubic yards, equivalent to about a month's supply at the rate of 5,000 cubic yards per hour or to the amount required for irrigating 5,000 acres at one cubic yard per hour, which is approximately the amount required in the irrigation of sugar cultivation on the estates to be supplied. Distribution channels for the supply of water to the estates west of the Rio Minho will be taken from the main canal, and another one for the estates east of the river will commence at Raymond's dam, branching off in several directions when the supplies are needed.

345. The carrying capacity of the canal is calculated at 6,000 cubic yards of water per hour. Guarantees have been given for the purchase of 4,825 cubic yards, of which 1,405 cubic yards are on the west side of the Rio Minho, and 3,420 cubic yards on the east side.

346. The works on the main canal, the head works at St. Jago, and the dam at Raymond's were let out by contract and were commenced in October. Owing to the unsettled state of the weather from October to the end of December, the progress on the works was considerably delayed. At the close of the year the head works at St. Jago were nearing completion, and considerable progress had been made on the earthwork of the main canal, and the syphon under the Rio Minho had been laid.

347. The dam at Raymond's was nearly half completed at the close of the year. It consists of a solid concrete wall, 575 feet long, 35 feet deep, and 24 feet broad in its widest part.

348. The completion of this undertaking will, it is hoped, render the splendid sugar estates of Vere independent of the capricious rainfall which frequently fails in that district.

X.—RAILWAY.

Traffic Department.

349. The traffic returns of the railway for the year show, compared with those of 1900-1901, increases and decreases under the following classes of receipts:

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Goods, Cattle	5,895	—
Passengers	393	—
Prince's Wharf Dues	—	633
Miscellaneous	2,002	—

Goods Traffic.

350. The total bulk of goods carried increased from 88,540 tons to 100,764 tons; the principal increases being in coffee, 801 tons; sugar; rum, 468 tons; grass; hay, 1,005 tons; and bananas, 12,211 tons.

There were decreases of 1,619 tons in the carriage of oranges, 539 in firewood, and 1,186 in general merchandise.

The earnings from the carriage of bananas increased by £7,039, from coffee by £831, and from dyewoods (other than logwood) £623. The falling off in receipts from oranges was £2,101, and from general merchandise £1,299.

Passenger Traffic.

351. The number of passengers carried increased from 281,408 in 1900-1901 to 291,178 in the year under review, the increases being—

	£
First class tickets	5,387
Third class tickets	2,356
Season tickets	2,027

The increase in the first class travelling reflects the development of the tourist traffic. It will be noticed that the increase on the third class traffic (357,412 to 359,768) was scarcely noticeable. This reflects, doubtless, the continued scarcity of money

during most of the year, and may be expected to improve with improved prosperity, though travelling by railway is not in this Island so popular as an amusement or convenience as it is in some countries.

Wharf Receipts.

352. The decrease in the receipts from Prince's Wharf is due to the transfer of the receipts for shunting bananas to the credit of the Account of Goods Receipts. The rate for shunting was also reduced by two-thirds, a concession which left no less than £1,877 in the pockets of the shippers as compared with what they would have paid under the old rate.

Expenditure.

353. The expenditure under the head of Traffic and Prince's Wharf was reduced from £18,486 to £16,551 for the year.

Way and Works.

354. The total expenditure on Way and Works charged to the Annual Account in 1901-1902 was £28,168, against £31,921 in 1900-1901, a decrease of £3,753. The cost per mile of track was £153 against £173.

The total spent on Way and Works, including expenditure charged to the account of the Railway Improvement Loan, was £47,242.

Re-sleepering.

355. The re-sleepering of the track with hardwood ties in the place of creosoted pine or cypress ties has been actively proceeded with, 84,342 hardwood sleepers having been laid in the 12 months. All these sleepers were native hardwood, mostly bullet tree; the payment for them was kept in the Island and they will last many years longer than the imported sleepers.

Track.

356. The general condition of the track has been greatly improved during the year both by work done at the charge of Loan Account and by more efficient maintenance. Slips have given less trouble than in former years. One bridge, over Bower's Gully, has been replaced by a stronger structure. The tunnels have received all necessary attention, and there are at present no indications to warrant any apprehension of further serious trouble with them. Native hardwood poles are being substituted for pitch pine in all repairs and renewals of the telegraph line.

Wharves.

357. The total expenditure on wharves, charged to Maintenance, was £494, including £390 spent on the reconstruction of the wharf at Montego Bay, for the shipping of bananas, &c. £213 was spent on wharves from Loan Funds, including £150 for the Port Antonio Wharf. Extensive repairs of Prince's Wharf, to be charged to Loan Fund, were put in hand about the end of the year.

Compensation.

358. £229 was paid for compensation, three-quarters of this amount being for stock killed on the line.

Loan Expenditure on Way and Works.

359. The total expenditure on Way and Works charged to Loan Account was £29,111, the principal items being—

	£
Strengthening line	1,933
Replacing rusted rails	2,167
Ballasting	982
Fencing, gates, &c.	1,854
New sidings	1,097

Locomotive Department.

360. A large amount of efficient work was done in this Department during the year, both in improving the workshops and in repairing and bringing into sound condition the locomotives and rolling stock already on the railway. The workshops are now in a creditable and efficient state so far as their situation and equipment permits. The locomotive power has been greatly bettered by the economical use of existing stock and materials, and great reductions have been made in the consumption of oil, waste, and other running stores.

This has been effected by careful instruction to the drivers and firemen on the part of the Locomotive Superintendent.

New Rolling Stock.

361. Three new English engines, built by Messrs. Kitson and Company, of Leeds, to designs by Mr. Elliott Cooper, were imported and erected during the year. Two American passenger cars and 24 freight cars were added to the rolling stock. At the close of the year there were 42 passenger cars and 298

freight cars available for traffic, and other freight cars were under order or in course of construction. The locomotive power was sufficient to deal with the demands on it.

362. The condition of the railway and its rolling stock and the economy of its maintenance and administration, as well as the amount of the service rendered by it to public traffic, have improved during the year in a marked and most satisfactory manner. There is still room for improvement in the facilities offered for traffic, in punctuality of trains, and some other respects. These defects may, it is hoped, be remedied as the demand for railway service increases and becomes more remunerative. At present convenience has to be sacrificed to economy, and many of the deficiencies are due to the necessity for running mixed freight and passenger trains. Unfortunately, owing to steep grades and sharp curves on the western section of the railway no heavy traffic over that section can ever be carried at cheap rates without some loss.

XI.—MILITARY.

Imperial Forces.

363. The strength of the Imperial troops in the Colony on the 31st March was 1,866 of all ranks. During the year the detachment of the Leinster Regiment stationed at Newcastle was replaced by a detachment of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

The amount expended by the Imperial Government for the Regular Forces was £127,500.

Militia.

Local Forces.

364. The strength of the Militia at the close of the year was 763, of which number 169 were artillery and 589 infantry, while the remaining 5 belonged to the permanent staff.

Training.

365. The annual training was carried out this year under conditions different from those which have hitherto obtained. It has been usual for the artillery to proceed for 12 days to Port Royal, and for the infantry to be encamped for a similar period at Up Park Camp, which lies on the outskirts of Kingston.

This year, however, while the artillery proceeded to Port Royal in order that they might go through their course of instruction on the heavy guns there, the infantry and a battery of artillery were sent down with the Imperial troops to a distant part of the Island, where field manœuvres and field firing were carried out with marked success. The training was of great benefit to the troops which took part in it. All arrangements were carried out as if the forces were on active service, and the surrounding country which had been specially selected with this view lent itself to extensive operations of an instructive character. The Report of the Officer Commanding the Troops on the work done by the Militia and on their general efficiency was on the whole highly favourable, and testified to the increasing usefulness of the Colonial Forces.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Period of Depression.

366. For six years, including the year upon which I have reported in this despatch, the Island of Jamaica has been suffering from agricultural and commercial depression, and the public finances have been embarrassed accordingly. There has been very heavy retrenchment in public expenditure, and the limit has been reached in this direction, beyond which economy could not go without either a general reduction of the salaries of all established public servants or a withdrawal of public services upon the maintenance of which the community urgently insists—Education, Judiciary, Police, Medical Service, &c. At the same time the failure of the Jamaica Railway Company and the provision of a subsidy of £20,000 to the Direct Line have imposed new and heavy burdens on the Treasury, which have had to be met by taxation at a time when the country was ill able to bear it.

Improved Prospects.

Two years ago, however, in reporting on the Blue Book for 1899-1900 I expressed my belief from observation of what was being done in the country, that, with favourable seasons, the general condition of affairs must soon improve; and in introducing the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year now current I stated my conviction that in the matter of public finance the Government had climbed to the top of the hill, and

that henceforth we should have a much easier road to travel. This expectation, criticised as too sanguine at the time, has been fully justified. The exports of Island produce, since the 31st of March last, have continued to show an increasing excess over the exports of the same period in 1901. The Revenue shows corresponding elasticity, and I am under no apprehension that a very substantial surplus will not be realised.

British Fruit Trade.

367. Were it not for the as yet undispelled cloud of the Foreign Bounties, the prospects of the sugar industry in those districts that are suited for it would be thoroughly sound in Jamaica. The fruit industry is making rapid strides, and we have reason for confidence that the markets of the United Kingdom will before long come into appreciable rivalry with that of the United States in their demand for our bananas and perhaps also our citrus fruit. Since the close of the year Messrs. Elders, Fyffes and Company, who conduct the fruit business associated with the Direct Line, have made arrangements with the United Fruit Company to load their steamers. It is too early to criticise the effects of this arrangement but there can be no doubt that it immensely enhances the probability of the banana trade with the United Kingdom being efficiently handled and the market there established. It may be regrettable that an English organisation cannot manage the fruit business as well as an American Trust, but the circumstance is hardly astonishing seeing that the Jamaica fruit export has been almost entirely built up by the energy and capacity of the predecessors of the United Fruit Company.

The Direct Line.

368. I have already (paragraph 114) referred to the institution of the Direct West India mail service as a feature of special interest in the history of the year, and have dealt with the extent to which it has prepared the way for the establishment of an important fruit trade with England; but the services which this enterprise has rendered to Jamaica in return for the yearly subsidy of £20,000 are very far from being confined to what it has effected in regard to the fruit trade.

369. The Direct steamers considerably reduced the passenger rates between Jamaica and England. Formerly the first class cabin rates by the Royal Mail Line were from £25 to £40 single and from £40 to £55 return. They have been cut down to £18 and £25 single and £32 to £40 return. The rates for children have also been very greatly reduced and this has enabled parents to have their children out to them during their holidays instead of being separated from them for many years as was formerly

the rule. The direct money value of these reductions is indicated by the fact that 1,218 passengers were carried by this Line outwards and 1,282 homewards. Many of these were Jamaicans who thus profited directly by this subsidy, the rest were visitors who spent money in the Island. This competition has also caused the Royal Mail Company to reduce their charges to their passengers.

370. The outward rates for freight, of which upwards of 1,100 tons a month on an average have been carried, have been greatly reduced, to the advantage of importers, and during the latter part of the year the Company, with the object of assisting the sugar industry, has been carrying sugar to England without charge. Unfortunately, the condition of the English market has not encouraged many planters to avail themselves of this advantage, the United States market being as a rule so much more favourable as to countervail the saving on freight, but several exporters have profited largely by the liberality offered, one to the amount of over £600.

371. The Direct Line has also established a weekly coastal service round the Island (though this is not required by their contract) which, with the weekly coastal steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company gives a service round the Island in each direction every week. The rates of coastal freight have been much reduced and every port in the Island has benefited.

372. Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., and those associated with him in the firm of Elder, Dempster and Company and its connection, have also during the year under review taken over the management of the two principal hotels on the south side of the Island—Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring—and have in the improvement, equipment, and advertisement of these hotels spent nearly £20,000.

373. The Direct Line and the improvement of these hotels attracted to the Island in the spring of 1902 an unprecedented influx of English visitors, whilst the improved hotel accommodation contributed to encourage the influx of American visitors. The American tourist traffic has been effectively promoted by the United Fruit Company who have a fine hotel at Port Antonio, and whose frequent steamers offer attractive facilities to visitors, and there is every reason confidently to expect that the enterprises of the Direct Line in this connection will be of increasing yearly profit to the Colony. Last spring the total influx of visitors was much greater than it has ever been before (if the year of the Jamaica Exhibition be left out of account, as to which I cannot speak). The numbers, I am assured, exceeded three thousand. The majority, no doubt, came from the United States and did not make any very long stay, but the English visitors brought by the Direct Line and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and accommodated in Messrs. Elder, Dempster Company's hotels must have spent a large amount in the Island.

374. I regard it as beyond question that, taking into account the fruit trade, the reduction of passenger fares, the reduction of ocean and coastal freights, the rehabilitation of the two hotels, and the introduction of visitors, the Direct Line has in trade and money brought into the Island and, in the savings of commercial and private expenses it has made possible, directly repaid much more than the amount of the subsidy granted it. Indirectly for improving mail facilities, shortening the voyage to England, and for promoting a better knowledge of the Island and its possibilities it can claim a large additional credit, and although it does not, as yet, directly bring back to the Treasury a revenue equivalent to the subsidy, it has demonstrably conduced even in this first year to increasing the Customs Duties and Harbour Dues and Postal Revenues and other receipts besides enabling more than £2,500 to be saved on the mail subsidy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

375. It is right to give so much credit to the institution of the Direct Line for the improved promise of our circumstances, although comparatively little of the actual improvement as yet realised can be attributed to that enterprise. The bulk of it has been due to the increased demand for fruit in the United States and to the great amount of planting that has been done to supply it.

It is much to be desired that a like energy may be developed in the planting of chocolate and the improvement of our common coffee, but to bring this about will be a long and difficult task.

376. The year has had in some respects more than usual of characteristics interesting and even diverting to an observant resident involved in the affairs of the Island. He has been the amused spectator of a discovery of Jamaica, if not of the West Indies generally, on the part of some sections of British journalism and the British newspaper public. Jamaica has been the subject of more than the usual number of "Impressions" and criticisms mostly somewhat ill-informed, superficial, and devoid of originality. The increasing frequency of visitors that we look for will in time, we hope, disabuse the American and British public of the idea that we live under the shade of Mont Pelée and Morne Garou, and are overwhelmed with volcanic ashes and seethed in boiling springs; that our negro population is in a chronic state of suppressed rebellion; and our commercial and planting classes clamouring for annexation to the United States or to Canada. All these myths come out to us as news from the Mother Country or the American continent. They are the outcome of the ingenuity of audacious local journalists and cable correspondents who know their *clientèle*, but they appear in foreign journals before they appear in our own. Our visitors often express astonishment at the ignorant self-complacency of the creole, but the creole has before him the constant spectacle of gross ignorance and gullibility on the part of his British and American cousins in regard to geogra-

phical and social facts of which every Jamaica school boy is cognisant.

377. I have observed that, as a people, we have a habit of being rather sorry for ourselves. We have not the cheerfulness of the Barbadian. On the other hand our depression makes us mumpish and melancholy rather than vicious and violent. We overdo our talk of depression, we overdo our talk of the extravagances of the Government, of the superfluity of our public officials. Our visitors take for public gospel what we promulgate for private consumption.

I trust that this Report may be held to show that the prospects of the Island are sound enough, and that however costly the establishment of Government may appear, it is for the most part doing good work for that cost, and work that is fully demanded by the community, however much they may groan about having to pay for it.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVER,

Administering the Government.

TABLE I.

General Revenue of the Government for the year 1901–02 as compared with the previous year 1900–01.

—	1901–1902.	1900–1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	344,905 17 1	337,416 11 4½	7,489 5 8½	—
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	5,627 19 8¼	5,046 15 3½	581 4 4¾	—
License, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	181,199 15 10¾	136,710 7 0	44,489 8 10¾	—
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements in aid and Irrigation Receipts.	67,483 8 4¾	60,067 17 4¾	7,415 11 0	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	28,763 1 5	26,616 12 7½	2,146 8 9½	—
Railway	118,214 11 3	134,952 5 2	—	16,737 13 11
Rents	1,924 17 8	2,297 15 9	—	372 18 1
Interest	18,988 12 2½	17,475 1 1	1,513 11 1½	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,097 10 0	8,328 0 9¾	—	4,230 10 9¾
Quit Rents, transferred from Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	1,151 1 8	9 128 13 4	—	7,977 11 8
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	772,356 15 3¼	738,039 19 10	63,635 9 11	29,318 14 5¾
Land Sales	1,884 1 11	1,515 9 0	368 12 11	—
Total Local Revenue	774,240 17 2¼	739,555 8 10	64,004 2 10	29,318 14 5¾
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	596 9 1	200 0 0	396 9 1	—
Imperial Loan in aid of General Revenue ...	—	20,631 10 0	—	20,631 10 0
Total General Revenue	774,837 6 3¼	760,386 18 10	64,400 11 11	49,950 4 5
Net Increase	—	—	450 7 5¼	—

TABLE II.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE of the GOVERNMENT for the YEAR 1901–1902 as compared with the previous year.

—	1901–1902.	1900–1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt:—Interest	136,312 7 3	139,165 6 3	—	2,852 19 0
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent Inscribed Stock.	257 5 0	48,706 0 0	—	48,448 15 0
Interest—Arrears on unissued Stock ...	4,630 10 0	—	4,630 10 0	—
Management	673 10 4	132 1 10	541 8 6	—
Management - Expenses of issue of Railway Inscribed Stock.	1,151 1 8	9,760 3 4	—	8,609 1 8
Sinking Funds	23,474 12 6	23,369 19 2	104 13 4	—
Redemption of Debt	—	190 0 0	—	190 0 0
Annuities—Jamaica Railway	8,669 2 0	—	8,669 2 0	—
Annuities—Deficit Loan	2,314 16 8	—	2,314 16 8	—
Annuities—Kingston Improvement	3,980 9 7	—	3,980 9 7	—
Total	181,463 15 0	221 323 10 7	20,241 0 1	60,100 15 8
Pensions	26,332 15 4½	24,351 15 0½	1,981 0 4	—
The Governor and Staff	6,650 19 5	6,584 0 7½	66 18 9½	—
Privy Council	126 13 7	103 8 6	23 5 1	—
Legislative Council	478 2 7	1,257 9 7½	—	779 7 0½
Colonial Secretariat	4,891 17 0½	5,181 19 10	...	290 2 9½
Public Works Department	12,690 4 5	12,751 4 9	—	61 0 4

General Expenditure—cont.

—	1901–1902.			1900–1901.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lands Department	3,329	0	11½	2,401	5	11½	927	15	0	—		
Audit Department	4,132	0	11	4,461	9	6	—			329	8	7
Public Treasury	4,030	6	8½	4,604	9	11¼	—			574	3	2¾
Government Savings Bank	2,816	16	2½	3,227	3	3½	—			410	7	1¼
Immigration	809	12	11¼	880	1	4	—			70	8	4¾
Clerks of Parochial Boards	728	5	2	946	17	6	—			218	12	4
Stamp Office	854	8	7	864	6	9½	—			9	18	2½
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs ...	38,917	4	2¾	41,223	18	8½	—			2,306	14	5¾
Post Office	25,505	12	3	28,653	16	3½	—			3,148	4	0½
Telegraphs	7,371	0	2	7,514	10	2	—			143	10	0
Judicial	38,106	14	3¼	40,308	16	10	—			2,202	2	6¾
Ecclesiastical	1,823	15	4	2,090	0	2	—			266	4	10
Medical	48,767	8	3½	49,535	15	10½	—			768	7	7
Constabulary and Prisons	74,663	18	8½	74,846	12	9				182	14	0½
Reformatories	3,013	10	4	3,029	6	5	—			15	16	1
Industrial Schools	1,246	0	6¾	1,332	8	6½	—			86	7	11¾
Education	52,249	9	8	56,070	19	0½	—			1,821	9	4½
Harbours and Pilotage	2,165	11	7	2,187	12	7½	—			22	1	0½
Military	11,444	13	9	12,212	3	5	—			767	9	8
Telegraphic communication between England and Jamaica	1,500	0	0	2,500	0	0	—			1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	18,333	6	8	4	7	6	18,328	19	2	—		
Registrar-General's Department and Record Office.	4,684	11	4	4,835	8	4½	—			150	17	0½

Registration of Titles	931 13 3	942 19 9	—	11 6 6
Registration written back to Deposit Account	—	620 7 0	—	620 7 0
Printing Office	8,842 4 7	7,452 0 1	1,390 4 6	—
Institute of Jamaica	1,269 2 9	1.776 4 10	—	507 2 1
Board of Supervision	382 2 5½	484 5 7	—	102 3 1½
Agricultural Services	7,507 14 9	5,939 2 9	1,568 12 0	—
Agricultural Lecturer	448 7 10	464 18 7	—	16 10 9
Miscellaneous	6,661 8 10¼	8,904 11 8½	—	2,243 2 10¾
Public Works and Buildings	62,375 16 11½	54,396 0 11	7,979 16 0½	—
Public Works—written off the Advance Account	—	9,444 1 8½	—	9,444 1 8½
Lighthouses	2,253 11 0	1,542 13 8	710 17 4	—
Lighthouse Expenditure under Law 8 of 1890 written off Advances.	—	2,540 14 8¾	—	2,540 14 8¾
Railway Expenditure (7½ months of 1900–1901)	77,961 2 1	48,923 9 11	26,672 14 2	—
Railway Debts paid by order of Court... ...	—	2,364 18 0		
Railway Extension Track	167 8 8	14 16 8	152 12 0	—
Taxes and Insurance	—	2,566 2 0¼	—	2,566 2 0¼
Real Property Valuation...	1,771 19 1	—	1,771 19 1	—
Total General Expenditure ...	751,700 8 3½	763,662 7 10¾	—	—
Nett decrease	—	—	—	11,961 19 7½

TABLE III.

(Paragraph 35.)

Character of obligation.	Amount Outstanding.	Interest.		Sinking Fund.		Total Annual Charge
		Rate per cent.	Amount.	Rate per cent.	Amount.	
	£		£ s.		£ s.	£
I. Deposits subject to interest under various laws—						
(I.) Funded debt (nominal value of Educational Trust Annuities).	77,416		5,485			5,485
(II.) Widows' and Orphans' Funds	138,491	6	8,311			8,311
	215,907					13,796
II. Public Loans for General Purposes—						
(I.) Debentures (Local Issues)...	6,000	4½	270		528	798
" "	277,800	4	11,112		5,230	16,340
" "	63,475	3	1,904		2,891	4,795
(II.) Inscribed Stock (Local Issue)	92,500	4	3,700	1	925	4,625
" " (English ")	1,056,827	4	42,273	1	10,568	52,841
" " (Local ")	30,860	3½	1,080	1	309	1,389
" " (English ")	1,449,300	3½	50,725	1	14,493	65,218
" " " "	200,000	3	6,000	1	2,000	8,000
(III.) Imperial Loans on Annuities—						
(*a*) Repayable in 10 years. (Original Loan £20,000) ...	18,235	2¾	varying.		varying.	2,315
(*b*) " " 20 " (" " £154,000) ...	148,961	2¾	"		"	10,114
	3,343,958					166,435

III. Public Loans for local purposes (charges repaid from Funds of Kingston General Commissioners)—						
(I.) Debentures	60,600	4	2,424		1,646	4,070
(II.) Inscribed Stock	42,080	4	1,683	1	421	2,104
(III.) Imperial Loans on 30 years' annuity (Original Loan £85,000)	83,994	3½	varying.		varying.	3,980
	186,674					10,154
IV. Guaranteed Loans raised by special local authorities, and charged in the first instance on local funds—						
(I.) Kingston General Commissioners—						
Debentures	111,120	4	4,444 16	1	1,111 4	5 556
"	75,000	3½	2,625	1	750	3,375
	186,120					8,931
(II.) Vere Irrigation Commisioners—						
Debentures	11,500	3½	403	1	115	518
	197,620					9,449
V. Local Loans, borrowed by parochial authorities from the Treasury, interest and repayment provided from local rates—						
Kingston	8,957	Interest is charged on all these loans at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.		These loans are repayable by instalments of varying amounts.		Interest at 4 per cent. per annum.
St. Thomas	2,908					
Portland	4,798					
St. Mary	2,000					
St. Ann	4,927					
Trelawny	4,041					
St. James	10,792					
Hanover	4,125					
Westmoreland	5,761					
St. Elizabeth	5,050					
Clarendon	4,460					
St. Catherine	15,204					
	73,023					2,921

TABLE IV.

Direct Taxation of Houses and Lands.

Abstract of Returns, 1886–87 *to* 1901–02.

Year.	For General Revenue.					For Parochial Revenue.			
	Quit Rents.	Holdings Tax	Property Tax.	School Tax.	Total.	House Tax.	Property Tax.	Total.	Grand Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1886–87	7,540	—	—	—	7,540	43,742	5,044	48,786	56,326
1887–88	8,091	—	—	—	8,091	48,032	5,430	53,462	61,553
1888–89	7,911	—	—	—	7,911	52,427	5,229	57,656	65,567
1889–90	8,021	—	—	—	8,021	‡31,426	5,354	36,780	44,801
1890–91	8,027	16,112	222	—	24,361	48,271	5,448	53,719	78,080
1891–92	4,280	13,859	298	—	18,437	53,952	5,310	59,262	77,699
1892–93	7,405	14,255	329	—	21,989	53,866	5,361	59,227	81,216
1893–94	7,626	14,384	362	—	22,372	56,290	5,450	61,740	84,112
1894–95	7,630	14,368	373	—	22,371	56,684	5,390	62,074	84,445
1895–96	8,068	14,455	377	—	22,900	57,217	5,662	62,879	85,779
1896–97	7,637	12,595	382	11,233	31,847	54,898	5,245	60,143	91,990
1897–98	7,343	12,109	434	9,711	29,597	52,886	4,966	57,852	87,449
1898–99	7,747	13,977	467	10,908	33,099	55,372	5,354	60,726	93,825
1899–1900	8,114	13,904	499	10,783	33,301	61,726	5,463	67,189	100,490
1900–01*	6,548	10,456	461	9,652	27,117	52,996	4,604	57,600	84,717
1901–02	8,221	24,604	†8,629	11,219	52,673	62,858	5,394	68,252	120,925

* Two thirds of a year. † Proceeds for general revenue of special increase of property tax. ‡ Half year.

TABLE V.
HOLDINGS TAX.
Summary of Returns 1890–91 *to* 1901–02.

Year.	Number of holdings paid on.			Amount collected.		
	Current.	Arrears.	Total.	Current.	Arrears	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1890–91	Not recorded.	Not recorded.	114,944	Not recorded.	Not recorded.	16,112
1891–92	"	"	91,972	"	"	13,859
1892–93	86,242	7,930	94,172	13,124	1,131	14,255
1893–94	85,988	7,845	93,833	13,116	1,267	14,383
1894–95	84,199	8,520	92,719	12,894	1,475	14,369
1895–96	80,352	10,315	90,667	12,470	1,986	14,456
1896–97	68,263	8,322	76,585	10,988	1,608	12,596
1897–98	60,338	11,421	71,759	10,017	2,092	12,109
1898–99	62,535	17,685	80,220	10,329	3,649	13,978
1899–1900 ...	61,416	18,345	79,761	10,135	3,769	13,904
1900–01*	60,718	18,457	79,175	6,696	3,760	10,456
1901–02†	72,010	28,097	100,107	19,160	5,444	24,604

* Two-thirds of year. † Tax increased.

TABLE VI.
HOUSE TAX.
Summary of Total Returns of House Tax, 1886-1902.

	Average. Rate.	Number of houses paid on.			Total. Yield.	Average payment per House.
		Current.	Arrears.	Total.		
	s. d.				£	s. d.
1886–87	1 10	71,957	5,312	77,269	43,742	11 3¾
1887–88	—	75,542	7,153	82,695	48,032	11 7½
1888–89	—	77,702	5,142	82,844	52,427	12 8
1889–90	—	80,960	5,331	86,291	{ ½ year. 31,426 }	*
1890–91	—	81,396	4,438	85,834	48,271	11 3
1891–92	—	82,373	5,018	87,391	53,952	12 4¼
1892–93	—	82,364	5,591	87,955	53,866	12 3
1893–94	—	82,552	5,632	88,184	56,290	12 9¼
1894–95	—	79,878	5,421	85,289	56,684	13 3½
1895–96	—	75,393	7,154	82,547	57,217	13 10¼
1896–97	2 3	66,313	6,532	72,845	54,898	15 0¾
1897–98	2 8	58,664	9,187	67,851	52,886	15 7
1898–99	2 7	59,121	14,428	73,549	55,372	15 0¾
1899–00	2 6¾	56,372	13,362	69,734	61,721	17 8½
1900–01†	2 7¼	55,743	12,944	68,687	52,996	*
1901–02	2 7¼	64,346	17,312	81,658	62,858	15 4¾

* In the periods which are only portions of a year no fair average per house comparable with the others can be arrived at.

† Two thirds of year.

TABLE VII.

PARAGRAPH .

Values of imports and exports of Jamaica as assessed by the Customs Department :—

YEAR.	EXPORTS.				IMPORTS		
	Island Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1897–98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381
1898–99	1,523,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432
1899–1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865
1900–01	1,738,523	20,820	37,733	1,797,076	1,621,794	30,883	1,652,677
1901–02	1,823,684	38,727	76,731	1,939,142	1,669,390	30,135	1,699,525
Total	8,270,407	140,340	304,536	8,715,283	8,454,250	167,630	8,621.880
Average	1,658,087	28,068	60,907	1,743,057	1,690,850	33,526	1,724,376

TABLE VIII.

PARAGRAPH .

Statistics relating to exports of 10 principal staples of produce.

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or decrease (as shown by + or — on 1900–01.)		Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1900–01.		Price.	
	1901–02.	1900–01.	1901–02.	1900–01.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	1901–02.	1900–01.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	£	£	Cwt.	£			s. d.	s. d.
Cocoa	39,953	23,450	83,924	64,488	+ 16,503	+ 19,436	+ 70·0	+ 30·1	42 0 per cwt.	55 0 per cwt.
	Number.	Number.			Number.					
Cocoanuts	17,662,827	13,555,778	61,818	41,345	+4,107,049	+ 20,473	+ 30·0	+ 49·5	70 0 „ M.	61 0 „ M.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Coffee	103,126	85,907	152,091	157,485	+ 17,219	— 5,394	+ 20·0	— 3·4	29 5 „ cwt.	36 8 „ cwt.
	Bunches.	Bunches.			Bunches.					
Fruit—Bananas ...	11,003,840	8,248,485	825,288	618,636	+2,755,355	+206,652	+ 34·6	+ 33·4	1 6 „ bunch.	1 6 „ bunch.
	Number.	Number.			Number.					
„ Oranges ...	79,061,650	88,825,650	102,780	115,473	—9,764,000	— 12,693	— 10·9	— 10·9	26 0 „ M.	26 0 „ M.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Ginger	21,347	26,530	37,358	66,324	— 5,183	— 28,966	— 19·5	— 43·6	30 8 „ cwt.	50 0 „ cwt.
	Tons.	Tons.			Tons.					
Logwood	41,107	34,006	103,796	98,618	+ 7,101	+ 5,178	+ 20·8	+ 5·2	50 6 „ ton.	58 0 „ ton.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Pimento	72,080	100,547	79,288	110,602	— 28,467	— 31,314	— 28·3	— 28·3	22 0 „ cwt.	22 0 „ cwt.
	Gallons.	Gallons.			Gallons.					
Rum	1,422,010	1,404,405	124,426	152,244	+ 17,605	— 27,818	+ 1·2	— 18·2	1 9 „ gallon.	2 2 „ gallon.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Sugar	321,659	295,007	136,705	165,941	+ 26,652	— 29,236	+ 9·0	— 17·6	8 6 „ cwt.	11 0 „ cwt.
Value of 10 chief products exported.	—	—	1,707,474	1,591,156	—	+116,318	—	+ 7·3	—	—
Miscellaneous products	—	—	116,210	147,367	—	—	—	—	—	—
Value of products exported.	—	—	1,823,684	1,738,523	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IX.

TABLE of LAWS passed at a SESSION of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of JAMAICA, which began on the 5th day of FEBRUARY and adjourned *sine die* on the 30th day of MAY, 1901.

No.	Laws.
1	The Jamaica Railway Vesting Law, 1901.
2	The Constabulary Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
3	The Registration of Voters Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
4	The Patent Laws, Amendment Law, 1901.
5	The Calcium Carbide Sale and Storage Law, 1901.
6	The Quit Rents and Produce Protection Duties Appropriation Law, 1901.
7	The Kingston Unoccupied House Rate Law, 1901.
8	A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditure in 1899–1900.
9	A Law to impose additional taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.
10	A Law to consolidate and amend the Kingston Assessment Laws.
11	The Appropriation Law, 1901–02.
12	The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901.
13	The Reformatories and Industrial Schools Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
14	A Law to amend the Jamaica Railway Company's Law, 1889.
15	The Produce Protection Laws Amendment Law, 1901.
16	A Law to give effect to certain stipulations contained in the Convention made between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, relative to the disposal of real and personal property signed at Washington on the 2nd of March 1899.
17	The Parochial Boards Laws Consolidation Law, 1901.
18	A Law to regulate the sale of Agricultural Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs.
19	The Taxpayers Relief Law 1893, Amendment Law, 1901.
20	The Port Royal Regulation Law, 1901.
21	A Law in aid of the Laws relating to Prædial Larceny.
22	The Valuation Law, 1901.
23	The Scholarship Law, 1901.
24	The May Pen Cemetery and Bumper Hall Hospital Law.
25	The Stamp Duty Laws, Amendment Law, 1901.

TABLE X.

(B.) Secondary Education.

Endowed Schools under the Regulation of the Jamaica Schools Commission.

School.	Locality.	Students 31st March, 1902.		Infants.	Results at Cambridge Local Examinations, 1901.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Entered.	Passed.	Honours.
Jamaica High School and University College now named Jamaica College.	St. Andrew...	53	—	—	39	36	2
Wolmer's, Boys	Kingston ...	76	—	—	13	10	—
Wolmer's, Girls	Do. ...	—	146	—	46	22	3
Titchfield Higher Grade.	Port Antonio	18	—	—	—	—	—
Titchfield Elementary.	Do.	109	108	74	—	—	—
Rusea's, Boys...	Lucea ...	28	—	—	2	2	—
Rusea's, Girls...	Do. ...	—	21	—	—	—	—
Manning's, Boys	Sav. - la - Mar	36	—	—	10	8	—
Manning's, Girls	Do.	—	30	—	7	4	—
Munro and Dickenson's— Boys ...	Potsdam, St. Elizabeth.	58	—	—	23	23	3
Girls ...	Hampton, St. Elizabeth.	—	66	—	21	14	4
Middle Grade...	Manchester...	24	—	—	7	5	—
Vere Elementary Schools (7).	Clarendon, Vere District.	725 (Boys and Girls).	—	—	—	—	—
Beckford and Smith's.	Spanish Town	35	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE XI.

Poor Houses and Poor Relief.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Paupers.							Percentage of Paupers to Population.			Pauper Expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.		Ratio of Paupers to Population.
		Maintained in the Parish.			Maintained out of the Parish.			Grand Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.			
		Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial School Children.	Lunatics.	Total.										
												£	£	£	s.	d.	
1899–1900 ...	743,100	3,723	811	4,534	208	721	929	5,463	0·61	0·13	0·74	24,948	15,547	40,495	1	1	1 : 136
1900–1901 ...	758,000	3,887	806	4,693	199	781	980	5,673	0·62	0·13	0·75	26,260	15,921	42,181	1	1	1 : 134
1901–1902 ...	777,000	4,163	835	4,998	184	770	954	5,952	0·64	0·12	0·76	25,259	16,156	41,415	1	1	1 : 131

TABLE XII.

POOR RELIEF STATISTICS, for the several PARISHES for the YEAR, 1901–02.

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Number of Paupers.							Percentage of paupers to population.			Pauper expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.	Ratio of paupers (total) of Population.
		Maintenance in the Parish.			Maintenance out of the Parish.			Grand total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.		
		Outdoor	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial school children.	Lunatics.	Total.									
												£	£	£	s. d.	
Kingston	59,000	1,087	187	1,274	84	133	217	1,491	2·19	·57	2·56	6,342	3,660	10,002	3 5	1·39
Port Royal	—	17	—	17	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	96	—	96	—	—
St. Andrew ...	46,000	212	80	292	34	47	81	373	·63	·17	·80	1,664	1,500	3,164	1 5	1 : 123
St. Thomas ...	39,000	124	58	182	4	34	38	220	·47	·10	·57	1,216	670	1,886	1 0	1 : 177
Portland	39,000	167	31	198	1	34	35	233	·51	·09	·60	1,206	655	1,861	0 11	1 : 167
St. Mary	52,000	82	62	144	3	42	45	189	·28	·09	·37	1,353	790	2,143	0 10	1 : 275
St. Ann	66,000	206	47	253	2	50	52	305	·38	·08	·46	1,528	730	2,258	0 8	1 : 216
Trelawny ...	38,000	214	37	251	3	22	25	276	·66	·07	·73	1,176	560	1,736	0 11	1 : 138
St. James ...	42,000	252	21	273	7	49	56	329	·65	·14	·79	1,259	930	2,189	1 1	1 : 128
Hanover	39,000	289	37	326	5	29	34	360	·84	·08	·92	1,218	668	1,886	1 0	1 : 108
Westmoreland ...	65,000	260	43	303	4	59	63	366	·47	·10	·57	1,423	980	2,403	0 9	1 : 178
St. Elizabeth ...	76,000	156	53	209	24	57	81	290	·28	·11	·39	934	1,273	2,207	0 7	1 : 262
Manchester ...	67,000	536	—	536	8	38	46	582	·80	·07	·87	1,925	890	2,815	0 10	1 : 115
Clarendon ...	69,000	224	71	295	2	64	66	361	·43	·09	·52	1,483	1,050	2,533	0 9	1 : 191
St. Catherine ...	80,000	337	108	445	3	112	115	560	·56	·14	·70	2,436	1,800	4,236	1 1	1 : 143

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	,,
356	Falkland Islands	,,
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
358	Malta	,,
359	Gibraltar...	,,
360	Straits Settlements	,,
361	Sierra Leone	,,
362	British Honduras	,,
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
364	Seychelles	,,
365	Bahamas...	1901–1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	,,
368	Barbados...	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade. 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 394.

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 363.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1903.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	"
374	Leeward Islands...	"
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	"
377	Northern Nigeria	"
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901–1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda	1902
384	St. Lucia	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar...	"
388	Wei-Hai-Wei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
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10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
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19	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 394.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 363.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,

July 6, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1902, and a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon for the same period.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,

Governor.

---

875 Wt 21109 8/1903 D & S 5 15345

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1902.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year 1902 amounted to £8,693 7*s.*, and the Expenditure to £8,006 9*s.* 11*d.*, leaving an available balance of £686 17*s.* 1*d.* to be added to Surplus Funds.

2. The Import duties yielded £3,824, the largest amount collected from this source since the present Tariff Ordinance came into force in 1885. Compared with former years, the receipts were £277 in excess of the Import duties of the year 1901, and £490 in excess of the average of the five previous years.

3. The Royalty on salt exported amounted to £2,416, which is less by £100 than the revenue from this source collected in 1901, and compared with the previous five years, less by some £250. This is due to a slight decrease in the quantity of salt shipped to the United States of America, the demand for salt being temporarily slack during the year.

4. The following statement shows the several sources of Revenue and the amounts collected in 1902, compared with the year 1901, and the average annual amount for the previous five years:—

Revenue.

—	1902.			1901.			Annual average, five years 1896 to 1900.
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£
Import Duties	3,824	17	5	3,557	9	3	3,334
Royalty on Salt exported ...	2,416	1	5	2,517	16	4	2,683
Port Dues	751	19	9	774	13	8	844
Licences and Internal Revenue	247	16	4	222	13	2	267
Payments for Specific Services	397	1	11	432	18	1	428
Post Office	492	13	4	868	18	7	732
Revenue from Government Property.	221	17	8	474	16	6	216
Interest	269	1	5	126	15	4	202
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	71	17	9	54	0	5	21
Total	8,693	7	0	9,030	1	4	8,727

5. The decrease in the receipts of the Post Office is due to the decrease of sales during the year of postage stamps to

stamp collectors. This was anticipated, as the old issue of postage stamps had been completely sold out, and the present issue was brought into use over two years ago.

6. The following comparative statements show the annual Expenditure of the Dependency for the years 1901 and 1902, and the annual average for the five years 1896 to 1900:—

Expenditure.

—	1902.			1901.			Annual Average, five years 1896 to 1900.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£
Pensions	458	19	10	413	0	0	443
Commissioner's Department ...	2,236	4	6	2,196	18	11	2,326
Judicial	519	10	7	530	14	3	564
Police	485	10	2	476	18	2	472
Prisons	191	9	6	182	19	4	201
Medical	388	6	6	467	8	3	469
Paupers	329	9	0	339	7	0	302
Education	600	0	0	600	0	0	593
Registration and Vaccination ...	20	8	0	21	15	6	26
Public Market	21	0	0	21	0	0	21
Miscellaneous	553	18	4	454	6	7	371
Post Office	529	18	8	532	11	9	573
Lighthouse Department	252	19	7	279	16	4	261
Public Works Department ...	320	10	7	331	4	9	295
Do. Recurrent... ...	489	16	5	770	4	11	688
Do. Extraordinary ...	608	8	3	371	1	1	301
Total	8,006	9	11	7,989	6	10	7,906

7. The total Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1896 to 1902, inclusive, may be seen in the following table:—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Average for 7 years.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	9,706	9,477	7,232	8,032	9,190	9,030	8,693	8.765
Expenditure ...	7,382	8,384	8,061	7,644	8,052	7,989	8,006	7,931

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Credit balance...	2,324	1,093	—	388	1,138	1,041	687	6,671
Debit balance...	—	—	829	—	—	—	—	829

Net credit balance from 1896 and 1902 inclusive, £5,842.

8. The available balance of £686 17*s.* 1*d.* of Revenue over Expenditure during the year 1902 increased the Surplus Funds of the Dependency on the 1st January, 1903, to £10,382 0*s.* 6*d.* Of this sum £7,947 11*s.* 4*d.* is invested in—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Government Queensland 3½ per cent. Stock	1,000	0	0
2. Government Victoria 4 per cent. Stock	1,500	0	0
3. Government South Australian Debentures	1,000	0	0
4. Government Jamaica 4 per cent. Stock	400	0	0
5. Government Jamaica Savings Bank ...	1,047	11	4
6. Government Gold Coast 3 per cent. Stock	896	2	4
7. Cash lent against scrip unissued Lagos Loan	103	17	8
8. Cash lent against scrip unissued Sierra Leone Loan	1,000	0	0
	6,947	11	4
9. Lent out by Crown Agents at Bank rate of interest	1,000	0	0
	£7,947	11	4

9. In detail, the financial position of the Dependency on the 31st December, 1902, may be seen from the following statement of its Assets and Liabilities at that date:—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Salt Pond Maintenance and Improvement Fund ...	273	10	11
Board of Education	201	11	1
Deposits	39	10	8
Money Orders—			
United Kingdom	98	14	4
Jamaica	353	12	3
Savings Bank Funds	1,437	15	8
	2,404	14	11
Balance of Assets— 31st December...	10,382	0	6
	£12,786	15	5

Assets.	£	s.	d.
Cash—			
In Colonial Chest	1,527	18	4
Crown Agents	367	2	10
New York Agents	106	17	1
Jamaica Treasurer	478	11	8
Remittances maturing and in transit	814	3	4
Bonds for Import Duties	266	2	1
Advances recoverable	14	10	2
Invested Funds—			
Government	7,947	11	4
Savings Bank	1,263	18	7
	£12,786	15	5

10. No change was made in taxation during the year. The Customs Tariff has remained unaltered since it came into force in 1885.

11. The currency is composed of British gold and silver coins. The gold of the United States of America is also legal tender at a discount of 1½ per cent. American silver dollars, half and quarter dollars, are in circulation at 4*s.* the dollar. The amount of gold in circulation is small, and there is no legal limit to the tender of silver. To meet the convenience of the public in this matter, an Ordinance was passed last year authorising the Government to issue currency notes of 5*s.*, 10*s.*, £1, and £3. Notes of the value of 10*s.* and £1 are now being prepared, and will be issued during the current year.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

12. The value of the Imports during the year 1902 was declared at £32,291, an increase of £1,474 on the value of the Imports of the year 1901, and of £3,120 on the average of the previous five years.

13. The value of the Exports during the year was declared at £32,553, a decrease of £7,595 on the year 1901, but compared with the average value of the exports of the previous five years, less only by some £600.

14. The total value of the Imports and the Countries from which imported during the years 1897 to 1902, may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Value of Imports from									Total Value of Imports.		
	United Kingdom.			British Colonies.			Foreign Countries.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1897 ...	3,478	7	10	4,443	10	8	25,317	4	1	33,239	2	7
1898 ...	3,305	9	1	3,155	13	6	20,605	13	5	27,066	16	0
1899 ...	2,684	18	2	3,289	3	6	19,733	9	7	25,707	11	3
1900 ...	3,385	1	11	3,939	10	4	22,239	10	1	29,564	2	4
1901 ...	3,110	15	6	4,092	2	1	23,614	5	11	30,817	3	6
Annual Average	3,192	18	6	3,784	0	0	22,302	0	7	29,278	19	1
1902 ...	3,463	3	0	5,792	19	0	23,035	9	0	32,291	11	0

15. The principal articles imported from the United Kingdom included condensed milk to the value of £109; rice, £118; spirits, £400; hats, £112; cotton and woollen goods, £1,600; and millinery, £106.

16. Of the Imports from the British Colonies, goods to the value of £2,743 came from Jamaica, and of £2,577 from Canada,—£5,320 out of a total of £9,792.

17. Respecting the Foreign Countries, the value of Imports from the United States amounted to £21,536 out of the total value of £23,035. Practically speaking, the food supply of these Islands comes from the United States. A few of the chief articles of Import which follow, picked out from the general Imports, show the relative trade of Canada and the United States with this Colony as regards food supply:—

Articles.	Value of imports from	
	Canada.	United States.
	£	£
Bread and Biscuit	121	310
Butter	178	547
Cheese	32	229
Flour	186	1,853
Indian Corn Meal and Hominy ...	1	1,179
Oats	130	596
Fish	324	146
Hay	266	17
Lard	21	946
Meats	19	3,186
Rice	7	566
and an additional article,—		
Boots	under 1	948

18. Being alive to the extent to which the United States market supplies the British Colonies in the West Indies, the President and Assistant Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association visited the several Colonies last year with a view, if possible, to bringing about closer connection with the Canadian market. The report of the Representatives of the Association is interesting, but with respect to these Islands foreshadows no likely increase of trade with Canada. It is not easy to see how any marked and permanent change can be brought about in this respect unless a greatly improved market be afforded by Canada for the staple product of these Islands. The Representatives, in writing of the Turks and Caicos Islands, truly say "This market is very small." Last year there was a

slight increase of trade between the two places compared with the previous year, but whether this increase has come to stay or is a thing of the moment is problematical. The value of the Imports from Canada increased from £1,341 in 1901 to £2,577 in 1902, and the Exports to Canada from £3,987 to £4,384. Compared with the average of the previous ten years, while the Imports of last year are £1,000 above the average, the Exports to Canada are still some £800 below.

19. The total value of Exports from the Dependency, and the Countries to which the produce of the Dependency was shipped during the years 1897-1902, may be seen on reference to the following table:—

Year.	Value of Exports, Produce and Manufacture, of Turks and Caicos Islands, to—			Total Value of Exports.
	United Kingdom	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897 ...	—	11,374 6 0	29,790 18 1	43,303 15 5
1898 ...	—	6,608 11 9	16,930 5 7	24,810 12 4
1899 ...	—	4,650 8 1	26,871 4 10	31,909 19 2
1900 ...	291 4 0	7,384 1 1	25,714 10 7	34 584 1 0
1901 ...	—	12,290 0 6	27,461 9 1	40,148 17 1
Annual Average	58 4 9	8,461 9 5	25,353 15 7	34,951 5 0
1902 ...	2,307 5 4	5,637 9 2	24,010 4 6	32,553 5 9

20. The Exports to the United Kingdom, declared at a value of £2,307, were entirely made up of Sisal grass (fibre). Previous to 1902, fibre for the home market was sent to either Halifax or New York for shipment to England, and no entry was made here for Export to the Home Country. Last year shipments were made direct by the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which now call periodically at West Caicos for the fibre. This accounts for the strikingly large increase of Exports to the United Kingdom during last year compared with previous years.

Of the Exports to the British Colonies, produce of these Islands, valued at £518, was shipped to Jamaica, and £4,384 to Canada.

Of the Exports to Foreign Countries, produce to the value of £21,655 went to the United States.

21. The following table shows the several articles of Export, produce and manufacture of the Colony, during the year 1901 and 1902:—

—	1901.				1902.			
	Quantities.	Value.			Quantities.	Value.		
	lbs.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cotton ...	2,250	14	1	8	—	—		
	packages.				packages.			
Fish, Salted ...	25	186	4	2	42	104	10	0
Horses and Cattle, &c.	1	3	0	0	6	24	4	6
	bushels.				bushels.			
Salt	1,726,245	22,782	13	10	1,656,730	22 196	4	4
	lbs.				lbs.			
Sisal Grass (fibre).	461,183	6,551	5	3	498,334	7,100	16	2
Sponge ...	—	9,277	4	8	—	1,961	2	10
Turtle ...	—	—			1,272	21	1	2
Turtle Shell ...	1,019	937	0	0	538	547	0	0
		39,751	9	7		31,954	19	0

22. Of the Exports reference need only be made to the three principal articles of produce of the Dependency, namely, salt, Sisal grass (fibre), and sponge.

23. The salt exported during the year showed a decrease of 70,000 bushels compared with the previous year, from 1,726,245 bushels, valued at £22,782, exported in 1901, to 1,656,730 bushels, valued at £22,196, in 1902, as may be seen from the following comparative table, which gives the several markets and the quantity and value of salt shipped to each during the years 1901 and 1902:—

—	1901.		1902.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£
Bermuda	190	2	5,209	66
Canada	203,765	3,334	214,526	3,760
Cuba	2,176	27	—	—
Hayti	5,388	67	37,204	465
Jamaica	59,254	745	40.933	518
St. Domingo	10,710	133	10,367	129
St. Pierre	45,957	733	94,359	1,562
South America	50	under £1	5,595	93
United States	1,398 755	17,737	1,248,537	15,600

24. The price, six cents a bushel for "coarse" salt, and eight cents for "fishery" salt, agreed upon a few years ago between the salt proprietors here and the salt dealers in the United States, was maintained throughout the year, and ruled for all sales effected.

25. The year was a favourable one for the salt raker, and the bulk of his salt was sent to the United States as usual, but owing to the difficulty, temporary there is reason to believe, of disposing of a full supply of salt in that market, the shipments to the United States fell short of those of the previous year by 150,000 bushels. Fortunately, as may be seen from the above table, trade increased with St. Pierre and Hayti, which afforded a welcome outlet for some 80,000 additional bushels of salt.

26. The market of the United States of America has ever been the principal market for the Turks Islands' salt. A hasty review, therefore, of the position to which imported salt has been relegated on that market, by reason of the increased production within recent years of United States domestic salt, is not without interest in considering the salt industry of these Islands.

27. It may be instructive to quote a few figures to show the enormous increase that has taken place in the production of salt in the United States between the years 1881 and 1901.

28. Twenty-one years ago the annual production of domestic salt in the United States was estimated at 620,000 tons. In 1891 this production increased to 998,800 tons, and continued to increase annually, when in 1901 it reached the figure of 2,056,600 tons.

29. An examination of the figures respecting the annual consumption of salt in the United States compared with the quantity imported, shows that in 1881, 983,000 tons were consumed, of which 384,000 tons were imported. Ten years later the estimated consumption increased to 1,166,600 tons, and the importations decreased to 169,400 tons. In the next ten years, *i.e.*, in 1901, the annual consumption had still further increased to 2,194,000 tons, and the importations decreased to 144,100 tons.

30. These figures illustrate that while imported salt formed 39 per cent. of the total consumption of salt in the United States in 1881, it formed only 6 per cent. in 1901.

31. One further set of figures is of yet greater interest to these Islands, and illustrates the position Turks Islands' salt, compared with other imported salt, has maintained on the United States market during the period under consideration.

32. Of the salt imported into the United States in 1881, 36,700 tons, or 9 per cent. of the total quantity imported, was Turks Islands' salt. In 1901 the salt imported from the Turks Islands into the United States amounted to 46,600 tons, or 32 per cent. of the total quantity imported.

33. With the enormous increase in the production of United States domestic salt within recent years, the difficulties in the way of foreign salt holding a place on the American market are not far to seek. Domestic production and competition have within the 21 years referred to, reduced the importation of salt into the United States by nearly two-thirds, while the annual consumption has increased more than two-fold. Were it not for the excellent preserving properties of the Turks Islands' salt, a salt the use of which for pickling purposes was at one time in years past made compulsory by law in at least one of the States of America, the staple industry of these Islands would have long ere this been in a far more disturbed state than to-day. As long, however, as the quality of the salt be maintained, and as long as the "Packer" safeguards his interests by the use of Turks Islands' salt, so long will there be a demand for the staple product of these Islands.

34. The salt is produced from sea water by solar evaporation, and for the purposes for which it is manufactured has proved its value, and continues to maintain its reputation.

35. The fibre industry carried on on the two plantations of East Caicos, with about 2,000 acres, and West Caicos, with about 1,700 acres under cultivation, continues to make headway. During last year 498,334 pounds, valued at £7,100, were shipped, compared with 461,183 pounds, valued at £6,551, exported in 1901.

The fibre was shipped to

London, 164,000 lbs., valued at £2,307.

Canada, 44,609 lbs., valued at £624.

United States, 289,725 lbs., valued at £4,169.

The prices obtained for the fibre throughout the year were steady and profitable.

36. The sponge industry does not show up well for the year. The declared value of the sponge exported amounted to only £1,961, compared with £9,277 in 1901. The value of the sponge exported in 1901 was exceptional, about two-thirds of it being the gatherings taken from the Caicos Banks by spongers from the Bahamas. The raid made by these spongers in 1901 denuded the Banks somewhat, and accounts for the export of less sponge last year. The three sponge depôts continue to do business on a small scale.

37. The following table gives a comparative statement of the Shipping, inwards and outwards, during the years 1901 and 1902:—

Steamers.

Nationality.	1901.				1902.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	27	18,010	27	18,010	24	20,836	24	20,836
Swedish	—	—	—	—	4	2,716	4	2,716
United States	46	93,648	46	93,648	56	112,734	56	112,734
Total	73	111,658	73	111,658	84	136,286	84	136,286
Sailing Vessels.								
British	177	15,565	170	14,710	177	18,794	181	20,042
Norweigan	—	—	—	—	1	1,132	1	1,132
French	7	939	7	939	13	1,906	13	1,906
Haytian	9	164	6	140	18	417	18	417
Dominican	23	340	25	348	25	464	24	450
United States	35	23,077	40	25,478	20	15,435	18	13,668
Total	251	40,085	248	41,615	254	38,148	255	37,615

LEGISLATION.

38. There were five Ordinances passed during the year, the principal Ordinances being No. 4, to provide for the detention and treatment of Lunatics, and No. 5, to provide for the issue of Government Paper Currency.

39. The Lunatics Ordinance was passed to place the procedure with regard to lunatics on a legal basis, and provide for their being sent when necessary to the Lunatic Asylum in Jamaica for care and treatment.

40. The issue of notes, under the Government Paper Currency Ordinance, will supply a want long felt here. There being no Bank in the Dependency, and the circulation of gold being small, money transactions are invariably and inconveniently made in silver.

EDUCATION.

41. At an annual expenditure of £600, the Government provides, through the medium of a Board of Education, for the wants of primary education throughout the Dependency. At the six schools thus maintained by the Government, the average number of pupils on the books during last year was 653, with an average attendance of 435, compared with 548 and 302 respectively, for the previous year. The improvement in the attendance is due to the coming into force, during 1902,of the Education Ordinance, 1901. Under this Ordinance education is made compulsory at the three principal Settlements, and although the Ordinance did not come into force until toward the middle of the year, its effect has been marked, and cannot be better illustrated than by the following table:—

—	To 31st December, 1901, Ordinance not in force.	To 31st December, 1902, Ordinance in force.
Average on books...	333	390
Average attendance	187	306
Percentage of attendance ...	56	78

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

42. There are no hospitals, asylums, or reformatories in the Dependency. In case of need, a suitable building in an isolated position is provided for the treatment of infectious diseases, which, happily, are of rare occurrence. The building has not been required for the past eight years, and then only for treatment of two patients landed from a vessel in the harbour.

43. The Government Savings Bank had standing to the credit of 201 depositors on the 31st December, 1902, the sum of £1,418, an increase of £231 on the previous year. The Assets and Liabilities of the Bank at the end of last year were as follows:—

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	Assets.	£ s. d.
Due Depositors, including Interest.	1,418 2 9	Invested in Jamaica Government Debentures.	200 0 0
Assets in excess of Liabilities.	19 12 11	In Jamaica Savings Bank.	1,063 18 7
		Cash in Public Chest	173 17 1
	£1,437 15 8		£1,437 15 8

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

44. The Police of the Dependency, consisting of a corporal, six constables and 12 district constables, was maintained at a cost of £485.

45. There were 10 persons committed to prison during the year, giving a daily average in prison of $1\frac{5}{8}$, compared with $1\frac{1}{2}$ for the previous year.

46. The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions and acquittals in the Courts of the Dependency for the years 1898 to 1902:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Offences reported to Police ...	195	176	131	69	135
Persons apprehended or summoned	184	175	128	69	135
Summary Convictions—					
Offences against the person ...	30	51	30	16	31
Prædial larceny...	3	7	6	—	—
Offences against property ...	5	7	10	7	4
Other offences	83	65	57	31	71
Convictions in Supreme Court—					
Offences against the person ...	1	2	2	—	—
Prædial larceny...	—	—	-	—	—
Offences against property ...	3	1	—	—	1
Other offences	—	—	10	—	1
Persons acquitted—					
Magistrates' Courts	58	38	22	14	24
Supreme Court	2	4	3	1	2

VITAL STATISTICS.

47. According to the Census of 1901 the population of these Islands was composed of—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Black	1,686	1,896	3,582
Coloured	572	791	1,363
White	150	192	342
Total	2,408	2,879	5,287

48. There were 206 births and 127 deaths registered last year, compared with 209 births and 125 deaths, the annual average for the previous five years. The births and deaths last year were at the rate of 38 and 24 respectively per 1,000 of the population.

49. The public health was good. There were no contagious or infectious cases of a serious nature throughout the year.

50. The Turks Islands are low-lying, of coral and sand formation, and although the climate is somewhat relaxing, they are healthy, and, practically speaking, free from malaria.

51. The following table gives the monthly averages of the meteorological readings for the year, and the actual rainfall recorded for each month, at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, height above mean sea level, 11·3 feet:—

Month.	Mean.				Actual Rainfall recorded.
	Barometer 7.30 a.m.	Air Temperature.		Wind Force. Miles per hour.	
		Max.	Min.		
January ...	30·08	79	65	11	3·68
February ...	30·03	82	67	9	·60
March	30·05	83	70	11	1·08
April	30·02	86	73	11	·67
May	29·98	87	72	10	2·17
June	29·96	88	76	12	1·48
July	30·07	90	76	12	1·54
August	30·04	91	73	11	1·80
September ...	29·99	91	77	11	·21
October ...	29·95	90	75	8	3·93
November ...	29·94	84	72	9	3·99
December ...	30·00	82	72	10	6·30

Total rainfall for the year, 27·45 inches.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE.

52. The Islands are fortunate in the Postal and Cable services which they possess.

53. By the subsidised steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black, which leaves Halifax on the 15th of each month and is due to arrive here on the 23rd, a regular service is maintained between Canada, Bermuda, Turks Islands, and Jamaica. On the return voyage, the steamer leaves Jamaica about the 27th of the month and is due to arrive at Halifax from 10 to 11 days later.

54. The steamers of the Clyde Line, which sail from New York every alternate Wednesday for ports in Santo Domingo, call at Grand Turk on the following Monday on their way, and afford a direct means of communication with the United States.

55. In addition to these services a new mail service, giving direct communication from England, was established towards the end of the year through the good offices of Messrs. Elder, Dempster, & Co., who readily agreed to carry the Turks Islands' mails from England by the fortnightly steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail, and to drop them at Grand Turk as the steamers pass on their way to Jamaica. By this service, the mails from the Mother Country are now received here on the eleventh day out from England.

56. There are no local telegraphs or telephones. The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company connects this dependency with the world's cable system. The Company supply a news' bulletin daily, for which they receive payment at the rate of £120 a year. The cable rate to England is 3*s*. each word.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Commissioner,

Turks and Caicos Islands.

Grand Turk,

4th June, 1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 414.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1902-3

(For Report for 1901-1902, *see* No. 373.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1904.

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No. 414.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1901–2, *see* No. 373.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. LYTTELTON.

King's House,
Jamaica,
23rd December, 1903.

SIR,

IN accordance with standing instructions, I have the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Statistics of the Colony to be found in the Blue Book and Annual Departmental Reports for the year 1902-3.

2. The delay, which I regret, in the completion of this Report, has been due to the pressure of work on the Staff of the Colonial Secretary's Office, consequent on the hurricane of the night of the 11th August last.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR 1902-3.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

Annexed (Tables I. and II.) are returns of the General Revenue and Expenditure of the Government for the year of Report (1902-3), compared with those of the preceding year (1901-2).

General Revenue Account. Revenue and Expenditure.

2. On the 1st April, 1902, there was a deficit on General Revenue Account of £103,164. The total amount brought to account as General Revenue during the ensuing twelve months was £856,514, and as Expenditure, £788,847, showing a surplus of £67,667 for the year, and reducing the outstanding deficit to £35,497 at the close of the period.

Tax Revenue.

3. Of the total receipts, the sum of £594,410 was the proceeds of taxation, as compared with £535,791 drawn from corresponding sources in the previous year. There was thus an increase of £58,619, or 10·9 per cent. in the yield of taxation. This improvement was due, for the most part, to the development of trade, and the greater consumption of commodities paying import and excise duties, but in some degree also, to the better collection and the recovery of arrears of direct taxes, and the increase would have been greater had there not been a certain reduction of taxation on lands.

Improved Yield of Taxes.

4. The following may be specially noted as having yielded increased amounts:—

	£
Import Duties	37,047
Harbour and Light Dues	1,297
Licences	2,334
Excise Duties on Rum	14,582
Education Tax	2,482

These items account for £57,742 of the total increase of £58,619.

5. The increases under the first four heads clearly reflect the improvement in the Island fruit trade. The total yield of import duties was £381,952. In last year's Report, it was stated that the Collector-General considered that in a year of average prosperity the existing Customs tariff should yield not less than £360,000. The amount received in 1902-3 in excess of this shows that the period of depression from which the Island had been suffering had passed away. The estimate of receipts for the year, viz., £350,000, which had been framed in accordance with the less promising conditions prevailing at the time, was exceeded by £31,952, and the amount received in the previous year by £37,047.

6. Customs Duties again produced about two-thirds of the total tax revenue. The most noticeable fluctuations in the yield of taxes from commodities liable to specific duties were:—

Decreases.

	£
Beef and Pork (wet, salted, £1,042 and £1,319)	2,361
Corn and corn meal (£424 and £751)	1,175
Mackerel	433
Matches	275

Increases.

Spirituous liquors	4,848
Fish (salted and pickled)	3,994
Kerosene oil	1,527
Soap	1,188
Butter and milk (£389 and £792)...	1,181
Biscuits and rice (£684 and £491)...	1,175
Flour	868

There were also increases in the collection of *ad valorem* duties (which are at the rate of 16⅔ per cent.) amounting to the sum of £25,133, chiefly in regard to textiles and other manufactured goods.

Licences.

7. More than half the increase of £2,334, under this head, is due to spirit licences, the greater portion of the remainder being in respect of Agricultural Produce Dealers' Licences, the one pointing to increased prosperity, and the other to the increased activity in agriculture which produced it.

Rum Duties.

8. The increase of £14,584 (16 per cent.) in rum duties is a marked sign of the increased spending power of the community during the year which ended on the 31st March, 1903. It need not, I think, be viewed with alarm by temperance reformers, seeing that, speaking generally, the vast majority of the population of this Island is remarkably sober, and excessive drinking is not a habit of the population. The loss in revenue under this heading, which takes place during crop time by the consumption of undutied rum, to which reference was made last year, no doubt still continues, although the Collector-General inclines to the opinion that part of the increased receipts was due to greater care being exercised by estates managers and distillers to prevent this.

Match Duty.

9. As anticipated in last year's Report, the yield of the excise duty on matches (6*d*. per gross of boxes of fifty sticks) was substantially increased, viz., from £583 to £1,127 in the year 1902-3. With import duty on this article amounting to £162, a decrease of £275, the total revenue gained from matches amounted to £1,289. The revenue from import duties on matches in 1886-7 was £3,215, so that it is clear that the single match factory working in the Island still enjoys a considerable amount of protection at the expense of General Revenue and the consumers of matches.

Soap Duty.

10. The excise duty on soap yielded £268, a small decrease of £30 as compared with the previous year. The total revenue from this article amounted to £11,471, the import duty accounting for the difference.

Tobacco Duty.

11. This excise duty was imposed at a time when increased revenue was necessary, but lies only on the more luxurious form of cigar making, the common native-made pipe tobacco being still exempt from taxation. The duty this year yielded the sum of £2,075, an increase of £400.

Stamp Duties.

12. The net yield of stamp duties (£24,478) showed an increase of £1,311. The principal increases were under Insurance Licences (£2,050), Legacy Duty (£1,818), and Succession Duty (£928), whilst there was a decrease (£5,066) in Probate Duty. Insurance licences appear for the first time, as the

result of a new tax imposed by Law 15 of 1902. The revenue in question was the product of two years' licences. The fluctuations in the Death Duties, above detailed, showed a net decrease of £2,320, but in the previous year there was an abnormal receipt of nearly £5,000 from one estate alone. The figures point to an increase in the number of small estates, and are an indication of the greater diffusion of property among the community.

Decrease of Direct Taxation.

13. The special additional property tax imposed under Law 9 of 1901, which was commented upon at some length in the Report preceding this, was remitted, and taxation on land thereby reduced by about £7,000. So soon as it was seen that the prospects of the General Revenue of the Island were improving, more rigorous collection of the remaining direct taxes resulted in an increase of £5,616 in the yield of the Holding Tax alone, and the nett decrease in the receipts from land taxes (exclusive of quit rents) thus amounted to only £2,152. The increased stringency in the collection of direct taxes, which the greater prosperity of the Island both justified and rendered more effectual, is also reflected in an increase of £713 in Quit Rents (1*d.* per acre), as in the increase in the yield of the Education Tax, mentioned above. The total amount received from taxes on lands for General Revenue was £38,314 (the ancient impost of the Quit Rents contributing £7,298); land taxes contributed, therefore, this year 6·4 per cent. of the total General Tax Revenue, as against 7·4 per cent. last year.

Other General Revenue.

14. The revenue from sources other than taxation amounted to £262,104, an increase of £35,514 over that of the year before, if the special transfers (£12,456) of accumulated funds made in that year be excluded. Chief among the increases are the following:—

	£
Fines and forfeitures, &c....	2,328
Irrigation receipts...	765
Post Office and telegraphs (£2,936 and £1,106)	4,042
Railway	24,091
Miscellaneous	2,506

The receipts of the railway amounted to £142,305, being an increase of £24,091 over those of the preceding year. The improvement in gross revenue was thus 20 per cent., while, as will be noticed later, the increase in expenditure amounted to only 3 per cent. This is a very satisfactory record, and reflects the great increase, economically handled, in fruit traffic.

General Expenditure.

15. The General Expenditure of the year amounted to £788,846, as against £751,700 in the previous year, an increase of £37,146. The principal increases are the following, which amount in all to £38,954:—

	£
Charges of Debt	27,744
Public Works Department	1,016
Medical	1,032
Constabulary and Prisons...	1,183
Education	1,174
Military	1,192
Telegraphic communication	1,000
Direct Steamship Subsidy	1,667
Miscellaneous	1,089
Public Works and Buildings	1,857

The chief decreases are in the Government Printing Office (£2,910), and the expenses of Real Property Valuation (£1,481).

Charges of Debt.

16. No new public loans were authorised during the year, but the remainder—£44,000—of the loan—£110,000—authorised for the equipment of the Jamaica Railway, was borrowed and brought to account. The increases, which appear under the head of Charges of Debt, are nearly all in respect of increased payments, in reduction, either immediate or prospective, of existing debt. These increases are:—£15,275 in respect of Sinking Funds, £16,709 in respect of the final repayment of the Imperial Loan obtained in aid of the deficit in General Revenue—a repayment which had not been contemplated, but which the improvement in the finances rendered possible, with the consent of the Lords of the Treasury—and £1,445 under annuities in respect of the Imperial Loans for the Jamaica Railway, a portion of which latter increase is also to be regarded as in reduction of debt. There is also a small increase of £27 for miscellaneous expenditure. As against these increases, there are to be set decreases of £1,019 under the head of Current Interest, £205 for arrears of interest on Railway 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, £3,157 in respect of interest on unissued Railway Stock (the amount in the previous year including arrears), £179 in respect of ordinary management,

and the omission of an item of £1,151 for the expenses of issue of the Railway Stock which was wanted in the previous year and now disappears. These charges resulted in the nett increase of £27,744, already alluded to.

Other Increases.

17. The increase of £1,000 in the cost of telegraphic communication is owing to one quarter's subsidy standing over from 1901-2 having been paid within the financial year 1902-3.

The increase in the Direct Steamship Subsidy is owing to the circumstance that a full year's subsidy (£20,000) was brought to account. The increase under Miscellaneous is due to the purchase of the property known as Gordon Town, with a view of saving rents. That under Public Works and Buildings is due to the last payment (£2,558) to complete the purchase money of the old Mico Buildings, which was, in fact, a reduction of a debt not appearing on the Balance Sheet of the Colony.

General Results.

18. The general results of the year may be considered to have been satisfactory. The total General Revenue was £856,514, or, omitting a special transfer of Savings Bank balances unclaimed, but still liable to some demand, £854,672. As the revenue of the preceding year, similarly treated by the omission of transfers, was £762,381, the increase in the year under review was £92,291. The excess over the estimate was £88,210. The total General Expenditure amounted to £788,847, or £37,146 more than in the year before. If the special payment of £16,709 to the Imperial Government, in reduction of the deficit loan, be deducted, the excess of the Expenditure of 1902-3 over that of 1901-2 will be found to have been £20,437. If payments on account of debt charges be entirely deducted, it will be seen that the expenditure of 1902-3 was £6,845 more than that of 1901-2, this being largely composed of expenditure on account of Public Works and the Railway, reflecting the increased activity in trade generally prevalent. The expenditure in excess of the estimate was £17,517. If Debt Charges, where the estimate was exceeded by £16,154—an amount slightly less than the special repayment alluded to—be omitted, the nett excess over the estimate was only £363, and if an excess of £1,104 on account of Pensions be taken into consideration, this being an item not under control, it will be seen that the remaining expenditure of the Government was £741 less than the estimate. This result has been attained by a continuance of a rigid watchfulness of the expenditure, and a determination to incur no expense which could be avoided without injury to the public

service. Summarising the position at the close of the year in relation to the Estimates, we have the following:—

Estimate.

	£
Revenue	768,304*
Expenditure	771,330
Deficit	£3,026

Actual.

	£
Revenue	856,514
Expenditure	788,847
Surplus	£67,667

As already stated, this surplus went to reduce the deficit on General Revenue account. It must also be remembered that if the special repayment to the Imperial Government in excess of the amount that we were called on to pay in reduction of the deficit loan had not been made, the surplus would have been increased by the sum of £16,709. The Government has thus been able to improve the financial position during the year by reducing liabilities, current and capital, by the sum of £84,376, not taking into account the ordinary payments into Sinking Funds, or similar payments aiming at the amortisation of the Public Debt, and also not taking into account two special payments (£4,573 in all) in the purchase and the completion of purchase of two properties which will cause a saving in future annual payments.

(B.) The Public Debt.

19. An exhaustive examination of the composition of the Public Debt of the Colony was made by the Acting Governor in his Report on the Blue Book of 1901-2, and the subject need not therefore again be treated here. The debt was increased during the year under review by the drawing from the Imperial Treasury of the sum of £44,000, which was the remainder of the total amount of £198,000 authorised to be borrowed for the equipment of the Jamaica Railway. With this exception there was no increase of debt.

* Including Savings Bank Balances (£1,842) not shown in Printed Estimates.

Current Liabilities and Assets.

20. The statement of current liabilities and assets at the close of the year 1902-03 is as follows:—

Assets.	£	Liabilities.	£
Investments on account of Deposits at Interest ...	420,850	Deposits at Interest (Widows and Orphans Funds and Government Savings Bank).	579,311
Investments on account of Trust Funds...	22,634	Trust Funds	26,092
Investments on account of sundry Deposits not at interest.	86,645	Sundry Deposits not at interest, invested	97,546
Planters' Notes	10,463	Sundry Deposits not at interest, uninvested	30,506
Loans to Crown Agents	19,000	Deposits for Loan Works	39,418
Advances to Parishes	63,846	Imperial Sugar Loan	10,000
General advances	17,343	Parochial Road Reserve Fund	8,296
Loans to Sugar Planters	13,333	Suspense account for Sinking Funds	400
Defaulters' Account	202	Parochial Exchequer	38,526
Stores...	23,352	Immigration Exchequer...	1,061
Remittances in transit	44,000		
Cash	73,991		
Balance Liabilities	35,497		
	£831,156		£831,156

As compared with the beginning of the year this shows a reduction in the nett liabilities of £67,667.

At the close of the year 1898-99 the balance of liabilities over assets on current account was £153,723, so that in four years the deficit in General Revenue account had been reduced by the sum of £118,226.

Funded Debt.

21. Outside of the floating liabilities mentioned in the foregoing statement, the Funded Public Debt proper at the 31st March, 1903, was £3,357,706. On the same date in 1902 it was £3,343,958. But as there was added during the year new debt amounting to £44,000 on account of the Railway, which would have made a total of £3,387,958, the Colony has been able to reduce its liabilities on account of funded debt by the sum of £30,252.

As already stated, the total outstanding debt at 31st March, 1903, was £3,357,706, but if the Sinking Funds be deducted, £235,735, the net liability of the Colony on this account is £3,121,971.

The composition of the above £3,357,706 is as under:—

	£	£
Total Railway Debt (to which there is still to be added £44,100)	2,424,922	
		2,424,922
Bridges and Roads	403,320	
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works ...	75,076	
Public Buildings	89,700	
Hotels	63,475	
Kingston improvements	224,360	
Coolie Immigration, Telegraphs, and all Consolidated Debts ...	276,853	
		932,784
Total outstanding		3,357,706
Add for new Railway Debt		44,100
Total incurred		£3,401,806

Railway Debt.

22. The present position of the Railway Debt, shown in more detail in the section of this report relating to the Railway, may be thus summarised. A total sum of £2,527,278 has been incurred, chiefly at 4 per cent. and 3½ per cent., the interest on

which is £91,221, and the Sinking Funds amount to £30,851, throwing a total charge on the revenue of the island of £122,072. To meet this there was in 1902-3 a surplus railway revenue over expenditure of £61,964. The present outstanding debt on account of the Railway is, as stated in the foregoing paragraph, £2,424,922, or, if the £44,100 yet to be added is included, £2,469,022.

Guaranteed Debt.

23. The amount of debt guaranteed by General Revenue but secured primarily on special revenues is shown as follows at 31st March, 1903:—

—	Original Loan.	Amount now outstanding.
	£	£
Kingston General Commissioners ...	377,100	341,229
Vere Irrigation Commissioners ...	30,000	30,000
Total	407,100	371,229

Parochial Debt.

24. The amounts borrowed by the Parochial Boards have been obtained from the Public Treasury and are therefore amounts repayable to and not by the General Revenue, and will be referred to under the head of Local Finance. They amounted to £63,846 at the close of the year, as against £73,023 at the beginning, a reduction of £9,177.

Loan Expenditure.

25. The amount of expenditure charged during the year against Public General Loan Funds was as follows:—

Railway.

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Railway—			
Interest	90	0	0
Equipment	27,892	13	6
Public Works.			
Public Buildings—			
Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894...	3,466	14	3
Bridges—			
Laws 7 of 1881 and 1 of 1891 ...	46	18	9
Parochial Main Roads—			
Law 17 of 1890	4,502	9	1
Total	£35,998,	15	7

The amounts remaining unexpended out of Loan moneys at the 31st March, 1903, were as under—

	£
Railway Interest	336
Railway Equipment	10,017
Bridges	2,662
Public Buildings*	23,219
Portland Bridges	544
Parochial Main Roads	2,618
Mountain Roads	22
	£39,418

(C.) Local Finance.

26. The revenues and expenditure of the local Administrative Bodies during the year were as shown below:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
Kingston—	£	£	£	£
General Commissioners..	36,767	34,7[illegible]4	2,063	—
Mayor and Council General Fund.	26,063	25,548	515	—
Road Fund	5,205	5,022	183	—
Other Parochial Boards—				
General Funds	66,710	62,087	4,623	—
Road Funds	41,759	38,607	4,152	—
Total	176,504	165,968	10,536	—

27. During the year fresh advances from the Treasury were made to Parochial Boards, amounting to £1,374; and repayments were made by the Boards, amounting to £10,551. Their combined debt to the Treasury at the beginning of the year being £73,023, the debt remaining at the end was, as already stated, £63,846. On the other hand, the current balances to the credit of all Parochial Boards (including Kingston) in the Treasury at the same date amounted to £38,525, so that their total nett liabilities to General Revenue were £25,321. The balance at credit of the Kingston General Commissioners was £13,723.

28. The General Fund of each parish consists of the former Pauper Fund, Sanitary Fund, General Purposes Fund, and Surplus Fund, which were consolidated into one by Law 34 of 1900, under which one General Rate is levied. The Road Funds are still kept separate.

* Of the original loan for Public Buildings, £10,300 was transferred during 1902–3 to the credit of the Mountain Roads in order to avoid further borrowing.

Comparison with previous Year.

29. The following figures show the comparison between the Revenue and Expenditure of the Parochial Boards for the two years 1902-3 and 1901-2:—

Revenue.

—	1902–3.	1901–2.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Total General Funds	92,773	86,974	5,799
Total Road Funds	46,964	42,271	4,693

Expenditure.

—	1902–3.	1901–2.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Total General Funds ...	87,635	90,500	2,865	—
Total Road Funds	43,629	39,163	—	4,465

The decrease in expenditure from the General Funds shows signs of the more careful administration under the control of the Government which now prevails. The increase in expenditure on roads shows a response to the demands of the increased traffic consequent on increase of production.

(D.) Direct Taxation.

Summary of Work in Collection of Direct Taxes.

30. The following statement summarises the work of the Collector-General's Department in the collection of direct taxes during the past year. It also shows the liberality with which the right to remit taxes has been exercised by the Revenue Commissioner, both directly and at the instance of the Parochial Boards:—

1. Aproximate number of taxpayers on roll ... 172,211
2. Number paying voluntarily to the end of June ... 48,630
3. Number paying in instalments or moieties ... 20,689
4. Number of cases in which relief (total or partial) has been granted—
   (*a*) by Revenue Commissioner 13,386
   (*b*) on recommendation of Parochial Board... 11,349

5. Aggregate amount remitted—		
(*a*) by Revenue Commissioner		£6,793
(*b*) on recommendation of Parochial Board...		£11,507
6. Number of Assessment Notices issued		148,903
7. Number of taxpayers paid at 30th September (*i.e.*, those paying voluntarily, plus those responding to first process of assessment) ...		81,283
8. Number of levy writs issued, not including writs for Water Rates		67,667
9. Number paying to 31st December (*i.e.*, roughly the voluntary tax-payers, plus those responding to the first two processes, assessment and levy)		135,118
10. Number of summonses issued		30,691
11. Number paid on issue of summonses		19,763
12. Number of commitments applied for		1,236
13. Number paid on issue of commitments		915
14. Number sent to prison		36
15. Approximate number of taxpayers brought to account within the year		147,567
16. Approximate number of accounts outstanding at 31st March		18,074
17. Number of tax receipts issued		235,779
18. Number of other receipts and permits		49,803
19. Number of Spirit Licences granted	1902-3 ...	1,085
	1901-2 ...	1,117
20. Number of Trade Licences granted	1902-3 ...	4,221
	1901-2 ...	4,314

Recovery of Arrears.

31. During the year the Department was forced to seek the aid of the Courts in the collections of arrears, and by that means recovered a considerable amount of revenue which other processes had failed to bring in. Various causes, which have been indicated in previous Reports, and need not again be detailed, had led to a large accumulation of arrears, in the clearing off of which the energies of the Department had been for some time actively employed. Nothwithstanding this, the termination of the year 1901-2 left nearly 50,000 cases of arrears on hand. Relief, either partial or total, was recommended in all cases in which this could honestly be done, amounting in all to nearly 20,000 cases. This left some 30,000 cases in which the ordinary methods of tax collection had failed to be effective, and the alternatives left were either to invoke the provisions of Section 42 of the Tax Collection Law (32 of 1867) and take those cases into Court, or to leave the

taxes uncollected and thus allow an undue burden to fall on the shoulders of those who would otherwise pay. Resort was accordingly had to the Courts, but the foregoing summary shows that in doing so the Collectors exercised good judgment and discretion. Out of 30,691 persons summoned, commitments to prison were applied for in only 1,236 cases, while only 36 persons—or 0·1 per cent. of the number summoned—were actually sent to prison for not obeying the order of the Courts.

It may be remarked that the Bailiffs of the Department have come well out of the searching investigations that must have occurred by the issue of over 30,000 summonses to appear before the Courts, as it is a pleasure to be able to record that the result has shown that there can be no foundation for the suggestions of general corruption among this class of subordinates which have not infrequently been made.

Remarks on Existing Taxation.

32. A few remarks on the weight of taxation in Jamaica may, perhaps, not be out of place. From one of some interesting diagrams this year appended to the Report of the Collector-General it appears that the average per caput tax for the past decade was 17*s.* 7*d.*, while for the last five years the average has dropped to 16*s.* 8*d.*, thus showing that instead of an increased contribution per head for taxes there has been an appreciable diminution. It is true that the last year shows sudden and upward jumps, but it will be found that these occur under Customs and Excise Duties, in respect of which there was no increase in the rates, and these indicate increased spending power, and favourable seasons, with their consequent plentiful food crops, rendered it impossible to say that the increase in the former was owing to an increase in the compulsory payment of taxes on importations of food, which would render hard times still harder.

33. If a comparison of taxation be made with other British Colonies in the West Indies for the latest year for which all the returns are available (1901-2), the Collector-General points out that the figures are as follows:—

	Per Head.	
	s.	*d.*
Jamaica	17	1
Barbados	18	3
British Guiana	36	7
Trinidad	37	4

34. An analysis of the total taxation in Jamaica shows that 29·6 per cent. is derived from direct taxes and 70·4 per cent. from indirect taxes, the per caput rates for the former being

5*s.* 6*d.* and for the latter 13*s.* 1*d.*, a total of 18*s.* 7*d.* for the year 1902-3. With regard to departures from this average, the Collector-General states that from a careful scrutiny of all the figures he has arrived at the conclusion that 75 per cent. of the population, viz., those living in houses of £4 annual value and under, do not pay, in the shape of taxation of all kinds, more than 7*s.*, while the remaining 25 per cent., viz., those living in houses of over £4 annual value, pay over 45*s.* per head.

Of the direct taxes, lands and houses paid 64·1 per cent., or 19·0 per cent. of the total taxes.

Of the indirect taxes, Customs duties provided 77·7 per cent. and Excise duties 22·3 per cent., or 54·7 per cent. and 15·7 per cent. respectively of the total taxes.

35. Of the per caput rate of 7*s.* per head paid by the poorer classes above referred to, the Collector-General further estimates that in import duties these classes pay 4*s.* per head per annum, while the remaining 25 per cent. of the population contribute about 28*s.* per head per annum to Customs Revenue. In support of the statement that the method of raising this considerable portion of the total tax revenue lends itself to the convenience of the tax-payer, although this is often controverted by the assertion that the amount is contributed by necessaries, it may be further stated, that it is estimated by the Collector-General that 54·7 per cent. of the total tax revenue can be contributed by the purchaser of imported goods practically at such times as suit his pocket.

36. From the foregoing remarks I think it will be seen that the chief principles of an income tax, viz., the contribution by a tax-payer according to his means, is not so generally departed from in this Island as is not infrequently believed and asserted. But, as it appeared to the Government, as pointed out in last year's Report, that the total burden of the direct taxes on the poorest class of property holders was onerous, inasmuch as houses alone, and not land, bore practically the whole of the local expenditure other than that on roads, a re-adjustment of this kind of taxation was undertaken in the recent Session of the Legislative Council, to which reference will be made in the Report on the current year.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

37. Annexed is a table, II., showing the values of the Imports and Exports in the last five years, as assessed by the Customs Department.

Increase of Exports.

38. The value of the Island produce and manufactures exported during the twelve months of 1902-3 was assessed at £2,224,116, as against £1,823,684, an increase of £400,432, or about 22 per cent., on the amount of last year's return. British and foreign products and manufactures to the value of £14,466 and £53,753 in coin or bullion were also exported, making a total of £2,292,335, compared with last year's total of £1,939,142, showing a net increase of £353,193, or 18·2 per cent.

Increase of Imports.

39. The value of Imports, excluding coin and bullion, was £1,951,192, an increase of £281,802 over last year's total of £1,669,390, which in turn was £46,858 over that of the preceding year. This increase of 1902-3 over 1901-2 represents an increase of 17 per cent. In addition, there was imported coin to the value of £39,692 (an increase of £957), which brings up the gross total of imports to the value of £1,990,884, as against last year's total of £1,699,525, an increase also of 17 per cent.

Export Trade.

40. The Exports of Island products show a very marked and satisfactory increase for the past year, and on the whole a continuous increase during the 5 years for which the figures are given. This year's total—£2,224,116—is 22 per cent. above the annual average of the period—£1,823,339. If this total be compared with that of 1897-8 (one year earlier than shown in the table) when the exports were only £1,377,826 in value, there will be seen an increase of £846,290, or 61 per cent. With regard to doubts which have been expressed as to the correctness of some of the values placed by the Customs Department on articles of export, it may be mentioned that these values are inclusive of all expenses, and represent the value on board and not in the field. This practice is based on the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Imperial Government in June, 1891, to enquire into the methods of compilation of the import and export statistics in the Colonies. In any case, the same system is used from year to year, and the results are, therefore, a fair basis for comparison.

Excess of Exports.

41. The excess of exports over imports was this year £301,451, or £61,834 more than it was in the year before. As has been pointed out in previous Reports, this excess of exports over imports is principally needed to defray the charges on account of the large public debt and of other investments in the Island by persons abroad.

Principal Staples of Export.

42. Table III. gives the particulars of the exports this year and last of the ten leading products of the Island. Bananas again head the list with a value of £1,134,750, and they now yield more than one-half of the total value of exports for the year. If the value of other fresh fruit be added, namely:—

	£
Oranges	101,054
Grape fruit	9,189
Limes	502
Mangoes	605
Pineapples	2,932

we get a total of £1,249,032 as the value of perishable fruit exported, or 56 per cent. of the total exported produce of the Island.

Banana Trade (United States and Great Britain).

43. The banana trade showed an increase of a little over one-third in value, and a little under one-third in amount, and followed increases of like amount recorded in last year's Report. In the last five years the volume of this trade has increased 2½ times. The increase in the year under review amounted to £309,462 in value, or more than three-fourths of the total increase of Island Products, but it is re-assuring to note that although the total increase was so large, one-fourth of it arises from the increased export of other products, chief among which increases will be found those in the older staples, sugar and rum. It cannot be said that the expectations as to the export of bananas, somewhat freely held out on the establishment of the Imperial Direct Line of Steamers, have been altogether realised. That bananas can be safely carried to England in a marketable condition has been proved, and for this important result Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., and Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, the Fruit Company associated with them in the enterprise, are entitled to the credit. It had been expected, however, that immediate development, to the extent of a trade of at least one steamer per week from this Island to England, would have taken place at a comparatively early date, to be followed by an even greater expansion of the trade. This has

not yet taken place; but there has been a brisk demand from the United States for all the bananas available, and the absence of additional English competition has thus not been so much felt. It is to be noted that practically the whole of the increased volume of the banana trade has been with America, in vessels which, although receiving postal subsidies from the United States Government, receive no help from the revenues of this Island, and not with Great Britain by the vessels of the line subsidised by both the Colonial and Imperial Governments. These steamers are under contract to carry 20,000 bunches of bananas to England every fortnight, and this condition has been completely and regularly fulfilled. The following statement shows the total amounts and values of fresh fruit carried by the line during the year under review, and also by the Royal Mail Line:—

—	Direct Line.		Royal Mail.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Bananas, bunches...	627,069	50,164	1,300	104
Oranges, number ...	2,804,717	2,874	1,437,352	1,473
Pines, dozen ...	2,464	677	871	239
Mangoes, packages	1,123	203	70	16
Fruit, other kinds...	—	3,003	—	1,886
Total	—	56,921	—	3,718

Although the English fruit trade is thus still in its infancy, it may be hoped that it will yet attain large proportions. It is only fair to mention that, as was pointed out in detail in last year's Report, the services which the Direct Line of steamers has rendered to Jamaica, in return for the yearly subsidy from the Island of £20,000 (half its total subsidy), are very far from being confined to what this enterprise has effected in regard to the fruit trade.

Oranges and Grape Fruit.

44. Oranges showed an increase of nearly one-fourth in amount, and a decrease in value of £1,726, the total value exported, however, being still of some considerable amount, viz., £101,054. The decrease in value with an increase in the volume of the trade bears out the remarks made in last year's Report as to the need for greater care in the handling of this trade, and restraint in the matter of the shipment of poor and immature fruit. The other product of the citrus family, known as the grape fruit, which finds much favour in the American market, showed an increase in value of £1,517, or about one-fifth.

Dependence on Fruit Precarious.

45. Last year it was pointed out that however valuable the development of the fruit trade might be, it could hardly be regarded as quite satisfactory that the Island should only have been saved from a decline in the value of its exports by the increase in the production of bananas, the most perishable and precarious of its staples. These remarks have been regrettably emphasised, at the time of writing, by the devastation effected by the cyclone of the 11th August, 1903, the most destructive storm experienced since the year 1880, when the fruit trade was in its infancy. The year under review, however, was fortunately exempt from any such disaster.

Sugar and Rum.

46. Sugar and rum between them accounted for an increase of £63,113, the value of the sugar being £167,663, and that of the rum being £156,581, a total of £324,244. If both these products of the sugar industry be considered, their total will be found to come second in the list of native exports, but even so their value (if the direct value of the product exported be alone taken into account) is not more than one-fourth of that of bananas, and about one-seventh of the total value of the products of the Island.

Imperial Grant.

47. While there is little, if any, profit left for the proprietor at the recent low prices of sugar, the manufacture gives employment to considerable numbers of people, and it was with the view, among others, of preventing the sudden cessation of this large employment of labour that there was made during the year an Imperial Grant in aid of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies, of which the share allotted to this Colony was £10,000. The best occupation of this amount seemed to be to use it, with other moneys advanced from the Island Treasury to finance those sugar estates which, without the aid of advances, would have been compelled to go out of cultivation. In this way, too, it was possible to conserve the corpus of the Imperial Grant so as to be able to use it if necessary as an insurance fund from which to meet any possible losses in the transactions. Every care, however, was taken to avoid any chance of loss arising, and none is expected. The final employment of this grant on its return by the planters to the Island Treasury was a matter for consideration during the current year. Through the generosity of the Imperial Parliament sugar estates in this Island have thus been kept alive, but even such help would probably not have been sufficient to bring about this result, considering the precarious state of the industry, had there not also been for the hope of

a more stable condition of affairs which was excited by the Brussels Convention, and the consequent effect of the long looked for abolition of sugar bounties in Europe to come into force on the 1st September, 1903. During the many years of weary longing for this result sugar estates in great number have in this Island gone under, and it is earnestly to be hoped that a revival of this ancient industry will now take place.

Other Increases.

48. The chief of the other increases shown in this year's returns are as follows:—Cocoanuts (£6,085), ginger (£9,257), honey (£4,235), pimento (£12,709), and cattle (£5,856). The increase in the value of cocoanuts is not proportionate to the increase in the number exported, the former being a tenth and the latter not far short of one-half. The increase in ginger is gratifying; with proper tilth of land, and greater care in the preparation of this root, there is reasonable expectation of further satisfactory increase of this export, which bears a special reputation in the markets of the world. The increase in the export of honey is to be welcomed, this being peculiarly a product by which the small settler can appreciably add to his income without much expense of time or money. The Bee-keepers' Association, recently formed here, has done good work for this industry. The increase in the quantity of pimento exported showed a much larger increase than did its value, owing to the prevalence of the poorer prices, usual with a large crop, the demand being somewhat limited, and the Jamaica crop ruling the market.

The increase in the number of cattle exported took place chiefly with the neighbouring Island of Cuba. The export trade is very fitful. It, of course, does not in any sense form a measure of the value of the cattle-breeding industry, the chief mart for which is local.

There was an increase in the amount of coffee exported, but the prices obtained were low. The coffee markets are overstocked, and Jamaica has to fight against the enormous production of Brazil. Salvation of this industry, so far as small settlers' coffee or coffee of the peasantry is concerned, is only to be looked for in improvement in the cultivation of the plant and in the curing of the berry. The Blue Mountain coffee, grown at considerable altitude, is a product of a special class, and always finds a more or less satisfactory market at prices which cannot be reached by lowland coffees. It is to be hoped that the efforts being made to impress on the small settlers the need for better curing and grading will have a beneficial effect, though improvement can only be gradual. There were also increases in the value of turtle (not, however, captured round this Island), £1,557, lignum vitæ, £1,544, goat skins, £3,709, and butterwood, £1,341, logwood extract, £7,219, and a nett

increase in respect of tobacco of £4,515, cigars and cigarettes being increased by £5,686 and £1,066 respectively, and leaf tobacco showing a decrease of £2,237. Other minor increases occurred in the value of horses and mules, £942, annatto, £524, and pineapples, £571, the quantities exported in each of the last two cases showing, however, a decrease.

Decrease in Cocoa, Limejuice, and Logwood.

49. Outside of the decrease in value (not amount) of coffee just alluded to, the only important decrease in articles exported was in cocoa, where a decrease of 8,491 cwt. in amount and £18,639 in value took place. This is regrettable, but it is stated to have been largely caused by drought. The industry is a promising one, and there seems no reason why its growth should not be of steadily increasing value. There was a decrease in value of £5,323 in the lime-juice exported. There was also a decrease in value of £6,689 in logwood exported, but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in value of the logwood extract manufactured in and exported from this Island, already referred to.

Relative Importance of Principal Exports.

50. The following statement shows the relative proportions of the chief exports of Island produce during the last five years:—

—	1898–99.	1899–1900	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.
Fruit	41·4	45·0	45·2	54·9	59·3
Sugar	9·8	10·8	9·5	7·5	7·6
Rum	6·1	7·2	8·8	6·8	7·0
Coffee	10·5	7·8	9·1	8·3	5·9
Dyewoods	8·8	4·8	6·2	6·6	5·1
Pimento	8·3	9·7	6·4	4·3	4·1
Other products ...	15·1	14·7	14·8	11·6	11·0

Imports.

51. Analysis of the imports into the classes prescribed for the Board of Trade Returns, shows that:—

In Class I. (live animals, food, drink, narcotics) there was an increase of £45,018 during the year;

In Class II. (raw materials) an increase of £34,869;

In Class III. (manufactured articles) an increase of £201,915—a total increase of £281,802.

52. The chief increases in Class I. are the following, viz., ale, beer, and porter, £15,394 (one-third of the whole), bread and biscuit, £4,870, butter, £2,249, cheese, £1,537, fish, £4,734, flour, £9,064, condensed milk, £5,163, sheep, £1,030, whisky, £1,124, and wines, £1,368. Many of these articles are luxuries, and even the others (taking into account that the good seasons of last year produced a plentiful supply of local food-stuffs) may also be said to show the increased purchasing power of the community, voluntarily exerted. Wheaten flour, as stated in last year's Report, stands here on the boundary line between necessity and luxury. The increase in importation is small, because of the abundance of home-grown food. The butter, milk, and cheese imports all point to directions in which the Island should be more self-sufficing.

53. The increase in Class II. is due to the large importations of coal, and indicates the growing importance of Kingston as a coaling port, as well as to the increased traffic on the railway.

54. The increase in Class III. is made up of the following classes of manufactures, viz.:—Textile, £96,163, metal, £16,759, other, £88,993. Chief among the textiles are apparel, £12,607, cotton piece goods, £53,615, haberdashery and millinery, £9,881, and woollens, £9,600. The chief increase in metal goods is in agricultural implements, £6,094. The chief increase in other manufactured goods is in boots and shoes, £12,954. The increased import of textiles and foot gear reflects the improved prosperity of the Island.

Destination and Sources of Exports and Imports.

55. The subjoined tables show the proportions in which the exports and imports of the year were divided between their several destinations and sources:—

Destination of Exports.	1898–99.	1899–1900	1900–01.	1901–02	1902–03.
United Kingdom	20·6	19·2	18·8	21·1	19·1
United States	59·1	63·6	63·8	65·6	68·1
Canada	1·4	1·6	1·8	1·6	2·3
Other countries	18·9	15·6	15·6	11·7	10·5

Survey of Imports.	1898–99.	1899–1900	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.
United Kingdom	44·7	47·2	45·2	46·8	50·1
United States	45·1	43·0	43·4	43·3	40·3
Canada	7·1	7·1	8·6	7·0	6·9
Other countries	3·1	2·7	2·8	2·9	2·7

The export trade with Britain and with countries, exclusive of the United States and Canada, shows a relative decline of 2 per cent. and 1·2 per cent. respectively; that with the United States a relative increase of 2·5 per cent., and that with Canada a relative increase of 0·7 per cent. There were, however, positive increases in all these directions, namely:—

	£
To Great Britain...	26,735
„ United States	287,450
„ Canada	21,872

The trade in imports from the United Kingdom shows a relative increase of 3·3 per cent., and a positive increase of £201,452, the imports from the United States a positive increase of £66,742, and those from Canada of £20,171. The relative increase in these from the United Kingdom is owing to the increased consumption of textiles, and it may, perhaps, be partly accounted for by the impetus given to British trade by the establishment of the Direct Line of fruit steamers. In order to avoid sending out their steamers comparatively empty, the company considerably reduced the existing rates of freight. In addition to this, considerable efforts were made, and made with some success by Bristol merchants, to revive, in connection with the Direct Line Steamers, the ancient profitable trade between that port and Jamaica.

56. A review of the whole trade shows that Great Britain takes one-fifth of our exports, with no sign of any very great change in the last five years, and sends us one-half of our imports, the tendency apparently being to an increase in this respect. On the other hand, the United States take over two-thirds of our exports, with promise of increase, and send us two-fifths of our imports, or a somewhat smaller proportion than a few years ago.

(B.) Shipping.

Increase of Trade.

57. The returns of shipping for the year show 237 sailing vessels reported, against 242 in 1901-02, a decrease of 5 in numbers and 3,495 in tonnage.

In steam vessels an increase is shown of 106 in numbers, (from 928 to 1,034), and 125,659 in tonnage.

Three steamers fewer arrived at Kingston, while 92 more entered at Port Antonio, and 17 more at other ports of the Island, a fact which goes to demonstrate increased activity in the fruit trade.

Nationality of Tonnage.

58. The number of British steamships entering the ports of the Island total 271 of 400,077 tons, as against 308 of 437,290 tons in the previous year, a decrease of 37 in ships and 37,213 in tonnage. Foreign shipping showed an increase of 143 steam ships, with a nett increase of 162,872 tons, as follows:—

—	Ships.	Tons.
Norwegian	79	119,413
German	40	62,611
Cuban	18	2,968
American...	4	23,792 less
Russian	3	2,020
Danish	—	619
	144	163,839
Less Brazilian	1	967
	143	162,872

Nationalty and Destination of Tonnage.

The recent transfer of the (British) Atlas Line of Steamships to the (German) Hamburg-American Line continues to operate as a cause of the increase of German entries.

59. It is to be noted that the French surtax on goods arriving in France from one country *viâ* another country, although it promotes direct intercourse with France, does not in all cases produce that result in French bottoms, the original object aimed at. As regards Jamaica, direct intercourse with Havre is gained by ships of the Royal Mail (British) and Hamburg-American (German) Lines coaling there first on their homeward trips. It may be added that, as regards the port of Kingston alone, British vessels, compared with all foreign, represented ·413 in steam and ·84 in sail.

Work of Marine Board.

60. I may here submit a brief review of the operations of the Marine Board. Five enquiries were held by the Board into the conduct of pilots; pilots' licenses generally were renewed at the beginning of the calendar year; eight master and two engineer certificates were issued; two enquiries were held into the conduct of masters; 19 casualties and two wrecks formed the subject of investigation; and 144 vessels were examined and granted sea-going certificates for varying periods.

61. The Wigham continuous burning lamps in the harbour of Kingston and its approaches were advertised as Official Lights on the 1st January, 1903, and have proved to be of much service to the shipping community, by allowing safe egress and ingress at all hours of the night. (These lights were unaffected by the hurricane of the 12th August, 1903.)

(C.) Land Grants, Surveys and Crown Lands.

Surveys.

62. The Surveyor General reports that 277½ lineal miles of survey work have been done in the year. This work included the opening and defining of the lines of forfeited lands, the laying out of roads to and through the Crown Lands, and the allotment of lands to small settlers purchasing under the scheme for the sale of Crown Lands. He makes special reference to the savanna lands in one of the dry districts of St. Elizabeth. About 220 years ago these lands (as was the case with most of the lands then or subsequently granted) were patented in large blocks. They were, however, never settled by the Patentees, and in course of time were squatted on until a great part of the district was well settled; but out of some 13,000 acres, occupied now by some 500 families, taxes were paid on less than 2,000 acres, and only a few persons possessed titles, the majority of the occupiers holding only by possession or tradition. To correct this state of affairs it was decided to survey the whole district and grant titles and diagrams to old settlers, including within lines defined on earth their houses, tanks, cultivations and fruit trees, and to effect sales on easy terms to squatters of less than 12 years possession. About 5,000 acres have now been dealt with in this way, leaving 8,000 acres yet to be dealt with. The surplus land is available for purchase by fresh settlers. Other surveys consisted of lands sold to the Maroons of Moore Town and Accompong Town, who had trespassed outside their boundaries. After some trouble arrangements were made to sell to the individual Maroons the lands they had thus taken up.

Grants of Land to Settlers.

63. The sale of lands to small settlers continues to progress. During the year 558 applications have been received for 3,974 acres; and 354 lots, aggregating 3,428 acres, have been surveyed and allotted to applicants. From 1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1903, 2,312 applications have been received covering 20,482½ acres of which 1889 applications have been satisfied, covering 20,088½ acres. The total amount paid to 31st March, 1903, by settlers on account of purchase of land is £9,570. Out of the total 20,088 acres, 687 acres have reverted to the Crown by failure of the purchasers to pay their instalments, of which, however, 315 acres have already been resold to fresh pur-

chasers. Most of the lands taken back are situated in the White Limestone Districts, where low prices have affected the principal product, coffee, or in places where access is tedious and difficult owing to the lack of roads. Roads have been made at Cambrook in St. Elizabeth (1 mile) and at Millbank in Portland (2 miles), and it is contemplated in pursuance of promises already made to construct other roads. In future new sales will only be made in districts where roads already exist. On the whole the result of settling lands on the instalment system during the last six years has so far proved not unsatisfactory, and having in view many unsatisfactory results attendant on the letting of lands, hereafter referred to, the Surveyor General is of opinion that it is desirable to do away as much as possible with the rental of lands to small praedial tenants as soon as practicable.

Leases and Rents.

64. The total amount of rent received from lessees and tenants was £2,041. 32 leases have been effected at a yearly rental of £187. Leases of lots of land in the North West of Kingston have recently expired and the lands are being sold to the late lessees on the system of purchase by instalments. In the case of the praedial tenancies, the Surveyor General reports it has not been found possible to collect all the rent. In many cases no rent is paid and there is nothing to levy on. The cultivation is of the most transient nature and is shifted about from year to year, while frequently the tenant himself shifts from one place to another, leaving arrears of rent behind him. Sometimes he not only pays no rent but maintains an adverse possession of the land when notified to leave, and not only is the rent lost but money has to be spent in ejecting him. Whatever the cause may be, the letting of lands with such results is very discouraging, and the establishment of homestead cultivation instead of that of the "firestick" referred to in last year's report is much to be desired. This will never be attained until ownership is vested in the settlers. It has been sometimes observed that tenants who are very desirous of renting lands from large proprietors with the usual wasteful results are careful to conserve their own freehold lands either in wood or for planting in permanent crops. The Surveyor-General states that the experience gained with the Government lands by the substitution of selling for letting is satisfactory enough to suggest that if the system could be generally adopted improvement might be expected in the character of the people and in the nature of the crops raised.

Expenditure and Revenue.

65. The expenditure of the Department amounted to £2,634 (including £200 for construction of roads), and the receipts came to £4,163 or £1,529 more than the expenditure, the year

just closed being the most satisfactory financially since the formation of the Department. The financial transactions of the Department since the beginning of the year 1896-97, when the Crown Lands scheme was initiated, may be thus summarised:—

	£	£
Revenue:—		
Sales	9,570	
Rents	11,442	
Miscellaneous	216	
		21,228
Expenditure:—		
Upkeep of the Department ...	16,308	
Construction of Roads	2,101	
		18,409
Nett Surplus		£2,819

Forfeiture of Lands.

66. During the year two "Notifications" covering together 19,126 acres have been advertised, while 4,845 acres advertised in previous notifications have been forfeited to the Crown. The Surveyor General reports that there are many parcels of unrepresented land yet to be proceeded against for forfeiture. The owners of these lands either cannot be found or do not pay taxes on them. He states that the shortage on the tax-paid area of the Island as compared with the calculated area is nearly 500,000 acres, and that unless some more effective procedure is devised for dealing with lands in default, they will remain unproductive so far as the revenue is concerned. As the law stands, with the utmost expedition, the time occupied in the forfeiture of a parcel of land is nine months, and when there are numbers of parcels to be dealt with, many of them complicated and requiring careful survey work, cases frequently remain on hand for six or seven years, with forfeiture proceedings pending during all the time. The Surveyor General is therefore of opinion that while the law may have been suited to the more ancient times of large properties, it should be amended to suit modern circumstances, and that means of making more surveys are required. In this latter view there has already been approved by the Legislature at the close of the year the placing on the permanent staff of the Department of one of the two assistant surveying officers of the Department, an arrangement which takes effect from the 1st of the current year.

(D.) Mines, Manufactures and Fisheries.

67. Under this usual head in Blue Book Reports there is not in Jamaica much of importance to report on, with the exception of sugar factories and rum distilleries, which are elsewhere touched on in connection with the cultivation of the sugar cane and the export of its products. There are no mines in Jamaica, and the local supply of fish does not meet the demand in the Island.

Minor Factories.

68. Besides factories for the preparation in bulk of the above articles and also coffee and cocoa, there are manufactures to a small extent of the following articles:—Logwood extract, leather, cigars and cigarettes, cocoanut oil, soap, ale, ice and matches.

Sugar and Rum.

69. The sugar estates all combine the manufacture of sugar and of rum. In sugar, the planters have had to contend against the bounties of Europe, but have had temporarily the benefit of the American market, with its countervailing duties on bountied sugar. Jamaica has also the advantage of possessing soils in some parts peculiarly suited to the growth of the cane, and it has been shown that by the exercise of care and skill the cultivation of the cane can be effected at less cost than in any other part of the British West Indies.

70. In the manufacture of the sugar on many of the estates there is still much to be desired. On the other hand in the value of the rum produced on such estates they have a valuable asset, which in many cases more than counterbalances the defects in the ancient methods of manufacture of the sugar. In each of these branches of the industry the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist has pointed out that there is still in the majority of cases room for improvement. As an aid in this latter direction, it may be mentioned that the employment of a chemist specially qualified and experienced in the study of fermentation has been approved, and his arrival in the Colony is expected in the course of the current year in time for the next crop.

(E.) Agriculture and Agricultural Services.

71. An account of the old agriculture of the Island was given in the report on last year's Blue Book. This consisted of the agriculture of (1) the sugar industry, with the largely subsidiary industry of pen-keeping; (2) the coffee industry; and (3) the provision ground.

Board of Agriculture.

72. The Board of Agriculture, of which Mr. Sidney Olivier, the Colonial Secretary, is the Chairman, co-ordinates and controls the work of the following agencies in agricultural matters now at work in this Island, viz.:—

(1.) The Agricultural Society.

(2.) The Department of Public Gardens and Plantations.

(3.) The Department of the Island and Agricultural Chemist.

(4.) The Education Department (on its agricultural side only).

The Colony also received assistance, during the year under review, from the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, which provided the services of an Agricultural Lecturer, subordinate to the Commissioner of the Department. In addition to the Colonial Secretary, the Board consists of the Imperial Commissioner (who, however, being seldom in Jamaica, can but rarely take part in its proceedings), the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, the Analytical and Agricultural Chemist (all of the foregoing being ex-officio members), and of four members (including the Archbishop of the West Indies, who is Chairman of the Jamaica Schools Commission) nominated by the Governor, and two others appointed by him on the nomination of the Agricultural Society.

Work of the Board.

73. The Board of Agriculture continued its work on the lines indicated in the Report of last year. It directed the experiments in progress at the Hope Experimental Station and local agricultural experiments. It considered and advised on the educational work in agriculture for students at the Government Laboratory and for Elementary School Teachers, Training College students, apprentices, and industrial school boys, at Hope Gardens. It arranged for the work of Mr. Buttenshaw, the Agricultural Lecturer of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, and also directed the work of the two Travelling Instructors of the Jamaica Department of Gardens and Plantations, as well as the agricultural work on the St. Catherine Prison Farm, referred to in the Report on Police and Prisons, and generally advised the Government on questions lying within the scope of its Departments.

Agricultural Experiment Work.

74. The general scheme of the Board for Experiment Stations may be summarised as follows:—

1. To provide opportunities for the study of the staple crops of the Island, the conditions under which they are grown, the results obtained by different methods of cultivation, manuring, and by the introduction of new varieties, the economic value of such methods or varieties, the diseases and pests attacking them, the methods of preparing the products for the market, and the management of farm animals.

2. To diffuse information on all such matters by publication of leaflets and bulletins, by instruction in scientific agriculture to students at the Government Laboratory, to boys at Secondary Schools or from Elementary and Industrial Schools, apprentices at

Hope Gardens, students in the Teachers' Training Colleges, and Elementary School teachers, and generally by conferences amongst planters and pen-keepers.

Experiment Station at Hope.

75. This Station is now worked by a Committee of the Board, consisting of the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations and the Government Chemist, and is under the immediate superintendence of one of the Superintendents of the former Department. The following articles have been under cultivation and experiment during the year, viz.:—Bananas, cassavas, citrus plants, cocoa, coffee, cotton, date-palms, grape vines, mangoes, nutmegs, avocado pears, pines, sugar-cane, sweet potatoes, tobacco, vanilla, and yams. Of these 17 products, special reference may be made to the following eight:—

Bananas.

76. Experiments are being continued in the attempt to make the plants seed. The large bananas, so much appreciated in the United States, do not meet with such universal favour in the United Kingdom, where the smaller variety from the Canaries, to which people are more accustomed, still retains many adherents. It may be possible to develop a banana with the carrying quality of the former and the flavour of the latter. The latter, which in this Island goes by the name of the Chinese banana, has also the recommendation that it is a tree of short and stout growth, and is, therefore, less liable to damage by storm than is the taller variety. The resisting power of the Chinese banana on the occasion of the recent disastrous cyclone was very marked; on these bananas alone were to be seen well-developed bunches remaining after the hurricane. The disadvantages of the variety are its slowness of growth and its inferiority in ratooning and the consequent smaller yield of bunches per acre of cultivation within a given period.

Cassavas.

77. A collection of cuttings of Columbian varieties of cassava was purchased from Mr. Robert Thomson, and these, together with about 30 Jamaica varieties, formed the subject of careful experiment and analysis by the Chemist. There seems promise of development in the cultivation of this plant.

Cocoa.

78. Experiments are being made with the view of observing the effects of wide and close planting, permanent shade, temporary shade, and no shade at all. A most important discovery

was made during the year, viz., that of a method of budding cocoa by which the best strains can be selected and propagated. Hitherto there has been constant variation in the quality of seedling cocoa, rendering it difficult to ensure uniformity in the produce of a plantation.

Cotton.

79. A small area, a chain and a half, was planted out in cotton in November, 1902, and the first bolls were picked on the 25th February, 1903. Half a chain was planted in Egyptian cotton at the end of January, and this has made excellent growth. The question of the re-establishment of the cotton industry in Jamaica would seem to be one entirely of the cost of the labour required, as there is no question that many parts of Jamaica are particularly suitable to its growth.

Pines.

80. The work of cross-fertilising pines was continued during the year at Hope, the soil of which, the Government Chemist states, is of maximum fertility for pines. 2,195 plants have been thus raised, but an improved fruit has not yet been obtained out of even this large number.

Sugar.

81. During December a Report was issued by the Government Chemist on analyses of 100 varieties of canes grown at Hope, and of canes grown by two members of the Board.

Tobacco.

82. The cultivation of this was continued successfully, and the report of a Cuban expert as to the curing was very satisfactory. He said it could not have been better done by Cubans. There has now been established a practical school in this industry, working at scarcely any expense to the Government.

Vanilla.

83. The experiments in vanilla-growing have continued. In the annual report of the Board it is stated that the Board is informed by a Seychelles planter that the prospects of development of a vanilla industry in Jamaica are distinctly promising.

Local Manurial Experiments.

84. The manurial experiments referred to in my last year's Report were continued, and the analytical results have been published in detail by the Chemist. Pines, sugar canes,

bananas, and coffee in various parts of the Island have formed the subjects of these experiments, and the results have proved valuable.

Agricultural Educational Work.

85. The Lecturer provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture gave courses of lectures at the Training Colleges, and also to teachers at various centres in the country, as well as valuable assistance in the course of Agricultural Training for Elementary School Teachers.

Elementary Schools.

86. The progress in introducing the teaching of agricultural principles into Elementary Schools is more satisfactory, as more teachers have had the advantage of practical training at Hope Gardens.

Training at Hope Experiment Station.

87. The instruction of the following classes of students was carried out as before, viz.:—

(1.) Industrial scholars, apprentices, and other students.

(2.) Students at Training Colleges.

(3.) Elementary School teachers.

Of this latter class, 80 this year attended a Course of Agricultural Training at the Mico College, as well as the Hope Experiment Station, in July and August. Their daily programme consisted of practical work at Hope, and of attendance at lectures by the Imperial Agricultural Lecturer on Elementary Physics and Chemistry, Animal Life, Plant Life and Growth, and Soils. On three afternoons a week lectures were also given to them by the Government Chemist and planters, and other qualified persons, on the fertility of the soil, the preparation of produce for market, bee-keeping, cultivation of pineapples and citrus, dairying, grape vines, co-operation of the farm, and recent changes in the Education Code. The Chairman of the Board and the Archbishop also delivered to them lectures of general interest. Evening classes in manual work were also held for these teachers in Kingston at the Board School. It was a month of strenuous work for them, the value of which will undoubtedly appear subsequently; the courses will be held in January in future, as being cooler for the outdoor work.

Training of Agricultural Students at Hope.

88. The scheme for the training of agricultural students at Hope, where the Government Laboratory is now situated,

referred to in last year's Report, was elaborated during the year now under review. It embraces:—

A. Regular students of the following descriptions:—
(1) Chemical; (2) Sugar Chemists; (3) Agricultural Chemists; and (4) Agriculturists; and

B. Occasional students of the following classes:—
(1) Sugar Planters and Estate Book-keepers; and (2) General Agriculturists.

Classes are held in Agriculture, Chemistry, and Agricultural Chemistry, Botany, the Crops of Jamaica, Practical Work, Elementary Physics, Agricultural Book-keeping, Mensuration, Economic Entomology, and Sugar Production. These subjects are distributed amongst the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, who is the originator of the present scheme and under whose superintendence it is being carried out, and his Senior Assistant, the Imperial Lecturer in Agriculture, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, and the Superintendent of the Hope Experiment Station. Visits to estates to study the practical cultivation of cane, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, citrus fruits, and the management of cattle and pastures will be arranged, and no student will receive the full Agricultural Diploma of the Board without a year's residence on an estate or property. The scheme is in its infancy, but is a valuable one. Five students attended the lectures during the year. The pupils of the Jamaica College made use of the Laboratory twice a week, and two girls from Wolmers School attended the lectures.

Botanic and Ornamental Gardens.

89. The work of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, other than that devoted to the Hope Experiment Station and the work of the travelling Instructors, is indicated in the following notes:—

90. At Hope, 25½ acres of ornamental grounds were maintained with plant houses, orchids, ferns, and other delicate plants. At the nursery, the stock of plants available at the close of the year numbered 200,000, including cocoa, kola, nutmegs, camphor, cloves, cinnamon, and ornamental plants. There were distributed 103,128 plants—87,100 economic, and 15,028 ornamental. A plantation of the jippi-jappa plant was established in order to avoid any risk of the supply of this grass being exhausted through the increasing demand for the hats made from it, which has created, or rather, considerably enlarged, this local industry.

91. The Herbarium was maintained and added to.

92. Castleton Gardens were maintained, and a guide to this popular resort of tourists and others was prepared. The Hill

Gardens at Belle Vue (Cinchona) were maintained at no cost to the Government, under an arrangement made whereby the orange trees at Resource and the gardens at Belle Vue were to receive the necessary attention in return for the use by the attendant of the remaining lands at Resource.

93. The Parade Garden and King's House Garden have been maintained.

Travelling Instructors and Agricultural Society.

94. Two of the former Superintendents of Government Gardens are now Travelling Instructors under the direction of the Board of Agriculture. Twelve out of the thirteen agricultural parishes of the Island received visits of instruction from one or both of these officers. In the various districts of St. Ann, Manchester, Hanover, and Westmoreland, the visits were specially numerous. The peasantry are every year making more use of the instruction thus offered them. The Agricultural Society has also three local resident instructors who are doing good work. The Society's scheme of prizes for small holdings was carried out in Trelawny, St. Ann, St. Mary, and Manchester. New branches of the society were started by the Travelling Instructors.

Agricultural Chemical Work at the Laboratory.

95. The chemical analyses in the service of agriculture made at the Government Laboratory during the year numbered 320, as under—

Soils	74
Fertilisers	11
Feeding stuffs	12
Cassava	20
Food-products	10
Sugar	17
Rum	12
Canes	120
Cane Juices	27
Diseased plants	13
Injurious insects	4

In addition to these and the Police work performed, elsewhere referred to, the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist also made 13 analyses of waters, 2 of volcanic dust (not produced in Jamaica), 3 of lubricating oils, 1 of ambergris and 10 of other subjects. His Department also fumigated 226 imported plants.

96. From the above it will be seen that the work of the staff was largely devoted to soil analysis, the general conclusion from which is that the chief needs of our cultivated lands are not fertilisers but rather irrigation in the districts of small rainfall and a better standard of cultivation and farming all round. The outcome of the investigation justifies confidence on the part of the agriculturists of the Island in the high quality of its soils and the enormous reserves of fertility that good cultivation has to draw upon. A good deal of work on cassava was carried on during the year, and the Chemist points out that certain districts unsuited to other crops may find a welcome staple in cassava. There should be a considerable future for this article in the Island both for dietetic use and for the starch derived from it. American energy has already grasped the fact of the value of cassava, and with the aid of plants from this Island has established large cultivations.

Sugar.

97. The Laboratory is not made use of by the sugar industry for testing sugar to the degree it should be in the interest of the estates. Accurate polariscope tests in precise agreement with those in America can now be guaranteed at the Laboratory, a set of ten standard quartz plates having now been obtained. The analysis of the 102 varieties of sugar cane disclosed the fact that 60 of them, including nearly all the named sorts obtained from foreign sources in past years, were worthless and are to be discarded.

Minerals.

98. A few samples of genuine copper ore were examined, but proved to be of low grade. With regard to the anxiety on the part of the public as to glittering particles of pyrites or mica, Mr. Cousins points out that there is much gold to be got out of Jamaica, but that it must be won by the plough and the fork and find a transmutation from good produce well handled.

Ambergris.

99. One sample of ambergris from the Cayman Islands was received, and the Chemist points out that large finds of this pathological product of the whale would mean a fortune.

Fumigation of Plants.

100. The safeguard to the Island's industries effected by fumigation of imported plants was continued under the direction of the Chemist by the Customs and Postal Officers at the point of delivery.

Removal of Laboratory.

101. The removal of the Laboratory to its new quarters at Hope was effected at the beginning of the year. The new building is cool, fairly free from dust, and has more than ten times the working accommodation of the old building in the same cubical content. A system of lighting by Acetylene gas has been successfully installed.

Production of Rum.

102. The appointment of the Fermentation Chemist, elsewhere referred to, was approved during the year, and his arrival is awaited to start investigations in aid of the rum distillation industry.

General Position.

103. The working of all these agencies and the activity induced by them have already told in the cause of agriculture in this Island, and will tell more and more in years to come. In the words of last year's report, "a few favourable years will immensely strengthen the progress of agricultural improvement by demonstrating its pecuniary value."

(F.) IMMIGRATION AND NATIVE LABOUR.

104. There were no Indian immigrants introduced during the year.

105. Time-expired immigrants, to the number of 964 statute adults (1,125 souls), were returned to India, 664½ direct, and 299½ *viâ* Demerara. These immigrants took away with them, as the result of their savings in this Island, a total amount of £12,650 in Treasury Bills, in addition to gold coin and jewellery of an estimated value of £4,000. The grand total represents an average of over £17 per statute adult. In many instances the individual remittance exceeded £100, in some cases it approached £300, while one amounted to £381.

106. Three passports were granted to coolies to enable them to leave this Colony, two for Trinidad, and one for British Honduras.

107. The births among indentured immigrants numbered 53, a rate of 4·51 per cent., against 3·50 in the previous year. The death-rate was 3·40, against 4·17, and is expected to still further decrease now that all the coolies have become acclimatised.

108. The average rate of wage earned is slightly in excess of that fixed by Law. The amount in the Government Savings Bank at the credit of East Indian immigrants at the close of the (calendar) year was £22,087, as against £25,951, a decrease of £3,864. It will be observed that this decrease does

not amount to one-third of the amount taken away by the return coolies, so that it is evident that they possess other places of deposit for their savings than the Government Institution. Those still in the Island also remitted to their relatives in India the sum of £172. The relations between them and their employers continued to be satisfactory. From a return furnished to the Protector of Immigrants by the Collector-General, it appears that East Indian immigrants in Jamaica own property to the value of £35,929, consisting of 6,069 acres, that they pay taxes on 601 head of live stock, and that they possess 346 trade licences, and 103 spirit licences.

109. There were no murders among the East Indian population during the year, and very few cases of serious crime. The total number undergoing imprisonment at the close of the year was 15, or 1·26 per 1,000.

Local Labour Bureau System.

110. The necessity for the continuation of immigrant labour on properties in certain districts was proved during the year by the result of an earnest and serious attempt to use the services of the Immigration Department as a Labour Bureau for native labourers, to meet the increasing need of labour in the large fruit-growing parishes. The following extract from the Annual Report of the Protector relates the history of this attempt:—

"The arrangements were intrusted to this Department, and the Clerks of Courts, Clerks of Parochial Boards, and Inspectors of Poor throughout the Island were requested to act as labour agents. Arrangements were made with the Steamship Companies for the conveyance of labourers at greatly lowered rates, and their railway fares were reduced by one-half. The names of planters requiring labour and the terms offered were obtained and published in the newspapers for general information.

"With the exception of the parishes of St. James and Clarendon, however, but few applications were made to the Labour Agents in the matter, although there is no doubt that as a result of the Government's action in publishing the names of employers in need of labour, there was a considerable influx of transient labour into the fruit-growing parishes, which partly met the demand for the time being.

"At Montego Bay about 140 labourers listed their names for employment, but when arrangements were made for their transportation only 62 eventually embarked by steamer for St. Mary, where they were employed on banana plantations. The cost of their conveyance was advanced by their employers, and the labourers agreed to refund half the amount by weekly deductions from their wages.

"It cannot be said that the experiment proved a success, as many of the labourers did no work at all, while the majority left after a couple of days, in some instances decamping with tools which had been supplied to them. Hardly any stayed longer than a week or two (it was stated that they demanded to be paid higher wages than local hands, as they had come from a distance). The result was that the employers were out of pocket by their venture, and others have been discouraged from attempting a similar experiment. Another shipment was, however, made to St. Thomas with but little better results.

"The difficulty, as regards native labour, lies in the fact that the planter must have continuous labour on which he knows that he can rely. The native labourer will not bind himself to work by contract in his native land, and hence the necessity for the importation of the indentured East Indian coolie."

111. I may add that there are on the Statute Book provisions by which native labourers who are willing to bind themselves by indenture may secure all the advantages offered to those coming from India, but these provisions have never been availed of. This is not stated in any way as a matter of reproach, but as a matter of fact, as it is not to be expected that where, as happens here, the labourer can do better by working for himself he will contract to work year in and year out for other employers of labour. It, at the same time, however, disproves the truth of the notion that there is generally any unmet desire for employment, except, perhaps, in some districts where the labourers are very averse to leave their homes.

III—LEGISLATION.

112. Table IV. is a Schedule of the Laws, 33 in number, of the Session of 1902, assented to by the Governor or Acting Governor, or reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

113. Of these, the following may be considered to deserve special notice:—

FISCAL.

Law 2.—The Savings Bank Unclaimed Deposit Law.

Law 5.—A law to repeal the Tax on Commercial Travellers.

Law 10.—A law to amend the Tobacco Duty Law.

Law 15.—A law to amend the Stamp Duty Laws.

Law 16.—The Property Tax Law.

Law 19.—A law to continue for one year certain increased taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.

114. The first law is referred to in the section dealing with the Savings Bank; it transfers to General Revenue certain unclaimed deposits, subject to the establishment of claims thereto within three years.

115. The title of the second explains the object of the law. It was a law not in aid, but for the lessening, of General Revenue. It was found that the amount received from the taxation imposed on commercial travellers was not sufficient to outweigh the trouble and irritation caused by this tax, which was consequently repealed.

116. The amendment of the Tobacco Duty Law was made in order to place less burdensome restrictions on the trade, and to make a reduction in the Duty on cigars of a low grade.

117. Among the amendments to the Stamp Duties Laws which it was considered desirable to make in the third of the above-mentioned laws was one requiring every Insurance Company transacting business in the Colony to take out a licence at a cost of £25. The amending law also contains provision that United Kingdom solicitors shall not pay more for a certificate to practise in Jamaica than Jamaica solicitors have to pay if admitted to practise in the United Kingdom. The object of this is to enable Jamaica to get the benefit of the Colonial Solicitors' Act.

118. The Property Tax Law was not assented to by the Governor, for the reason already stated in last year's Blue Book Report, viz., that the returns of valuation were not completed early enough to allow legislation on their basis to be brought to perfection. In consequence, the law to continue for one year certain increased taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue was passed, pending the re-adjustment of taxation involved in the proposed new Property Tax Law. It was not, however, found necessary to re-enact the provisions of the earlier law, imposing an increased tax on various kinds of cultivation.

Valuation of Property.

119. A short but, in the conditions prevailing in Jamaica, a somewhat important addition was made to the Valuation Law of 1901, whereby an ingiving, to which all the provisions of the principal law apply, is required from every person in the possession or occupation of (1) any moveable inhabited dwelling house or other building not built into or permanently attached to the soil; or (2) any inhabited dwelling house or other building built into or permanently attached to the soil when the land, upon which the same is erected, is rented or leased by the person in possession of such house or building, and the person who owns the soil claims no right to or interest in such house or building, and makes no ingiving in respect

thereof. Had it not been for this amendment a considerable amount of property would have remained untaxed, for although there does not exist formally, nor is there by law established any Feu system such as exists in Scotland, there have grown in practice some portions of such a system, such as are referred to in the above-mentioned amending provisions, which rendered it necessary to make the alterations in question.

EMIGRATION.

120. Law 23 of 1902.—The Emigrants Protection Law, 1902. The reason for this law is explained in its preamble, viz., that it is considered desirable to regulate the emigration of persons to certain foreign countries, and to provide a fund for the purpose of relieving persons emigrating from this Island to such countries, in the event of such persons falling into distress, and, also, in certain cases, to provide for their return to Jamaica. The law, while it contained some amending provisions, was largely a Consolidating Law, and repealed the existing laws on the subject passed in the years 1893, 1894, and 1899. The probability, in the near future, of the resumption of work on the Panama Canal renders this subject of importance, as in such an event it is undoubted that there will be again a great demand for Jamaica labourers on the Isthmus.

CENTRAL FACTORIES.

121. Law 31.—The Central Factories Law. This law was promoted with the object of encouraging the establishment of central factories for the manufacture, preparation, or curing of any of the products of the Island, although the immediate object aimed at was the establishment of central factories for the manufacture of sugar, in view of the proposed early abolition of the Sugar Bounties. The law provided for the possible guaranteeing out of General Revenue of the capital (with interest) represented by the Debentures of a Company or of the interest alone; in the former case, the maximum interest guaranteed being 3½ per cent., and in the latter, 5 per cent. per annum. The proposal that the capital of any Company should be guaranteed was not approved by the Secretary of State, who also required that the rate of interest to be guaranteed should not in any case exceed any rate higher than that which the Government Inscribed Stock bears in the London market; this rate may be taken to be 3½ per cent. On the understanding that these amendments would be made in a law to be passed in the succeeding Session, and that their terms would be adhered to in any scheme which might in the meantime be approved by the Governor in Privy Council, the Secretary of State did not advise His Majesty to disallow the law. The changes in question caused some disappointment to promoters of certain schemes which had been under contemplation,

but the terms of the law (even as subsequently amended on these points) remain as an encouragement to capitalists who believe in a future for the sugar industry in Jamaica, and are at the same time willing to be sure of temporarily receiving only the moderate rate of interest in question.

MISCELLANEOUS.

122. Of miscellaneous measures the following may be mentioned:—

Law 8.—The Cruelty to Animals Law. This law repealed two existing laws on the subject, and re-enacted some of their provisions with additions and improvements so as more effectually to provide for the prevention of cruelty to animals. local Society having this object has since been formed and is now actively at work.

Law 12.—A law to consolidate and amend the laws relating to vagrancy—embodies in it what are considered by the Police to be some very useful provisions having as their aim the prevention of vagrancy.

Law 17.—The Country Fires Law. This law enacts provisions for the prevention of fires, through negligence, on cultivated lands and the getting out of control of "bush fires," which in the past have laid bare large areas in addition to the lands desired to be cleared by burning.

Law 21.—The Street Traffic Regulation Law. This is a useful little law which gives the Inspector-General of Police power whenever a street is likely to be thronged or obstructed to do all that is necessary to prevent a congestion of the traffic, and to provide for the safety and convenience of the public.

Law 24.—A law to regulate the business of Pawnbroking—modelled on the Act in force in the United Kingdom, and repealing the old Jamaica law passed over fifty years ago, sets forth in considerable detail the manner in which this business must be conducted.

Law 29.—The Rum Duty Laws Amendment Law—in one of its sections—provides for the reduction of the minimum penalty, and, in default of immediate payment, for imprisonment with hard labour in cases of possession of rum non-duty-paid, or distilled at any other place than a licensed distillery, and in the other section enlarges the powers of search for non-duty-paid rum.

Law 32.—The Vere Irrigation Additional Powers Law was passed, as it was considered desirable to enlarge the powers of the Vere Irrigation Commission in regard to the taking and using of lands for the purposes of the Vere Irrigation Works, which are expected to prove of much benefit to the district when in full operation. The Commission was also, *inter alia*,

given power to alter or regulate the course of any non-navigable river or stream.

Law 33.—The Industrial and Provident Societies Law. This is a somewhat lengthy law, based on the British Act, passed to encourage Industrial and Provident Societies in Jamaica, and to provide for their regulation, and it had the advantage of being revised, before introduction into the Legislative Council, by the Registrar of Friendly Societies in London.

IV.—EDUCATION.

123. (A.) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage in Average Attendance of number on Books.	First Class Schools	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
									£
1898–99	893	876	97,091	54,041	59·23	176	397	267	51,561
1899–00	746	776	98,598	51,470	62·08	187	357	219	47,240
1900–01	735	717	88,625	47,441	58·99	202	329	183	42,482
1901–02	728	726	84,799	46,110	61·51	189	341	183	42,936
1902–03	717	709	84,652	52,083	64·31	173	341	181	43,738

Number of Schools and Attendance.

124. The foregoing table shows a continuance in the reduction of the number of Elementary Schools entitled to annual grants, in pursuance of the policy of closing, or amalgamating with others, inefficient or superfluous schools. This policy was chiefly carried out in the year 1899-1900, when a reduction in the number of schools amounting to 147 was effected. In the

last three years of the period shown above there has been continued an average reduction of say 10 schools per annum, spread equally over the period. The number of scholars on the books, however, in 1902-03 is very slightly under the number in 1901-02, but the Superintending Inspector of Schools states that he thinks this is due to the more regular removal of the names of absentees from the Attendance Register, as required by the Code. In any case it would appear that the continuous decrease which has recently been observed has now been practically checked.

Increase in Average Attendance.

125. While probable improvement in the matter of numbers on the books may thus perhaps only be hinted at, improvement in the matter of average attendance is shown to have already occurred. The increase under this latter head has been 13 per cent. in the year, the increase in population being only about 2 per cent. for the same period. The number (52,083) in 1902-03 is shown to be greater than that in 1899-1900, when the schools were 29 more in number. It is only 2,000 short of the figure in 1899-1900, when there were 176 more schools. This is satisfactory and shows that the adverse tendency as regards mere numbers of the operations resulting from the recommendations of the Education Commission no longer exists. The improvements in the education effected at the same time of course remain, and will now reach, it is to be hoped, an increasing number of children.

Decrease in First Class Schools.

126. The falling off in the number of first-class schools is to be regretted, but the Superintending Inspector of Schools explains that the changes in the curriculum introduced two or three years ago imposed a harder task upon teachers than would have been involved in keeping along the old lines, and that some have failed to rise to the occasion. On the other hand, he reports that many teachers have welcomed the changes and thrown themselves into their work with increased energy, and that there is no doubt that in their schools, including the majority of the first-class schools, education is in a more satisfactory condition than it has ever been before,

Comparison of Jamaica Educational Results.

127. The following figures give the percentage of population on the School Registers and in average attendance at intervals of five years since 1881 and for the last two or three years, which

the Superintending Inspector of Schools, in view of certain recent criticism, has thought it desirable to give.

—	Percentage of Total Population.	
	On Registers.	In Average attendance.
1881	8·4	4·6
1886	10·0	5·6
1891	12·5	7·0
1896	14·4	8·6
1900	11·9	7·0
1901	11·2	6·9
1902	11·0	7·1

In considering these figures, it must be remembered that it was only in 1892 that there was passed the Elementary Education Law, which fixed an age limit of 14 for all Elementary Schools to come into force gradually, and that it is only in the last year or two that the age limits, still further reduced by the raising of the minimum from five years to six years, have been fully in force.

128. In addition to the foregoing figures, the Superintending Inspector of Schools in his last Report also gives some interesting figures relating to school attendance in other countries, from which comparison can be made with the results attained in Jamaica. These places consist chiefly of the States of the Union having a mixed population, with the addition as a standard of Massachusetts, as a representative of the older and more highly civilised States, and of some of the other West Indian Islands and Mauritius. I reproduce these figures below, together with the comments on them made by the Superintending Inspector of Schools.

State or Colony.	Average number of days the schools were kept.	Average number of days' schooling given for every child between 5 and 18 years.	Average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled.
Jamaica	175	40	109
Massachusetts	189	104·7	145·7
New Hampshire ...	135·3	71	99·1
Virginia	119	38·6	67·5
North Carolina	70·8	21·9	36·6
South Carolina	88·4	35·8	63·2
Alabama	78·3	35·7	61·9

State or Colony.	Average number of days the schools were kept.	Average number of days' schooling given for every child between 5 and 18 years.	Average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled.
Mississippi	105·1	37·9	58·8
Louisiana	120	37·3	89·5
Leeward Islands ...	165	42·5	72
Barbados	170	40	98
Mauritius	180	19	114
Grenada	170	44	83
Trinidad...	170	38	98

"If all the children included in the age limits recommended by the Education Commission in 1898 attended regularly every day school was open, the figure in the second column would be for Jamaica 75.

"These figures are certainly not calculated to encourage any feeling of boastfulness on our part, but it may prevent our being unduly depressed and discouraged to note that in this matter of school attendance we have been more successful than any of the old Southern Slave States, and do not compare unfavourably with our sister colonies under like conditions. We are all alike striving to attain better and still better results, and it would not appear that Jamaica is falling behind.

"Rapid increases in the Jamaica figures could no doubt be attained by the introduction of compulsion, in the gradual manner recommended by the majority of the members of the last Education Commission, or even by its partial enforcement in certain selected areas, but this result would be attended by such automatic increases in the school grants as to render it impossible for the present for this Government to adopt such recommendations without an increase of taxation.

"In the meantime we are compelled to be satisfied with such moderate increase as is shown to be now taking place, with its attendant additional charge on the public revenues, the latter of which in the year ended 31st March, 1903, was £802 more than in the preceding year, and in the current year is expected to still further increase."

Amalgamation.

129. With regard to amalgamation, the Superintending Inspector of Schools makes the following interesting remarks:—

"The results of amalgamation generally, so far as it is possible to determine, are much the same as stated in my last

Report. There is, on the whole, a considerable falling off in attendance, combined with a distinct improvement in efficiency. There is no doubt that the people like to have their own private denominational school, and are less ready to send out their children to an undenominational school managed by the Board. Strange as it may appear, small private schools spring up and flourish in the close neighbourhood of Government Schools, the teachers of which, sometimes, but not always, quite uneducated and inefficient, often collect their scanty fees in kind. The parents think they are showing their superiority to others by sending their children to 'private schools,' and fancy that they get more personal attention, which may sometimes be correct. In one case, in which the daughter of a minister of religion has a private elementary school, people who can afford to pay a small fee have no doubt some good reason for preferring it to the public school, and if the private schools were generally of this class there could be no serious objection to them. They have all the advantage, from the point of view of securing scholars, that they are not restricted by the age limits and other conditions of the Code. For the most part, however, the results at such schools are very unsatisfactory, though it is possible that in a few instances they may do some good, in giving a little education to boys and girls who have passed the age limit without availing themselves of the education provided by the public schools. As illustrating the objection of the people to send their children to any but their own denominational school, I may cite the case of two schools, at no great distance from Kingston, which were amalgamated with the full consent and co-operation of their Managers, two or three years ago. One was a first-class school with over 100 in average attendance, but held in a building which was in very bad order and quite unsuitable. The other was a second-class school of some 50 in average attendance, but held in a good substantial building capable of holding 200 children or more. With the full agreement of the Managers, the amalgamation was effected in the good building, and the school placed under an undenominational Board. So far, practically none of the children who formerly attended the better school of the two have attended the amalgamated school, but a few of them walk past the latter to a school of their own denomination, four miles distant. It seems clear that the mass of the people do not value education as such, but send their children to school with the idea of supporting their own particular sect, regardless of the quality of the teaching they receive. This is the more remarkable as sectarian teaching in the day schools is most unusual, and the people themselves, by the admission of many of their ministers, for the most part know little, and care less, about the real difference between their respective sects, even, I have been assured, in some cases between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. The name is

to them merely a flag under which they fight. This unfortunate state of affairs is one of the greatest hindrances to educational progress."

130. In this matter, however, opinion among the more intelligent classes appears to be changing, and it is probably only a matter of time for the changed ideas to permeate the masses of the population. It is not likely that there will, in the near future, be any increased demand for such increased liberality of thought, as it is probable that the limit of good to be effected by closing and amalgamation of schools has now practically been reached, as was pointed out in last year's Report.

Results of Year under New Code.

131. The greater part of the new Code came into force on May 1st, 1902, and the remainder on January 1st, 1903. The Superintending Inspector of Schools in reporting on the year 1902-3, states that it is too early as yet to make any definite report as to many of its results, but adds that while there are advantages and disadvantages attaching to these as to all changes, there is no reason to suppose that the former do not in this case greatly outweigh the latter, and that it will probably not be possible for another year to estimate at all accurately their general effect. Attention in the reports of the District Inspectors of Schools is drawn to the following, among other weak points:—The frequent change of teacher, especially in the smaller schools; the removal of such a large proportion of children from school before they attain the limit of age, which is justly referred to as reducing the importance of the cry, in certain quarters, for an extension of the present age limit; the weakness of reading (though this does not seem universal), attributed to the want of greater facilities for reading in the shape of a sufficient number of school libraries; while organisation, and the state of many Admission Registers, are also adversely commented upon. On the other hand, it is gratifying to note that general improvement is reported in the teaching of Elementary Science, mainly Agricultural, as well as, in most districts, in Drawing and Manual Occupations. These are advances which, it is to be hoped, will bear valuable fruit in the future when the pupils in respect of whom the remarks apply become effective workers in the Island commonwealth.

The number of School gardens, for which a grant, under Article 112, is claimed, and the aggregate amount of grant under that Article, continue to increase, although the total figures still remain inconsiderable. The grants so paid in 1902-3 amounted to £77 12*s.*, as against £32 in 1899-1900.

Improvement Classes and Book Clubs.

132. The Improvement Classes, for continuing the education of children over school age, organised by the Senior Inspector

in the parish of Manchester (referred to in the last Report), have continued in operation, together with some others in other localities. Several book clubs, with the same end in view, are also successfully operated, but this movement is still in its infancy, and it is to be hoped that the valuable seed now being sown will in time bear fruit over the whole Island.

Expenditure.

133. The total amounts expended on Education in 1902-3 and 1901-2 respectively were as below:—

For Elementary Education.	1902–03	1901–02.
	£	£
Grants to Elementary School Teachers	43,738	42,936
Building Grants	265	179
Administration Inspection	4,813	4,819
Government Training College for Women Teachers ...	1,204	1,204
Grants to other Training Colleges	2,544	2,431
Agricultural Courses for Teachers	256	258
Board of Education and Printing	164	140
Total	£52,984	51,967

For Secondary Education.	1902–03.	1901–02.
Jamaica College	1,250	1,050
Scholarships	1,215	1,166
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	200
Annuities to Endowed Schools (in consideration of the corpus of each endowment having been handed over to General Revenue).	5,244	5,244
Total	£7,909	7,660

Training of Elementary School Teachers.

Shortwood College.

134. This is a Training College for female Elementary School Teachers. It is managed by a mixed Board of Governors, which receives a grant of £1,200 a year from the Government, the buildings being owned by the Government. The 32 students in training were all presented for examination by the Education Department at the December Examination in 1902. Of these, 26 passed (three in Honours) and six failed. There is a Practising School in connection with the College, in which the students teach regularly. During the year the Lady Principal, who is also Principal of the Shortwood Industrial

School, visited the Industrial Schools in the Southern States of North America, and on her return made a report, which has been published.

Proposals have been adopted by which, in addition to the regular students of the Training College, certain students are admitted under special regulations to perform a large part of the domestic work of the Institution, the remuneration for which is to be retained by the authorities, in lieu of the entrance fee chargeable to ordinary students. At the end of the year there were eight such students, and 30 regular students, in addition to two paying students.

Examination of Teachers.

135. The usual examination of Training Colleges and teachers was held in December, 1902, with results shown as below:—

College.	Presented.	Passed.	Honours.	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.
First year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	42	39	8	7	5	19
Mico students, Antigua ...	2	2	—	—	1	1
Shortwood	12	10	1	3	2	4
Bethlehem	10	10	2	3	—	5
St. Joseph's	1	1	—	—	—	1
Second year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	20	18	8	4	6	—
Mico students, Antigua ...	5	5	2	3	—	—
Shortwood	13	11	—	2	5	4
Bethlehem	6	4	—	1	3	—
St. Joseph's	4	2	—	—	—	2
Third year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shortwood	7	5	2	2	—	1
Bethlehem	4	4	—	1	2	1
St. Joseph's	1	1	—	—	—	1
Total	127	112	23	26	24	39
Teachers	9	3	—	1	2	—
Teachers for permanent registration.	17	8	—	1	1	6

136. On these results the Superintending Inspector of Schools makes the following observations:—

"The percentage of passes amongst students has risen from 81·8 last year and 85·7 the year before to 82·2. The number of teachers taking the Certificate Examination and the percentage of passes both show a decrease, whilst the reverse is the case with the Registration Examination.

"I may observe that, generally speaking, the Inspectors report improvement in the amount and character of the work done, and are of opinion that the teachers now leaving the Training Colleges are better equipped for their work than ever before.

"The Manual Training Classes at the Board School (Kingston) and the Mico have been successfully continued, and there are now four centres in the country, at Porus, Mandeville, Falmouth and Port Antonio, at each of which Teachers' Classes will probably be formed with assistance promised by the Government."

Pupil Teachers.

The following are the results of the examination of Pupil teachers held in July, 1902:—

Year.	Pupil Teachers.					Volunteer Candidates.				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.
Presented	117	42	63	40	262	295	118	69	128	610
Passed	62	34	49	27	172	152	66	34	59	311
Per cent. ...	53	81	78	67	66	52	56	49	46	51

137. The total presented amounted to 872, the total who passed was 483, a percentage of 55. All that can be said with regard to the results is that they show improvement on those of the preceding year.

Board of Education and Revision of Code.

138. The Board of Education has recommended a few further changes in the Code, most of which met with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council, and came into operation in the last month of the year. Amongst these may be mentioned the following:—Provision has been made by Article 38*a* for the settlement of doubts or disputes as to payment of grants, and by Article 113*a* for a grant for the upkeep of tools and materials in schools where advanced manual training is taught, while the scale of marks (Article 28) has been revised in order to raise the marks for Drawing and Manual Occupations. In view of the fact that instruction in these last two subjects has now been given for some years in the Training Colleges, and has been available for teachers at the Manual Training School in Kingston, the Board of Education has considered that the time has come when the requirements of the Code in these subjects should be more strictly enforced, and, at its instance, the Superintending Inspector of Schools has issued a Circular, setting forth in what directions persevering work is now

expected. In addition to Kingston, advanced manual training work is now taught in rooms specially fitted up for the purpose at Port Antonio, Falmouth, Mandeville, and Porus.

139. Three new "Government" Elementary Schools have been recommended for, and have received the approval of, the Governor in Privy Council. The Board has also recommended the closing of four schools and the transforming of two existing schools into Government Schools, while it advised against the proposed amalgamation of two other schools. All of these recommendations have been duly approved by the Governor. The Board also advised the retention on the Annual Grant List of eight schools submitted for its consideration. In five of these cases I approved of the recommendation of the Board, but I considered it necessary to strike the other three off the list.

Manual Training School, Kingston.

140. This school, which consists of a department for boys and an infant department, has continued to do useful work. The Head Master also conducts classes for teachers in drawing and wood-work, and a wood-work class for scholars from other schools in Kingston. The Mistress of the infant school also trains teachers in kindergarten work.

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

141. The average number of boys on the books continued to increase, being for the three terms 38, as compared with 34 for the previous year. The report of the examiner, one of the Inspectors of Schools, was considered satisfactory. A good school library was purchased during the year.

Other Schools.

142. In addition to the above-mentioned schools and, in the preceding section, Training Colleges, there are numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. A list of these is contained in the Blue Book.

Scholarships.

143. The Scholarships provided by Law No. 23 of 1901, viz., one of £200, one of £60, and six of £10 (three for boys and three for girls), have all been awarded on the results of the Cambridge Local Examination held in December, 1902. The former, which was founded by Sir A. Musgrave, over twenty years ago, under the name of the Jamaica Scholarship, and which is the chief prize in the Jamaica scholastic world, was on this occasion won for the first time by a girl, Miss G. C. Pearman. There are also fourteen £10 Scholarships, provided for pupils in Elementary Schools, thirteen of which were awarded during the course of the year.

(B.) Secondary Education.

144. A table (No. V.) is appended showing the number of scholars in the Secondary and other Endowed Schools of the Island, which are under the regulation of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and the results obtained at the Cambridge Local Examination during the year.

145. The work of these schools is tested annually under the Cambridge Local Examination Scheme. Altogether 155 students sat for the examination in December, 1902, and 128 passed, 44 in Honours. This record is creditable, and particularly so in the cases of the Jamaica College, Wolmer's School for boys and girls, and the Schools of the Munro and Dickenson Trust at Potsdam and Hampton.

146. The Jamaica College continues to provide facilities for local study for Degrees in Arts and Science at the London University, and for the practical training of scholars in Agricultural Science at the Government Botanic Garden and Agricultural Experiment Station adjoining the College premises. Mr. J. H. Roberts, M.A. of Oxford, and B.Sc. of the Welsh University, has been appointed Second Master. Mr. Roberts takes a Class in Science in the Government Teaching Laboratory, attended by Government Laboratory Agricultural Students and the members of some of the Classes in the College. This class is opened to students from other schools in the neighbourhood and was attended by two girls from Wolmer's School. Mr. Roberts also takes classes in a laboratory in the College fitted up mainly for the teaching of Physics. The College has also secured an Assistant Master, which now permits of the instruction of pupils in instrumental music (piano and violin).

147. Of six senior candidates for the Cambridge Local Examination, three were placed in the First Class, one in the Third, and the other two satisfied the Examiners. Of 15 junior candidates, 14 passed, one in the First, and three in the Second Division of the First Class, two in the Second, and four in the Third Class Honours, whilst four satisfied the Examiners. Of ten preliminary candidates, only five passed, one in the First and two in the Third Class in Honours, and two others satisfied the Examiners. One boy obtained five marks of distinction, and 11 more were gained by other boys in the College.

148. At Wolmer's School for Girls two candidates entered for the Cambridge Higher Local Examination in June, 1902, one took Languages, English Literature, History, and obtained a full Honours Certificate. A gratuity was awarded to her by the University of Cambridge. The other candidate took the groups Languages, English Literature, and History, and obtained a Pass Certificate. Candidates were presented for

Divisions I., II., and IV. of the Royal Drawing Society's Examinations, and obtained "a good result," as the Society's remark upon the work.

149. The Titchfield School aims at providing education of a "commercial" rather than of a "classical" character, its curriculum including Manual and Agricultural Training, Shorthand, and Typewriting.

The Manual Training is a special feature of the school. This branch was opened in the early part of the year under a trained instructor, and about 24 pupils received instruction with very satisfactory results.

150. The results of the Examination of the University of London during the year have been as follows:—Four candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination held in June, 1902; one passed next to the tenth in the original Honours List, and two in the First Division; one of the latter was a private student, and the other two who passed were scholars from the Jamaica College. One candidate sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts in July, 1902, but did not pass.

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

151. The scholars numbered 37, as against 34 in the previous year.

152. In addition to the above-mentioned schools and colleges, there are the Mico, Shortwood, St. Joseph's, and Bethlehem Training Colleges for Teachers, which are aided by Government grants, the Manual Training School, Kingston, and numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. A list of these schools is contained in the Blue Book return on Education.

(C.) Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

Stony Hill Reformatory for Boys and Girls and Industrial School for Boys.

153. The numbers, admissions during the year, &c., were as follows:—

—	Number on 1st April, 1902.	Number of Admissions.	Number of Discharges.	Number of Deaths.	Number on 31st March, 1903.
Reformatory boys	96	27	25	—	98
Industrial school boys ...	43	5	14	—	34
Total boys ...	139	32	39	—	132
Reformatory girls	20	3	2	—	21
Grand total ...	159	35	41	—	153

All the girls and the majority of the boys were between the ages of 12 and 16 years, 21 of the latter being between nine and twelve years and one (Industrial School) boy being under nine years of age.

154. The boys are employed under qualified tradesmen in carpentering, smiths' work, tailoring, masons' work, bricklaying, cooking and baking, and in garden and field cultivation. The girls wash all the clothing and bedding of the Institution, make clothing and clean their own premises. Owing to the decreasing number of boys, the assistant carpenter's services were dispensed with in the early part of the year, as also those of the assistant schoolmaster.

Two lads, one of whom had served six years in the Industrial School and the other had gained a Trades Scholarship, were apprenticed during the year to the Institution and have been doing good work in the carpenter's shop. The boys did work valued at £1,046 14*s.* 11*d.*, of which £449 7*s.* 11*d.* was paid for in cash by customers for their labour and produce, and the balance £597 7*s.* was the value of repairs and other work done for the Institution and of produce consumed there. The girls did work valued at £208 9*s.* 4*d.*, earning £1 12*s.* 7*d.* in cash. The value of the total work done by both boys and girls was thus £1,255 4*s.* 3*d.*, of which £449 7*s.* 11*d.* was earned in cash, thus reducing the cost of the Institution, which was £2,862 0*s.* 1*d.*, to £2,412 12*s.* 2*d.* From this latter sum may also fairly be deducted £17 18*s.*, the value of the boys' labour outside of the Institution at King's House, leaving the nett cost at £2,394 14*s.* 2*d.* A sum of £541 7*s.* 4*d.* was charged to and received from parochial funds in respect of the cost of Industrial School children, but this of course does not reduce the cost of the Institution. The daily average number of inmates in the year was 155, in the preceding year it was 164. The gross cost was 12·01*d.* and 11·89*d.* per diem respectively, and the cost of diet was 3·01*d.* and 2·99*d.* per diem respectively. There were no deaths and no very serious cases of illness, and the sanitary condition of the Institution is reported to have been excellent.

155. As in the previous year, special attention was paid to the curing of coffee and cocoa, and their shipment to England, which had resulted in better prices being obtained than if the articles had been sold locally. Of the former 35 cwt. and of the latter 3 cwt. were shipped in the latter part of the year under review and equally satisfactory results are again expected.

Other Industrial Schools.

156. The following summary shows the principal particulars regarding the other Industrial Schools of the Colony during the last financial year, as compared with the preceding year.

Principal Particulars regarding Other Industrial Schools.

—	Hope.	Shortwood.		Alpha Cottage.		Belmont.
	Under control of					
—	Government, with Board of Visitors (advisory).	Government, with Board of Visitors (advisory).		Roman Catholic Church.		Church of England.
Inmates:—	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Boys.	Girls.	Girls.
31st March, 1902	39	29	—	33	26	13
31st March, 1903	34	29	3	37	29	13
Health	Good	Good		Good		No special Report.

157. The usual routine work at the several Institutions has been maintained during the year, the boys for the most part being employed in field work and other outdoor labour, the girls being engaged in cooking, sewing, jippi-jappa hat making, general servant work, and laundry work. At Hope an effort is now made to keep in touch with the discharged boys. Shortwood School for Girls was during the year also certified as an Industrial Schoool for boys under eight years of age, of which latter, as will be seen, there were three at the close of the year.

158. Good reports are given of Hope and Alpha Cottage Schools by the Inspectors of Schools who examined them, the latter schools gaining first-class marks. The girls at Belmont and Shortwood attend the Elementary Schools immediately adjoining or near to them.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

(1.) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

159. The Public Medical and Hospital Service of the Island is under the direction of Deputy Surgeon-General (retired), C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer.

160. The principal Government Medical Institution is the Public Hospital at Kingston. The Medical Staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer and two Resident Officers, with two

Supernumerary Medical Officers attached for duty, who are available for outside duty in cases of emergency. The number of the cases treated (3,454) in this hospital during the year 1902-1903 was 275 less than in the year 1901-02, although the daily average number of beds in occupation was 208 as against 207. Applications for admission to the number of 3,588 had to be refused for want of room, 7,872 persons were assisted as out-patients, the cases being divided into 926 out-patients with tickets from the Inspector of Poor and 6,946 casualties. There were 225 deaths compared with 241 in the preceding year, giving a death rate of 6·51 per cent. as against 6·46 per cent. of the cases in 1901-02. This mortality rate shows a very favourable record, considering that 58 or one-fourth of the total deaths occurred within 72 hours after admission. There were performed 1,268 operations followed by 25 deaths, a death rate of only 1·1 per cent., which evidences the skill of the surgeons and the excellence of the nursing service. The cost of the Institution is shown hereafter.

Principal Diseases Treated.

161. The most noteworthy diseases treated were as under—

—	Cases.	Deaths.
Malarial Fever ...	507	18
Venereal Diseases ...	258	3
Tubercle	69	21
Enteric Fever... ...	46	13

It is noticeable that owing to the diminished rain-fall during the year the admissions for malarial fever were less than one-half the number received in the previous year. The freedom from disease contracted within the Institution testifies to the continance of the high sanitary standard which has hitherto been a special feature in its life, and the results gained in the Institution continue to deserve appreciative public acknowledgment.

(2.) *Maternity Hospital, Kingston.*

162. The Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital is conducted by a matron with assistants and pupil-nurses attached for training. The Medical Officer is also Surgeon to the General Penitentiary.

163. The admissions during the year numbered 651 as against 785 in the previous year, which, however, was a record number, being 302 in excess of that for the preceding year. The resources of the hospital were frequently severely taxed, and the good sanitary repute of the Institution was upheld solely by the exercise of the most intelligent supervision and ceaseless attention on the part of the matron and her assistants. The small adult mortality, eleven, or only 1·6 per cent., was principally due

to Eclampsia in women received in a hopeless condition. There was no death from septic infection. 55 infants died. The gross expenditure was £1,201, the nett expenditure, after deducting receipts, being £963, the average daily number of inmates was 31 (including 11 pupil-nurses), the annual cost per inmate was £31 1*s.* 7*d.* and the average total cost of each case (including pupil-nurses) was £1 8*s.*

164. The nursing school, the "raison d'etre" of this Institution, continued its good work and the number of applicants was far in excess of the pupil accommodation. Many of the certificated nurses who have passed through the school have by meritorious work in different parts of the Island as midwives and general nurses given testimony to the excellent training they have received. In every way this is an admirably conducted hospital.

(3.) *Public General Hospitals.*

165. In addition to the Public Hospital at Kingston there are 19 Public General Hospitals in various districts of the Island under the charge of the District Medical Officers. During the year 1902-03, 9,131 persons classified as below were treated in these hospitals. The figures for the year before are also given for comparison.

—	1902–03.	1901–02.
Ordinary cases (free)	4,247	4,146
Indian immigrants	4,216	5,798
Paupers	44	154
Paying patients	173	162
Constables	446	576
Prisoners	5	6
Total	9,131	10,842

166. There were 275 deaths in these hospitals, a rate of 3·02 per cent. The operations performed numbered 1,771, in 25 of which death ensued. This shows a mortality rate of 1·4 per cent. The outdoor patients attended in the last two years was as below.

—	1902–03.	1901–02.
Constables	1,928	1,931
Prisoners	1,327	2,785
Paupers	16,460	13,341
Indentured immigrants	1,691	1,439
Parochial Midwifery cases (paid for from Parochial Funds).	93	86
Total	21,499	19,582

Principal Diseases Treated.

167. The most prevalent diseases treated in these hospitals were malarial fevers, 2,763 cases (1,787 less than the previous year); skin diseases, 1,027; diseases of the digestive system, 485; generative, 442; rheumatic, 399; respiratory, 315; diseases of cellular tissue, 298; and syphilis 275. As regards this last mentioned disease, it is satisfactory to note that although some very grave cases were treated in hospital the number of cases was decidedly less than in previous years and their condition on admission less severe. Enteric fever was responsible for 66 cases and 11 deaths, equal to a rate of 16·7 per cent.

168. It has not been found possible to permit the hospitals to resume full working strength, economy having had to be exercised in this as in other directions, and the medical officers have at times had to refuse applicants for admission lest the regulated numbers should be exceeded. It is well to mention, however, that in extreme or serious cases the medical officer is authorised to exceed the specified number. As usual the indentured Indian immigrants constituted a large proportion of the hospital admissions, but it is satisfactory to note that they were less by 1,582 or 27 per cent. than in the previous year. The most frequented hospitals were those at Annotto Bay (1,866), Port Antonio (1,180), Port Maria (1,001), Lionel Town (930), Spanish Town (652), and Buff Bay (561). The high numbers in all of these (except, perhaps, Spanish Town) were greatly swelled by Indian immigrants. Of late many cases of Ankylostomiasis have been encountered among the coolies, and it has been made clear that the disease has been introduced with the coolies from India. The coolies thus affected, unless submitted to active and early treatment, rapidly deteriorate in health and become unequal to agricultural labour.

169. As was stated in last year's report, the value of the work done by these hospitals in relieving suffering and in checking the spread of disease is very great, and would be far greater were cases sent in to them in earlier stages of illness. The treatment in them of skin diseases and ulcers, to which the West Indian peasantry are very subject, and which yield readily to early attention, but which if neglected cripple the patients, is in the opinion of old and experienced observers in Jamaica showing a marked impression on the prevalence of these affections. The general excellence of the administration of these Institutions bears testimony to the good work of the officers immediately responsible and their effectual supervision by the Superintending Medical Officer.

(B.) Asylums.

(1.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

170. The staff consists of one Medical Superintendent and two Assistant Medical Officers.

171. There were 863 patients in the Lunatic Asylum at the beginning of the year, and 959 at its close—475 males and 484 females. 118 males and 108 females were admitted during the year, making 1,089 patients under treatment, or 39 more than last year. 76 patients were discharged and 54 died. The nett expenditure on the Institution was £14,511, the daily average number of patients 915, the average annual cost of each patient was £15 17*s.* 3*d.*, and the average daily cost 10·43*d.* The increase in numbers is due only in part to increased admissions, largely to a diminished death rate and fewer recoveries. It was found possible during the year to give some relief to the overcrowded male ward by fitting up a small ward of the new buildings which had been awaiting completion.

(C.) Medical Department.

Cost.

174. The following table shows the expenditure on the various Medical Services and the nett cost to the Island (exclusive of the upkeep of buildings):—

Head of Service.	Gross Cost.	Amount of Dues paid into Treasury.	Nett Cost.
	£	£	£
Head Office	5,166	236	4,930
District and Supernumerary Medical Officers (salaries).	6,889	281	6,889
Public General Hospitals	8,050	—	7,769
Government Dispensary	138	157	19*
Attendance on Immigrants (Fees to Medical Officers).	390	—	390
Yaws Fees (to Medical Officers)	103	—	103
Vaccination Fees (to Medical Officers) ...	1,561	—	1,561
Drugs and Poisons Law	15	—	15
Quarantine	492	—	492
Central Board of Health	36	—	36
Medical Council...	—	—	—
Medical Officer, General Penitentiary ...	250	—	250
Health Officer, Port Royal	450	—	450
Lepers' Home	2,144	—	2,144
Public Hospital, Kingston	7,785	347	7,438
Lunatic Asylum	15,040	518	14,522
Maternity Hospital	1,201	237	964
Total	49,710	1,776	47,934

* The profit here shown is only apparent. To the cost there should be added £107 for drugs supplied, included in the Head Office; the nett cost is therefore £88.

175. It may be mentioned that the services, payment for which is included in the salaries of the District Medical Officers, include attendance on the constabulary and paupers in their Districts in addition to hospital work, if any, and, on occasion, advice to Parochial Boards. There were on the 31st March, 1903, 35 District Medical Officers, seven of whom had had more than 20 years' service, one of them even 25 years.

Miscellaneous Medical Services.

176. Tickets under the system for affording medical aid to poor persons not on the pauper rolls were issued to the number of 5,867 at 1*s.*, 3,043 at 2*s.*, and 14 at 3*s.*; of the two former, 5,864 and 2,868 were in Kingston. The number of Dispensary pupils at the Kingston Public Hospital at the close of the year was 14. Two general examinations under the Drugs and Poisons Law were held in Kingston, at which 37 candidates presented themselves and were granted licenses to dispense. There were 26,596 successful vaccinations during the year, 12,125 more than in the previous 12 months.

Quarantine.

177. The Proclamations declaring the several ports of the Republic of Brazil, certain portions of the Carribean coast of Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Colon to be infected places within the meaning of the Quarantine Law continued in force during the year. The quarantine methods hitherto pursued in this Island have at times been subjected to adverse criticism by the shipping community, but however desirable it might be to adopt the system in vogue in Great Britain, the Superintending Medical Officer considered that machinery does not exist in Jamaica for the conduct of quarantine on the latter system, nor do all the circumstances surrounding the majority of the inhabitants lend themselves to such a system. It is, however, in contemplation to hold a Conference of representatives from the different British West Indian Islands, in order to pave the way for an introduction of methods more uniform and, if possible, imposing less stringency on the commercial communities.

(2.) *Lepers' Home.*

172. The Medical Superintendent of the Lepers' Home is also Surgeon to the Spanish Town Public Hospital.

173. The number in the Home at the beginning of the year was 112, the admissions were 19 (three re-admissions), two were discharged, two absconded, and 17 died, leaving 110 at the end of the year. The Medical Superintendent reports that the records still continue to show a favourable decrease of leprosy

in Jamaica. The death-rate was 13 per cent.; the average longevity of leper life in the asylum of those who died was: Anæsthetic, 21 years, 2 months; Tubercular, 6 years, 9 months. Of the 17 deaths, 6 were accelerated by Bright's disease of the kidneys. The chief intercurrent diseases treated were ulcers and diseases of the digestive system. As was observed in last year's Report, the excellent record of this Institution has been well maintained during the year. The Medical Superintendent reports well of the conduct of the patients, and acknowledges the continued kindness and assistance of visitors and clergy. The cultivation of the land taken in a few years ago continues to be of interest and profit to the inmates.

(D.) Poor Houses and Poor Relief.

Administration of Poor Law.

178. Poor Relief in this Island is administered by the various Parochial Boards under the general control of a Board of Supervision. It is based on the principle that any destitute person unable to work and earn the means of subsistence is entitled to relief. The giving of relief is in the hands of the Parochial Boards, with a right of appeal, in cases of refusal of or inadequate relief, to the Board of Supervision.

179. Tables VII. and VIII. annexed furnish particulars of the number of persons maintained or relieved out of the Poor Rates, and of the same amount expended for maintenance of those purposes in the different parishes in the year under review, and, as regards the Island, in the last four years.

Lunatics and Industrial School Children.

180. It will be seen that the statistics as to numbers and expenditure discriminate between relief given in the parishes to the ordinary outdoor and indoor poor and relief afforded outside of the parishes in Industrial Schools and in the Lunatic Asylum, both of which are Government Institutions. The former class of relief is in the hands of Parochial Boards, and responds to good administration, while the latter is practically beyond the control of the Boards, being, with few exceptions, charges imposed upon the rates by the Magistracy, by whom committals to the Industrial Schools and the Lunatic Asylum are ordered under the laws dealing with the matter.

181. It is satisfactory to note that the number of indoor and outdoor poor at the end of 1902-3, which was 4,919, shows a decrease of 79, as compared with that at the beginning of the year. This represents a decrease in the percentage of paupers to the population of 0·01, but this is balanced by an increase of the same amount in the percentage of Industrial

School children and lunatics combined, so that the percentage of the total remains the same.

Decrease of Pauperism.

182. The decrease in the pauperism of the parishes occurs chiefly in the following, viz.:—St. Thomas (32), St. Mary (41), Trelawny (12), Hanover (52), Manchester (15), Clarendon (11), and St. Catherine (10); on the other hand, there are increases in Kingston (23), St. Andrew (21), Westmoreland (12), and St. Elizabeth (22), showing, as already stated, a net decrease of 79 in the year. The Board of Supervision express the hope that, with the return of further prosperity to the Island, the number may still further decrease, if not actually at least relatively to the population.

Expenditure.

183. The expenditure in the parishes was £25,742, practically the same as that (£25,259) in the previous year, the decrease in numbers, which represents the position at the close of the year, not yet affecting the result in expenditure. The total charge per head of population for all kinds of relief within and without the control of the Parochial Boards remains the same, viz., 1*s.* 1*d.*

184. The table giving details in respect of the several parishes shows, as usual, considerable differences in the ratio of paupers and expenditure to population. The percentage of paupers to population varies from 0·19 in St. Mary to 2·19 in Kingston. The former parish is, or was before the disastrous cyclone which, at the moment of writing, has just occurred, one of the greatest banana-producing parishes of the Island, and in addition possesses a well-regulated poorhouse.

(E.) Savings Bank.

Increase of the Balance at Deposit.

185. The Government Savings Bank had at credit of depositors on the 31st March, 1903, £435,833 12*s.* 1*d.*, and held on account of this liability £420,849 10*s.* 7*d.* in investments and £14,984 1*s.* 6*d.* in cash. The balance of deposits had increased during the year by £11,185 5*s.* 11*d.*, being the amount by which the total deposits (including interest), £222,433 10*s.* 11*d.*, had exceeded the withdrawals, £209,406 2*s.* 1*d.*, plus a sum of £1,842 2*s.* 11*d.* withdrawn from credit of old accounts and transferred to General Revenue, as hereinafter referred to.

186. The following table shows the divisions of these transactions between official and private accounts, and the comparative figures of the four preceding years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts.	Deposits, including Interest.		Withdrawals.	
		Government.	Ordinary.	Government.	Ordinary.
		£	£	£	£
1898–99 ...	31,870	47,084	189,480	29,345	183,344
1899–1900	32,880	34,303	195,141	59,9[illegible]	194,744
1900–01 ...	33,659	42,420	177,964	40,041	198,135
1901–02 ...	34,537	44,519	162,245	49,769	183,213
1902–03 ...	32,569	42,702	179,731	45,284	164,123

187. The total number of accounts shows a fall as compared with the previous year, and now stands at about the number shown in 1899-1900, but the total amount deposited on ordinary accounts shows an increase over the preceding year of £17,486, while the total amount, similarly withdrawn, shows a decrease of £19,090, thus showing, as compared with 1901-2, an increase of nett savings amounting to £36,576. The nett increase to ordinary depositors' accounts in the year under review, as shown by the excess of deposits over withdrawals, amounted to £15,608. As adverse circumstances manifest themselves by a decrease in ordinary deposits and an increase in ordinary withdrawals, the foregoing figures are satisfactory, and give indication of that tendency to returning prosperity which is disclosed by the other returns commented upon in this Report.

188. The disposition of the deposits and withdrawals among the various parishes is shown in the following table:—

Parish.	Deposits, including Interest.	With-drawals.	Gain.	Loss.
	£	£	£	£
Kingston	101,028	87,668	13,360	—
St. Andrew	845	892	—	47
St. Thomas	4,173	3,921	252	—
Portland	10,124	8,393	1,731	—
St. Mary	7,946	6,900	1,046	—
St. Ann	4,393	5,829	—	1,436
Trelawny	4,784	4,026	758	—
St. James	9,731	8,530	1,201	—
Hanover	2,974	6,708	—	3,734
Westmoreland	5,969	7,440	—	1 71
St. Elizabeth...	2,547	2,805	—	258
Manchester	7,308	6,055	1,253	—
Clarendon	6,277	7,010	—	733
St. Catherine	11,631	7,944	3,687	—
Total	179,770	164,121	23,288	7,679

Old Accounts.

189. Under the provisions of the Savings Bank Unclaimed Deposits Law No. 2 of 1902, a sum of £1,842 2*s.* 11*d.*, representing deposits on which no transactions had taken place within a period of 14 years, was transferred to the credit of General Revenue Account, to remain in the Public Treasury for three years, subject to duly substantiated claims, invited by advertisement in terms of the law. Should no such claims be received, the deposits, which mostly consist of amounts of a few shillings each, will become part of the assets of the Island. The names and amounts were first advertised towards the end of the year, and a large number of applications have since been received. The nett amount to be gained by General Revenue will, therefore, probably not be large, but the operations will have the effect of clearing the Savings Bank books of large numbers of "dead" accounts.

Source of Profit to Colonial Government.

190. The Savings Bank is directly profitable to the Colonial Government, the excess of interest on investments, £16,237, over interest paid to depositors, £9,877, and all costs of management, £2,703, amounting in the year under review to £3,657. The average amount so received for the 33 years of the Bank's existence has been over £1,000 per annum.

VI.—CRIME, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Police Statistics.

191. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates by the police was 28,223, comparing with 27,399 in 1901-2 and 25,661 in 1900-1. The total number of convictions in the Circuit Courts was 127, comparing with 128 in 1901-2, and in the Resident Magistrates' Courts, 3,801, comparing with 4,166; a total of 3,928, as against 4,294 in the Superior Courts. The summary convictions before magistrates in Petty Sessions were 12,669, against 12,319 in the previous year. Of the summary convictions, 2,373 were for offences against the person (1,904 the previous year), 519, compared with 621, for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and the remainder (9,777) for other offences, principally disorderly conduct, obscene and abusive language, cruelty to animals, trespass and offences against Highway Laws.

192. Of the convictions in the Circuit Courts and Resident Magistrates' Courts, 463 were for offences against the person, as against 276 in the previous year; 651 for prædial larcency, as against 1,137 the year before; 1,177 for other offences against property, comparing with 1,299; and 1,637, against 1,382, for other offences.

Serious Crime.

193. There were two convictions for murder, but in neither case was capital punishment carried out. In one of these cases the condemned man was sent to the Lunatic Asylum, and in the other the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. There was in addition one case of murder of an old man in Clarendon and one of infanticide in St. James' where the perpetrators were not discovered.

194. In the early part of the year a detachment of police under the command of the Inspector-General had to be despatched to St. James' on the occasion of the riots in the town of Montego Bay. These riots formed the subject of a special Commission which furnished the Government with an exhaustive report concerning them, including the conduct of the police, who received commendation for their action. Briefly, they may be stated to have been police riots in that they brought to a head a long standing feud of a rowdy element in the town and neighbourhood with the police, to which there may have been added a feeling of unrest caused by misapprehensions as to the effect of a proposed change in certain forms of direct taxation. In this matter the assistance of the Naval and Military Authorities was also invoked, and H.M.S. "Tribune" and a detachment of the West India Regiment were also despatched to Montego Bay, where their prompt arrival on the scene doubtless prevented a recurrence of disorder. The services of these branches of His Majesty's Forces duly received the thanks of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and of this Government. Forty-two persons were shortly after convicted in connection with these riots and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

195. A body of police had also to be sent to Portland to protect the Bailiff of the Resident Magistrate's Court, in ejecting certain parties from lands in the Buff Bay District, a duty which was performed without serious trouble.

Prædial Larceny.

196. It is satisfactory to note that as regards the crime of prædial larceny, which forms such a blot on the reputation of the people of Jamaica, the Inspectors of Police are able generally to report considerable improvement. As already stated, convictions fell from 1,137 in the previous year to 651 in the year

under review, a decrease of 486, while the decrease in arrests was 660. Various reasons are given for this, and the police officers in the several districts differ considerably in their opinion as to the cause. The better condition of the peasantry, increased severity on the part of the Resident Magistrates in punishing for the offence, greater activity on the part of the rural police, more plentiful employment on the estates, are among the various explanations offered. It is regrettable, however, that in St. Mary, where no one need steal through want, there is some increase in the number of cases—probably this is attributable to the fact that with bananas all round and about them more temptation is offered to the evil-disposed.

Vagrancy.

197. From the reports of several of the Inspectors of Police, it appears that the new Vagrancy Law, No. 12 of 1902, is working very well and has proved a most useful and beneficial measure, enabling the police to deal with a class of characters about whom there was formerly some difficulty. In consequence, the cases in the whole Island increased by 186 over the number in the previous year, the city of Kingston accounting for 119 of these. By the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a special report on the working of this Law is shortly to be made by the Inspector-General of Police.

Country Fires.

198. The provisions of another law passed in the year 1902, viz., the "Country Fires Law" No. 17 of 1902, are expected by the Inspector-General to prove of considerable benefit to the country, after the terms of the law have sunk well into the minds of the peasantry, in preventing the destruction of property by the careless use of "bush-fires."

Habitual Criminals.

199. There were 1,967 habitual criminals under police surveillance on the 31st March, 1903, being 24 more than on the 31st March, 1902. Of this class of persons, 807 were sent to the Penitentiary during the year under review and 787 were discharged from the Penitentiary. Those persons simply under surveillance are not compelled to report themselves to the police, who on the contrary have to search for them. There were in addition 129 other criminals, viz., 17 ticket of leave convicts and 112 habitual criminals under "supervision," who were compelled to report themselves periodically to the police, making a total of 2,096 criminals whom the police had specially to look after.

As stated in last year's Report, the Inspector-General is of opinion that an increase of police "supervision" with even a

decrease in the lengths of imprisonment would prove more effective in decreasing crime. The Inspector-General anticipates that Law 8 of 1903, which effects an amendment in the Obeah Law, should have a good effect in this direction, as it empowers Resident Magistrates to award police "supervision" in such cases.

Chemical Analysis in Police Cases.

200. The Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist to whose agricultural work reference has already been made in the section of this report relating to agriculture, dealt with 125 samples submitted to him for analysis by the police. These came under the following heads:—

Human viscera	10
Substances for poison	29
Clotting for blood	7
Petroleum law	1
Counterfeit coins and apparatus	72
Beeswax	6

He also analysed 74 subjects for the Customs and two for the Post Office Department. He states that experience supports the view that opiates and rat poison are practically the only poisons sucessfully employed for felonious purposes in Jamaica. This opinion does not therefore support the view at one time held that in cases of Obeah poisoning vegetable poison obtained from little known plants of the country were freely made use of, unless indeed the explanation be that their evanescent character leaves no trace that can be detected at any interval after death. The conclusion drawn by the Chemist is, however, probably correct. With regard to counterfeit coins, he states that the most dangerous ones were made from South American dollars, with an addition of tin and silvered on the surface. A local industry, confined however entirely to Kingston, in adulterated bees-wax, the foreign substances being wheaten flour and corn-meal, flourished for a time during the year. With the aid of the police and the Chemist this has, it is hoped, been stamped out. The Island Chemist's Certificates Law of 1902 has saved time and money by rendering attendance of the Chemist unnecessary at preliminary examinations.

Strength of the Police Force.

201. The allowed strength of the regular constabulary during the year was again 775, 17 officers, 137 sub-officers and 621 constables; at the close of the year the force was 13 below this strength. In addition there were 812 district constables, giving in all an effective police establishment of 1,574 of all ranks.

The new district constables are again reported on satisfactorily by the Inspector-General, who has lately issued for their guidance a special Book of Rules and Regulations. Law 28 of 1903, exempting each district constable from the tax on one horse that is always available to and used by him in the performance of his public duties, will, it is expected, materially add to the work of this most useful auxiliary to the regular constabulary. The Inspector-General again urges the increase of the Police Force. His wishes in this direction have been partially met by the approval as from the beginning of the present financial year of an increase of eleven mounted policemen for Kingston, and the increase by fifty of the number of sub-officers and men in the country parishes, who are each granted a forage allowance in aid of the keep of a pony, which, when occasion requires, is used in the performance of police duty. The mobility and usefulness of the force are thus much increased, and I have since the beginning of the current year authorised a still further increase in this direction up to the full number (80) for which additional provision had been made in the estimates. The Inspector-General's proposals for further increase of the force will continue to receive my attention, but in this connection I may here state my conviction, one shared by others well able to judge, that the effect of the excellent conduct of the police on the occasion of the Montego Bay Riots above alluded to was alone equivalent to an increase of many men to the force, without the opportunity thus afforded to them of showing their worth in times of trouble. With increase of population and of activity in various branches of trade it is of course to be expected that the work of the police will increase, in instance of which it may be mentioned that in carrying out the general patrol and other services performed they travelled 767,269 miles in 1902-03, against 720,445 in 1901-02 and 671,848 in 1900-01.

Prisons.

202. The prisons of the Island are under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police and Prisons. They consist of the General Penitentiary for prisoners whose term of sentence is one year or more, and the St. Catherine District Prison for short term prisoners and persons awaiting trial. Certain specified lock-ups are also prisons for the confinement of persons sentenced to terms of fourteen days or less.

Number of Prisoners.

203. The daily average number of prisoners in the General Penitentiary was 560, against 663 for the previous year. There were 528 prisoners in custody there on the 31st March, 1903, against 596 on the 31st March, 1902. The daily average of prisoners in the St. Catherine District Prison was 502, against

527 in the previous year; the number in custody there on the 31st March, 1903, was 539, against 514. Altogether there were 1,067 prisoners at the close of the year, against 1,110 at the beginning, a decrease of 43.

Number of Committals.

204. The committals to the General Penitentiary during the year were 946, as against 1,259 in 1901-2; to the St. Catherine District Prison, 2,518, against 2,825 in the previous year. There was thus a total decrease of 620 in the committals to these prisons as compared with the previous year. 1,076 persons were committed to local lock-ups for terms of imprisonment of 14 days and under, as against 1,003 in the previous year.

The grand total of committals in 1902-3 was therefore 4,540, or 547 less than in 1901-2.

Deaths.

205. The deaths in the General Penitentiary were 16, against 30, and in the St. Catherine District Prison, 18, against 36 in the previous year. There were no executions of capital punishment. The sanitary state of the prisons is reported to have been satisfactory.

Expenditure and Earnings.—Employment of Prisoners.

206. The gross expenditure and cash earnings, &c., were as under:—

—	General Penitentiary. Average Daily No.: 560.		St. Catherine District Prisons. Average Daily No.: 502.	
	£	s.	£	s.
Gross Expenditure	12,124	0	6,121	0
Cash Earnings	3,620	0	482	0
Nett Total Cost to General Revenue ...	8,504	0	5,639	0
Nett Cost per Prisoner per Annum	15	2	11	2
Total Estimated Value of Labour not Paid for	2,045	0	4,032	0

The prisoners were employed at both prisons as carpenters, coopers, tinsmiths, wheelwrights, masons, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, matmakers, brickmakers, upholsterers, painters, printers, bakers, cooks, quarriers, lime-burners, and stone-breakers, and at the St. Catherine District Prison also in cultivating land, as specially referred to hereafter. Among the other work performed by labour not paid for, may be mentioned

the washing done by the General Penitentiary for the Kingston Public Hospital to the value of £495, and in the St. Catherine District Prison the completion by the prisoners of new offices and storehouses and of two cottages for European Warders, and the quarrying of stones for the Public Works Department to the value of £522.

Prison Farm.

207. A prison farm has been established at the St. Catherine District Prison on 60 acres of land purchased from St. Jago Park for the purpose.

208. The land was only acquired in September, 1902, and had to be cleared and laid out before planting. The following are the figures of the Balance Sheet at the 31st of March, 1903, extracted from the Prison Farm Ledger:—

—	Cr.			Dr.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tools	—			29	17	7
Mules	—			32	11	0
Imprests	17	3	1	—		
Agricultural Supervision	—			17	3	1
General Revenue	37	4	1	—		
Public Buildings Loan...	1,823	12	3	—		
Capital	—			1,800	10	3
Profit and Loss	2	2	6	—		
Total	1,880	1	11	1,880	1	11

From this it will be seen that the operations at the farm showed a small balance of profit (£2 2*s.* 6*d.*) after paying all working expenses and interest on the capital spent. There were at the same date on the ground, crops estimated at the value of £125 and wood cut to the value of £105. The value of the crops was increasing daily, and there was a large amount of wood yet uncut on the property. In this account the value of the labour employed has been charged up at the rate of 3*d.* per day per labourer. Experiments are being made in the cultivation of cassava, corn, beans, onions, other vegetables, rice, and cotton, from which very useful results are anticipated. The farm has been under the general direction of the Board of Agriculture, to whose Chairman, the Colonial Secretary, belongs the principal credit for its establishment and successful inauguration. In submitting, in departmental course, a report on this farm, Mr. Olivier stated that the results appeared to the Inspector-General and himself to be extremely satisfactory, and to promise a success to this undertaking fully equal to the expectations in reliance upon which they had urged its inception.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

209. The mean Island population for the year 1902-3, on which the marriage, birth, and death rates are calculated, is estimated by the Registrar-General at 778,102, and the population on the 31st March, 1903, at 785,434, a result obtained by taking the Census figures of 1891—639,491—and adding the subsequent annual natural increases. This increase for the year under review was 15,192, the largest on record. Males comprised 381,201 and females 404,233 persons. At the Census of April, 1891, the numbers were 305,948 and 333,543, so that the respective increases were 75,253 males and 70,690 females, thus tending, by the slight preponderance of males, to equalise the numbers of the sexes, the balance of which, the emigration to Colon, which covered the greater portion of the decade 1881-91, had disturbed by drawing away many thousands of men.

210. Returns of the labourers who left or arrived at Island ports show 3,257 departures and 3,212 arrivals, figures which almost balance, and consequently scarcely affect the results obtained by adding the natural excess for the year of births over deaths to form an estimate of the population. In the absence of a Census in 1901, steps have been taken to obtain from steamship agents monthly returns of inward and outward passengers. The particulars furnished will enable more accurate estimates of the increase of population to be obtained in future years.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

211. Marriages registered during the year numbered 3,601, an increase of 399 over the figures—3,202—for 1901-2. The respective proportions per 1,000 estimated population were 4·6 and 4·1. The average for the quinquennium ended 1902-3, was 4·46, for the previous quinquennium, 4·68. As might be expected, the years of least prosperity, taking the value of imports and exports as a criterion, were the years with the lowest proportion of marriages to population.

Births registered during the year numbered 30,605, giving a rate of 39·3 per 1,000, or slightly above the average for the decade.

Deaths registered were 15,413, or 19·8 per 1,000. This death-rate was the lightest during the decade.

212. Of the 30,605 births registered, 19,752, or 64·5 per cent., were illegitimate. Illegitimacy tends to increase and contributes greatly to the large infant mortality. Thus, while the proportion of deaths of all children under one year of age was 16·1 per cent., legitimates showed only 12·72 per cent., as compared with 18·10 per cent. for illegimates. Doubtless the fact

that persons of the comparatively well-to-do classes who are usually the more educated and careful get married, while comparatively poor and ignorant persons appear to prefer irregular sexual relations, largely accounts for this striking difference. A Commission is now enquiring into the working of the Marriage and Registration Laws, and the conditions leading to the prevalence of illegitimacy, and it is to be hoped the members will obtain data which will be helpful in the solution of this grave problem.

Cayman Islands.

213. It is pleasing, from the point of view of this Dependency, to contrast its conditions in the above-mentioned respect with those of Jamaica. Of 149 births in Grand Cayman, a rate of 29·4 per 1,000, 14·7 per cent. were illegitimate. There were 41 deaths, an annual rate of only 8·1. In the lesser Cayman Islands the total births were 36, only 3 being illegitimate, while the total number of deaths were 6. There were 46 marriages throughout the Cayman Islands, only one less in number than the deaths, which in proportion to the births—185—may be roughly reckoned as but 1 to 4.

(B.) General Health.

214. The death-rate for the year under review was 19·8 per 1,000, or 2·1 less than that of the previous year. This is a not unfavourable record, especially if it be borne in mind that the results giving the much higher rate, 26·1, for which the City of Kingston is responsible are included in the above rate for the Island.

215. No special prevalence of disease at any particular season has been reported, with the exception of a slight increase in malarial affections after rains, and the diseases encountered were generally of a mild type. As in previous years, the sick-rate was largely promoted by the improvident habits of the humbler classes, and the absence of attention to many of the simplest laws of hygiene. The Superintending Medical Officer expresses the hope that one effect of the recent change in taxation of property, which has afforded some relief to the small tenements, will be an improvement in the huts of the peasantry, with an increase of room space and ventilation, and a consequent improvement of their health. The most prevalent forms of disease were malarial fever, chiefly of a benign type; pulmonary and rheumatic affections, which in a climate such as this might be expected not to take much toll of the population; digestive disorders and skin complaints, which with greater attention to the laws of health may be expected in time to be reduced. The infantile death-rate maintains its high level, owing chiefly to bad nutrition, the people having learnt neither the need of milk nor the way to supply it. As was stated at greater length in last year's Report, there is

practically no characteristic general danger of health in Jamaica, except malarial fever, and even this is not regarded as a very serious matter. The following remarks may be reproduced:—"On the other hand, the general neglect of hygiene, in housing, ventilation, clothing, food, water, and cleanliness of surroundings, is such that in any less naturally favourable climate diseases would infallibly decimate the population. Dirt, ignorance, indolence, and incontinence are, it cannot be too often repeated, the chief sources of ill-health in Jamaica. For cleanly, intelligent, healthily-occupied persons it offers, conversely, exceedingly healthy conditions."

Small-pox.

216. Although, as stated, there was no general epidemic disease, there was in the latter part of the year under review an epidemic in Duan Vale, one of the out-lying districts of Trelawny. It was diagnosed here as modified small-pox of the ambulant variety, although several cases of chicken-pox were recognised at the same time and place. The segregation of all cases was thoroughly carried out both at an improvised isolation hospital and in some of the native huts where the disease first appeared. So thorough was the isolation, after the disease had been brought to notice, that it was confined to its original site, and was completely stamped out by the end of the year. Out of a total of 81 cases, 56 were returned as small-pox and 25 as chicken-pox, with three deaths among the former.

(C.) Climate.

217. Jamaica being a mountainous Island, with numerous ranges of hills rising in the extreme eastern portion to 7,423 feet in the Blue Mountain Peak, and averaging 2,000 to 3,000 feet in the central and western portions, has a considerable variety of climate. The temperature, of course, decreases everywhere with the elevation in Jamaica; this decrease has been found to be at much the same rate as in other countries, namely, about one degree for every 300 feet.

218. As regards the rainfall, the Island is divided in respect of the amount of fall into four divisions, and in respect of seasons of fall into two. In all four divisions the May and October rains, or "seasons" as they are locally termed, are strongly marked. In the north-eastern and northern divisions, which roughly embrace the northern half of the Island, extending, however, a little round to the south in the mountainous east and stretching not quite the whole of the Island's length to the west, there are, in addition, winter rains in December, January, and February. In the remainder of the Island, consisting of the west central and southern divisions, in addition to the usual "seasons" above referred to, there are, as a rule, summer rains in July and August. At times, in the drier months of the year, there are isolated localities where

no rain falls, but at the majority of places there is never a month without some rain. Kingston, the chief town, is one of the driest places, and Port Antonio, only about 30 miles distant, in a straight line, but with the Blue Mountain Range intervening, is one of the wettest, so far as actual fall goes. Visitors to the latter place, however, owing chiefly to the manner in which the rain falls there, do not experience the inconvenience from the showers that might, from the record, be expected.

In amount of fall the north-eastern division stands first, with isolated districts sparsely settled, where the total exceeds 200 inches. In such districts we have a good example of the effect of the vapour laden trade winds impinging on high mountain ranges.

The west central region comes next in elevation, coolness, and rainfall. The northern is largely an elevated undulating tableland of limestone ridges and valleys; the southern division contains the principal plains in the Island. The two last-mentioned divisions are comparatively dry.

219. The prevailing winds are N.E. on the north side and S.E. on the south side of the Island, the trade winds being in each partially deflected by the influence of the land into true sea breezes, while in the centre of the Island and at considerable elevations the wind maintains the generally easterly direction of the trade wind.

220. The north, central, and southern divisions are the driest and possess a real tropical temperature in the plains, especially those on the southern sea-board. Although Jamaica is between 17° and 18° North latitude, the temperature over two-thirds of its area, owing to elevation, is, except in the middle of the day during the summer months, say, from July to September, soft and pleasant, and shows little variation throughout the year. It is said to resemble that of Southern California.

221. The average Island rainfall for the past three decades 1870-79, 1880-89, and 1890-99 is recorded at 67·41, 66·54, and 76·15 inches respectively. In 1902 the average rainfall for the whole Island was 73·37 inches, as shown in the table below, which also gives the figures for each division as compared with those for the previous year:—

Divisions.	1901.	1902.
	Inches.	Inches.
North Eastern ...	107·88	95·97
Northern	64·18	58·75
West Central ...	87·31	89·75
Southern	64·50	94·14
The Island ...	80·96	73·37

222. The following figures, showing the Island rainfall for the past 37 years, which have been extracted from the Weather Report for December, 1902, are of interest. In the first year, 1866, there were about 50 rainfall relations, and in the last, 1902, 138, so that the results for the different years are not strictly comparable, but for most practical purposes they may be regarded as showing correctly the variations in the fall of rain during the years mentioned:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Inches.		Inches.
1866	53·65	1885	59·86
1867	64·47	1886	90·61
1868	67·74	1887	70·66
1869	55·37	1888	72·11
1870	89·43	1889	74·15
1871	50·09	1890	64·42
1872	45·18	1891	84·70
1873	63·06	1892	72·98
1874	68·94	1893	86·49
1875	52·54	1894	75·39
1876	71·35	1895	71·62
1877	68·40	1896	68·61
1878	76·42	1897	77·59
1879	88·84	1898	73·84
1880	55·44	1899	85·82
1881	68·60	1900	69·65
1882	57·87	1901	80·96
1883	59·26	1902	73·37
1884	56·90		

223. The mean maximum temperature at Kingston is 87°·5, varying from 85°·6 in February and March to 89°·5 in July and August. The mean minimum temperature is 70°·8, varying from 67° in January and February to 73°·5 in September. There being no observing station in Kingston since the abolition of the old Weather Service, later figures than those for the year 1898, which are incorporated in the foregoing results, are not available for Kingston.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Receipts and Expenditure.

224. The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services in each of the three years ended 31st March, 1901, 1902, and 1903:—

Revenue.

Year.	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900–01	3,755	17,369	21,124	384	617	87	22,212	4,715	26,927
1901–02	4,383	17,954	22,336	446	615	113	23,510	5,010	28,520
1902–03	4,408	21,826	26,234	539	698	112	27,583	5,522	33,105

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.*	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900–01 ...	5,915	2,956	8,511	2,508	5,140	3,360	28,390	8,592	36,982
1901–02 ...	5,668	2,951	8,055	2,258	2,177	4,409	25,517	8,398	33,915
1902–03 ...	5,638	2,968	8,254	2,618	2,525	4,559	26,562	8,932	35,494

* Includes expenditure on maintenance of telegraph lines by the Public Works Department.

225. The Postal Revenue shows an increase of £4,073 over that of 1901-2, the Telegraph Revenue an increase of £534. The totals include the value of official telegrams sent, but not that of official postage services, which the Postmaster-General estimates at £2,500 a year. For the first time the Post Office Revenue shows an excess over expenditure, consisting of £1,021, not taking into account the £2,500 just mentioned. Moreover, the expenditure included sums amounting to £1,764 in respect of Transit Rates and the West India Mail Contract, which were found to be in excess of the amounts due on a readjustment of the charges, and which were refunded by the Imperial Government. If the gross expenditure be reduced by this £1,764, the surplus of revenue over expenditure would appear as £2,785. If the telegraph transactions are included, there is shown a nett charge on the revenues of the Colony of £2,389. If the above refund of £1,764 be deducted, this would be reduced to £625. The receipts from Packet Postages increased by £25, while those from Inland Postages increased by £3,872. The receipts from the former, £4,408, at a penny rate, have not yet equalled the amount—£4,832—received in 1898-99, the last year of the 2½*d*. rate.

Correspondence.

226. The total number of postcards and letters estimated to have passed through the Post Office in the year was 5,579,893, as against 5,424,814 during the previous year. The number of registered articles of mail matter included in the total was 252,182, as against 236,921. There was practically no loss or miscarriage of such articles.

Foreign Mails.

227. The total number of foreign mails made up during the year was 1,617, the number received 2,083, showing an increase of 11 in the former and a decrease of 122 in the latter, as compared with the figures for 1901-2.

228. The two contract mail services with England have continued during the year, not, however, with the punctuality to which we had become accustomed.

229. The steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service failed to arrive on contract time on 14 occasions, and those of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on two. Under a revised time-table, the latter arrive here somewhat later and leave earlier than formerly, to allow of their call at Trinidad. The steamers of the United Fruit Company, certain of which are subsidised as mail steamers by the United States Government, as well as those of the Atlas branch of the Hamburg-American Company, have continued to be made use of for the

exchange of mails between the United States of America and Jamaica and with the United Kingdom *viâ* the former country, in addition to occasional use of steamers of Messrs. J. E. Kerr and Company, trading to New York.

230. Mails have also been sent direct to Mexico and Cuba by steamers going thither from the port of Kingston, and have continued to be exchanged between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands by schooners belonging to the latter place.

231. Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers, subsidised by the Government of Canada, have continued the monthly mail service between Halifax, Bermuda, Turks Islands, and Jamaica.

Mail Subsidies.

232. For the conveyance of ocean mails this Colony paid during the year (pounds only):—

	£
1. Contribution to subsidy, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	2,525
2. Proportion of postage to Imperial Post Office.	1,400
3. Transit dues paid to other countries...	151
4. Gratuities for mails by non-contract vessels.	1,067
	£5,143

But the following amounts being refunded on final adjustment, viz.:—

	£	
In respect of (1)	364	
The whole of (2)	1,400	
		1,764
The nett cost for the year was ...		£3,379

233. The annual contribution to be paid by this Government in respect of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company subsidy during the continuance of the existing contract has now been assessed by His Majesty's Government. It was formerly £5,140, in future it will be £2,100, and the £1,400 formerly paid for Transit Rates will now cease to appear as a charge against the Jamaica Post Office. The reduction is owing to the transfer of mail matter to the direct line steamers, in respect of which a subsidy of £20,000 per annum is paid by this Colony, none of which subsidy, however, is charged against the Post Office Vote.

Inland Mails.

234. The Inland conveyance of mails has been carried on at a cost of £8,254, as against £8,055 in the previous year. Much of the Inland mail carriage is effected by the Public Works Department, which has its own depôts and mule stables in all the parishes.

235. The mail coaches earned during the year £295 for passenger fares, and £508 for the carriage of parcels, the latter sum, however, representing only receipts for three-quarters of the year, as in the last quarter payment was effected by stamps. Allowance being made for this, it is estimated that the amount would have been £677. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £218 and £574. The earnings on account of passenger fares are paid over to the contractors.

236. At the end of the year there were 156 District Post Offices, as against 153 at the beginning.

Money Orders.

237. The total number of money orders drawn on other countries during the year was 14,579 of the value of £32,983, against 12,740 of the value of £30,098 in the previous year. The orders drawn by other countries on Jamaica were 4,568, representing £10,951, as against 4,001 of the value of £10,326. The exchange was, therefore, against Jamaica by the sum of £22,032 in the year under review, as against £19,772 in the previous year. The commissions on money orders in 1902-3 amounting to £690 and the cost of remittances to £151, the profit to General Revenue amounted to £539, which is more than enough to meet the cost of the clerical labour involved.

238. A money order exchange between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica came into force during the year, and through it that Dependency is linked up in this respect with the rest of the world.

Postal Orders.

239. The face value of the postal orders sold for internal remittances was £34,128, against £30,356 in the previous year. The number issued increased from 192,420 to 218,540.

Telegraphs.

240. The Telegraph Department dealt with 101,712 messages, as against 91,898 in the previous year, and earned £512 more. The working expenses of the Department were £427 more. The total cost, including the maintenance of lines by the Public Works Department, was £8,932, the total receipts, £5,522, showing a loss of £3,410 as the nett cost of the services of this Department. In the previous year the amount was £3,387.

Parcel Post.

241. The parcel post, as usual, showed development, which this year amounted in parcels received to about 50 per cent. The number in 1902-3 was 21,195, of the value of £24,523, in 1901-2 the number was 14,138. Those despatched amounted to 5,404 of the value of £3,806. The difference between the values of the parcels received and those despatched (£20,717) is not far short of the excess of money orders sent away over those received. Probably the majority of parcels imported by parcel post are paid for by money orders. But it is also true that the excess in question existed before the existence of the parcel post system. There was a total increase of 7,245 in parcels. Customs duties to the amount of £3,492 were received on inward parcels, as against £2,716 in the previous year. The large growth of this business is attributed to the increased mail service with the United Kingdom, and to the triple scale of postage now in force. Generally the Postal and Telegraph services showed satisfactory development, that in the former being especially marked, the result, as well as a sign, of the general improvement in the condition of the Island during the year 1902-3.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Expenditure.

242. The total expenditure administered by the Public Works Department was £118,980, under the following heads:—

	£
1. Administration	13,713
2. Roads and bridges	54,722
3. Public buildings	13,649
4. Lighthouses	2,018
5. Telegraphs	1,135
6. Telephone lines (Law 10 of 1893) ...	58
7. Buoys and beacons for Marine Board ...	930
8. Carriage of Post Office mails	1,950
9. Work done for other Departments ...	4,146
10. Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	1,889
11. Spanish Town Water Works	448
12. Linstead Water Works	108
13. Vere Irrigation Works	24,214
Total ...	£118,980

Works.

243. With the exception of the continued construction of the Vere Irrigation Works, which, however, are not under the direct control of the Government, but are being constructed by a contractor, under the direction of the Public Works Department, for Commissioners appointed *ad hoc*, there were no special works (excluding road-work) of any great magnitude or importance in hand for the Government during the year. The Irrigation Works in question will be separately referred to. During the year, under the provisions of Law 6 of 1893, the enlargement of the St. Catherine District Prison was continued with the use of convict labour, the Carpenter's Workshop, Offices for the Superintendent and Quarters for European Warders being completed at a cost to the Public Works Department of £446, while the sum of £1,828 was spent in acquiring and developing lands for the Prison Farm, referred to elsewhere. The work for the lighting of Kingston Harbour and its approaches by Wigham continuous beacon lamps, was completed during the year. It was at last found possible to provide money for the removal of the wreck of the s.s. *Calvert*, which, for some 20 years had caused an obstruction in Port Antonio Harbour. The work was done by contract, and cost in all £894. A minimum depth of 30 feet of water has been obtained over the remains of the wreck, and the harbour facilities have thus been greatly increased. A storage reservoir at Hope Gardens, having a capacity of 330,000 gallons, was completed for the Board of Agriculture at a cost of £332. It is intended to provide water in times of drought for the Experiment Station. The A Ward of the new Female Lunatic Asylum was completed by the provision of a water supply and by its connection with the city sewers. For the Parochial Board of Trelawny, the work of adapting the old District Prison at Falmouth for use as a Poorhouse, was taken in hand. The total cost of maintenance of Public Buildings chargeable to General Revenue was £10,960, of which £4,042 was in respect of new works.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.

244. The expenditure on main roads and bridges was, for maintenance, £48,242, and on new works, £6,480, a total of £54,722. The total length of main roads was 1,916 miles (about one-half of which consists of what for some time were known as Parochial Main Roads), and the average cost per mile for maintenance was £23 11*s.* 11*d.*, or 16*s.* 3*d.* less than in the previous year. The highest rate per mile was, as usual, in the parish of St. Mary, where it was £49 11*s.*, and the lowest £14 15*s.* 7*d.* in Manchester. The roads in the parishes of Portland, St. Ann, St. James, and Westmoreland suffered at different periods of the year from the effect of heavy and

continuous rains, although there was no extraordinary flood damage. St. Mary was exceptionally favoured in regard to road-weather, although owing to the largely increasing cultivation of bananas, causing a corresponding increase of traffic, the road grants in this parish, as in some others, for the same reason, have had to be augmented.

New Roads and Bridges.

245. Under the provisions of Law 4 of 1898 and Law 17 of 1890, a considerable amount of re-construction and improvement was effected on several of the roads in St. Mary, on the Berwick Spring Road in Portland, and on the road from Jackson Town to Rio Bueno in Trelawny. The erection at Kupuis of a bridge over the Rio Minho, with its necessary approaches, to take the place of the bridge destroyed by flood at Savoy, near Chapelton, was put in hand and nearly completed. The total expenditure under these laws was £5,278. The reconstruction of the Parochial Road from Pear Tree Grove to Troja as a driving road, was commenced on gradients which will be safe and convenient to traffic. This road will be a great improvement and an important feeder to the railway.

Light Houses.

246. The Light Houses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point and Negril Point were maintained in efficient order, a new stone building for the Superintendent's residence at Morant Point being erected at a cost of £261.

Work for the Post Office Department.

247. The Post Office Telegraph Lines, to the length of 695 miles, mostly single line, were maintained at a average cost of £1 11*s.* 4¾*d.* per mile, and the expenditure in the maintenance of 60 miles of private telephone lines, leased by the Postmaster for Jamaica under the provisions of Law 10 of 1893, amounted to £58 7*s.* For the Post Office Department the Public Works Department also worked 64 services of mail conveyance at a cost of £5,503 as against a former cost of £7,799, showing a saving by this arrangement of £2,296 per annum.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.

248. These works were maintained at a cost of £1,889, the earnings being £7,896 and the actual collections (swelled by arrearages) being £8,319. There are now 11,170 acres of cultivated land in St. Catherine under irrigation, an increase of nearly 2 per cent. over the previous year; the acreage is divided chiefly between bananas (6,500), guinea grass (3,000), and sugar

cane (800). During the last four months of the year, the severe drought necessitated the taking in the whole of the supply of the river. If the cost of maintenance (£1,889) be deducted from the earnings (£7,896) there is left £6,007, which almost meets the whole annual charges (£6,278) in respect of the capital expenditure (£120,076) on these works. If the Sinking Fund of one per cent. be deducted from these charges, it will be seen that there is an excess of revenue over expenditure of over £900 per annum.

Vere Irrigation Works.

249. The Director of Public Works continued to be engaged during the year in supervising the execution of the Vere Irrigation Works for the Vere Irrigation Commissioners, of which body the Colonial Secretary is Chairman and the former officer is a member. A general description of these works was given in the last annual report of this Government. At the close of the year 1902-1903 the work on the Main Canal (executed by contract) had been brought nearly to a conclusion, and water in small quantity had been let into the first section of the canal. The large dam and other works in connection with the Storage Reservoir at Raymonds were practically completed, but owing to the drought, there had been no opportunity of testing them or of impounding any storm water. Surveys for the distribution channels, which are to be constructed departmentally, were completed during the year, and considerable progress was made with the earthworks. The total expenditure, £24,214, was charged to the loan raised under the Vere Irrigation Law, 1897.

X.—RAILWAY.

Traffic Department.

250. The traffic returns of the Railway for the year show, compared with those of 1901-1902 increases and decreases under the following classes of receipts.

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Goods and cattle	18,259	—
Passengers	5,405	—
Prince's wharf dues	806	—
Miscellaneous	—	503
Nett increase ...	£23,966	

Goods Traffic.

251. The total bulk of goods carried increased from 100,764 tons to 131,666 tons, the principal increases being in:—

	tons.
Bananas	15,544
Logwood	6,294
Oranges	3,432
General merchandise	5,249
Grass and hay	636
Pimento	376
Cocoanuts	329
Spars	240
Ginger	193

The only decreases were:—

700 tons in fire-wood.
715 „ „ other dyewoods.
136 „ „ coffee

The earnings from the carriage of bananas increased by £8,157, from oranges by £4,719, from general merchandise £3,455, and from logwood £2,005. There were decreases of £426 from coffee, and £373 from dyewoods other than logwood.

Passenger Traffic.

252. The number of passengers carried increased from 391,178 in 1901-1902, to 446,529 in the year under review, the increase being:—

Third class tickets	54,824
Season tickets	859
	55,683
Decrease (1st class)	332
	55,351

Wharf Receipts.

253. The Wharf receipts were as follows:—

	£
Prince's Wharf	6,168
Montego Bay Wharf	678
Port Antonio Wharf	89
	£6,935

Expenditure.

254. The expenditure showed the following increases and decreases as compared with the previous year.

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Main way and works	2,273	—
Locomotive power	—	146
Carriages and Waggons	—	179
Traffic expenses...	251	—
General charges...	242	—
Taxes	—	7
Nett increase ...	£2,434	—

Way and Works.

255. The gross expenditure for way and works was £39,931, but £9,490 of this was transferred to loan account as representing the cost in excess of ordinary maintenance of new sleepers. For fencing and gates, ballasting, buildings and station yard, bridges and tunnels and other items the sum of £7,611 was charged to maintenance, although much of this expenditure was necessary to overtake and make good the dilapidations and defects of the way and works as taken over from the old railway company.

Loan Expenditure on Way and Works.

256. During the course of the year £44,000 was borrowed from the Imperial Treasury in completion of the total loan of £198,000 for interest and equipment authorised by law. The

total expenditure on way and works charged to Loan Account was £22,411, the items being:—

	£
Sleepers, in addition to number which would be required for ordinary maintenance	9,490
Strengthening line Kingston to Porus and Spanish Town to Bog Walk...	4,068
New sidings and yard improvements ...	3,747
Extensive repairs to wharves	2,472
Strengthening bridges	978
Renewing rusted rails	342
Additions to buildings	313
Additional retaining walls	293
New water mains and hydrants	280
Additional guard rails, training, &c. ...	428
Total	£22,411

Summary.

257. The total current revenue and expenditure for the year as shown in the books of the Treasurer is as below:—

	£
Revenue	142,305
Expenditure	80,341
Surplus	£61,964

In the year before, the surplus of revenue over expenditure was £40,254, so that the surplus increased in 1902-3 by the sum of £21,710. In comparison with the surplus of £61,964 in 1902-3, it may be pointed out that in the last complete year of the old railway company ending 31st March, 1900, the revenue was £116,347 and the expenditure £96,486 showing a surplus of £19,861. That the large increase of £42,103 in the surplus over expenditure has not been obtained by starving the up-keep of the line, as has been sometimes asserted, is shown by the facts that whereas in the last two years of the Company's existence an average sum of £5,212 was spent on sleepers, in the one year now under review the Government spent £19,244 on sleepers, of which £6,920 was charged to current revenue.

General condition.

258. The general condition of the line is now sound, and shows a conspicuous improvement in all respects on the state of things existing when it was taken over by Government.

Certain disadvantages and sources of weakness will, however, always remain. As regards the Locomotive Department, it may be mentioned that, notwithstanding the much larger quantity of rolling stock now to be maintained and the greatly increased traffic to be dealt with, the estimate for locomotive power is now about £6,000 less than the actual expenditure under the management of the railway Company.

Nett Annual Cost of the Railway.

259. The total amount invested by the Colonial Government in the railway expenditure provided by funded debt is:—

—	—			Interest.			Sinking Fund.			Crown Agents' Fees.		
	£	s.	Per Cent.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Old Railway Debt.	5,800	0	at 4½	261	0	0	58	0	0	—		
	774,278	10	„ 4	30,971	2	9	9,518	2	1	70	11	3
	8,000	0	„ 3½	280	0	0	80	0	0	—		
New Railway Debt.	1,493,400	0	„ 3½	52,269	0	0	14,934	0	0	—		
	198,000	0	„ 2¾	Annuity.			13,003	13	0	300	0	0
Total ...	2,479,478	10		121,374	17	10				370	11	3
Crown Agents' Fees ...				370	11	3						
				121,745	9	1						

The annual charge thrown on the revenue is, therefore, £121,745 9*s.* 1*d.*, but for the year under review it was £2,890 less, owing to the last portion of the £198,000 having been borrowed in the course of the year. As the surplus in 1902-3 was £61,958, the balance of £59,787 15*s.* 1*d.* was left as a nett charge to be defrayed by General Revenue, of which £32,148 15*s.* 1*d.* (the amount for Sinking Fund) may be regarded as an instalment of purchase money for the railway, leaving a nett loss between working profits and interest on capital of £24,749.

XI.—MILITARY.

260. The amount expended by the Imperial Government in 1902-3 for the Regular Forces in Jamaica was £122,400.

MILITIA.

261. The strength of the Jamaica Militia at the 31st March was 603, being 228 short of the Establishment; the allowed strength of the Artillery is 206, while their actual strength at the date mentioned was 148.

262. The allowed strength of the Infantry is 625, the actual strength at the 31st March was 455. The Artillery has for some years being advisedly kept down to 150 men, and the figures showing the actual strength do not therefore imply a lack of recruits. The difference between the actual and the allowed strength of the Infantry arises principally from the fact that during the year considerable attention was given to weeding out men of poor physique, and men whom it seemed impossible to train as marksmen. The men remaining in the corps are all physically fit, and the battalion is in this respect in a much more satisfactory condition than it was 12 months ago; recruiting will, however, have to be pushed vigorously in order to restore the numbers to what they ought to be. Special attention has been given throughout the year to musketry, with very satisfactory results. The number of parades for battalion drill has been halved, and each company now spends a full day every second month on the range, where they are put through musketry under the superintendence of the Adjutant and the company officers. I am satisfied that the change has been of advantage, and will continue to be of increasing advantage to the corps as a whole.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

263. The year under review was, without doubt, one of much progress and advance.

The Island was beginning to recover, if not rapidly, at least surely and steadily, from the depression against which it had so long struggled, and this tendency towards prosperity was reflected in the increase which took place in the revenue.

264. The reduction which the Government were enabled to effect in the deficit gave promise that the ensuing year would have seen this entirely wiped out, and that the assets of the

Colony would be placed on a level with its liabilities. I had sincerely hoped that this would have been the case, and that I might have been able, on the termination of my administration, to hand over the Government to my successor free from the incubus of floating debt by which it had been so long hampered. But, unfortunately, the terrible cyclone of 11th August last, has, I fear, scattered this hope, and rendered its realization hardly possible.

265. I regret deeply that this Report, the last which it will be my duty to furnish, should be overshadowed by this sad visitation, and that my successor will not, in all probability, be able to give as good an account of the year 1903-4 as that which I am submitting for 1902-3.

266. I feel sure, however, that the effects will be but temporary, and that, unless another such calamity should occur, which is unlikely, the check to the growing prosperity of the Colony will soon be removed, and further and satisfactory progress be resumed.

267. And, although I may not be able to leave the fortunes of Jamaica in as bright a condition as I had hoped, I shall still have the satisfaction of knowing that I have succeeded in retreiving them.

A. W. L. HEMMING,

Governor.

King's House, Jamaica,

23rd December, 1903.

TABLE I.

GENERAL REVENUE of the GOVERNMENT for the YEAR 1902–03 as compared with the previous year 1901–02.

—	1901–1902.	1902–1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	344,905 17 1	381,952 10 0	37,046 12 11	—
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	5,627 19 8¼	6,924 17 1¼	1,296 17 5	—
Licence, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	181,199 15 10¾	190,973 4 1¼	9,773 8 2½	—
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements in Aid and Irrigation Receipts.	67,483 8 4¾	70,321 0 1¼	2,837 11 8½	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	28,763 1 5	32,804 18 5½	4,041 17 0½	—
Railway	118,214 11 3	142,305 9 10	24,090 18 7	—
Rents	1,924 17 8	2,532 16 7½	607 18 11½	—
Interest	18,988 12 2½	19,431 6 4	442 14 1½	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,097 10 0	6,603 0 1¼	2,505 10 1¼	—
Quit Rents, transferred from Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	1,151 1 8	—	—	1,151 1 8
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	772,356 15 3¼	853,849 2 8	82,643 9 0¾	1,151 1 8
Land Sales	1,884 1 11	2,125 7 7½	241 5 8½	—
Total Island Revenue	774,240 17 2¼	855,974 10 3½	82,884 15 9¼	1,151 1 8
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture...	596 9 1	540 0 0	—	56 9 1
Total General Revenue	774,837 6 3¼	856,514 10 3½	82,884 15 9¼	1,207 10 9
Net Increase	—	—	81,677 4 0¼	—

TABLE II.

General Expenditure of the Government for the Year 1902–1903 as compared with the previous year.

—	1901–1902.	1902–1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt:—				
Interest	136,312 7 3	135,293 0 4	—	1,019 6 11
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	257 5 0	52 10 0	—	204 15 0
Interest—Arrears on unissued Stock ...	4,630 10 0	1,473 10 0	—	3,157 0 0
Management	673 10 4	494 12 0	—	178 18 4
Management—Expenses of issue of Railway Inscribed Stock.	1,151 1 8	—	—	1,151 1 8
Miscellaneous	—	26 15 2	26 15 2	—
Sinking Funds	23,474 12 6	38,749 13 4	15,275 0 10	—
Redemption of Debt (Deficit Loan)	—	16,708 16 11	16,708 16 11	—
Annuities—Jamaica Railway	8,669 2 0	10,113 19 0	1,444 17 0	—
Annuities—Deficit Loan	2,314 16 8	2,314 16 8	—	—
Annuities—Kingston Improvement	3,980 9 7	3,980 9 7	—	—
Total	181,463 15 0	209,208 3 0	33,455 9 11	5,711 1 11
Pensions	26,332 15 4½	26,762 2 3¼	429 6 10¾	—
The Governor and Staff	6,650 19 5	6,745 2 6	94 3 1	—
Privy Council	126 13 7	15 1 8	—	111 11 11
Legislative Council	478 2 7	636 6 10	158 4 3	—

Colonial Secretariat	4,891 17 0½	4,685 6 3½	—	206 10 9
Public Works Department	12,690 4 5	13,706 7 9	1,016 3 4	—
Lands Department	3,329 0 11½	2,655 18 10	—	673 2 1½
Audit Department	4,132 0 11	4,166 12 11	34 12 0	—
Public Treasury	4,030 6 8½	4,048 18 10¾	18 12 2¼	—
Government Savings Bank	2,816 16 2¼	2,702 10 1	—	114 6 1¼
Immigration	809 12 11¼	808 13 4	—	0 19 7¼
Clerks of Parochial Boards	728 5 2	600 0 0	—	128 5 2
Stamp Office	854 8 7	819 14 1	—	34 14 6
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs ...	38,917 4 2¾	38,564 4 8¼	—	352 19 6½
Post Office	25,505 12 3	25,295 8 9	—	210 3 6
Telegraphs	7,371 0 2	7,796 19 10½	425 19 8½	—
Judicial	38,106 14 3¼	38,290 18 9½	184 4 5¾	—
Ecclesiastical	1,823 15 4	1,876 4 8	52 9 4	—
Medical	48,767 8 3½	49,799 5 4¼	1,031 17 0¾	—
Constabulary and Prisons	74,663 18 8½	75,847 7 7¾	1,183 8 11¼	—
Reformatories	3,013 10 4	2,868 11 11	—	144 18 5
Industrial Schools	1,246 0 6¾	1,224 19 2	—	21 1 4¾
Education	52,249 9 8	55,423 6 9	1,173 17 1	—
Harbours and Pilotage	2,165 11 7	3,042 4 0	876 12 5	—
Military	11,444 13 9	12,636 19 5	1,192 5 8	—
Telegraphic communication between England and Jamaica	1,500 0 0	2,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
Direct Steamship Subsidy	18,333 6 8	20,000 0 0	1,666 13 4	—
Registrar-General's Department and Record Office.	4,684 11 4	4,527 2 1½	—	157 9 2½
Registration of Titles	931 13 3	966 13 5	35 0 2	—
Printing Office	8,842 4 7	5,931 13 10	—	2,910 10 9
Institute of Jamaica	1,269 2 9	861 3 2	—	407 19 7
Board of Supervision	382 2 5½	102 1 0	—	280 1 5½
Agricultural Services	7,507 14 9	8,303 16 9	796 2 0	—
Agricultural Lecturer	448 7 10	446 13 8	—	1 14 2

—cont.

General Expenaiture—cont.

—	1901–1902.	1902–1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Miscellaneous	6,661 8 10¼	7,750 14 2¾	1,089 5 4½	—
Public Works and Buildings	62,375 16 11½	64,232 10 7	1,856 13 7½	—
Lighthouses	2,253 11 0	2,018 2 3	—	235 8 9
Railway	77,961 2 1	80,341 7 3	2,380 5 2	—
Railway Extension Track	167 8 8	96 11 6	—	70 17 2
Real Property Valuation...	1,771 19 1	290 14 11	—	1,481 4 2
Relief, Martinique and St. Vincent	—	250 0 0	250 0 0	—
Total General Expenditure ...	751,700 8 3½	788,846 14 2	—	—
Nett increase	—	—	37,146 5 10½	—

TABLE III.

Value of Imports and Exports of Jamaica as Assessed by the Customs Department.

Year.	Exports.				Imports.		
	Island Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1898–99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432
1899–1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865
1900–01	1,738,523	20,820	37,733	1,797,076	1,621,794	30,883	1,652,677
1901–02	1,823,684	38,727	76,731	1,939,142	1,669,390	30,135	1,699,525
1902–03	2,224,116	14,466	53,753	2,292,335	1,951,192	39,692	1,990,884
Total	9,116,697	134,560	307,918	9,559,175	8,746,810	191,573	8,938,383
Average	1,823,339	26,912	61,584	1,911,835	1,749,362	38,315	1,787,677

TABLE IV.

STATISTICS relating to EXPORTS of TEN PRINCIPAL STAPLES of PRODUCE.

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or Decrease (as shown by + or —) on 1901–02.		Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1901–02.		Price.	
	1901–02.	1902–03.	1901–02.	1902–03.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	1901–02.	1902–03.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	£	£	Cwt.	£			s. d.	s. d.
Cocoa	39,953	31,462	83,924	65,285	— 8,491	— 18,639	— 21	— 22	42 0 per cwt.	41 6 per cwt.
	Number.	Number.			Number.					
Cocoanuts	17,662,827	25,623,644	61,818	67,903	+7,960,817	+ 6,085	+ 45	+ 10	70 0 „ M.	53 0 „ 1,000.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Coffee	103,126	107,855	152,091	130,775	+ 4,729	— 21,316	+ 5	— 16	29 5 „ cwt.	24 3 „ cwt.
	Bunches.	Bunches.			Bunches.					
Fruit—Bananas ...	11,003,840	14,184,375	825,288	1,134,750	+3,180,535	+309,462	+ 29	+ 37	1 6 „ bunch.	160 0 „ 1,000.
	Number.	Number.			Number.					
„ Oranges ...	79,061,650	98,589,575	102,780	101,054	+19,527,925	— 1,726	+ 25	— 2	26 0 „ M.	20 6 „ 1,000.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Ginger	21,347	29,134	37,358	46,615	+ 7,787	+ 9,257	+ 36	+ 25	30 8 „ cwt.	32 0 „ cwt.
	Tons.	Tons.			Tons.					
Logwood	41,107	37,895	103,796	97,106	— 3,212	— 6,690	— 8	— 6	50 6 „ ton.	51 3 „ ton.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Pimento	72,080	114,996	79,288	91,997	+ 42,916	— 12,709	+ 60	+ 16	22 0 „ cwt.	16 0 „ cwt.
	Gallons.	Gallons.			Gallons.					
Rum	1,422,010	1,927,150	124,426	156,581	+ 505,140	+ 32,155	+ 36	+ 26	1 9 „ gallon.	1 7½ „ gallon.
	Cwt.	Cwt.			Cwt.					
Sugar	321,659	406,455	136,705	167,663	+ 84,796	+ 30,958	+ 26	+ 23	8 6 „ cwt.	8 3 „ cwt.
Value of 10 chief products exported.	—	—	1,707,474	2,059,729	—	+352,255	—	+ 21	—	—
Miscellaneous products	—	—	116,210	159,908	—	—	—	—	—	—
Value of products exported.	—	—	1,823,684	2,219,637	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE V.

TABLE of LAWS passed at a SESSION of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of JAMAICA, which began on the 4th FEBRUARY and adjourned *sine die* on the 4th NOVEMBER, 1902.

No.	Laws.
1	The Victoria Day Law, 1902.
2	The Savings Bank Unclaimed Deposits Law, 1902.
3	A Law to amend a Law to organize a Constabulary Force (No. 8 of 1867).
4	The Witnesses Expenses Amendment Law, 1902.
5	A Law to repeal the Tax on Commercial Travellers.
6	The Shipping Master's Fees Law, 1902.
7	The Island Chemist's Certificate Law, 1902.
8	The Cruelty to Animals Law, 1902.
9	A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditure incurred in the Financial year, 1900–01.
10	A Law to amend the Tobacco Duty Law, 1902.
11	The Rifle Club Gun Tax Relief Law, 1902.
12	A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to vagrancy, 1902.
13	The Appropriation Law, 1902–03.
14	A Law to amend the Valuation Law (Law 22 of 1901).
15	A Law to amend the Stamp Duty Laws, 1868–1901.
16	The Property Tax Law, 1902.
17	The Country Fires Law, 1902.
18	The Main and Parochial Roads Laws, Amendment Law, 1902.
19	A Law to continue for one year certain increased taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.
20	The Land Surveyor's Law, 1894, Amendment Law, 1902.
21	The Street Traffic Regulation Law, 1902.
22	A Law to amend Law 24 of 1879 entitled The Judicature Law, 1878.
23	The Emigrants' Protection Law, 1902.
24	A Law to regulate the Business of Pawnbroking.
25	A Law to supplement the Falmouth Water Works Transfer Law.
26	The Schools Commission Law of 1879, Amendment Law, 1902.
27	The Kingston Unoccupied House Rate Law, 1902.
28	The Kingston Police Laws, 1881–1887, Amendment Law, 1902.
29	The Rum Duty Laws, Amendment Law, 1902.
30	The Victoria Day Law, Amendment Law, 1902.
31	The Central Factories Law, 1902.
32	The Vere Irrigation Additional Powers Law, 1902.
33	The Industrial and Provident Societies Law, 1902.

TABLE VI.

Secondary Education.

Endowed Schools under the Regulation of the Jamaica Schools Commission.

School.	Locality.	Students, 31st March, 1903.		Infants.	Results at Cambridge Local Examinations, 1902.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Entered.	Passed.	Honours.
The Jamaica College.	St. Andrew...	56	—	—	31	25	17
Wolmer's, Boys	Kingston ...	150	—	—	24	21	5
Wolmer's, Girls	Do. ...	—	161	—	28	23	4
Titchfield Higher Grade.	Port Antonio	22	—	—	—	—	—
Titchfield Elementary-	Do.	113	135	85	—	—	—
Rusea's, Boys...	Lucea ...	25	—	—	—	—	—
Rusea's, Girls...	Do. ...	—	16	—	7	2	—
Manning's, Boys	Sav - la - Mar	41	—	—	11	7	—
Manning's, Girls	Do.	—	31	—	7	5	—
Munro and Dickenson's—							
Boys ...	Potsdam, St. Elizabeth.	60	—	—	26	26	17
Girls ...	Hampton, St. Elizabeth.	—	58	—	13	11	1
Middle Grade...	Manchester...	24	—	—	7	7	—
Vere Elementary Schools (7).	Clarendon, Vere District.	657 (Boys and Girls).	—	—	—	—	—
Beckford and Smith's.	Spanish Town	43	—	—	1	1	—
					155	128	44

TABLE VII.

Poor Relief Statistics for the Four Years ending 1902–03.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Paupers.							Percentage of Paupers to Population.			Pauper Expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.	
		Maintained in the Parish.			Maintained out of the Parish.			Grand Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.		
		Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial School Children.	Lunatics.	Total.									
												£	£	£	s.	d.
1899–1900	743,100	3,723	811	4,534	208	721	929	5,463	0·61	0·13	0·74	24,948	15,547	40,495	1	1
1900–1901	758,000	3,887	806	4,693	199	781	980	5,673	0·62	0·13	0·75	26,260	15,921	42,181	1	1
1901–1902	777,000	4,163	835	4,998	184	770	954	5,952	0·64	0·12	0·76	25,259	16,156	41,415	1	1
1902–1903	786,000	4,067	852	4,919	182	857	1,039	5,958	0·63	0·13	0·76	25,742	16,083	41,825	1	1

TABLE VIII.

Poor Relief Statistics for the several Parishes for the Year 1902-03.

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Number of Paupers.							Percentage of Paupers to Population.			Pauper Expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.
		Maintained in the Parish.			Maintained out of the Parish.			Grand total.	In the Parish	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	
		Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial School Children.	Lunatics.	Total.								
												£	£	£	s. d.
Kingston	60,000	1,095	202	1,297	94	148	242	1,539	2·19	0·41	2·60	6,395	3,660	10,055	3 5
Port Royal	—	17	—	17	—	1	1	18				100	—	100	
St. Andrew	47,000	222	91	313	32	51	83	396	·67	·18	·85	1,861	1,500	3,361	1 5
St. Thomas	40,000	111	39	150	3	40	43	193	·38	·11	·49	1,210	670	1,880	0 11
Portland	39,000	165	36	201	1	36	37	238	·52	·09	·61	1,305	650	1,955	1 0
St. Mary	53,000	51	52	103	3	47	50	153	·19	·09	·28	1,275	750	2,025	0 9
St. Ann	66,000	210	48	258	1	55	56	314	·39	·09	·48	1,369	780	2,149	0 8
Trelawny	38,000	205	34	239	2	22	24	263	·63	·07	·70	1,220	500	1,720	0 11
St. James	43,000	259	22	281	4	55	59	340	·65	·14	·79	1,359	900	2,259	1 1
Hanover	39,000	236	38	274	5	29	34	308	·70	·09	·79	1,214	550	1,764	0 11
Westmoreland	66,000	272	43	315	4	64	68	383	·48	·10	·58	1,417	1,070	2,487	0 9
St. Elizabeth	77,000	163	68	231	23	59	82	313	·30	·11	·41	1,061	1,273	2,334	0 7
Manchester	68,000	521	—	521	7	49	56	577	·77	·08	·85	1,856	890	2,746	0 10
Clarendon	70,000	229	55	284	2	77	79	363	·41	·11	·52	1,444	1,090	2,534	0 9
St. Catherine	80,000	311	124	435	1	124	125	560	·54	·16	·70	2,656	1,800	4,456	1 1

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395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados...	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
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411	St. Lucia...	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903

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25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
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1904.

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No. 438.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1903-4.

(For Report for 1902–3, *see* No. 414.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1904.

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No. 438.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1902-3, *see* No. 414.)

ACTING GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. LYTTELTON.

King's House,

3rd September, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the statistical returns embodied in the Blue Book of the Government of Jamaica for the year 1903-4 as furnished in the reports of the heads of the several public departments.

The cyclone year.

2. Time in this island is still popularly reckoned by the almanack rather than by the calendar—our dates are epochs, not numerals; we cast back to Slavery, Emancipation, the Cholera, Rebellion, the Hurricane years, the Kingston Fire, the Exhibition; and the year 1903 gave us a new point of departure in what a more erudite generation has evidently settled to speak of as "The Cyclone" of August 11th, 1903. The public statistics of the year are chiefly remarkable for the reflection of this last-mentioned disaster, and my observations will, therefore, be principally addressed to the exposition of its effects.

3. I cannot do better than begin this report by quoting the following passages from Sir Augustus Hemming's despatch of the 20th August, 1903, giving an account of the storm.

"A warning had been given by the United States Weather Office at Washington, as far back as the 8th of August, that there was an atmospheric disturbance to the east of Barbados, and that it was moving towards the north-east. There was every reason, from the location of the disturbance and its apparent direction, to hope that it would pass north of Jamaica as similar storms have so frequently done during the past twenty years. Contrary to the expectation, however, it kept well to the southward, and on the afternoon of Monday the 10th August, there were unmistakeable signs here of unusual weather. Angry gusts of wind accompanied with rain came from the north-east, and during the night the wind veered to the north and began to blow with great strength. It was not, however, until the early hours of Tuesday the 11th that the wind attained hurricane force, and from 3.30 a.m. to 5 o'clock it blew

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with great fury from the north, veering then rapidly to the west, the south, and finally the south-east: it set in with even greater violence from the latter quarter and continued for nearly two hours. The fall of rain* was not great, only about 3 inches, 75 parts having fallen in Kingston between Monday afternoon and noon on Tuesday the 11th, but it was sufficient, owing to the driving force of the wind, to add considerably to the damage."

4. The foregoing account relates to what took place in the neighbourhood of Kingston, which lies to the south of the course taken by the centre of the cyclone. It appears that the centre of the storm passed in a direct line from near Port Morant on the south coast of the east end of the island to near Montego Bay on the north coast of the west end, as shown in the sketch† map which accompanies this report. The centre of the storm formed a vortex around and towards which the wind blew with a spiro-circular motion, having a rotation contrary to that of the movement of the hands of a clock. The whole storm moved west by north with a uniform velocity of about 20 miles an hour. As it approached the island, therefore, the wind would begin to be felt from the north or north-east, and as it progressed the wind on the north of the centre veered through north, north-east, east, south-east to south, and on the south of the centre through north-west, west, south-west, south to south-east. The greatest force of the wind would be felt at a certain distance from the centre, where the horizontal vortical rush was strongest and where both motions—the direct forward motion and the rotary motion—coincided. This combination occurred to the north of the centre of the storm along the north-east coast of the island from Morant Point to North-East Point. From this point for some distance westward of Port Antonio the combined force was also terrific. It is stated, but I cannot say on what authority, to have been as high as 110 miles an hour. The sea and the wind did most damage on the north-eastern face of the island, and the town of Manchioneal, which received the full brunt of the hurricane, suffered more than any other place of like size. On the north side the edge and escarpment of the high table-land of St. Ann was the scene of much destruction of shallow-rooted pimento trees, but the force of the wind was less here than further east. On the south side the southerly and south-easterly blast which followed the passing of the centre of the storm did most damage. The north-westerly, westerly, and south-westerly action of the cyclone was greatly neutralised by the westerly progress of the whole disturbance, and the damage done by the wind to the south of the centre was nowhere very serious.

5. Sir A. Hemming's despatch continues:—

"It appears that the storm affected the entire Island with the exception of the lower parts of the Parish of Clarendon, the Parishes

* It is probable that the violence of the wind interfered considerably with the catchment of the rain gauges.

† Appendix I.

of Manchester and St. Elizabeth and the greater part of Westmoreland and Hanover: indeed, it may be stated that the south-western part of the Island and the extreme west practically escaped. The mischief wrought in the eastern and northern districts has, however, been enormous. The storm broke with extraordinary force on the town of Port Antonio, a rising place much frequented by American tourists, and the most important of our fruit ports. At this place great damage was done to public buildings and to private dwellings, and many of the inhabitants barely escaped with their lives from their falling houses, The same may be said, though in a somewhat less degree, of several of the other towns on the eastern and northern coasts, and some of the interior towns, situated at considerable elevations, were equally unfortunate.

"But the heaviest losses are those which occurred in the agricultural districts. The principal banana parishes* are those of St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary, and it is not too much to say that in the whole of these three parishes there are not 10 acres of bananas left standing. The plantations have been practically swept bare, and these magnificent areas of cultivation which, on the 10th of August, were covered with fruit-bearing plants, now appear, I am informed, as though a fire had passed over them. †Parts of St. Catherine and St. Ann have suffered to the same extent, nor has the loss been confined to bananas. Cocoanuts, coffee, cocoa, and pimento have all suffered, although the loss in these cases is not so complete as in the case of the banana fields. In one respect the destruction of these other products is more serious. They can only be replaced after years of growth, while the banana will spring again and there will be a crop in about ten months' time. The loss of pimento is perhaps more of a permanent injury than that of any other produce, as the tree is a slow grower. It grows most abundantly on the grazing lands of St. Ann.

* * * * * * * * *

"You will easily gather from the reports enclosed that much suffering and distress have been caused to a large number of the people of the island. Many of those who were in circumstances of comparative affluence a few days ago, are now ruined; a great number have lost their all, while others have lost for years to come the source of their income. Large numbers of the peasantry are homeless, while not a few of the houses of the wealthier classes have been destroyed.

"The question of the measures which should be taken in these trying circumstances, has caused me and my advisers the greatest anxiety. It was first necessary to provide for the immediate relief of the destitute, and at the earliest possible moment I addressed a circular to the Custos and Chairman of the Parochial Board of each of the parishes affected, a copy of which I enclose.‡.

"I also caused the sum of £300§ to be placed at the disposal of the local authorities in each of these parishes for the relief of urgent cases, and a strong Central Committee has been formed in Kingston, with the Chief Justice as Chairman, to collect subscriptions and furnish money to the local Committees as may be required, and as they may be able. Further, I have sent the Acting Director of Public Works into the distressed districts with a view to determine what road work can best be undertaken to provide employment for the labouring classes. I am glad to say the opinion is unanimous that there is no immediate danger of starvation, owing to the large quantities of fallen fruit which is available for food, but when this

* St. Catherines should also be mentioned.—S. O.

† All the banana cultivations in these also were destroyed.—S. O.

‡ *See* Appendix II.

§ Viz :—£100 from General Revenue and £200 from the Parochial Funds. —S. O.

is finished, there may be want, and against this I trust the subscriptions which will be raised and the work which will be given to the able-bodied will be sufficient to provide. I may add that I am endeavouring to ensure that gifts of money shall not be made except in cases where a more desirable form of aid may not be practicable. It will be better to provide with foodstuffs any who are in actual need of food; and in cases where it may be proposed to assist in the re-erection of buildings, to give lumber and other materials rather than money."

Applications for a relief fund

6. On the 13th of August, Sir Augustus Hemming telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain a brief report of the damage done by the hurricane, with a request that if he should see no objection he would ask the Lord Mayor to open a Mansion House Relief Fund.

Assistance rendered by West India Committee.

Local measure for relief.

Mr. Chamberlain demurred to taking this step, thinking it better while awaiting a report as to the adequacy of local measures of relief to confine himself to inviting the West India Committee to collect subscriptions from those more closely connected with the West Indies. The West India Committee immediately opened a subscription list, and spared no effort to arouse the sympathy of the public to the requirements of the situation. The Governor presided over a public meeting, held in Kingston on the 17th of August, for the purpose of organising a General Relief Committee for the island, to obtain subscriptions, and arrange the distribution of relief to sufferers. At this meeting a resolution was moved that the Lord Mayor of London should be asked to open a subscription list at the Mansion House, but considerable opposition having been manifested to the proposal it was withdrawn. The Central Committee, presided over by the Chief Justice, appointed an Executive Committee which sat, at first, daily, and a Ladies' Committee to deal with feminine requirements. The Kingston Charity Organisation Society co-operated with great goodwill and efficiency in this work. By the end of August subscriptions had been collected by the West India Committee in London amounting to £5,500, and generous contributions were early voted by the Legislatures of Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Turks Islands. The total receipts finally accounted for by the Central Relief Committee amounted to £12,786. Of this £6,409 was collected by the West India Committee, £739 by other friends in Great Britain, £2,940 was remitted from other colonies, £406 from foreign countries, and £2,292 was collected in Jamaica. Local Relief Committees were formed by the Parochial Boards in the districts affected by the hurricane. The Central Relief Committee issued a notice in the following terms, which was placarded throughout the Colony.

"NOTICE.

"Persons in the country parts of the island who have suffered by the recent hurricane either in the shape of loss of dwelling houses, cultivation, or otherwise, are warned against leaving their

districts for Kingston in the hope of receiving money in Kingston from the Hurricane Relief Fund. No such relief can be given under any circumstances; sufferers in the country parts should make application to the local Committees, who will investigate all applications and will be prepared to grant relief according to the merits of the case.

"All applicants for relief must bear in mind that any relief is merely temporary, and to meet cases of urgent necessity. To provide for the future, all should at once plant ground provisions of rapid growth, such as sweet potatoes, corn, and peas. The relief fund is small, and people must provide food for themselves by immediately planting."

The local Relief Committees set to work to ascertain what might be considered to be the requirements of their several districts, both as to the immediate relief of destitute persons having no means of subsistence, and as to the restoration of houses destroyed by the cyclone.

7. Sir Augustus Hemming, in the despatch which I have quoted above, wrote further, as follows:—

"The most serious feature of the whole matter is to be found in the fact that a large proportion of the fruit planters must abandon cultivation unless they can obtain some assistance to enable them to continue it.

"Large numbers of them, I might almost say the majority of them, have their entire capital invested in fruit plantations, and a sudden cessation of income from the sale of fruit renders them unable either to pay the wages of the labourers required to clear up their devastated fields, or to employ the necessary labour to cultivate them. Thus not only will the planters themselves be impoverished, but the agricultural labourers, who depend on them for work, will be thrown out of employment. One result of this must be a large increase of crime,* and, possibly, if there should be any great amount of want, it may be a source of disorder. The public revenues will, undoubtedly, be greatly diminished, as, indeed, I fear they must be in any case, and the entire social system will be disorganised.

"In these circumstances, I am advised and am convinced that the best, if not the only remedy, is to be found in an arrangement by which advances of money will be made by the Government to the planter on the security of his crops, and such collateral security as he may be able to give. This would not only save the planter from ruin, but it would be putting him in a position to employ the necessary labour, give work to the agricultural labourer, and, indeed, save the fruit industry from practical extinction. Money would go into circulation, the trades would be benefited, the imports, from which so large a proportion of the revenue of the Colony is derived, would be maintained, and the effects of this calamity would thus be minimised.

"I find that this view is held with remarkable unanimity by all persons best qualified to judge.

"Accordingly, on the 15th instant, I sent you the telegram of which I annex a translation.†"

8. Sir Augustus Hemming's telegram had briefly set forth the arguments above quoted, and proposed to raise a loan of £250,000, or even £500,000, in instalments, as required, and

* See below, par. 165, &c.
† Not printed.

make temporary advances at the current rate of interest (six per cent.), and that, in order to enable the Government to raise such a loan on favourable terms, the Imperial Government should guarantee the interest and principal. In a further telegram he proposed that loans should be for a term not exceeding five years, and that advances to planters should be made at four and a-half per cent. instead of six per cent. He subsequently cabled that it was of essential importance that this application should be granted immediately, reporting that he regarded such a loan as the only possible means of saving the Colony from absolute ruin, and that this was the opinion of all qualified to judge.

9. Mr. Chamberlain replied that he was not satisfied as to the necessity for raising such a loan and that he was not prepared to sanction it, but that in very urgent cases where money could not be otherwise obtained and where security should be forthcoming, he would authorise temporary advances not to amount to more than £50,000 in all, at the current rate of interest, from the available balances of the Colonial Government. He pointed out that an Imperial guarantee could not be given without a special Act of Parliament. In reply Sir Augustus Hemming urged strongly a reconsideration of the matter, pointing out that the opinion of the Privy Council and of the Colony in its entirety was unanimous as to the urgent necessity for raising the loan applied for, adding that it was absolutely impossible that the Colonial Government should make temporary advances as their cash balances were fully required to meet current expenditure and the cost of necessary relief works, and that unless such an advance could be made large numbers would be unable to continue cultivation, whilst without wages the labourers would in a few weeks be in danger of destitution, and it might be difficult to maintain order.

10. I have summarised the correspondence with regard to the requirement of Government aid to planters somewhat fully, because it illustrates the dislocation of popular judgment which appears to be a characteristic result of the disturbance produced by a cyclone. The representation made by the Governor reflected (in a tempered form) the convictions as to the necessities of the situation which were pressed upon him with the utmost insistence in the newspapers and by respected spokesmen of all classes of the community. As the event proved, Mr. Chamberlain's diagnosis of the position was the sounder: the limit of £50,000 was, in fact, considerably in excess of the effective demand for public loans at 6 per cent. interest. The available balances of the Colonial Government in cash and bills of exchange amounted at the time of this correspondence to more than £190,000, and it was found to be a matter of little difficulty to make the loans which were in due course granted, to meet current expenditure and to carry out extensive relief works without borrowing. The drain proved

heavy, but the balances in cash and bills on the 31st of March last still amounted to £55,500. There was never at any time any sign of turbulence among the distressed population or the slightest difficulty in maintaining public order. In other respects, however, Sir A. Hemming's despatch gives an impression by no means exaggerated of the gravity of the results of the cyclone, and of the loss and distress it occasioned. Mr. Chamberlain adhering to the position he had taken up with regard to loans, the Governor asked that he might be authorised to arrange with the local Banks to make advances to cultivators on the security of their crops, with the guarantee of the Government up to the amount of £50,000, and Mr. Chamberlain consented to this being done if the Governor considered immediate action to be absolutely necessary. Negotiations were then opened with the Banks. In the meantime a bill was prepared for submission to the Legislative Council to enable the Government to make loans directly to planters.

Sir A. Hemming's visit to the east end of Jamaica.

11. On the 3rd of September, Sir Augustus Hemming, accompanied by the Inspector-General of Police and his Private Secretary, left Kingston by rail for Port Antonio with the object of visiting the parishes of Portland and St. Thomas-in-the-East. On the 6th of September, he reported the results of his observations to the Secretary of State in a despatch, which, I think, it will be of interest that I should here reproduce almost in full.

"I arrived at Port Antonio the same evening, and in driving up from the railway station to the hotel I saw marked evidences of the effects of the storm, though a good deal had already been done in the way of clearing up, and in the repair of houses. At the same time, ruins lay about on all sides, and the marks of the terrific force of the wind were plainly visible. The building used for the Titchfield Schools, a substantial erection, formerly the old barracks, was not only unroofed, but almost the whole of the upper storey had been blown off. The entire north-west end of the Court House, a handsome brick building, was blown out, and numberless other houses had sustained more or less damage. Nevertheless, the first accounts, which represented Port Antonio as being utterly destroyed, were undoubtedly greatly exaggerated.

"On Friday morning I met the Chairman and Members of the Parochial Board, and other gentlemen, at the Court House, and, after I had received and replied to an address, I presided over a meeting at which a lengthy discussion took place as to the necessities of the parish, and the best and most effectual means of providing relief. The general opinion appeared to be that, although there was no immediate fear of destitution or starvation, there was a great probability of severe want in from two to three months, as the opportunities of employing labour began to diminish; that many of the planters, especially those cultivating properties of (say) from 10 or 15 acres up to 100 or 150, would be quite unable to resuscitate their cultivations without the assistance of advances, that the present need of the people was particularly for material, such as lumber, zinc roofing, nails, &c., to enable them to put up their houses which had been blown down, and the necessity for the Government to institute relief works to afford employment for those who were unable to obtain it otherwise.

"I need hardly say that all these matters are receiving, and will continue to receive, the careful and anxious consideration of myself and my advisers.

"After the meeting was over, I started to drive along the coast through Manchioneal to Hector's River where I was to stay the night as the guest of the Custos, Commander Codrington Hall, R.N.

"The scene which was disclosed as we passed along almost baffles description. The whole aspect of the country has been changed. Instead of the usual luxuriant and abounding foliage, the appearance is now that of late autumn or winter in England. The trees which are standing are stripped of leaves and display little but bare branches. But the most saddening element is the wholesale destruction of the coco-nut trees. Before the hurricane, the whole coast line was thickly covered with these trees, which formed the staple source of the income of the proprietors in this district. Now it is a very moderate estimate to say that 75 per cent. have disappeared, some broken short off 6 or 7 feet from the ground, and others wholly uprooted. The loss is the greater because, unlike the banana, which will produce fruit again in 9 or 10 months, the cocoanut will not bear in less than from 5 to 10 years, according to locality and soil. I was assured that on one estate (Darlingford) near Manchioneal only 1,600 trees have been left standing out of some 30,000. And I can well believe it, from what I saw myself.

"This part of the island appears to have experienced the greatest fury and weight of the storm, and at Manchioneal there was added to the tempest a tidal wave, which washed some distance inland, and destroyed many buildings. All along the coast, for many miles, there is scarcely a house standing, and even those which have not been knocked flat were, almost without exception, unroofed. I was greatly struck with the cheerfulness and pluck of the people, who had set to work at once to do the best they could to restore their destroyed houses, or to construct some sort of shelter for themselves and their families. Although I stopped at several places en route and talked to the people, I heard no word of complaint or grumbling. They stated their losses and their requirements, which, almost universally, were zinc roofing and lumber, but they were contented with, and thankful for, assurances that aid should be given them as promptly as possible.

"At Manchioneal the devastation has been complete. The town, which was a thriving little place, may be said to have been practically 'wiped out,' though, looking to the way in which the people are setting to work I shall not be surprised, if sufficient materials can be afforded them, to find that in a short time it has been to a great extent restored.

"I remained the night at Hector's River, four miles beyond Manchioneal, with the Custos. He has himself suffered a good deal, but he has been indefatigable, ever since the catastrophe, in endeavouring to organise the best means of relief for the sufferers.

"On Saturday morning I started to drive to Bath, about 16 miles from Hector's River, but in the Parish of St. Thomas. The same scenes of destruction so far as cultivation was concerned, attended us along the road, but the damage to buildings, except in certain places, appeared to be less, and the further west we went the less seemed to be the ravages of the storm, though they were sufficiently serious and striking.

"At Bath I met a deputation of small settlers who desired to urge their claims to assistance in the way of advances to help them to replace their destroyed cultivations. Of course I could make them no promise, but I am convinced that if persons of their kind are to be helped, and I think their claims are very strong, the sum of £50,000 which you have sanctioned will very quickly be exhausted.

"From Bath I proceeded to Port Morant, where much damage had been done. The magnificent coconut grove at Bowden, belonging to the United Fruit Company and containing many thousand trees, has almost entirely disappeared. Many buildings, and also much cultivation, have been seriously injured. I was told that the people in this neighbourhood were hanging back from work, having got an impression from some mischievous person that 'the King had sent the Governor a lot of money for the people, and they were to have their share'! I desired my informant, the Wesleyan Minister, to make it known as widely as he could that there was no truth in the report, and that relief would not be given to those who were able to work and could get employment.

"The Government are inviting, by means of placards, all those who are in want of work to register their names at the police stations, with the view of ascertaining for what amount of labour relief works will have to be undertaken in various districts. The rate of wages to be given on these works will be moderate in amount—practically a 'subsistence wage.'

"Leaving Port Morant, I drove on here (Morant Bay), where I am staying with Mr. J. H. Phillips, Vice-Chairman of the Parochial Board. The damage done in the neighbourhood is comparatively slight, but few buildings having been injured, though bananas, coconuts, and other cultivations have suffered much.

"I have omitted to say that it was gratifying to notice, all along my route, how much had been already done towards clearing up the banana fields. The plants, which had been levelled by the storm, had in most cases been cut away, and the young suckers were springing up and showing signs of vigorous life. This has been much assisted by the copious rains which have fallen since the cyclone, and there is every prospect that, provided we are spared any further drawback or heavy weather, there will be, in from six to eight months' time, a very prolific and abundant crop.

"The difficulty will be, especially for the poorer classes, to tide over the time until the reaping of the new crop begins, when employment for labour will again become active. It is the task of providing for them during this period of suspense which will cause the Government much anxiety and perplexity."

Exaggerated published reports.

12. I need hardly observe that the reports which first reached England and the United States of America gave far more appalling descriptions of the results of the cyclone than the foregoing careful, though abundantly sympathetic, account of the Governor The earliest telegrams to the English press on the subject reported that the town of Port Antonio had been "completely wiped out," only six houses remaining erect, and that the roofs of the City of Kingston (where practically no damage was done) had been seen flying through the air "like kites." One of the most moving examples of these reports was the following, which appeared in the New York "World" of the 15th of August. It is really deserving of a more permanent record in British annals.

(Extract from "Daily Gleaner" of 27th August, 1903):—

"Kingston, Jamaica, August 14.—Fear of a plague has added to the terror of the survivors of the great hurricane on Tuesday. On every side lie the bodies of the victims of the storm, swollen by

torrential rains, which still continue. Vegetation that was levelled by the tornado is rotting with the rapidity peculiar to the tropics.

"It is impossible to do anything to avert this new disaster without supplies, and there are none here. The death rate is certain to reach appalling figures, for many of the survivors are wounded or ill, and practically all of them are destitute of clothing and food. Two-thirds of the inhabitants of Jamaica are without food, and the small supply which was not destroyed by the wind and rain will last only a few days at the most.

"At a meeting held at Port Antonio, it was decided, with the approval of the Governor, to appeal to the charity of the American public for aid to prevent general starvation. Foodstuffs, clothing, lumber, medicine, surgical supplies, and disinfectants are urgently needed, and every hour they are delayed adds to the horrors of the situation.

"NOTHING CAN BE DONE.

"Never in the history of the British occupation has there been such widespread destitution, suffering, and hunger. Thousands of victims of the hurricane are homeless, without food, clothing, or medical attendance. Those who have wandered from the interior points to the coast towns in expectation of receiving assistance, are crushed to find that nothing can be done to relieve their wants. There are few buildings left standing in the seaports, and the majority of these are without roofs.

"Judging from the meagre reports from this district, which show that twenty-five lives were lost in the great hurricane of Tuesday, the loss of life on the island will appal the world when all reports are in.

"A gale which blew all day at the rate of 110 miles an hour has added to the terror of the refugees."

13. I think that I have now sufficiently indicated the situation created by the cyclone, which so profoundly disturbed the course of affairs in the island during the year under review. I will return in due course to a survey of the developed results of that disaster as they came under my own observation, and of the measures of public policy arising thereout. I was not in Jamaica at the date of the hurricane, being then on leave of absence and under instructions to resume duty in the Colonial Office, but on the 10th September I returned to Jamaica as Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain having, at the request of the Colonial Government, done me the honour to accept my offer to return if it should be considered that I could be of any service under the conditions which had arisen.

I will, therefore, now proceed to deal with the statistics of the year in their customary order.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

14. The total amount brought to account as General Revenue of the Government during the year was £926,164, the total General Expenditure was £822,876, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of £103,288. Particulars of the revenue and expenditure, in comparison with the Estimates and with the returns of last year, are given in the Appendix, Tables III. and IV.

15. The revenue accounts include the large item of £100,394, transferred from the credit of the Civil Service Widows and Orphans Pension Fund. By the operation of Law 32 of 1903, the affairs of the Civil Service Widows and Orphans Pension Association were wound up, and its assets transferred to the credit of General Revenue Account, which was previously chargeable annually with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on the nominal amount of the accumulated fund. The Colonial Government took over the obligations of the fund in regard to the existing and future accruing pensions and will receive in aid of these the amount of the premiums paid by the associates in the form of monthly deductions at the rate of 2 per cent. from their salaries. The immediate effect of these transactions on the revenue and expenditure accounts of the year was to relieve the Treasury of a charge estimated at £5,900 for 1903-4, whilst adding to the revenue £4,184 derived from premiums. The Pension charge for the year was £4,054. This charge will increase in future years until it absorbs an amount expected to be approximately equivalent to the former interest charge together with the current annual premiums.

16. The writing off through general revenue account of the large liability representing the capital amount of the fund brought the balance of the surplus and deficit account of the Government to the credit side. The balance sheet, which on the 1st April, 1903, showed a deficit of £35,497, showed on the 31st March, 1904, a surplus of £67,791. Excluding from consideration the transfer of this Pension Fund, the ordinary revenue, notwithstanding the disaster of the year, exceeded the expenditure by £2,894.

Surplus of ordinary revenue over expenditure.

17. Excluding that transfer and the amount of the premiums received as above mentioned the total ordinary revenue for the year was £821,586, a falling off of £34,928 from the total of the previous year, but nevertheless £25,097 in excess of the estimate for the year, which had been framed with a cautious moderation as regarded the receipts to be looked for from indirect taxes, and which had allowed for the diminution by £14,100 of the receipts from taxation on lands and houses.

Satisfactory recent progress of the Colony and its finances.

18. As was shown in Sir Augustus Hemming's despatch of the 23rd of December last, reporting on the Blue Book for the year 1902-3, that year had been marked by a rapid, but steady improvement in the public revenue, due chiefly to the activity of the banana trade with America. In this connexion I am glad to be able to quote the following passage from my report on the year 1901-1902.

"Two years ago, *i.e.*, in 1900, in reporting on the Blue Book for 1899-1900, I expressed my belief, from observation of what was being done in the country, that, with favourable seasons, the general condition of affairs must soon improve, and in introducing the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1902-03, I stated my conviction that in the matter of public finance the Government had climbed to the top of the hill, and that henceforth we should have a much easier road to travel. This expectation, criticised as too sanguine at the time, has been fully justified. The exports of island produce, since the 31st March, 1902, have continued to show an increasing excess over the exports of the same period, 1901. The revenue shows corresponding elasticity, and I am under no apprehension that a very substantial surplus will not be realised."

19. The revenue of the year 1902-1903 did, in fact, exceed that of the previous year by no less than £92,291; it exceeded the estimate for the year by £88,210, and exceeded the expenditure by £67,677, after providing for a special appropriation of £16,709 to repay the balance of an Imperial loan made in 1900 in aid of the deficit in the accounts of the Government. The full actual surplus on the transactions of that year was thus £84,385. During the summer of 1903 the banana trade continued active, the demand from the United States being strong and prices high. The Customs receipts for the first four months of the financial year exceeded those of the same four months of the preceding year by £14,444, the Internal Revenue by £4,213 (notwithstanding the reduction of the Property Taxes), and the Railway Revenue by £1,195. There is no reason to doubt that, had it not been for the occurrence of the cyclone, these advances would have been maintained in due proportion under the principal heads of revenue to the close of the year, and there would have been a surplus on the year's transactions substantially larger than that of the previous twelve months.

Temporary effects of cyclone upon revenue.

20. The hurricane destroyed, for the time being, practically all growing exportable produce in the districts which it ravaged. It immediately affected the traffic receipts of the railway, which yielded, in consequence, £15,467 less than in the previous year, and £13,161 less than the cautious estimate for the year. It similarly affected the shipping trade, so that Port and Harbour Dues yielded £1,608 less than in the year 1902-3, and £1,183 less than the estimate. The receipts grouped under the head of "Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue" were £30,373 less than in the previous year, notwithstanding that

in the first four months they had shown the considerable excess that I have mentioned. Their total amount was, however, only £770 less than the estimate for the year, owing, doubtless, to the large amount of money which had been put in circulation during the prosperous months before the hurricane. The figures of the Customs Revenue call for more particular comment. Their total exceeded that of the previous year by £17,041, of which excess, as I have above pointed out, £14,444 had been realised by the 31st of July. But the effects of the cyclone did not do more than arrest the increase in the yield of the Customs Duties. The native food supply was destroyed and there was a general demolition of houses. Foodstuffs, lumber, building materials, and other necessaries of life were imported in increased quantities, with the result that during the rest of the year the Customs Duties yielded slightly more than they had yielded in the corresponding, but far more prosperous period of the previous financial year. The amounts collected in the two years respectively on the undermentioned articles are very significant:—

Articles.	Duties collected.		Increase.
	1902–03.	1903–04.	
	£	£	£
Bread and biscuit	5,364	7,538	2,174
Butter and substitutes	6,777	7.435	658
Flour	64,873	84,224	19,351
Meal	1,970	4,311	2,341
Rice...	11,478	17,502	6,024
Lumber	—	—	2,218
Whisky	15,103	16,710	1,607

21. There was a decrease of £12,648 in the yield of *ad valorem* duties on unspecified goods (clothing, &c.), and of £3,894 in that on salt fish, the first luxury of the poor, a decrease of £1,527 on kerosine oil, also a prime popular luxury, and of £497 on soap.

22. I may observe that the consumption of rum in the island, although it was abated by the effects of the hurricane, did not show such a falling off as might have been expected. The consumption of whisky, as above noted, showed increase. The rum duty yielded £99,623, which was £7,469 less than was received in the previous year. The receipts from this source, however, showed an increasing tendency to fall off at the close of the year, and have, since the 31st March, continued to diminish very appreciably. The Postal Revenue, notwithstanding the check to the island's prosperity, exceeded that of the previous year by £488.

Effects on expenditure.

23. The total of general expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by £34,029, and the estimate for the year by £37,843. The returns show the results of the hurricane in the following items:—

Medical Department.—An increase of £2,450 over the previous year, and an excess of £1,244 over the estimate, very largely due to the pressure on hospital accommodation following the cyclone.

Public Works and Buildings.—An excess of £24,621 over the previous year, and £17,690 over estimate.

Railway.—An excess of £11,707 over the previous year, and £14,287 over estimate.

Cost of cyclone to General Revenue Account.

Special Hurricane Expenses.—Chiefly grants to Parochial Boards (£800) and to the Central Relief Committee (£250) for purposes of relief, £1,188 16s.

24. I estimate that the hurricane cost the General Revenue Account of the Colony, up to the 31st March last, not less than £113,000.* Had there been no such check the revenue would probably have been £70,000 more than it was, whilst the expenses directly entailed within the year exceeded £43,000. But for this occurrence the Government would have closed the year with a surplus balance of about £180,000. From this consideration, and from the financial statistics of the previous year, and of the period immediately preceding the cyclone the very sound and satisfactory position of the finance of the island under normal conditions will be recognised.

General soundness of the Colony's fiscal position.

25. Owing to steady increase and improvement of cultivation, the resources of the island are now such as may, I am convinced, be relied on in years of average good fortune to produce under the existing arrangements of taxation a revenue abundantly sufficient for the administrative requirements and yielding a satisfactory surplus. This surplus may be regarded as available either, as it has hitherto been used, for extinguishing floating debt and for fortifying the available Treasury balances, or for expenditure on productive public works, for which there are many favourable immediate openings. It may, and, in my opinion, should, also be taken advantage of to enable liberal amendments to be made on the present onerous Customs Tariff (which was enacted to last for seven years, from March, 1899). I shall return to these considerations later in the course of this despatch.

Yield of taxation.

26. Out of the total General Revenue of £926,164, £575,676 was derived from taxation. This is £18,734 less than the yield of taxation in the previous year. Import Duties produced £398,993 of the total, and the Excise Duty on rum consumed in the island £99,623. Other taxes only yielded

* This figure does not include the expenditure from the Parochial Road Reserved Fund and from Loan Funds which was applied to the prosecution of relief works.

£77,060. Sources of revenue other than taxation yielded £250,094. Capital amount transferred from Widows' and Orphans' Fund, £100,394.

Parochial finances.

27. The revenues of the Parochial Boards, including the Mayor and Council of Kingston, for the year, amounted to £128,894, against £139,737 collected in the previous year, a falling off of £10,843, which was almost equally divided between the General Funds and the Road Revenues of the Boards. The total expenditure of the Boards was £139,662, against £131,264 in the previous year. The expenditure of the Boards, both for poor relief and on roads, was swelled by the results of the hurricane, whilst the collections of their revenue suffered. Their expenditure for the year exceeded their income by £10,763. Of this total £5,247 is the net amount of repayment of debts owed by them to the Public Treasury. The debt of the Boards to the Treasury for various advances, chiefly for water supplies, markets and similar public undertakings was reduced during the year from £63,846 to £58,599.

The actual repayments amounted to £8,301, but the Parochial Board of Trelawny borrowed £2,300 (£1,600 for water works), and the Mayor and Council of Kingston £750 for street improvements.

Kingston General Commissioners.

28. The income of the Kingston General Commissioners during the year was £33,751, their expenditure £35,584.

Yield of direct taxes chiefly local.

29. The direct taxes for the year were well collected in all but the devastated parishes, and in these, up to the date of the cyclone, the collections were very satisfactory. The market revenues of the Parochial Boards suffered considerably from the destruction of provisions.

30. The distinction between different parishes in the returns of taxes collected and arrears accrued or carried forward reflects pretty closely the track of the hurricane. The Collector-General, reviewing a comparative statement of the collections and the arrears for the two years 1902-03 and 1903-04, points out that they show distinctly two things: (1) the success attending the initial attempt at fixing, under the Valuation Law, a better basis for the levying of taxes; and (2) the success of the resolute policy which has now for some years been followed by the Department, with a view to fairly collecting the taxes due from all persons not entitled to relief. The improving prosperity of the island, notwithstanding the temporary depression, is indicated by the fact that the numbers relieved from payment of taxes on the recommendation of the Parochial Boards diminished from 11,349 to 5,302 between the two years. Some part of this decrease was, however, no doubt due to the reduction of the number of taxpayers on the rolls, which arose from the operation of the Property Tax and Parish Rates Law, hereafter to be reported on, in making the owner of property responsible for the taxes on property, including the temporary holdings of tenants.

Public debt.

31. An examination and analysis of the Public Debt of the island was given in my report on the Blue Book of 1901-02, and applies with slight variations to the present situation. The total outstanding debt on the 31st March last was £3,755,968 10s., of which £3,345,992 was debt incurred for general purposes, and the balance, £409,976, local debt guaranteed by General Revenue. The investments required by the several Loans Laws for Sinking Funds for the repayment of debts were duly made from General Revenue during the year, at the close of which these funds amounted to £309,394.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

32. The total value of the imports of the Colony for the year was £2,000,094. Those of the previous year were valued at £1,990,884. These totals included:—

—	Coal.	Coin and Bullion.
	£	£
1902–03	109,626	39,692
1903–04	105,920	10,572

Much of the coal is re-exported by steamers. The other imports, presumably for home consumption, were valued at £1,883,602. This is an increase of £42,036 on the previous year, and is well in advance of the average of the five years' period, the figures for which are given in Appendix No. V.

Increase in food-stuffs due to cyclone.

33. I have already pointed out that one effect of the hurricane was to promote a large increase in the importation of foodstuffs and other necessaries. The additional values of the more important of such articles imported were:—

Bread and biscuits	£4,278
Butter	1,741
Cheese	1,691
Flour	60,222
Meal	16,108
Rice	23,005
Milk	3,447
Whisky	1,745
Lumber	15,841
Cement	2,710
Shingles	3,351

There were decreases worth noting under the following heads:— *Decreases.*

Ale, beer and porter	£5,799
Corn	5,563
Salt beef	1,441
Salt fish	7,358
Textiles (clothing, &c.)	79,233
Boots and shoes	5,509
Furniture	1,703
Earthenware and china	1,401

34. The sources of the imports are indicated in the following table, showing the proportional percentages of the totals from each direction:— *Countries of origin.*

—	1903–04.	1902–03.
United Kingdom	47.0	50.1
United States of America ...	42.6	40.3
Canada	7.2	6.9
Other countries	3.2	2.7

It will be observed that there was a slight loss of ground on the part of the United Kingdom, and an equivalent advance on that of the United States. The supplies derived from the United States now almost equal those from the United Kingdom.

35. The exports of island produce fell from an estimated value in the previous year of £2,224,116 to £1,474,194, a decrease of more than one-third. The total is lower than that of any other year since the bad years 1896-97 and 1897-98, in which the values were £1,384,278 and £1,377,826 respectively. Table V. in the appendix shows the steady increase in the exports since that period. *Exports.* *Great falling off.*

36. The principal falling off occurred in the export of bananas, which dropped from 14,660,582 stems to 7,803,243 stems, and in estimated value from £1,134,750 to £585,243. These are the Collector-General's figures, but I doubt if the fall was really quite so great as appears in the statistics. The fruit exported before the hurricane was marketed during the months of high prices. From August onward the prices are always much lower. These values are assessed on an average price; but the exports of the first four and a-half months of the year would fetch more than the average, those for the winter months less. *Banana trade.*

Up to the end of July, 1903, the export of bananas was 6,274,425 stems, about a quarter of a million in excess of that of the same four months in 1902. In the month of August, 1903, 896,035 stems were exported, against 1,233,954 in August, 1902. From August, 1903, to the 31st March, 1904, 632,783 stems were exported, as compared with 5,147,178 stems in 1902-03. The fruit that escaped the hurricane was principally in the western parishes. The lowest rate of shipment was reached in February, 1904, in which month only 13,468 stems were exported, against 715,361 in the previous year. After February the trade began to revive. In March 56,908 stems were shipped, in April 54,190, in May 125,460, in June 273,396, in July 801,508, and in the week of this month corresponding with the week preceding the hurricane of last year's August the export had reached four-fifths of what it was in the corresponding week last year. In the last week of August this year the export has been 263,249 bunches, against 253,493 in the corresponding week of the year 1902.

Revival now established.

Cocoanuts.

37. The export of cocoanuts fell in number from 25,623,644 to 14,951,245, and in value from £67,902 to £49,890. This trade will be slower in recovering than that in bananas. It was lowest in the month of February, when the numbers were 153,672 nuts, against 2,386,380 in the previous year. Since then it has been increasing. On account of the scarcity of native provisions the local demand and price have risen, and this has possibly somewhat checked the exportation. With regard to this export it may be noted that the quantity shipped in 1903 was quite unprecedented. In the previous year less than 18,000,000 nuts were exported, and in the year preceding that less than 14,000,000; in 1899-1900 about 18,000,000, and in the previous year less than 12,000,000. A very great number of cocoanut trees was destroyed, and at the east end of the island, where there were extensive plantations, some of these were almost entirely swept away, but it is my impression, from personal observation, that the early estimates of the proportion of cocoanut trees destroyed in the whole island were excessive, owing to the overwhelming impression produced by the aspect of those plantations of the seaboard which received the full force of the blow. There is always an immense consumption of nuts in the island, and the reduction in the exportation, which represents the surplus, is therefore not a direct index of the proportion of trees destroyed. I think it quite possible that by the time the trees left alive have recovered and come into full bearing it may be found (if the price continues good) that the exportable supply will not have been reduced very much below the average of the period preceding the year 1902-03. There has been a large amount of replanting, showing that confidence is still felt in this staple.

Cocoa.

38. The exports of cocoa fell from 31,462 cwt. to 22,008 cwt., valued at £41,540, against £65,285. Some of the older cocoa

plantations suffered very considerable damage, which it will take several years to repair, but they are not destroyed, and in view of the large areas of young cocoa that are coming into bearing I should expect to see this export very quickly recover and pass beyond its average of recent preceding years.

39. The export of coffee fell off from 107,855 cwt. to 80,061 cwt., and in value from £130,775 to £112,085. The crop was partially destroyed, but practically no permanent damage was done to the plantations. *Coffee.*

40. Oranges fell from 98,589,575 to 82,630,540, which number was, however, in excess of that exported in 1901-02. The estimated value fell from £101,054 to £72,303, owing to low prices. This crop did not suffer appreciably from the hurricane. *Oranges.*

41. Pimento exported fell from 114,906 cwt. to 71,078 cwt., and in value from £91,997 to £68,847. Pimento is an article for which there is a limited demand. Jamaica is the sole source of supply. The average output is large enough to continuously depress the market. It will be observed that last year's short crop is estimated to have been very nearly as valuable as the previous year's crop, which exceeded it by more than sixty per cent. in quantity. The price was unduly inflated after the cyclone by exaggerated reports of the destruction of the pimento walks. As was the case in regard to cocoanut plantations many large pimento properties, especially in St. Ann's, where the edge of the limestone tableland caught the full force of the hurricane, showed extraordinary devastation, but the impression I received from travelling through the island during the autumn was that there was a very imposing number of pimento trees left standing in St. Ann's, and that outside St. Ann's the reduction was not at all serious, in short that there were probably on the whole quite enough bearing pimento trees left in the island to yield as large an average crop as it is economically advantageous should come on the market. The hurricane appeared to me to have done what the Dutch used to do for their spice crop when they controlled the market for cloves, pepper and cinnamon, and what has been done for the diamond market. This year's crop, although a good deal of the berry was knocked off the trees by a heavy storm in June, will, apparently, be a full average crop, if not more, and prices are now markedly depressed. It is quite possible that in a year unfavourable to the berry the diminished number of trees may within a certain period result in the crop falling undesirably short, but I should expect that there will, on the average, be substantial compensation in prices for some years to come for the loss in quantity. This circumstance will not, of course, remedy the loss of those individuals whose plantations have principally suffered. The penkeepers of Manchester and St. Elizabeth will gain at the expense of those of the north side. *Pimento.*

Sugar.

Short crop.

42. The sugar cane crop was short, owing to drought in the growing season. The export of sugar fell to 270,493 cwt., and the value to £121,722. These figures are among the lowest on record. The preceding year's figures were 406,455 cwt., valued at £167,663.

Rum.

Great decrease.

43. The export of rum fell from 1,927,150 gallons to 1,293,716, and the value from £156,581 to £97,029—also the lowest on record for a number of years.

Annatto.

44. The exports of annatto continue to decrease, owing to the control of the market by a Trust.

Minor products and fruits.

45. Beeswax holds its own. Honey shows an advance. The value of these two products together was £20,852, against £19,617 in the previous year. The value of horses and mules exported advanced by £800. Lancewood spars, kola nuts, lime juice, sheep's wool, walking sticks, tortoise shell, dried turtle, bitter wood and divi divi all show advances. There was a falling off in the shipments of grape fruit, limes, mangoes and pineapples, reflecting the effects of the hurricane. The value of ginger exported fell from £46,615 to £42,465. The export of logwood rose from 37,895 tons to 42,259 tons, and in value from £97,906 to £110,929. This export was stimulated by the hurricane, by the necessity both of cleaning pastures from fallen trees and of providing ready money for restorations. Logwood extract advanced from 6,874 packages to 9,511 packages, and in value from £33,633 to £47,609.

Logwood, &c.

46. There were decreases in the exportations of fustic, ebony and lignum vitæ.

Cattle and hides.

47. There was a remarkable drop in the exportations of cattle, from 1,245 head, valued at £8,406, to 183 head, valued at £947. Fewer hides, too, were exported. Goat skins shrunk from 94,968 lbs. to 87,085 lbs. Probably this was due to a fall in price, for the value shows a larger proportional drop.

Cotton.

48. Cotton figured for the first time for many years among the exports. In this year's statistics it would show an important advance, as there has been considerable planting.

Tobacco.

49. The export of tobacco leaf increased, but is still insignificant, the total valuation being only £582. The export of cigarettes and cigars diminished from a value of £20,204 to £18,985.

Destination of exports.

50. The exports of the year were consigned in the following proportions to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and other countries:—

—	1903–04.	1902–03.	1901–02.
United Kingdom	18.8	19.1	21.1
United States of America	59.4	68.1	65.6
Canada	5.4	2.3	1.6
Other countries	16.1	10.5	11.7

The apparent retrogression of the proportion going to the United States is owing to the interruption of the fruit export. The advance in the exportation to other countries is principally a matter of proportion only, owing to the same cause. The increase of exportations to Canada is in some degrees substantial. It is noteworthy that 108,425 cwt. of sugar went to Canada this year, against 88,844 cwt. to the United States of America, and 60,036 to the United Kingdom.

Percentage analyses of exports.

51. The proportional values of the several principal classes of exports is shown by the Collector-General, as follows:—

	Per cent.
Sugar	8.2
Rum	6.5
Coffee	7.6
Dyewoods	7.9
Fruit	45.3
Pimento	6.0
Other products	18.5

Last year fruit formed nearly sixty per cent. of the total export, and this proportion will, no doubt, progressively increase. Nearly ninety-six per cent. of the banana trade went to the United States of America, and the English trade in this fruit showed no comparative gain during the year. The export of oranges to the United Kingdom rose from 6,068,000 to 11,178,000, and reached about one-seventh of the total amount, a great advance in its proportion, which, in the previous year, was only about one-sixteenth.

Effect of cyclone on trade of Direct Line and British market.

52. Considerable positive advance in the fruit exports to England would, no doubt, have been shown had it not been for the cyclone, which caused the Direct Line steamers to run empty of bananas for many months, and diverted the other British fruit steamers from Jamaica to Costa Rica, between which country and the United Kingdom a substantial trade in bananas is now being built up by the joint enterprise of Messrs. Elders and Fyffes and the United Fruit Company. Costa Rica is Jamaica's most serious competitor in the supply of this trade.

(B.) Shipping.

53. The returns of shipping for the year show 255 sailing vessels reported, against 237 in 1902-03, an increase of 18. Of steam vessels 825 were reported, against 1,034, a decrease of 209. The decrease in tonnage was 84,563. In consequence of the depression of the fruit trade 22 steamers fewer than last year visited Kingston, 201 fewer Port Antonio, and 14 fewer

other ports. The variation was entirely in foreign shipping engaged in the fruit trade, of which the majority are Norwegian vessels.

54. This falling off in the shipping business, especially at Port Antonio, naturally threw a great many persons engaged at the ports out of employment, and contributed to the demand for relief work in Portland, as well as increasing the calls upon the Poor Fund for assistance to dependents whose supporters abandoned them in the search for subsistence elsewhere.

The Marine Board.

Decrease in trade.

55. The Marine Board, under the presidency of the Commodore on the station, continued its supervision of shipping. Twelve enquiries were held on the conduct of pilots, resulting in six being exonerated, two cautioned, three licences being suspended for nine months each and one licence being forfeited. Sixteen enquiries were held into casualties to vessels and the conduct of the masters in charge, and 126 vessels were examined and granted sea-going certificates for various periods.

56. As was mentioned in Sir Augustus Hemming's report on the Blue Book of last year, the Wigham lamps now used in the harbour of Kingston were unaffected by the hurricane. These lamps have, on the whole, proved very satisfactory, although they require careful watching and occasional attention to ensure their continuous and regular burning.

(C.) Surveys, Land Grants, Crown Lands.

57. The Surveyor-General reports that 390 linear miles of survey have been traced by his Department, an increase of 113 miles over the work of the previous year. The surveys included extensive work at Letitz Savannas in St. Elizabeth, the opening and defining of the lines of forfeited land, and the allotment of Crown lands to purchasers and to time-expired coolies. The surveys at Letitz were for the purpose of granting titles, subject to a nominal rent, and with option of purchase, to a large number of squatters who were in occupation of land forfeited to the Crown. During the year 640 applications were received for the purchase of 5,035 acres of Crown land, and 475 lots. covering 5,178 acres, have been surveyed and allotted. In this year the policy was initiated of offering grants of land to time-expired Indian immigrants in lieu of return passages to India. 695 acres of land have been so allotted to 60 adults and 67 children, at a cost of £160, in addition to the value of the land. Notifications for the forfeiture of ten properties, containing 4,358 acres for non-payment of taxes, have been advertised, and proceedings for forfeiture are pending. 9,234 acres advertised in previous notifications have been forfeited. The work of this Department is on the increase.

58. It is the desire of the Government to adhere to the policy of completing means of access to Crown lands already alienated to which roads have been promised before making roads elsewhere, and not to open Crown lands to settlement in remote and inaccessible districts so long as there are unalienated Crown lands fit for settlement to which roads have already been made or promised. The profitable character of banana cultivation may become a means of defeating the objects with which the scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small buyers, to be paid for by instalments, was instituted. Such lands are sold at £1 an acre, and it may very well pay a labourer to take up land at that price, payable by instalments, to cut down the woodland, to take off a few crops of bananas, and to abstain altogether from the permanent settlement which it was the object of the scheme to promote. The extension of the alienation of Crown lands under this system therefore requires careful and constant watching, and, in view of the present high value of lands suitable for banana cultivation and the probable increase in the general value of land as agriculture and population develop, the Government will have to consider before very long whether the minimum prices for Crown lands on the instalment system should not be fixed at a higher figure than £1 an acre, especially when rendered accessible to roads. One of the roads constructed by relief labour since the cyclone in East Portland will facilitate access to a large tract of valuable Crown land, in regard to which such questions as this may well arise. *Crown lands policy.*

(D.) Agriculture and Agricultural Services.

59. The agricultural progress of the island received a severe shock, but was in no sense permanently arrested by the cyclone. On the contrary, the necessity of redressing the effects of that disaster gave a stimulus to cultivation and planting, and there can be no doubt that during the autumn and winter many of the large planters and also the small settlers, particularly those who received loans from the Government, the application of which was enforced by supervision, did a great deal more forking and trenching than they would otherwise have done, whilst there has been a larger planting for next spring's crop than in any previous year. The physical action of a hurricane on the soil and vegetation appears to have itself a fertilising effect, and the succeeding season has been, on the whole, favourable to agriculture, although cold weather in the early spring has retarded crops. One result of the hurricane was the importation of a large amount of good seeds of peas and beans, which were widely distributed, also the distribution and planting of a great quantity of sweet potatoes of good quality. In fact, the stimulating results of the hurricane were markedly visible in the improved quality of the exhibits of peasant's produce at the recent agricultural shows in St. Andrew's parish and elsewhere. *Effects of cyclone.*

General progress maintained.

60. Steady progress is being continuously made in the diffusion of agricultural knowledge and improved practice among the peasantry. This is effected through the local branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which are increasing in number and in strength of membership, through the local agricultural Instructors employed by the society, now four in number, and by the Travelling Instructors of the Government. The whole time of one of these is now devoted to instruction and part of the time of two others. After the hurricane, instructors were specially sent to the districts principally affected, to encourage the peasantry to plant quick-growing crops of provisions and to assist them in restoring the damage done to their permanent cultivation. The encouraging results attained in previous years under the scheme for the granting of prizes for the best kept small settlers' holdings in particular districts have been followed up and improved upon. It is now arranged that in whatever parish of the island prizes are to be offered under this scheme an instructor shall be stationed during the previous year, in order to encourage competition, and to give hints as to the improvements to be aimed at. Progress on these lines is slow, but the movement has taken hold. The suspicion which used to attach to the efforts of the Agricultural Society and the instructors, under the belief that it was a device for extorting increased taxation, is passing away, and the local agricultural shows now call forth exhibits of very markedly higher quality, in regard to curing and preparation, than they did a few years ago. There is also a discernible increase in the keeping of small stock, pigs and settlers' cattle.

Work of Government in agriculture. Experiment station.

61. The Board of Agriculture, under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary, continued to supervise the agricultural work of the Government. Considerable progress was made in developing the usefulness of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Hope Gardens. The more important work done was the propagation, for test purposes, of selected varieties of cassava, the experimental cultivation of cotton, the continued study of hybridised pineapples, the propagation and selection of seedling sugar canes, an experiment in the growing of sun-flower and canary seed, the selection of sweet potatoes, the curing of Havana tobacco, in which special instruction is given to the apprentices, and the cultivation of Sumatra tobacco—for wrappers of cigars—under cotton cloth, a method adopted from the United States. This experiment deserves special notice.

Sumatra tobacco.

62. The cigar-making industry of Jamaica is hampered by the cost of the Sumatra wrapper, which has to be imported, native tobacco not yielding a sufficiently fine and silky leaf. A quarter of an acre of ground, previously cultivated in Havana tobacco, and exhibiting two distinct kinds of soil, was covered with a tent of cheese cloth and planted with Sumatra tobacco. The plants grew equally well upon both soils, reaching a height of nine feet in seven weeks after planting. The results of the

experiment show that a very fine class of wrapper tobacco can be grown at a very remunerative cost, equal, if not superior, to that imported from America. The results of curing were unsatisfactory in flavour, owing to the climate at Hope being too dry. So delicate a leaf must be cured in a more humid atmosphere, and it may be advisable to transfer the next crop for curing to some other district of the island.

Budding of mangoes and cocoa.

63. A very important achievement of the Department during the year was the discovery of reliable methods for budding mangoes and cocoa. This ought to have important effects on trade in both these products, but especially in that in cocoa. It will now be possible to bud the more valuable but somewhat more delicate variety of cocoa, the criollo, upon the strong-growing stocks of the forastero or calabacillo.

Agricultural instruction.

64. A large amount of agricultural instruction and training is given in the institutions gathered at Hope. In the Government Laboratory instruction is given to young men of the middle class, after passing through secondary schools, in agricultural chemistry, the cultivation of the products grown at the Experiment Station, estates' book-keeping, farriery, &c. Twelve apprentices, including two in the laboratory, were also under instruction. The second-year students from the Mico Training College for Schoolmasters receive weekly instruction. Sixty-one elementary school teachers received a month's course of agricultural training at Hope Gardens, and the Mico Institution in January. The boys of the Hope Industrial School are also employed under instruction in the Gardens.

Damage to gardens.

65. The beautiful gardens at Hope, which form a pleasure ground for the public, as well as the centre of the economic agricultural and botanic work of the island were pitiably devastated by the hurricane, as were the older Botanic Gardens at Castleton and the Parade Gardens at Kingston. The restoration of the damage, so far as it was possible, was carried out with great judgment, efficiency and promptitude by the Department, and at Castleton Gardens, which were previously perhaps somewhat overstocked, the results of the damage would now hardly be noticeable to a stranger. Hope Gardens have suffered by the loss of many large trees, but in other respects they have resumed their accustomed aspect. The expenditure in excess of the estimates rendered necessary by the damage done was £460, but this does not represent the full amount that was spent in redressing the damage, nor, of course, the value of what was destroyed.

Cotton planting.

66. The attention which has been given to the revival of cotton growing in the West Indies was participated in by Jamaica. As I have mentioned, some cotton was exported last year, and more has been planted this year. There are thousands of acres of land in Jamaica, including some irrigable lands, which it has been demonstrated are admirably suited for the

easy cultivation of cotton. The reason why the planting of cotton has not been taken up in Jamaica, as it has been in Barbados and some of the other Lesser Antilles, is simply because banana planting and other investments here offer a still more promising return. Investments of capital in cotton growing, however, offer at least as good a promise in Jamaica as anywhere else in the West Indies, and I should expect that there will be very shortly a considerable development of cotton planting on such lands as I have referred to, which are not suitable for banana, chocolate or other established staples.

Cassava starch manufacture and cotton ginning.

67. For some time past the question of developing the cassava starch industry has been occupying attention. Owing to the enterprise of Mr. J. W. Middleton, a member of the Board of Agriculture, a small factory was experimentally started at Longville in Clarendon. The starch produced by this factory was of such excellent quality, and attracted such favourable attention amongst persons interested in this trade in England, that a company has been formed to manufacture on a large scale, and a stimulus to the cultivation of cassava, which must prove of great advantage to the small cultivators in the neighbourhood, may be expected to result. I may observe that if cotton ginneries should be established in suitable neighbourhoods, it is probable that a large supply of cotton might, in a few years' time, be obtainable from small cultivators An experiment is being made by the Board of Agriculture in this direction by placing one of the cotton gins presented to this island by the British Cotton Growing Association under the control of one of the local agricultural societies. A power gin, also presented by the Association, is being worked by Mr. Fursden, also a member of the Board of Agriculture, under the arrangement that he shall gin at a fixed rate all cotton sent to him.

Immigration Department.

Indian immigrants.

68. The Protector of Immigrants reports that no Indian immigrants were sent back to India during the year. On the 8th April the ship "Dahomey" arrived from Calcutta with 659 immigrants on board. Notwithstanding that there had been considerable sickness during the voyage, the immigrants generally presented a healthy appearance on their arrival, and seemed to be of fair physique. There has been a further and marked decrease in the death-rate of Indian immigrants during the year, the figures being 1.97 per cent., against 3.40 per cent. in 1902. More than one-third of the deaths were those of infants, while one-sixth were the result of accidents and violence.

Effects of cyclone on condition of coolies.

69. During the first four months of the year the wages earned by Indian immigrants were satisfactory, but since the cyclone their earnings have dropped considerably. The numerous coolies employed in the banana plantations are able to earn high wages in the congenial work of cutting, carrying, wrapping and

carting the fruit, but by the destruction of the crop they were reduced to the less remunerative tasks of hoeing and other cultivation. Their ability to work was also seriously affected by the considerable amount of sickness which prevailed among them, as among the labouring class generally, after the hurricane. The hospitals during part of the autumn were crowded with Indian immigrants far beyond their proper capacity, and it was found necessary in some cases to provide temporary accommodation.

70. The Indian immigrants whose dwellings were destroyed by the hurricane showed a more rapid capacity than the majority of creole labourers and peasants in rising to the needs of the situation in the repair of their houses, and a greater readiness to resume work. In these respects they gave a valuable example, and the alacrity and ingenuity with which, in some cases, they provided themselves and their families with shelter and cleared away the débris of the storm was most commendable. The Indian immigrants make valuable settlers, and it is to be hoped that the policy of granting them land in lieu of return passages will prove of permanent advantage to the island, besides saving the cost of the passages. The deposits in the Government Savings Bank to the credit of Indian immigrants increased by nearly £2,000 during the year to a total slightly exceeding £24,000. It is estimated that Indian immigrants own real property in the island to the value of about £30,000.

Native labour supply.

71. The experiment, which was initiated in the year 1902, of utilizing the Immigration Department as a Labour Intelligence Office for enabling labourers seeking employment to meet the demands of employers in other parishes was continued during the year under review. It has proved an entire failure. The labourers that have applied in most cases refused to accept work offered them, even though at the most liberal rates, and in one case they eventually left the estate employing them in debt for advances made, and took with them the tools supplied. The experience of planters in these cases has led them to discontinue applications to the Immigration Office for creole labour, and to increase their applications for Indian immigrants.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Laws of 1902.

72. Appendix VI. furnishes a schedule of the laws passed in the Session of the Legislative Council of the year 1903, and assented to within the period under review. Among these laws I may call attention to the following:—

Law 5 of 1903, "The Trustee Investment Securities Law, 1903." This law was passed in order to comply with the requirements prescribed by the Imperial Treasury to enable stock of the Colonial Government to rank under the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, as a security in which a trustee may invest trust moneys under the powers of the Trustee Act in 1893 of the Imperial Parliament.

Law 9, "A Law to amend the Deficit Loan (Imperial) Law, 1900," empowered the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, at any time when the state of the finances of the Colonial Government might admit of it, to pay off the balance outstanding of any loan raised under the provisions of Law 36 of 1900. This law was passed to permit the Colonial Government to repay out of its cash balances the outstanding balance of the loan of £20,000, borrowed in the year 1900 from the Imperial Government in aid of General Revenue. The Colonial Government is now free of debt to the Imperial Government on this account.

73. Law 15, "The Property Tax Law, 1903," and Law 16, "The Parish Rates Law, 1903."

In my report on the affairs of this Colony for the year 1901-02 [Cd. 788-43], paragraphs 14-23 and 199-268, I reported fully on the situation which led up to the passing of these two very important measures. There were previously in force six distinct taxes on houses and lands for purposes of General or Parochial Revenue, namely:—

Former taxes on real property.

(1) The Quit Rent, of one penny an acre on land (except where the tax had been redeemed). The amount of the quit rents had, up to April, 1901, been appropriated for the improvement and the repair, in special cases, of parochial roads. In 1901, in accordance with the recommendation of Sir David Barbour, this tax was transferred to the account of General Revenue. I may here observe that I think it will be recognised, when the position of the finances admits of it, that it will be expedient that a considerable appropriation should annually be made out of general revenue for the improvement and extension of roads in lieu of this source of income temporarily diverted from that purpose.

(2) The Holding Tax.—This was a direct tax on land assessed on the areas of holdings, but decreasing in its average rate per acre as the size of the holding increased.

(3) A Property Tax on the acreage of certain cultivated lands, payable to General Revenue.

(4) A similar Property Tax on the acreage of lands, graded according to their cultivation, payable to the Parochial Road Funds.

(5) The House Tax.—A rate assessed on the annual value of houses for the support of the poor and for other general purposes of the Parochial Boards.

(6) The Education Tax, which was a limited rate on houses ranging from 2*s.* to 12*s.*, in aid of the expenses of public education.

Single property tax for general revenue.

74. The Property Tax Law imposed, in all parishes except Kingston, a tax at the rate of 8*d.* on every ten pounds or fractional part of ten pounds of the gross value of property on the Valuation Roll, to be paid to General Revenue in lieu of the Quit Rents, the Holding Tax, the Property Tax, and the Education Tax, all of which were abolished. The effect of the law was to reduce the year's estimate of direct taxation on property for General Revenue from £40,400 to £28,370. Moreover, it allowed a rebate, estimated to amount to between £600 and £700, in the case of property including lands on which quit rents have been redeemed. The total estimated loss to General Revenue was thus about £12,700.

Parish rate for local revenue.

75. The Parish Rates Law was an equally important and far-reaching reform. It superseded the arrangements whereby the whole cost of poor relief, lunacy, local sanitation and other general purposes of the parishes had been defrayed by a rate on houses only, falling, in fact, most heavily, in proportion to value, on the houses of the poorest class, a system the unfortunate results of which had long been recognised, and which were set forth somewhat fully in my report for the year 1901-02. The new law distributed the burdens of local finance in these departments over the whole of the property standing in the Valuation Roll. For the purposes of both laws the value of any property in the possession of one and the same person in the same parish up to and not exceeding £40 in gross value is to be taken to be £40, except when such property does not include any house or does not exceed one-quarter of an acre in extent; in either of such cases, if the value of the property does not exceed £40, the value for the purposes of the law is to be taken as £20. The effect of this change, whilst it established a minimum basis for rating, was to transfer to land a charge which would vary in different parishes, according to the cost of local administration in those parishes. I have already pointed out that relief was given to land by the remission of £12,000 of taxation formerly going to General Revenue.

76. There was little opposition in the Legislative Council to either of these Bills, although in the previous Session there had been strong opposition to similar Bills then prepared, but in the event suspended on account of the incompleteness of the

Valuation Roll at the time, and a great deal of misapprehension and prejudice had been stirred up in opposition to them. There was, however, some opposition on these Bills, on behalf of landowners, to exposing their property to a new rate at the uncontrolled discretion of elected bodies, which would be dependent on the suffrages of the poorer voters, and which there was a disposition to regard as likely to act extravagantly and irresponsibly. As there was force in the demand put forward that some safeguard should be established, it was thought reasonable to meet the difficulty by providing that the Parish General Rate to be levied on any £10 of the value of any property after and in excess of the amount of £1,000 should not exceed in any case 1*s*. on every ten pounds of such value. The restriction would only affect those parishes in which the parish rate on a uniform basis would have to exceed 1*s*., and it was found that in such parishes the effect of restricting the rate on properties exceeding £1,000 in value to 1*s*. would only be to increase the rate on other property by about one halfpenny on the average.

Change of incidence.

77. I endeavoured to compute what would be the effect of the shifting of taxation brought about by these laws in regard to the distribution of burdens on proprietors of houses and lands. So far as I could judge the total taxation on land, both for General and for Local Revenue, would apparently be somewhat less than it was in the year 1901-1902, whilst that on houses would be reduced from an average of about £50,000 to somewhat less than £29,000 a year. I cannot say that these figures are conclusive, but it is unquestionable that the former payers of house tax receive a most substantial remission of taxation, whilst the taxation on land was increased beyond what it had been before April, 1901, but not beyond the limit of 1901-2.

Road rate.

78. The Parish Rates Law also enabled Parochial Boards to impose a road rate, not exceeding twopence on every £10 of the value of property, in aid of their road funds, to take the place of the former Property Tax, which was abolished.

79. These two laws, which had been prepared for by the valuation of property, on which I reported fully in 1902, complete a most important and valuable body of reform. Apart from the adjustment of taxation on a fair basis and the supersession of the much denounced House Tax, the simplification and saving of labour effected by both for the taxpayer and the Revenue Department are very great. At some future date it may be considered whether to transfer the assessment of the taxes to rental or annual values instead of resting it on gross values as at present. But on the whole it does not appear that there is much fault to be found with the operation of the present principle. The valuation will be periodically amended, and I have no doubt whatever that the next roll will be an improvement, in completeness and equity, upon the present one, in which I think there may be some properties relatively undervalued. The yield of the taxes may be expected to increase substantially at each valuation, whereas the anomalies and inconveniences of

the former system of taxes were bound to become more conspicuous and more irksome as the development of property in the island progressed, without any proportionate effect in increasing the revenue.

Satisfactory working of new taxes.

80. Reporting on the operation of these laws the Acting Collector-General, in the course of his very interesting report on the work of his Department for the year, observes that promise of success in the collection of the direct taxes at the opening of the year was marked, the peasantry in greater numbers flocking to pay, and expressing gratitude at the relief given them, while the larger proprietors in cases in which their obligations were increased, ungrudgingly accepted them, and freely took advantage of the concession allowing them to pay in quarterly instalments or by moieties.

Local effects of cyclone on yield of taxes.

81. The receipts from Property Tax amounted to £25,573, which was short of the estimate by £1,347, whilst the yield of the parish rate was £38,183, being short of the estimate by £3,482. The Collector-General attributes the failure to realise the estimates entirely to the serious check caused by the hurricane. The parochial returns bear out this impression, since the falling off is only serious in those parishes which suffered severely from the storm. In these it amounts to £3,974. In three others there were very small deficiencies on the estimates, whilst in four there were excesses. The largest deficiency was in St. Mary's Parish, viz., £1,130 on an estimate of £4,120. I should judge that, but for the hurricane, the estimates would have been exceeded in most parishes. The operation of the new laws may, therefore, discounting the effects of the hurricane, be regarded as so far entirely satisfactory.

82. Law 17, relieved vessels calling at the island solely for the purpose of effecting necessary repairs or of obtaining medical assistance, from liability to pay any harbour fees or light dues, and vessels calling only for orders or to obtain water, ships' stores or necessary provisions, from half the amount of such dues.

Law 19, "The Cruelty to Animals Law Amendment Law," besides making other small amendments in the existing law, prohibited the docking or nicking of the tails of horses.

Law 20, "The Parochial Loans Law, 1903," gave power to the Government to borrow money to lend to Parochial Boards for the execution of approved public works. Hitherto provision for such works has been made by advances from the Island Treasury, an arrangement productive of inconvenience at times when the Government has no real surplus to the credit of General Revenue or when its cash balances are subjected to such a heavy drain as has occurred this year. I have dealt with this consideration in my remarks on the balance sheet of the Colony.

Law 23, "The Bank Notes Law, 1903." This law prescribes, in accordance with the principle approved by the Imperial

Treasury for observation in Colonies whose banking laws are under the control of the Secretary of State, the conditions as to security under which bank notes may be issued by banks not already issuing notes in the island. The banks now issuing notes are the Colonial Bank, the security for whose notes is prescribed by the terms of their Charter, and the Bank of Nova Scotia, whose notes are secured by the provisions of the Canadian Banking Law.

83. Law 31, "The Produce Protection Law, 1903," was a somewhat important measure, to reinforce the protection of agriculturists against praedial larceny. Added to the Vagrancy Law of the previous year and the Praedial Larceny Law of 1901 it forms the outcome of the special attention which has been given during late years to the problem of repressing prædial larceny. It also embodied an important provision requiring any person packing any kind of agricultural produce to be designated by order of the Governor in Council for exportation in any closed package, and any person exporting such produce, to register a trade mark and to mark therewith every package of such produce packed or exported by him in a plain and conspicuous manner. This provision was the outcome of long discussion as to the best means of preventing the good repute of Jamaica fruit from being injured in foreign markets by the exportation of worthless stuff. It was deemed, in the first instance, advisable not to go further than the requirement of this law, which would ensure that the shippers of bad fruit would be identified in the market by their brand marks, whilst those whose marks established a good reputation would acquire a corresponding benefit.

Marking of fruit exports.

Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Law.

84. Law 32, "The Widows' and Orphans' Fund Law." This law, as above indicated, wound up the Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, and transferred all its assets and liabilities to the account of the General Government. New tables, founded on a revision of mortality lists for Civil Servants in several principal Colonies, were adopted in the law to determine the rates of annuities.

85. Law 40, "The Stamp Duty Law, 1903," is a valuable consolidating law combining and re-enacting, with a few small modifications, the Stamp Duties previously in force.

Law 42 amended the Tariff by reducing the Import Duty on sugar from 1*d.* per lb. to 2*s.* per 100 lbs. This reduction of duty was directed by the Secretary of State to give effect to certain requirements of the Brussels Convention on sugar bounties.

The last-mentioned law and the two next mentioned were passed at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held in August, immediately after the occurrence of the cyclone.

86. Law 45 provided that the sum of £10,000 granted by the Imperial Parliament in aid of the sugar industry in Jamaica

should be transferred to the Board of Agriculture, and should be applied with the proceeds thereof, with the sanction of the Governor in Privy Council, in the establishment and maintenance of a Sugar Experiment Station, where experimental cane cultivation, experiments by a fermentation chemist, technical and scientific instruction and illustrations in connexion with the sugar industry and other cognate operations should be carried on. A scheme for the utilisation of this fund, by the extension of the Government Laboratory for the study of sugar problems, and the prosecution of cultural experiments, has been drawn up by the Board of Agriculture.

87. Law 46 empowered the Government to borrow a sum not exceeding £12,000 to defray the cost of improving Falmouth Harbour. It had been the intention of the Government to provide for the cost of this work out of General Revenue, but this law was introduced because it was feared that the results of the cyclone might make it impossible to do this. Up to the present date, however, the works have been carried on without borrowing, and I trust it may be possible to complete them without doing so.

88. Law 47, "The Hurricane Loans Law, 1903," and Law 48, "The Agricultural Loans Law Amendment Law," were introduced by me at a later sitting of the Council, held on the 15th day of September, their provisions having been duly settled by the Governor in Privy Council.

Hurricane Loans Law.

89. The chief provisions of the Hurricane Loans Law may be summarised as follows: It authorised the grant from the Treasury of loans to persons in possession of any land the cultivation on which had sustained damage by the hurricane. The interest chargeable on such loans to be at the ordinary local commercial rate of 6 per cent. per annum. It provided that the form of receipt (prescribed in the law) for the first instalment of the loan when signed by the borrower should confer on the Government (*a*) a preferential charge upon all crops grown on the land until repayment in full of the loan, interest and expenses incurred; (*b*) a charge upon the land subject (practically) to existing mortgages; (*c*) all the rights and powers conferred on lenders under the terms of the Agricultural Loans Law, 1887 (which gives a preferential lien on crops to such lenders) with the extension of such rights and powers to all crops until repayment in full; and (*d*) a power to sell the interest of the borrower in the land if default should be made in due repayment. The following covenants with the Government were declared to be implied on the part of the borrower, viz.: (*a*) With the money lent to restore, preserve and maintain cultivation on the land specified or to establish other approved cultivation in lieu thereof; (*b*) to repay the loan with 6 per cent. interest, and to pay all expenses incurred; and (*c*) to produce weekly or at such other intervals as may be required accounts showing the expenditure of the moneys advanced. In addition to this there were

declared to be implied in the prescribed receipt the following covenants, binding on the occupier of the land for the time being, viz.: (*a*) Out of the crops and proceeds to repay the loan with interest and expenses; (*b*) to allow inspection of the land and its cultivation; (*c*) to uphold and maintain in good order and condition the cultivation on the land charged, and to see that the security is not deteriorated in value; (*d*) whenever required, to furnish full information as to sales of produce and to dispose of the purchase money as directed, and to give information of any contracts for sale of such produce, so that the purchase money may be paid over to the Government, to be applied in payment of the expenses and interest and repayment of any instalment of the loan outstanding. Section 6 contains penal clauses carrying imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one year for borrowers convicted of false representation, misapplication of the advance, failure to comply with the provisions of the law or in the case of the occupier of any land charged, sale, conversion to his own use or destruction of any of the crops without proper consent.

Agricultural Loans Law.

90. The amendment of the Agricultural Loans Law, 1887, extended the duration of a lender's lien on crops from 12 to 18 months, to meet the requirement of the banana industry.

Appointment and proceedings of Hurricane Loan officers.

91. These two laws were assented to by the Governor on the 18th September, 1903. The Colonial Secretary and the Honourable L. J. Bertram (Auditor-General), and subsequently Mr. Robert Johnstone, Secretary of the Board of Supervision of Poor Relief, were appointed to be Hurricane Loan Officers, to carry out the purposes of the Loans Law. The Loan Officers appointed Mr. Thomas Kemp, previously an Inspector of Fruit of the United Fruit Company, to be the chief agent, and Mr. H. R. Latreille, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, to be their clerk. On the 23rd September a Government Notice was issued inviting all persons to whom the Hurricane Loan Officers might apply for advice or assistance to co-operate with them with a view to the efficient carrying out of the duties entrusted to them and of the public purposes of the law, and the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for the storm-stricken parishes were specially invited to give their assistance. These requests met with a full and ready response, and the work of the loan officers was much facilitated by such willing co-operation. Forms of application for loans were promptly distributed to the tax offices and police stations, and were printed for use in the daily newspapers.

92. Mr. Bertram and Mr. Kemp forthwith proceeded to St. Mary's parish, where the greatest demand for loans was expected, to make a beginning of dealing with applications and preliminary arrangements for inspecting the properties of the applicants and for issuing the instalments in which it was proposed the loans should be made. Mr. Johnstone made a tour of the eastern parishes, viz., St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas,

St. Andrew and St. Catherine. A few days later I left Kingston for St. Mary, where I met Mr. Bertram and discussed with him and the gentlemen who had been assisting him the principles to be followed in dealing with the business in hand.

Applications mostly from small cultivators.

93. It had become evident, as soon as applications were invited, that the character of the business to be dealt with would probably be different from what had been contemplated when the first proposals were made for a Government loan. There were practically no applications from the larger planters. Contrary to what had been feared, it appeared that such planters had either reserve funds at their own command or enjoyed such good credit on account of the profitableness of their industry that they were able to obtain accommodation from banks or private sources, on terms as easy as those offered by the Government. On the other hand, great numbers of applications were received from cultivators of small holdings of land, having from one acre to one hundred acres in bananas. Practically the whole of the applications were for money to reinstate banana cultivation, though in many cases there was cultivation of other produce interspersed with the bananas, especially that of chocolate. Very few applications for loans were received from persons who had suffered damage of a more permanent character by the destruction of cocoanut or pimento trees. The great number of applications from small cultivators made it clear that a special form of organisation would be required to verify the circumstances of the applicants and to ensure that the conditions of the Loan Law were being observed. Mr. Bertram had accordingly with very great promptitude and energy called upon qualified gentlemen of position in different parts of the parish and had induced them to form themselves into local committees, each with a chairman. I may explain that the so-called parish of St. Mary has an area of 250 square miles, very hilly and with heavy and difficult roads. The members of these committees and of similar bodies that were formed in two districts of Portland devoted a great amount of gratuitous labour to carrying out the purposes of the Loan Law, and I have done my best to express to them the grateful appreciation by the Government of the services which they have thus rendered to the island. The valuable and laborious work done by Mr. Bertram has no doubt conduced to the recognition of that officer's meritorious public service, which has recently been accorded to him by His Majesty in conferring on him the distinction of a companionship in the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

94. All applications for loans were investigated and reported on by a member of one of the local committees, or where such local committee was not formed, as was the case in parishes other than St. Mary and Portland, either by one of the loan officers or by their chief agent, Mr. Kemp, or by an officer of the Inland Revenue Department, or by some gentleman of local knowledge specially invited so to assist.

95. After conferring with local advisers in St. Mary, I proceeded with Mr. Bertram to Port Antonio, where I conferred with the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Portland and St. Thomas, Mr. Gideon, formerly Member for Portland, Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Cradwick, the Agricultural Instructor, who had been dividing with Mr. Johnstone the inspection of these parishes.

Principles adopted for grant of loans.

96. As the result of the scrutiny of the applications sent in, and of the consultations, the Loan Officers decided to administer the loans in accordance with regulations, the gist of which was as follows:—

(*a*) No loans to be granted where the area in cultivation was less than 5 acres, unless the applicant was unable to work himself on the land, and must employ assistance. It was considered that a cultivation not exceeding 5 acres could be maintained by the owner himself and his family, without depriving him of the opportunity of earning money wages outside, and that such a man would not need to employ paid labour.

(*b*) In no case should the amount lent exceed £3 per acre of cultivation.

(Many of the applications were found to be for less than this amount, which it was agreed would be sufficient to do all that was necessary for banana cultivation until the fields begin to yield.)

(*c*) The loans to be advanced in seven instalments, the first instalment to be one-quarter of the whole, payable on or before the 15th October, 1903, and the remainder six monthly instalments of one-eighth, the last falling in April, 1904.

(*d*) Interest at the rate of 6 per cent., to be payable on the 15th of May, 1904, on all instalments advanced up to that date.

(*e*) On the 15th May, 1905, one-half of the loan to be payable with interest in full to date. On the 15th June, 1905, one-quarter to be repayable, with interest in full to date. On the 15th July, 1905, the remaining quarter of the loan to be repayable, with interest in full to close account.

(*f*) The borrower to have the option of repaying the loan or any part of the loan, with interest to date, at any time within the periods named.

(*g*) The requirement that the loan should be repaid in full by the 15th July, 1905, to be adhered to, except in

special cases. It was recognised that for banana cultivation proceeding on sound lines and under ordinary conditions this period would be sufficient, but consideration was to be given to special circumstances or to the conditions of other cultivation and to any unforeseen accidents which might prevent repayment at the due date.

97. It was expected that the interest at the rate of 6 per cent. would cover all expenses, except special expenses, which might be entailed by the failure of any borrower to account satisfactorily at the proper dates. Any other expenses which are not covered by the interest charged to be distributed proportionally among the borrowers and claimed with the instalment of the loan repayable in May, June and July, 1905.

98. In view of the assistance which it was expected the Loan Officers would receive from gentlemen of local knowledge, they did not consider it probable that they would have to put into operation their powers of receiving the crops of borrowers, but if default should be made in the payment of interest or instalments when due, they would be compelled to assign all the produce of the borrower's land to nominated buyers, who would account for the proceeds to the Loan Officers.

99. The Loan Officers expected to be able, through the assistance of the local committees, or of the runners of the Collector-General's Department, to satisfy themselves that cultivation was being carried on during the period of the loan, and that it would not be necessary to require the production of pay bills except in the case of larger estates, which would probably be dealt with by the chief agent.

Procedure for administration of loans.

100. Full notification was published of the foregoing decisions, and work then proceeded actively on these lines. Mr. Bertram, with the assistance of Mr. Kemp and some from myself, dealt almost entirely with the applications from the parish of St. Mary, in which parish the loans made amounted to more than 70 per cent. of the total amount granted. On the grant of loans cheques payable at the parochial treasuries were made out by the Loan Officers' Clerk, signed by a Loan Officer, and sent with the form of receipt charging the land to the chairman of the local committee for the district or to the parochial treasurers. The cheques were issued to the applicant on personal application, and this process was repeated month by month, until the whole of the loans had been taken up. The personal knowledge of the members of the committees enabled the expenditure of the loans to be kept under observation. This was done elsewhere by Revenue Officers. As in one district of St. Mary, 247 loans were granted, in another 222, and in another 180, it will be recognised that the work of the committees was no sinecure.

101. In the course of the autumn I visited on more than one occasion the parishes in which this organisation was set up, and dealt by personal conference with such difficulties or questions as arose in the course of our proceedings. Mr. Johnstone was continuously of the greatest possible assistance to me, both in visiting districts and in directing all the office work and correspondence connected with the business, which, as a member of the Colonial Secretary's Office it was convenient that he should do.

Amount of business done.

102. The majority of the applications for loans were received and dealt with within a month of the passing of the law. Towards the end of October a preliminary notice was issued that all applications for loans must be sent in before the end of that month. The period was ultimately extended to the 31st of December. Since that date some applications have been granted as special cases to cultivators who had hoped to avoid borrowing, but had found their resources insufficient to resuscitate their cultivation without assistance. The number of applications received for loans was 2,983, of which 1,854 were from St. Mary's parish. The total number of loans granted was 1,477, the total amount, £36,245 10*s*. Of this amount £26,510 was allotted to 1,143 applicants in St. Mary's parish, £3,876 to 136 applicants in Portland, £3,163 to 99 applicants in St. Catherine's parish, £2,071 to 53 applicants in St. Thomas, and

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NOTE.—The following letter addressed by a small proprietor to the Members of one of the local Committees deserves publication as a testimonial of appreciation of their services:—

"Hampstead, 15th April.

"To the Right Honourable J.P. and Committee of Hampstead,

"Honourable Gentlemen, I thank you kindly in the way that you have deal with me and the rest of people from since we meet. We and our wife's and our children life are spared. And when our cultivation would go to ruin: Through you that solicit for us, we get strength, and take courage, to clean and cultivate.—Every morning when we wake and look upon the cultivation, it speaks one word, Be of good courage.—To see how Prudently you had deal with us, so meekly, so gently and so lovingly. Every meeting I observe your face: it shines like the sun and full of joy, to meet me and the rest of people. Therefore I thank you kindly for your gratitude: your generosity and your hospitality: with the greatest Estimation.

"May it please Your Lordship: I humble beg, that you and the next gentleman, may give your compliments to the Governor and the Secretary of Jamaica: and of our good behaviour before your presence.

"With these few lines I shall resume to my former possession.

"Your Obedient

"Joseph Freeman.

"You are the leader and you lead us to the end. With a humble bow and thanks."

the remainder was distributed between 45 applicants in the parishes of St. Ann, St. Andrew, Clarendon, Trelawny and Hanover.

Expenses, &c.

103. The expenses incurred in this business up to the 31st March last amounted to £574, principally for travelling expenses of the Hurricane Loan Officers and their agent and for costs of monthly inspections by sub-agents. The total for salaries and clerical aid was £180. Had it not been for the gratuitous assistance rendered by the local committeemen these expenses would have been much higher. The amount due from borrowers for interest and expenses on the 15th of May last was £865, and it may be useful for me to complete this part of my report by recording that practically the whole of this amount was promptly paid, only £10 9*s.* 0*d.* due from three borrowers having still to be collected. A small charge was made this year for expenses, but the interest chargeable at the rate of 6 per cent. on repayment of the loans next year appears likely to be sufficient both to cover the expenses and the cost of the advances from the Treasury. By Law 4 of 1904 power was given to the Government by the Legislature to borrow for such time as might be necessary not more than £35,000, to cover the advances made by way of hurricane loans. The Treasury balances were sufficient to enable the advances to be made without previous borrowing, but the continued failure of revenue resulting from the hurricane will probably make it necessary to have recourse to this power during the course of the present financial year.

Question of banana insurance or other provision to meet a future emergency.

104. The situation reported as having arisen through the destruction of the banana crop and the representations made of the helpless position of the planters gave rise to a suggestion which was communicated by Mr. Chamberlain to the Colonial Government that a scheme should be established for insuring the banana crop by creating a fund under the direction of the Government, to be built up by the imposition of an export duty on fruit. The consideration of this question was referred to a strong local committee of planters and business men, who requested, after some consideration, that the reference to them might be enlarged, since it appeared to them that the situation out of which the proposal arose indicated that a wider scheme might be of advantage. The committee have now reported that they are unable to recommend any feasible scheme of insurance to be established under the direction of the Government, the main difficulty being that there are insuperable objections to the imposition of an export tax on bananas, which would appear the most effectual and equitable means of providing an insurance fund. I may say that, having regard to all the questions involved, I have never myself considered this proposal either feasible or desirable. An alternative proposal, for a compulsory acreage rate on land under cultivation (in case of the adoption of which all products of land would have to be regarded as insurable), has failed to commend itself to the committee.

Advocacy of establishment of agricultural bank.

105. The suggestion of an insurance scheme in the ordinary sense having come to nothing, the committee submitted proposals for the establishment of an Agricultural Loans Bank, both to enable planters who might suffer by a cyclone or other disaster to get immediate help on sufficiently easy terms to meet the difficulties of the moment, and to restore and continue their cultivation, and to provide continuously general banking facilities for the planting class. The committee suggest, and I am disposed to agree with them, that the experience gained by the Government in connection with the temporary arrangements established for making loans by Government since the cyclone may be regarded as encouraging a favourable consideration of a larger and more permanent scheme of the same character. The question is one which I am strongly of opinion deserves the careful consideration of the Government, and I have no doubt that Sir Alexander Swettenham will give his attention to it. The established machinery of the Government could not be relied on efficiently to create and administer any such scheme, but a Governor or Government Officer personally well qualified to direct and supervise its development would not, I think, find it an impossible task to build up an agricultural banking organisation on a sound basis. The small holdings of the peasantry are generally good security for loans, but great vigilance and continual pressure would no doubt be required to collect the income of the bank, and the success or failure of such an enterprise would largely depend upon the acumen and energy of the manager. The question of the advantages of agricultural banks has been considerably ventilated of late years in this island, and I think it cannot be questioned that a judicious extension of agricultural banking facilities might prove of very great value in the present state of Jamaica. The success and beneficial results of the mutual credit banks which have during recent years been established on the "Raffeisen" system in Germany and Central Europe are well known. In these, however, the management is entirely local and co-operative, and all the service is, I understand, unpaid. The safeguard of investment is the honesty and industry of the borrowers and the vigilance and interest of their neighbours. To establish banks on a similar co-operative credit system in Jamaica would require a large amount of persistent missionary effort, but if the lesson could be taught it would be one of the most valuable that the peasantry of this island could learn. The way towards it might be prepared by such means as are recommended by the committee.

106. With regard to the question of insurance I may observe that it would appear reasonable that a prudent planter engaged in an industry so remunerative under favourable circumstances as banana growing, and so easily destroyed by hurricane, should, out of his profits, lay by a certain reserve. Such a reserve may not suffice after a few years' accumulation to indemnify him for the loss of a crop, but it will put him in a

position at once to give that attention to the restoration of his plantation which is essential for an early recovery of his loss. He will then be in a better situation to obtain credit for any supplementary assistance which he may require. It has not been found possible to induce insurance companies doing business in the island to offer facilities for the insurance of banana crops on reasonable terms.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Elementary Schools.

107. The report of the Superintending Inspector of Schools, Mr. T. Capper, furnishes such an admirable survey of the more important features of the work of his Department during the year, and expresses views in which I so thoroughly concur, that I shall take the liberty of making considerable extracts and quotations from his report.

108. The following is an abstract of educational statistics of the year:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant list at end of year.	Schools inspected (some of them twice).	Scholars on books for varying school year.	Average attendance for varying school year.	Average attendance from monthly returns.	Percentage in average attendance of number on books.	First class schools.	Second class schools.	Third class schools.	Failure in marks.	Class not determined.	Total payments to elementary schools and teachers.
1903-04 ..	711	708	88,381	55,937	47,803	63·3	185	341	167	13	5	46,129
1902-03 ..	717	709	84,652	54,448	52,083	64·3	173	341	181	9	13	43,738

In this return there are two columns which have not been included in the tables printed in the Blue Book reports of recent years, namely, those showing the average numbers on the books and the average attendance for the varying school year, that is, the year to date of inspection on the results of which the grants for the following year are now computed in the case of each school.

Causes affecting school attendances.

109. In my report on the Colony for the year 1901-02 I referred to the causes, at that time passing away, which had previously diminished school attendance. I noted that want of money for clothing had, in some districts especially, had some

effect on the willingness of parents to send their children to school, but that this cause was, towards the end of the year, losing its force. During the first few months of 1902 the attendance improved, owing both to greater prosperity and to better weather. This improvement continued throughout the succeeding year, as recorded in Sir Augustus Hemming's last report, concurrently with the enhanced prosperity of the Colony, and the attendance showed a most encouraging vitality right up to the date of the cyclone.

110. Mr. Capper comments as follows:—

Diminution due to cyclone.

(*a*.) "It will be seen that whilst the average attendance for the varying school year, in many cases calculated before the cyclone took place, and always including the exceptionally high attendance during the months before the cyclone, on which the grants for the following school year are based, actually shows an increase, the average attendance from the monthly returns giving the actual average attendance at the schools throughout the financial year has fallen off by 8·2 per cent; whilst the average for the last 8 months of the financial year was as much as 12 per cent. less than for the corresponding months of the previous year. The main cause of this was, of course, the calamitous cyclone of 11th August, 1903, which destroyed many school buildings, and unroofed or otherwise seriously damaged a large proportion of the others in the districts affected by it; and at the same time was the cause of so much distress and privation amongst the people that it was extremely difficult for many, owing to the scarcity of food and clothing, to send their children to school. The parishes most affected were St. Catherine, St. Andrews, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, and St. Ann; Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, and Clarendon suffered in a less degree, whilst Westmoreland, Hanover, and St. James were practically untouched. In the first-named six parishes, the average attendance for February, 1904, was only 76½ per cent. of that in February, 1903, a falling off of 23½ per cent. A minor cause of the falling off of the average attendance of the whole island in the year was the unusual rainfall in the first months of 1904, which was especially marked in the western parishes. In any case, however, it might have been anticipated that the effect of the cyclone would be most acutely felt after the turn of the year, when many would have exhausted any little stores of provisions or money they might have possessed, and when the peasantry would in ordinary years have been expecting to gather in their crops.

Unsatisfactory aspect of school attendance returns.

(*b*.) "The great decrease in the average attendance at the schools, however it may be caused, is the more profoundly unsatisfactory inasmuch as there is a steady increase in the population, and in the number of children to be taught, the whole time. In view of these considerations, and the additional fact that where Government schools are established, as it is proposed to establish them, the old denominational stimulus to attendance at school will cease to act, the best educational opinion in the island is now practically unanimous in favour of the putting in force, at least locally and tentatively, of the compulsory clause of the Education Law, 1892. A clearer statement on this subject is included in a pamphlet to which I shall have occasion to refer later. The question has been for some years constantly under consideration by the Board of Education, and the pamphlet states the view of the Board, which is desirous of seeing compulsory attendance introduced in the manner set forth. The Department is also desirous of introducing it if the difficult question of ways and means can be met. The total expenditure on education has been strictly limited, and the problem has been, how a greatly increased number of children can be received in the schools

without a greatly increased expenditure. The only practical answer, *if the amount available is to remain fixed,** would seem to be to reduce the curriculum, and to give most of the children a shorter time in the schools, yet no one, least of all this Department, is willing to accept this answer. Better times are hoped for, and it is hoped that if compulsory attendance is introduced guardedly in a few districts, it may be found possible to extend the system gradually, and to raise the necessary revenue without too great and too sudden an increase in the burdens of the people.

(*c*.) "It should be observed that in consequence of the new arrangements made in the Code of 1902, the effect of the falling off in average attendance on the grants in aid will hardly be felt until a year or two after the cyclone. A school examined in August, 1904, will have been paid throughout its whole school year at a rate determined in August, 1903, on the high attendances of the previous year; and it will only be during the year following August, 1904, that the reduction in grants, due to the lowered attendance after the cyclone, will take effect. Thus a good deal of the falling off in grants will come in the financial year 1905-6.

Low expenditure on education in Jamaica.

(*d*.) "I feel it necessary, in view of the complaints that are so often made that we do not get value for what we pay for schools, to keep on drawing attention to the unfavourable financial conditions under which educational work is being carried on in Jamaica, as well as in the other West Indies, Cuba and Porto Rico excepted. If we spent as much per unit of the population as the Canton of Zurich in Switzerland, the cost of the Department would be £700,000 a year, or very nearly as much as our entire revenue, or the total cost of our Government. At the rate for the whole of Switzerland, it would be £450,000, at the English rate, £300,000, and even at the Irish rate it would be £200,000; and do not we need education as much as these countries do?† Other countries spend less than this, but in every civilised country the educational expenditure is several times as great *per unit of average attendance* as it is here, and considerably greater even in proportion to revenue. Our schools are kept in buildings which are often a disgrace to the district, the appliances, desks, &c., are antiquated, unsuitable, and hopelessly inadequate, and the teachers' salaries are in most cases quite insufficient to attract the class of men that we need. Taking all these things into account, the wonder is, not that we do not attain better results, but that we attain any results at all that are worth having. That we do attain such results there is abundance of evidence. According to the evidence given before the Education Commission, by those best qualified to judge, there has been a vast improvement in the intelligence and capability of boys in the last 20 to 30 years. Every effort is necessary on the part of all concerned to maintain the advance we have made, and to push forward as far and as fast as circumstances will permit, hoping that an era of prosperity may be in store for the island, in which it will be able to fulfil its obligations to those in whose hands its future destinies rest, the children.

Improvements in grade of schools and efforts of teachers.

(*e*.) "It is satisfactory, so far as it goes, to note that whilst the number of first class schools has increased by 12, and of second class by 2, there are 9 fewer third class schools than there were last year. Though progress in efficiency is slow, it is, on the whole, in spite of occasional setbacks, fairly steady, and a larger and larger proportion of teachers is found to take a genuine interest in their profession. This general improvement is remarked upon by all the inspectors.

Damage by cyclone.

(*f*.) "After the hurricane the Department immediately instituted enquiries to ascertain the extent of the damage suffered by schoolhouses in the districts most seriously affected, and gave notice that the ordinary monthly grant would be paid to all schools for the month of August (in any case, more or less, a holiday month), whether school operations could be carried on or not. When sufficient information had been received,

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* *As to this see the observations following in paragraph* 116.

† *The Jamaica expenditure in* 1903–04 *was* £58,887. S.O.

the facts were laid before the Governor with the request that in view of the special circumstances a special grant might be made to secure the restoration of sufficient school accommodation in the affected districts. This request was favourably considered, and the Legislature was asked for, and granted, a vote of £3,000 for the purpose.

"Mr. Hicks, who was then acting as Superintending Inspector of Schools, was satisfied from personal observation and otherwise, that many, if not most, of the buildings destroyed were of defective construction, and in order to secure, as far as possible, that the buildings put up to replace those destroyed should be of a more satisfactory character, he requested the Acting Director of Public Works to prepare suggestions for the avoidance of errors in construction. This was very carefully done, and the suggestions were elucidated by a number of illustrative drawings. The Government authorised the publication of Mr. D'Aeth's valuable paper in the 'Gazette,' where it accordingly appeared on the 22nd October, 1903, and copies were sent to all managers of schools.

Occasion for establishing Government schools.

(*h.*) "There were certain districts in which amalgamation of existing schools had already been discussed, with general local approval, and where the buildings in which those schools were held had been destroyed by the cyclone, so that an exceptionally favourable opportunity was afforded for putting up Government buildings and establishing Government schools, as if such schools were not established, substantial grants would have been looked for for the repairs or restoration of previously existing buildings amounting in all to a sum approaching the cost of the new Government schoolhouses.

(*i.*) "The number of cases in which the erection of Government buildings and establishment of Government schools seems immediately and urgently necessary, is about seven, and it is hoped that after consultation with the Board of Education, and with its approval, the work can be at once put in hand. The Board is, I take it, committed by its unanimous approval of the scheme, mentioned in the next paragraph, for the continued substitution of Government for denominational schools; but so far as can be seen at present, this, even if approved and carried out by the Government, will take many years.

(*j.*) "A pamphlet was issued in January above the names of 12 ministers and clergymen, most of whom have been, or are now, managers of schools, and there is no doubt that the wide circulation of the pamphlet and the attention it has received will prove very helpful in many ways. The Archbishop of the West Indies has taken the leading part in drawing up what is called a 'statement of suggested changes,' and the island owes him its gratitude in so far as beneficial changes may be expedited by the action he has taken."

Pamphlet issued by educationalists.

111. It will be instructive to quote the introductory paragraphs of this pamphlet:—

"I. Various circumstances have precipitated the necessity for reviewing the whole of the Government arrangements for elementary education in Jamaica.

Dissatisfaction with present situation.

1. Among them is the growing sense of dissatisfaction on the part of managers arising from the following causes:—(1) The increasing difficulty of meeting all the requirements of the Code and the Department, including those which have reference to school accommodation and appliances: (2) The constant uncertainty in which they are kept as to their schools being retained permanently on the Government list: (3) Their feeling that while the Religious denominations and the managers of their schools have given, and are giving, much time, effort, and money to the work of education, there is little regard shown for that work in the preparing and carrying out, at uncertain times, and often, as they think, in ill-judged ways, plans for closing or combining schools; and they believe that, in many

instances, such plans can lead to no practical benefit to the children of the district: (4) That in many instances these changes directly tend to diminish educational efforts and results: (5) That as the system of education is now being worked, instead of the number of children receiving education increasing with the increase of population, and overtaking the deficiencies of the past, it is, at best, and during the most favourable periods of the year, stationary as regards the actual attendance, and relatively to population is constantly decreasing.

"2. The further factors increasing the demand for changes in the system are (1) an increasing conviction that the adoption of a plan of compulsory attendance is essential to any real efficiency or progress: and (2) the destruction by the cyclone of August 11th, 1903, of many schoolrooms which cannot wisely be rebuilt without some better understanding as to the future action of the Government and the position of the religious denominations in regard to elementary education.

"II. In seeking a remedy for our difficulties, it is inevitable that we consider how far it is possible to develop the present system into a truly 'national system of education.' In this attempt the following facts must be borne in mind:—

"1. That there are various sorts of national systems, the fact being that national systems must vary in accordance with national circumstances and requirements. Some national systems make large, various and definite provision for religious intruction; some make optional provision for it; some leave it out altogether. Moreover, some national systems are largely maintained out of central national funds; and some are maintained partly by grants from a central authority, but largely by the resources obtained through the levying of local rates.

"2. That any 'national' system for the island of Jamaica which involves the immediate or gradual extinction of the denominational schools, also involves (with or without increased efficiency) a considerable immediate, and gradually growing increase in the cost of education. Yet there is no indication that the religious denominations are able or willing to hand over their buildings to the Government for educational purposes, or that the Government is able or willing to make provision for the increased expenditure necessary for creating at the present time a universal system of board schools.

"III. That the practical problem appears to be, what can be done to make such feasible readjustments as will allay anxieties, simplify procedure, steadily increase the number in attendance at school, and the amount and the practical effectiveness of the education given, and at the same time test the power and the willingness of the people of the island to bear increased expenditure for elementary education.

"IV. It should be possible to devise plans whereby the present difficulties may be largely removed, and the dissatisfaction be allayed, and the educational arrangements unified in many particulars, and to do this by such methods as would not involve the destruction of results attained by past work, or do away with existing efforts without a provision for replacing them by something better."

112. The Superintending Inspector of Schools proceeds in his report:—

(*k.*) "The proposals which the pamphlet sets forth are being carefully examined, with a view to bringing them into practical shape, by a small committee appointed by the Board of Education.

Proposed common Catechism for religious teaching.

(*l.*) "It is proposed to introduce into the schools a short catechism to be agreed to by the several Anglican denominations, to be used in religious instruction in addition to the Scripture, &c., of Schedule A. and the provisions of Article 121 of the Code, with the intention of rendering possible a more uniform system of management. Even if a catechism is not introduced, there is no doubt the discussion about it will make it clearer than it has been that there is nothing in the Code to stand in the way of the co-operation of men of different religious views in the management of the schools, and it will, I think, make such co-operation more usual than it now is.

(*m.*) "Other proposals ask for alterations in the Code in respect of

(i.) Art. 29. b. ii. Under this article the owners of a building in which, by agreement, a Government school is held receive a rent at the rate of one shilling per annum per unit of average attendance. An 'adequate rent' is asked for and the term needs definition."

113. Correspondence has passed upon this question in which the view of the Government has been expressed to the effect that when a denominational school is taken over by the Government for conversion into a Government school, no rent properly so-called should be paid. If, however, the building taken over has been dedicated to or used for other purposes than that of elementary education consideration should be given to the interests of the denomination and the obligations of the trustees in regard to the maintenance for such purposes. In most cases it may be expected that the use of the building as a Government school will not interfere with its continued use for such other purposes. If it should be found to do so it will be necessary to consider whether any rent should be paid to the Denominational Trustees, in consideration of their loss of such uses of the building. But in so far as the transfer of occupancy is merely a transfer of the educational uses of the building from a denomination to the Government, the Government is not prepared to recognise any obligation to pay rent. The maintenance of such building for educational purposes would, however, become a charge on public funds, from which only partial contributions have hitherto been made towards such expenditure.

114. I resume my quotations from Mr. Capper:—

Payment of teachers.

(*n.*) "(ii.) Art. 94. It is proposed that all teachers should be paid direct from the Department. No practical method of making direct payments has yet been worked out. The proposal involves the question of the more direct control of the schools by the Government, not only by the suggested plan of grading the teachers for the purpose of allotting their salaries but by the appointment and payment of attendance officers.

Management.

(*o.*) "(iii.) Art. 7. The appointment is proposed of boards of management, one for each parish, consisting of the corresponding managers of the denominational schools within the parish, and of other persons to be appointed by the Governor. The Parochial Boards of Management to have the oversight and direction of the work of the Government schools in the parish, including the appointment and dismissal of teachers. Each Board to appoint a Committee for every Government school in the parish, and the corresponding manager of each school is to certify and forward the school returns to the Department. The powers proposed to be

placed in the hands of the Committee would seem to be little more than those of voluntary attendance officers. Each Board also to have the oversight of the denominational schools in the parish, including the right of visiting them.

(*p*.) "It is also suggested that arrangements should be made for the formation of Committees of Management of denominational schools. It seems doubtful whether legislation in this direction would be advisable or effective. Article 5 of the Code seems to cover the ground.

(*q*.) "In view of these suggestions, it is important not to lose sight of what has been done in the direction of carrying into effect the actual provisions of Article 5 of the Code. During the year not less than 120 letters have been sent out to managers whose schools have been insufficiently supervised, and there has been a good deal of correspondence besides. There can be no doubt that it is both for the interest of the school and for the great convenience and advantage of the corresponding manager that a small Committee, meeting regularly every three months, should, whenever possible, undertake the management of a denominational country school, or several such schools. The Code is not satisfied with a 'one-man' management, and it has in view the interests of the managers as well as those of the school and the teaching staff. Co-managers gladly assist a manager when he will make use of them, and it is always advantageous for a manager to secure the practical results that may be obtained by adopting the bye-laws for Government schools so far as they are suited to his purpose. It has sometimes happened that a manager has gone away from the island for a time without having arranged for the fulfilment of the requirements of Art. 7 of the Code, when it would not have been difficult to appoint co-managers or visitors to look after the school during his absence. If the school has a small Committee of Management, no difficulty arises even if the corresponding manager goes away at short notice. I have strongly to recommend the formation of such committees where they do not already exist.

Town schools.

(*r*.) "Another proposal in the pamphlet is that all schools in towns and some country schools in populous districts should be made Government schools. Constant work has been going on with this aim in view for years past; the amalgamations of schools recommended by the Board of Education in 1899 have been steadily proceeded with by the Department, and some other schools have been amalgamated also. There have been great difficulties to overcome, and the desired result has not yet been achieved in many towns; I doubt whether legislative action is desirable; men really interested in education in these towns will in time, it may reasonably be hoped, come to an agreement without it.

Management of new Government schools.

(*s*.) "It has been pointed out that the destruction of schoolhouses by the cyclone of August last is leading to the building of a few central Government schools. The result will be that before long there will be an increase in the number of Boards of Management, and it is an important point to consider how far the Boards of Management at present existing meet the purpose for which they were appointed. It has taken a long time for some of the Boards to settle to work and to pay the strict attention to the by-laws for Government schools that was desired by the Board of Education when it drew them up in free consultation with the Department. The initial difficulties are being gradually overcome, and I can say, without hesitation, that I have every hope that all the Boards will before long do the excellent work that is now being done by the best of them. The help that such Boards can and do give in the development of educational schemes and in solving problems which can only be answered by persons intimately acquainted with a district, is highly valued by the Department.

(*t*.) "Whether the proposed Parochial Boards, to supersede these and to take the place of others which may yet come into being before the necessary legislation can take effect, should be created or not, is a question

needing very careful thought. Whatever the decision is, it should be reached as soon as possible. Whilst the wider and more comprehensive scheme is under discussion, it seems scarcely worth while to attempt to proceed on former lines in some cases where there has been some prospect of success."

Comments on present Educational situation.

115. The pamphlet from which I have quoted, and the observations of the Superintending Inspector of Schools thereon bring into prominent relief a situation of considerable importance. There is, at the present time, something like a crisis in regard to educational questions, owing to the destruction of schools wrought by the hurricane. It is now twelve months since that event, and there are still a number of schools to replace which no effectual steps have been taken. Proper shelter and accommodation for children in bad weather are not furnished by the temporary buildings available. I consider it to be the duty of the Government to bring this state of things to an end, and to strengthen the hands of the Department for early and prompt measures for dealing with the situation. The delay has been due to various causes; partly owing to the fact that the requirements of immediate rebuilding were under-estimated, and the vote of £3,000 placed on the estimates will be quite insufficient to cover the cost of the repairs of denominational schools, and the provision of the seven Government Schools referred to by Mr. Capper, to say nothing of others not taken into account by him; partly to the fact that without a definite statement of the intended policy of the Government as to the probabilities of the conversion of denominational schools into Government schools, and the closing or amalgamation of denominational schools, it has not been possible for denominational managers to decide what expenditure they can incur on their own school buildings. This has been chiefly the case in regard to Church of England schools. The delay has been due to the inability of the Education Department and of the Board of Education to settle for the approval of the Government lists of the schools which it would be proposed—

(*a.*) To convert immediately into, and rebuild as, Government schools.

(*b.*) To close, amalgamate, or to convert into Government schools within the next five years.

(*c.*) To guarantee from interference for at least five years.

Moreover, Sir Augustus Hemming on relinquishing the Government was not willing to pledge the Government to any financial provision, and I have not felt at liberty during my temporary administration to propose the measures which I was disposed to think the situation would justify.

116. The matter of elementary education, and the question of the restoration of schools called, in my opinion, for early,

precise, and liberal handling by the Government, so that the position and the developments to be expected in the near future might be as clearly as possible defined and understood, and both the Government and the denomination enabled to understand what demands they may have to meet. There is, I think, much ground for the representations made in the pamphlet as to the unsatisfactory character of the present situation and outlook, and it is, I fear, indisputable that the voluntary and denominational interest in, and assistance to, school building and school maintenance is falling off, at any rate as compared with the increase of population. One of the principal causes for this has been the impression produced by the position taken by Mr. Chamberlain when Secretary of State for the Colonies, and impressed upon this Government in his despatch of the 23rd December, 1899, on the subject of elementary education. In view of the financial situation and the absolute necessity for economy, Mr. Chamberlain then directed that the amount expended in education out of Colonial Revenues should not exceed, if, indeed, it should reach, the sum of £60,000 per annum. If the closing of schools should prove insufficient for the purpose, it was to be considered whether the age of free education should not be further restricted, preferably by raising the age of admission. In order to ensure that the actual expenditure should not exceed the estimate, Mr. Chamberlain thought it would be advisable to insert in the code a provision to the effect that the grants promised should be subject to a *pro ratâ* reduction if the payment of them in full would entail such an excess.

117. The Island Government, whilst it has never considered it possible to announce so absolute a policy of restriction, seeing that if anything like the proper number of children even now attended school within the present very restricted age limits, to say nothing of the increase of population, they could not be taught without an increase of the present expenditure, has, nevertheless, during the whole period subsequent to Mr. Chamberlain's instructions on the subject abstained from any active encouragement of, or expression of sympathy with, the progressive educational aims of the voluntary and denominational educationalists. This is not, you will observe, Sir, a matter of what should be taught in the schools, or whether too much time is given to "the three Rs," and too little to manual training, and the rudiments of agricultural knowledge. It is simply a question of maintenance, attendance and staffing, for whatever course of instruction. The total education expenditure has, in fact, been kept within the limit of £60,000 up to the end of the year under review; but on the Estimates for the current year, by natural increase, far within the real requirements of the island for elementary education, the provision has reached £61,130, including £3,000 for building grants. There was, when I arrived in the Colony as Colonial Secretary, early in 1900, a bitter conviction on the part of not a few of the clergy and schoolmasters, expressed both in the press and in

the Legislative Council, that the Government was positively hostile to education, and desired to cripple it. I trust this impression does not now exist, but its effects, to some extent, remain, and though the attitude of those who had this impression now probably goes no further than the dissatisfaction that the Government has been forced to restrict educational progress by the limitations of its ways and means, yet the shortening of the school age and the closing and amalgamation of schools (processes which, as I pointed out in my Blue Book Reports in 1900 and 1902, are by no means necessarily or, in fact, detrimental to the net value of the education given) have tended to cause discouragement and lack of interest. This discouragement and lack of interest in the class which furnishes the managers is naturally communicated to their congregations, and the voluntary assistance or contributions of these towards school buildings have been thereby to some extent checked. If, therefore, education is not to fall back in this Island, as in proportion to the increase in population it would appear to be falling back, further expenditure by the Government appears likely in the future to be demanded, and the policy of announcing an absolute maximum for the Education Vote is rendered the more impracticable. Not more practicable, in my opinion, is the suggestion that schools should be staffed on the understanding that the vote for any one year should be an absolute maximum for that year, and that teachers' salaries should be limited to a dividend so prescribed. Such a rule would be a direct incentive to tacit compacts to discourage attendance in excess of the convenient numbers.

Further call for expenditure probable.

118. It will, therefore, I believe, become necessary before very long, as the writers of the pamphlet put it, "to test the power and willingness of the people of the island to bear increased expenditure for elementary education "whether this should be provided by maintaining the present high Customs Tariff beyond the present normal requirements, or whether by resort to new direct taxation."

119. I again resume quotations from Mr. Capper's report.

Sanitary instruction.

"Early in the financial year, a pamphlet was drawn up by the Honourable Dr. Johnston, at the request of the Board of Education, called 'Counsel to Parents,' laying down in very simple language, comprehensible by all, simple rules of diet and hygiene, at present little known and still less observed by the mass of the people. I corrected the proofs before leaving for England, and during my absence the pamphlet was printed and distributed by the Department. A copy was sent to each teacher, and several copies to every school manager, with the request that the pamphlet be placed in the hands of the most influential and intelligent people in their several neighbourhoods, so that the contents might be made known as widely as possible. Early this year (1904) the demand for the pamphlet was so great that the first edition was speedily exhausted, and Dr. Johnston has very kindly revised it and made some valuable additions, and a new edition will be shortly issued by the Island Medical Department and distributed as widely as possible. The island is very greatly indebted to Dr. Johnston for the time and trouble he has given to the matter.

(*v.*) "Revised Instructions to Inspectors have been issued during the year, and I have been gratified to observe that an increased interest is taken by many of the teachers in this and other publications of the Department. There are, however, I regret to say, a large number of teachers still who apparently never consult the Code or read the Annual Report, or Instructions to Inspectors. The result is, that the plainest regulations of the Code are violated, and applications are made which a moment's reference to the Code would shew to be hopelessly out of order and inadmissible. I hope that the number of teachers who show themselves to be inexcusably ignorant in such matters will continue to rapidly diminish. *Teachers' ignorance of Code.*

(*w.*) "Advanced manual training has been making steady progress in the centres mentioned in my last report, to which has been added Lucea, and in all the centres, classes for teachers have been held. *Manual training.*

"The year under review is the first in which grants have been paid for this subject, under Art. 113. The grants awarded amounted to £31 13*s.* 8*d.*

(*x.*) "The work of inspection and examination of elementary schools has proceeded as usual. On the whole, I think it may be said that the new system introduced in 1902 of paying the schools according to the results of the last inspection has worked well. Teachers have known exactly what their salaries for the year were going to be, and where the attendance, and consequently the work, has increased, they have been willing to bear the additional strain without extra remuneration, knowing that their reward would come in the following year.

(*y.*) "The total amounts expended through the Education Department in 1903-4 and 1902-3 were £58,887 and £55,393 respectively, and were distributed as follows:—

—	1902–03.	1903–04.
	£	£
Grants to elementary schools and teachers	43,738	46,129
Building grants	265	1,027
Administration and inspection	4,813	4,976
Government Training College (now under an undenominational Board).	1,204	1,204
Aid to Voluntary Training Colleges	2,544	2,544
Board of Education	127	249
Jamaica College	1,250	1,250
Scholarships	1,215	1,262
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	198
Printing	37	48
	55,393	58,887

"The increase is mainly in grants in aid, owing to the largely increased average attendance during the different school years on which the grants were calculated, all being before the cyclone. There is also a considerable increase in building grants, due to the cyclone.

(*z.*) "*Practical Teaching in Agriculture and Horticulture.*—There is a continued increase in the number of attempts at practical field work, and the progress shown is, in my estimation, exceedingly creditable. The advance is not being measured by the amount of grants given, as the standard was as first, for obvious reasons, a very low one, and has had of necessity to be raised. The following are the figures:—

—	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.	1903–04.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kingston	8 7 0	15 0 0	17 19 0	20 7 4
St. Andrew	—	—	—	5 15 0
St. Thomas	—	—	—	7 4 9
Portland	—	—	3 5 0	2 5 0
St. Mary	—	6 0 0	8 10 0	8 15 7
St. James	—	—	—	7 6 0
Westmoreland	6 0 0	2 16 0	—	—
St. Elizabeth	—	—	7 14 0	10 16 2
Manchester	—	—	—	8 17 8
St. Catherine	21 5 0	23 16 0	40 4 0	34 4 7
	34 12 0	47 12 0	77 12 0	105 12 1

"The fourth course of lectures on agriculture was held in January, 1904, at the Mico College by T. J. Teversham, Esq. Sixty teachers were present, and afternoon addresses and lectures were delivered, as on former occasions, by the Archbishop and others, whilst a course of evening lessons in manual occupations was again conducted by Mr. Peet and Mr. Skyers. The benefit of these courses is being increasingly felt."

120. The progress which has been made in the development of the teaching of agricultural and elementary science, and of elementary agriculture, and in the institution of school gardens is too slow. In some of the districts the inspectors report that the number of school gardens is increasing rapidly now that the size required for earning the grant has been reduced. The development of this side of education in country schools as well as of manual training would be accelerated by increasing the marks allotted to them by the code.

121. The staff of the schools is still preposterously insufficient for satisfactory teaching. Most of the schools with an average attendance of from 60 to 80 are under-staffed, one man having under such circumstances to keep occupied five or six classes of boys and girls at the same time.

(C.) Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

Stony Hill Reformatory for Boys and Industrial School for Girls.

122. The report on the Government Industrial School for Boys and Reformatory for Boys and Girls at Stony Hill shows an increase during the year from 132 to 158 boys, and from 21 to 27 girls, the total number now in the institution being 185. The boys were engaged in carpentering, smiths' work, tailoring, masons' work and bricklayers' work, in the kitchen and bakery, and in field and garden cultivation.

123. The girls were employed in washing for the institution, making clothing and house-cleaning; they received some lessons in cooking and general housework.

The cost of the institution for the year was £2,934. There was reimbursed from parochial funds for the maintenance of industrial school children £550. Altogether £322 was received in cash for work done and for sales, making the net cost to General Revenue £2,062. The cost in the previous year was £1,870, the receipts from sales having been £451. The falling off in these receipts is due to the destruction of bananas and coffee by the cyclone. But for this disaster the saleable produce of the institution would have exceeded that of the previous year, and the net cost to the Government would have been less. Moreover, the work of repair entailed by the hurricane withdrew the labour of the boys from other employments producing a return in cash. The value of the work done by boys and girls during the year for which no money was received is estimated at £918 3s. 4d.

Effects of cyclone.

124. The buildings were considerably damaged by the hurricane. They stand in a gap of the hills at the north of the Liguanea Plain above Kingston, through which the southerly blast of the cyclone rushed as through the neck of a funnel. The boys' dormitories in the north barracks were unroofed, and some of the masonry walls so much cracked that they had to be rebuilt from the first floor. The girls' dormitories were also unroofed, and the schoolroom partly so. One room at the servants' quarters, the hospital kitchen, and the mortuary were unroofed. The hospital and dispenser's quarters were badly damaged; part of the blacksmith's shop, the cocoa and coffee drying-house, and several outbuildings were blown down. The board and iron fences were nearly all laid flat. The buildings and fences have now all been made good, and with the exception of some minor repairs and painting are all in fair order.

125. This is an excellently managed institution, and does credit to the ability and devotion of the Superintendent. The increasing number of girls in the reformatory will render necessary an extension of the area of the premises allotted to them.

126. Very little illness was caused as an immediate effect of the hurricane in August, but a good many cases occurred later, which were traceable indirectly to that cause.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Medical Department and Hospitals.

Establishment changes

127. The Superintending Medical Officer, Deputy Surgeon General (retired) C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., left Jamaica on leave of absence on the 4th of July, 1903. He did not return to the Colony, and has now retired from his office, which he assumed in June, 1876, and occupied, with a short interruption, continuously since that date. Dr. Mosse was an exceptionally admirable and valued public servant and most highly esteemed

and respected by the unofficial community. Dr. J. W. Plaxton, the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, was appointed to discharge the duties of Superintending Medical Officer during Dr. Mosse's absence, but in consequence of ill health he was relieved of the office on the 6th of October, when Colonel W. W. Kenny, R.A.M.C., F.R.C.S., I.M.B., assumed charge of the Department.

Dr. Plaxton succumbed to a tedious and painful illness on the 21st of January last, and by his death the medical service lost a most able, energetic and exemplary officer.

Vital statistics of Kingston.

128. Dr. Kenny reports that the vital statistics for Kingston for 1903-04 are not so favourable as those of the previous year, the death-rate, 29.7 per 1,000, being 2.64 higher. The birth-rate increased from 37.15 per 1,000 to 39.1. Infantile diseases, phthisis, and malarial fevers continue to account for the greater number of deaths. The death-rate from phthisis shows, however, some improvement. Whooping cough was very prevalent during the last nine months of the year, and 80 deaths from this cause are reported. Infantile diseases show the largest number of deaths during the year. It is a recurrent tale of these annual reports that this high mortality is principally due to parental neglect and ignorance, to improper food and insanitary surroundings.

Public health and hospitals.

129. The greatest number of deaths in Kingston occurred in September, October, and November. I do not think that any appreciable amount of mortality in the city can be attributed directly to the effects of the hurricane. These effects are, however, very clearly shown in the general death-rates of the island and in the returns of the public general hospitals, especially in those of the parishes specially visited by the cyclone. The admissions to hospitals as specified below:—

Pressure on hospitals after cyclone.

—	1902–03.	1903–04.
Constables	446	533
Poor persons	4,247	4,783
Paupers	44	702
Indian immigrants...	4,216	7,603
Paying patients	173	149
Prisoners	5	10
Second term coolies	—	35
Total	9,131	13,815

show an increase of more than 50 per cent. above the previous year. The greatest pressure in the months following the hurricane fell upon the hospitals of Annotto Bay, and Port Maria in St. Mary's parish, to which 5,201 patients were admitted

within the year, on Port Antonio and Buff Bay Hospitals, in Portland, which received 2,898, and Morant Bay and Hordley Hospitals, in St. Thomas, which received 983 patients. The number of deaths in hospitals was 355, equivalent to 2.57 per 1,000, a lower rate than that of the previous year, owing, no doubt, to the character of the special causes which brought the pressure upon the hospitals. Owing to the insufficiency of beds it was not, in all cases, possible to admit applicants, who would otherwise have had hospital treatment, but arrangements were quickly made to meet this difficulty, and the Superintending Medical Officer reports that at present the public general hospitals are able to meet all emergencies.

Equipment of hospitals.

130. The hospitals are all fairly well equipped as regards clothing, bedding, &c., and each has a good supply of instruments, quite equal to any call. Should others be required for special operations they can always be obtained from the Kingston Public Hospital on loan. 1,799 operations were performed, with a death-rate of 2.33 in such cases. Considering the gravity of many of these operations, carried out by the district medical officers in many instances without assistance, this result, as well as the practical absence of hospital diseases, speaks highly for the skill of the medical officers, the careful nursing of the staff, and the good sanitary condition maintained in these institutions.

Causes of admissions.

131. The greatest number of admissions were for cases of malarial fever, 5,183 in all, exceeding last year's number by 2,420. The majority of these admissions were in the autumn following the cyclone, and were, no doubt, due to exposure resulting therefrom. The rate of mortality did not increase, showing that the type of fever was the ordinary one. There was a considerable increase in admissions for disorders of the digestive system, caused, doubtless, by the inferior quality of the food which the people had to live on after the destruction of their crops, and also by bad water and exposure. The water of springs and streams was very generally corrupted by the masses of decayed leaves that were driven into them by the cyclone, which entirely stripped all the trees in its path. There was an increase of admissions for diseases of the nervous system and diseases of the respiratory system. Tubercular phthisis continues to show its usual high prevalence. It is, no doubt, largely propagated in ignorance of its infectious character by the crowding of families in small stuffy sleeping apartments.

Sickness among coolies.

132. The greater proportion of the increased resort to the hospitals was on the part of the indentured Indian immigrants. The hospitals most affected in this respect were Annotto Bay, Port Maria, Port Antonio, and Hordley. In one day at Annotto Bay there were 250 coolies under treatment, and it became necessary to increase the ordinary hospital accommodation by hiring a large wooden building from the United

Fruit Company, which, when fitted up, afforded shelter for over sixty patients. The hospital at Hordley was entirely destroyed, and to meet the emergency the sick were at first treated in Morant Bay Public Hospital. Subsequently tents were provided at Hordley, and remained in use pending the erection of a new hospital.

133. I consider that the medical department, the medical officers, and the staffs of the hospitals upon which special pressure fell deserve great praise for the devotion to duty which they exhibited under the stress of their increased labours, and for the energy with which they dealt with the extraordinary demands on the resources of their institutions. The number of out-patients treated at hospitals by the district medical officers was 28,689, an increase of 7,000, or about 33 per cent. on the number treated in the preceding year.

Birth and death rates.

134. The estimated population on which the birth and death-rates are based is 794,065, an increase of 15,867 over last year. There were 31,733 births and 19,671 deaths registered during the year. The birth-rate estimated on the mean population was 39.9 per 1,000, against 29.4 per 1,000 in the previous year. The death-rate was 24.7 per 1,000 against 19.8 in the previous year. This is significant. There were 1,033 more births and 4,267 more deaths than in the previous year. There was no more than but a very slight increase in the prevalence of actual disease. The general health of the island in the earlier months of the year was very good, and as the season was dry, there was very little illness, especially of malarial types. The rainfall at the time of the hurricane, the destruction of food, and the pollution of water caused a large increase in malarial fever, rheumatism, dysentery, and bowel complaints in the ravaged districts. This sickness began in September and continued until February, 1904. It was unquestionably the cause of the increased number of deaths, and of the increased death-rate. Outside of the hurricane-stricken districts the health of the island generally was very good.

Increased mortality.

Cost of medical services.

135. The amount voted by the Legislative Council for the services of the Medical Department of the year was £51,005 5s. 6d. The expenditure was £52,249 12s. 0d., an excess of £1,244 6s. 6d. This excess may be regarded as having been entirely due to the effects of the cyclone. The amount of £14,333 2s. 6d. was reimbursed in aid of the cost of the lunatic asylum by the Parochial Boards and by paying patients.

Kingston Public Hospital.

136. The total number of admissions to the Kingston Public Hospital was 3,165, against 2,280 in the previous year. The daily average number of inmates was 210; 240 deaths occurred during the year, giving a mortality rate of 6.5 per cent. The total number of operations performed was 1,233, and the deaths 22, giving a rate of 1.7 per cent. Malarial fever gave 576 admissions, mostly of intermittent cases, the greatest number

being in July, September, October, November and December. Out-patients numbering 26,440 received treatment.

Lunatic asylum.

137. There were 1,000 inmates of the lunatic asylum on the 31st of March, 1904, an increase of 41 from 959 at the beginning of the year. During the year 105 males and 31 females were admitted, 29 males and 31 females being readmissions. During the year seventy patients were discharged and 95 died. The mortality was exceptionally high, the death-rate amounting to 8.15 per cent., whereas last year it was below 5 per cent. Malarial fever of a mild type was prevalent.

The increase in the death-rate is attributed by the Medical Superintendent to the congested state of the asylum. Steps have been taken to relieve this by opening a second ward in the new buildings to accommodate 100 patients.

The Victoria Jubilee Maternity Hospital.

138. The Victoria Jubilee Maternity Hospital received 813 patients against 651 in the previous year. This is an admirably managed institution, but I am of opinion that the accommodation given by it must be more carefully restricted. The following are the numbers of patients admitted during the past ten years:—

1894-95	239
1895-96	217
1896-97	378
1897-98	444
1898-99	500
1899-00	581
1900-01	483
1901-02	785
1902-03	651
1903-04	813

The rate of increase shows that the hospital is coming to be regarded as a free nursing home available for all applicants. In the course of the year the increasing pressure upon the accommodation was brought forcibly to notice by undesirable occurrences, and directions were given with a view to restricting recourse to the hospital. The Medical Officer reports that the hospital was frequently overcrowded; that all the available beds were constantly occupied; and that almost always there was a number of patients lying on the floor of the wards. It has become the practice to bring patients to the hospital at the point of childbirth, when it is impossible to refuse them. Only 32 were turned away.

Lepers Home.

139. The Lepers Home at Spanish Town had 118 inmates on the 31st March, 1903, an increase of eight during the year. There were 36 admissions, 20 deaths, five discharges, and three

desertions. 66 of the patients were male, 52 female. There was a steady maintenance of the already excellent management of this institution. The growth of trees and the extension of cultivation by the inmates conduce to make the place increasingly pleasant and interesting.

(B.) Poor Relief.

Statistics of pauperism.

140. On the 31st of March, 1904, the total number of persons in receipt of out-door or in-door poor relief was 5,685, or 766 more than on the same date in 1903. The highest number previously reached in recent years was 4,998, on the 1st April, 1902, from which there has been subsequently a decline.

141. Increases have occurred in all parishes except Port Royal, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Catherine. The largest increase is in Portland parish, 211, an addition of 105 per cent., the next in St. Anns', 217, or 84 per cent., the next in St. Thomas, 69, or 46 per cent. These figures show directly the influence of the effects of the cyclone. In St. Mary's parish the population had, no doubt, more savings and resources than in St. Ann and East Portland, but St. Mary's Parish can also claim the valuable advantage of having probably the best administered poor-house and poor relief system in the island, and this fact, no doubt, conduced more than anything else to the comparative limitation of the increase in that parish. There were only 197 persons in receipt of poor relief in St. Mary's at the close of the year, of whom 139 were in the poor-house. The average for the other parishes of the island, excluding Kingston and Port Royal, was 345. In most of the others the out-door paupers far exceeded in numbers the in-door paupers. The parish with the greatest number of paupers was Manchester, with 509. Manchester alone has no poor-house. It is one of the most prosperous parishes of the island, but so long as its Parochial Board adhere to their determination not to insist on the test afforded by a properly managed poor-house, the number of the ostensible paupers, and the cost of its poor relief will, no doubt, continue to be as they are at present—excessive.

The pauper expenditure of Portland was augmented by £1,045, that of St. Ann by £1,294, that of St. Mary by £557, that of Trelawny by £121, St. Catherine by £138, St. Andrew by £280, St. Thomas by £74 only.

Hurricane relief measures.

142. It may be convenient that I should resume here my account of the measures which were taken for the relief of the distress occasioned by the hurricane by the aid both of public and private funds. I have recorded the formation of the Central Relief Committee, and I send a copy of the final report of that Committee as Appendix VII. to this despatch. In pursuance of the suggestions made in the Governor's Circular of

the 14th of August, the Parochial Boards formed themselves with the addition of other persons of influence and acquaintance with the people into Relief Committees, dividing their members into Sub-Committees for special districts, to administer first the public and then the private funds allotted to them. The special appropriations of £100 from General Revenue and £200 from Parochial Funds in each parish were administered through these committees, and the boards in their capacity of Poor Law Authorities did not, as a rule, find it necessary at the time to issue any special directions with regard to the administration of parochial relief. As a consequence there was no marked increase at first in the numbers of legal poor, registered or temporary. An exception to this occurred in the parish of Saint Thomas, where from the first, the Parochial Board, with a most prudent judgment, decided to deal with all cases needing sustenance through the usual channels. This method ensured that all applications should be dealt with in the usual thorough manner through officers trained by rule and custom to this procedure. The result was that in only one district of St. Thomas, the Eastern or Bath district, was any such extra relief granted, and the total amount expended was not large.

See Appendix II.

143. Sir Augustus Hemming's second despatch, above quoted, on the effects of the hurricane, made special reference to the apparent distress which was brought to his notice in this district, yet the figures I have quoted above in this section show how economically in the result this pressure was dealt with when taken in hand from the first in a judicious manner.

(See par. 11).

144. There can be no question that the Parochial Boards and the subsidiary Relief Committees were, for the most part, genuinely anxious to avoid pauperising the population by giving indiscriminate relief where it was not wanted. The Governor, the Central Relief Committee, the Boards themselves and the press laid down the most unexceptionable principles in regard to the relief administration. Certain local Committees, and individuals did deal with the duties entrusted to them in a manner which appeared indiscreet. In more than one such case, however, their action was disapproved by the Boards or the Central Relief Committee, and they were in several cases relieved of their functions. The policy of the Boards themselves was not in all cases identical, but I do not desire to particularise the instances in which I think an indiscreetly liberal line was taken. The work of the Committees and the Boards, as ordinary almoners, became progressively more difficult. The impression went abroad and gained ground that money was being sent from England (from the King it was generally supposed) to recoup to everyone who had suffered by the hurricane the full damage that he or she had sustained. It was public money, and all taxpayers had a claim on it, no matter whether destitute or not. In one case it even

Desire of Boards and Committees to avoid injudicious relief.

appeared as though an important local Committee took this view, for they sent in to the Central Relief Committee estimates to cover the restoration of all houses destroyed as well as the current demands for the distribution of food and money generally. The action of this Committee was disavowed by the Parochial Board, who revised the applications and reduced them to reasonable principles. The notice which I have* above referred to as posted throughout the island by direction of the Central Committee did, I have been assured by the most prominent and responsible men in several parishes, an immense amount of harm. Though issued with the contrary intention, it served to confirm the impression that the people who had suffered from the hurricane were to wait, and they would be helped. A marked quality of mental stupor or paralysis is habitually caused by a cyclone, and this affection was naturally widespread among an ignorant population, whose whole food supply had been swept away, and their houses blown about their ears. But had it not been for the expectation of relief which was disseminated, the population would not, I believe, have relaxed to the extent that they did their personal efforts to restore their cultivations and to rebuild their houses. When in the month of September I travelled throughout the districts affected in connection with the organisation of the Hurricane Loan work, and in order to ascertain what relief works it might be necessary or advisable to open for able-bodied sufferers, the condition of things in the country appeared to me to be getting very serious. The demands upon the local Relief Committees were increasing, and whereas the original intention of the Committees had been to give doles of food and money only to the infirm or incapable, the meetings of some were becoming crowded with noisy throngs of able-bodied loafers loudly demanding as taxpayers their share of the Government money, and rendering it impossible to deal with or discriminate between the claims of more worthy applicants. I took the opportunity of my visits to confer with the Chairmen and such other members of the Parochial Boards as could meet me, and having enlisted their general concurrence I took the earliest possible opportunity of moving in the Central Relief Committee the following resolutions:—

Resumption by Parochial Boards of administration of relief to destitute persons.

1. That a further allotment be made of £4,000 out of the relief funds still at the disposal of the Committee to the several Parochial Committees, to be applied for house repairs only, in such proportions as it may appear that their respective requirements demand, and that Parochial Committees be requested to take care for the proper verification of the expenditure.
2. . . . . That no further allotments whatever be made for the purpose of hurricane relief in the form of food, but that the Parochial Boards be left to deal with all such requirements.

* § 6 pp. 6, 7.

3. That the Committee request His Excellency the Governor to move the Parochial Boards to take immediate steps where they have not already done so, to provide for dealing with all applications for hurricane relief through the inspectors of poor and their assistants.

4. That this Committee respectfully suggests that His Excellency should favourably consider giving an assurance to Parochial Boards of parishes specially affected by the hurricane, that if their funds should be unable to meet demands for special relief, His Excellency will recommend to the Legislature that some assistance be given from General Revenue in aid of their special expenditure for such relief.

5. That it is expedient that the Parochial Boards should carefully co-operate with the Department of Public Works in the distribution of relief work where such may be found necessary.

6. That the unallotted balance of the relief fund be held for assignment as may hereafter be determined from time to time for the redress of special cases of misfortune occasioned by the hurricane, or for the assistance of small cultivators; but that the appropriations for re-housing be now regarded as closed, and the local Committees so notified.

The resolutions were put to the Committee one by one, and in every case adopted.

145. From the date of the adoption of these resolutions the Parochial Boards, with some little delay in certain cases, placed the administration of relief under the control suggested. Thenceforth all direct outdoor relief was, with few exceptions, administered through the Poor Law Officers, special assistants being appointed where necessary. The work of the local committees, subsidiary to the Parochial Boards, was addressed to controlling the allotment of money in aid of house repairs, the principle generally adopted being that nothing should be paid until an Inspector was satisfied that substantial work had been done by the householder himself. A Sub-Committee of the Central Committee dealt with recommendations, previously checked by the Parochial Boards, for the relief of special cases of suffering, where individuals lost their means of living in consequence of the hurricane. A sum of £410 altogether was spent for the distribution of seeds and plants to small cultivators, the work being carried out through the local branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and by the Agricultural Instructors of the society and the Government, under the direction of Mr. James Barclay, the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, who worked indefatigably in this connection.

Special cases.

146. The work of the Central Committee was attended to in a most public-spirited manner, and no pains were spared to ensure that the monies under their control should be well and fairly applied. From the report printed in the appendix it will be observed that only £287 was spent by them for the direct distribution of clothing and food stuffs, and £609 for building materials. A total amount of £10,290 from the relief fund was distributed through the Parochial Boards, principally for house restoration, as the distribution of other relief was transferred to the Poor Law system before appreciable inroads could be made on this fund. The number of houses reported as totally destroyed was 9,657, of which 2,913 were in St. Mary, 2,130 in Portland, 744 in St. Ann and 1,134 in St. Thomas. The number partially destroyed was 4,421. Assuming that £10,000 was distributed for house restoration, this gives a dividend of rather less than 15*s.* per house.

Injurious effect of creation of a relief fund.

147. Notwithstanding all the discretion exhibited by the committees I regret to say that I am convinced that whereas sums amounting to about £12,700 were distributed through them in charitable relief, the positive loss caused to the island by the expectation that money would be so distributed, and the resulting abstention of able-bodied men and women from restoring their damaged fields and gardens, rebuilding their houses and seeking paid employment, whose output would have hastened the return of prosperity, as well as by the sickness which the unnecessary delay in rebuilding houses conduced to, was largely in excess of that amount. It is unquestionable that many remained thus idle for weeks, if not months, in the expectation that they were to be helped, and that some deliberately abstained from touching their damaged grounds and houses for fear lest they should lessen their claims for compensation by improving their distressful appearance.

Relief works.

148. The complement of poor relief through the Boards and house relief through the Committees was the organisation of relief works for able-bodied men through the Public Works Department.

This had been prepared for by the tour of inspection taken by Mr. D'Aeth, then Acting Director of Public Works, immediately after the hurricane, and by the able reports furnished by him, in which he suggested the road works which it might be useful to undertake if relief employment should be called for. Mr. D'Aeth at the same time suggested that preliminary surveys should be made, so as to enable road work to be commenced to the best advantage in the districts in which it was most likely to be required. This suggestion was not acted on at the time, doubtless because it was felt that there was no certainty where relief works would be called for, but the absence of surveys for deviations and improvements which were later undertaken proved unfortunate, and led to a certain amount of misapplication of labour on the relief works. That is to say, work had to

be begun in some instances on a part of a road which was cut off from connection with other thoroughfares by portions which it was desirable to deviate and improve, but which could not be attacked without surveys, and in some instances the relief works have been closed before these improvements could be completed. Such instances were few, and I mention them only in order to say the worst that can be said with regard to the economy of the works and to point to the necessity of having such schemes thoroughly prepared for in future.

149. Relief works were not opened in any district until the Government was satisfied both that there was a pressing demand and that the work proposed would be useful. Fuller particulars of the arrangements will be found in the extracts from the report of the Director of Public Works,* which I shall quote when I come to deal with the work of his Department. The wages offered were two-thirds of the ordinary rate, and it may be interesting that I should quote from a special report furnished by Mr. D'Aeth his account of the manner in which this test operated.

"The attitude of the labouring classes in the operation of the Relief Works has been, as a rule, one of assumed independence at the outset of any work, declaring that they would never take work at the rates offered, and leaving in very large numbers after making enquiry as to the work. In the following weeks as they saw that their demands for higher pay were not met, and came finally to understand that the work was established, not because the Government desired to undertake it, but only to meet their own urgent necessity, they came back and eventually took the work, but, generally, with a good deal of discontent and grumbling, and with the expression, if not the idea, that the Government was taking advantage of them. This feeling was manifest chiefly in St. Mary. In the east end of Portland there was a better appreciation of the conditions and more contentment among the labourers."

Amount spent on relief works.

150. Up to the 31st March, 1904, there was expended on works paid at relief rates £22,493. Of this amount, £11,006 was spent on special relief works at the charge of General Revenue Account, £4,030 on new works already provided for on the estimates or by loan funds, and £7,457 on repairs of main roads. The greater part of these repairs was rendered necessary by hurricane damage, but some of it was work which would have been done under other circumstances at ordinary rates.

Continuance of relief works since 1st April.

151. When the estimates for the current year were submitted early in March it was expected that about £9,500 would be required from General Revenue for special relief works during the following summer. The demand for relief proved more enduring than was expected, and up to the 31st July £10,167 had been so spent, in addition to £2,963 disbursed at relief rates on ordinary main road works and about £600 on a new road chargeable to loan funds. After the end of July all special relief works were suspended except on three roads, one in the neighbourhood of Manchioneal, where distress is still prevalent, and two, one in Portland and one in St. Mary's parish, where

* *See* p. 82.

there is still a demand for relief work, and it is expedient to complete the works in hand, in order to reap the advantage of the improved communication. At the time I write this the administration of this form of relief may be regarded as having practically been brought to a close.

152. The road work done has been in all cases useful, and will tend to promote the prosperity of the districts concerned. Where the works have been left incomplete the labour on them has not been wasted, but will be brought into account when the works are finished, as they should be, by appropriations on the annual estimates. I consider that the works were conducted with the least possible disorganisation of labour and with but little ill effect upon those employed. Only in some instances, and these not important, can these works be regarded as having diverted labour from other productive employment. It might have been desirable that the labourers should have spent on their own fields part of the time they spent on relief works, but their fields would not support them, and the Government did not deem it politic to pay them for so working or to make loans to any but substantial cultivators.

(E.) Savings Bank.

153. The amount at credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1904, was £425,723. Of this amount £421,930 was invested in British and Colonial securities and the small balance was held by the Treasurer in cash. The liabilities to depositors had been reduced during the year by £10,061. The income of the bank from interest was £15,423, and a further amount of £1,109 was realised by conversion of investments, refund of Income Tax and small miscellaneous receipts, making altogether £16,532, or £295 more than the receipts of the previous year. Of this amount £10,031 was credited as interest to depositors' accounts, and £6,500 to the General Revenue Account of the Colony. The expenditure for the payment of the staff and other costs of the bank amounted to £2,761, showing a net profit of £3,739 to the Government.

Excess of withdrawals.

154. There was a net increase of withdrawals in Kingston during the year, amounting to £17,108, which the manager of the Savings Bank attributes to the effects of the depression of trade following the cyclone. In Portland there was a net increase of withdrawals, amounting to £2,144. In St. Mary a decrease of only £133. In St. Thomas the increase in withdrawals was exceeded by an increase in deposits. In St. Ann there was an increase of £235 in deposits and a decrease of £952 in withdrawals. In Trelawny there was a decrease of £626 in deposits and an increase of £1,436 in withdrawals. In St. Catherine a decrease of £1,325 in deposits and an increase of £1,558 in withdrawals.

155. These figures are rather remarkable. It will be observed that outside of Kingston the only parish in which the cyclone would appear to have caused a considerable run on the Savings Bank is Portland. The withdrawals in Trelawny were probably quite as much due to the shortness of the sugar crop; those in St. Catherine are not very heavy for so large a parish, and are hardly in proportion to the damage done there. The manager reports that in Portland considerable sums were withdrawn and subsequently re-deposited, and in St. Mary moneys borrowed by planters for cultivation were lodged in the Savings Bank and drawn as required.

Large amount of popular savings not deposited in Bank.

156. It would appear that there was at the time of the hurricane a considerable amount of money hoarded by the peasantry independently of the Savings Bank deposits. It became evident towards the close of the year that these resources were becoming exhausted, and the Savings Bank deposits began to be more freely drawn upon. This process has continued in a marked degree since the 31st March, and in the first quarter of the current year the withdrawals on ordinary accounts exceeded deposits by upwards of £16,000. This phase of the distress succeeding the cyclone has been accompanied by an increase of praedial larceny among the class who had no Savings Bank accounts or other reserves.

Withdrawals now increasing.

157. The transactions of the bank with parishes other than those which have suffered from the cyclone are indicative of increased prosperity, and as regards the whole of the accounts of ordinary depositors the balances left on the 31st March at credit of those accounts was actually only less by £736 than the total on the same date of the previous year. The drain on the bank had been, so far, deferred, but I fear that the current year's transactions will show a substantial depletion. It has already become necessary, since the 31st March last, for the Government to sell £27,000 worth of securities to meet the continuous* demand for withdrawals that is now being experienced.

VI.—CRIME, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Police statistics.

158. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before the Magistrates by the police is 768 more than in the preceding year, being 28,991 in 1903-04, as against 28,223 in 1902-03. The figures under this head seem to indicate a steady increase in the number of prosecutions for minor offences during recent years and continued activity on the part of the police.

159. The total number of convictions in the Circuit Courts was 107, as compared with 127 in 1902-03, 128 in 1901-02 and 134 in 1900-01. These figures point to a continued decrease in

* But this is partly due to the transfer of deposits to the Bank of Nova Scotia, which now offers higher interest than the Government Savings Bank.

the more serious forms of crime. There were only thirty-four convictions for offences against the person.

There were six cases of murder. Four of those accused were found guilty. Two suffered the death penalty.

160. The increase of offences against property, other than praedial larceny, dealt with in the Circuit Court, though small numerically, is proportionately large. This appears to be due to old offenders being sent on to the Circuit Court on account of its being considered that they could not be adequately punished by the Resident Magistrates.

161. The number of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts was higher than it has been for more than eight years.

162. There was a decrease in the number of offences against the person and a very marked increase under the head of "Praedial Larceny," the figures being 651 for 1902-03 and 1,359 in 1903-04, more than double the former number.

163. There is nothing in the statistics of summary convictions to which I think it necessary to draw attention, except that there is a slight decrease in the numbers as compared with those of the two immediately preceding years.

Increase in sentences of whipping.

164. The number of persons punished in the Resident Magistrates' Courts by whipping during the year under report is comparatively large. It is 397, as against 116 during 1902-03, 186 in 1901-02, and 198 in 1900-01. The increase in this method of punishment is no doubt attributable to the increase in the number of convictions for praedial larceny during the year, and to the passing of sentences of whipping on second offenders.

Increase of prædial larceny.

Causes of fluctuation in such cases.

165. The returns of crimes and prisoners for the year are, on the whole, satisfactory, with the significant exception of large increases in cases of larceny and still larger in praedial larceny, in which the effects of the hurricane are very clearly discernible. With reference to praedial larceny Sir Augustus Hemming, in his Report for last year, called attention to the considerable improvement which had been manifested. He attributed it to the better condition of the peasantry, increased severity on the part of the Resident Magistrates in punishing for the offence, greater activity on the part of the rural police and more plentiful employment on the estates. He also observed that in the parish of Saint Mary, where subsistence was then plentiful, there had been some increase in the number of cases, probably owing to the fact that the abundance of bananas offered greater and more continuous temptation to pilferers. The returns of this year show that the severity on the part of the Resident Magistrates has not been relaxed, but rather increased by a more general resort to sentences of whipping; the activity on the part of the rural police has continued, and the temptation of abundant bananas has been entirely removed. The factors, therefore,

which, notwithstanding these enhanced preventives, have augmented so conspicuously the prevalence of praedial larceny, have doubtless been the great poverty created by the cyclone among the peasantry, and a diminution of employment on estates.

Material of praedial thieving class.

166. There is a considerable number of persons, many of them not fully able-bodied, who, in prosperous times, are either voluntarily supported by others or find easy means of picking up a living, but who, when the native food supply is destroyed, as it was last year, have practically no resource but to steal. It is a very difficult problem to devise an effectual means for checking the increase of praedial larceny which results under such conditions, more especially as a very large proportion of those convicted of this offence when they come into prison are found to be sick and weakly, and are adjudged by the Prison Medical Officer to be unfit for hard labour. There are, no doubt, many able-bodied persons among them, but for the rest the prison simply takes the place of a public workhouse, for admission to which individuals qualify by being too inexpert to steal without detection. In times of scarcity, fruits and nuts that in ordinary periods would be regarded almost as *res nullius* are recognised as valuable articles of private property, and the owners' rights are asserted, whilst at the same time the habitual parasite or pilferer of the class above described conceives his natural rights to be enhanced by the imminence of starvation and his excuse for asserting this right by the failure of his former imperfect means of earning his living.

167. At the same time it is at such periods as that through which we have recently been passing that the evil of this propensity is felt most bitterly by those who are plundered. After the cyclone great efforts were put forth by the Government, the officers of the Agricultural Society and its branches, and by the Relief Committees to induce the peasantry to plant quick-growing food crops, and large quantities of seeds and slips were distributed to all who would apply for them. It has been a peculiarly disheartening experience for those who did their best to provide for themselves in this manner to have their fields stripped of unripe produce by their predatory neighbours. Praedial larceny is a continual though fortunately not an effectually prevailing obstacle to the increase and improvement of peasant cultivation. It will be a wholesome result if the indignation created by its depredations under recent conditions strengthens popular feeling against it to an extent that will survive in more prosperous times.

Question of remedies.

168. The question of praedial larceny was, as you, Sir, are no doubt aware, very closely discussed and investigated in this island during the time of scarcity which prevailed in 1899-1900, without any valuable new conclusion being arrived at. The law was amended, but I think it must be plain to any reflecting person that no methods of criminal law can, under existing present conditions in this island, prevent epidemics of praedial

larceny in periods of scarcity. In periods of plenty it abates, and no longer attracts public notice. The class who then practise it are habitual thieves and vagrants, and can be dealt with by the criminal law. When praedial larceny increases in prevalence there is always an outcry for more flogging. It appears to me to require great credulity to believe either that greater resort to this punishment would counteract the evil or that it would be worth while to counteract it at the price to the community of the indulgence of this vindictive impulse. It is clear that the increased resort by the Magistrates to flogging in the case of second offenders is not checking it at the present time. Though floggings were being awarded nearly four times as frequently in the latter months of the year as in the year before, the tide of praedial larceny was still rising, and only the return of plenty will check it. My opinion is that the only general remedy for that part of such outbreaks as is a primitive substitute for poor relief (in-door or out-door) will be found in the firmer establishment and wider diffusion of property, of the sense of property rights and family obligations and of habits of industry and providence in the adolescent population. The habitual offenders are, as a rule, pretty well known to their neighbours, and their operations would be greatly restrained if public reprobation of them were more general and more effectually organised. Individually the Jamaica peasant objects to being robbed, but he does not object to other people being robbed strongly enough to combine with them to prevent it.

169. It is hard on the taxpayers that prison expenditure should be increased by this cause, and it would be very desirable to devise means of keeping offenders out of prison. I doubt, however, whether much would be really gained by diverting those of them who belong to the semi-pauper class to the poor houses, where there are no proper means of exacting any labour from them.

170. The Inspector-General of Police reports that the Vagrancy Law, which was passed as a result of the study of the question of praedial larceny in 1901, continues to work well. He suggests that its provisions should be enlarged so as to enable the police to abate the public nuisance and repress the abuses arising from Revivalist meetings and "Ninth Nights," or wakes. It is certainly time that these pious orgies should be abandoned by the population of this island.

Police establishment.

171. The police have efficiently carried out the duties which fell upon them during the year, without increase of staff. The total strength at the end of the year was as follows:—

Officers	18
Sub-officers	132
Men	637
District constables	804
Total	1,796

There was an unusual amount of sickness amongst the men stationed in the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Mary, and also, owing partly to insufficient barrack accommodation, in Kingston.

Prison statistics.

172. There were 1,178 prisoners in custody on the 31st March, 1904, being an increase of one hundred and eleven above the number in custody on the same date in 1903. The committals to prisons and lock-ups during the year amounted to 5,099, against 4,540 in the previous year, an increase of 599. This notable increase has occurred since the hurricane and has continued since the 31st March, so that, at the present time, the capacity of the prisons is strained and the expenditure for supervision and maintenance markedly augmented.

Debility of many convicted of praedial larceny.

173. As to the condition of many of those so sentenced, the appended list,* recently submitted by the Medical Officer of the St. Catherine's District Prison, of inmates recommended for exemption from hard labour, speaks for itself, and no comment of mine could strengthen its significance in relation to which I have written above.

Expenditure.

174. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary and for the St. Catherine's District Prison (for short term prisoners) was in the year £19,087. The actual earnings of the two prisons were £5,475, which included £257 produced by the St. Catherine's Prison Farm. The total estimated value of the labour yielding no return in money was £6,105

VII.—POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

175. Considerable attention has been devoted during the last two years to the reorganisation of the postal and telegraph services and the improvement of its efficiency. The Postmaster's report on the year is important and interesting. The following paragraphs are largely transcribed from its pages.

Financial.

176. The cash collections for the year were as follows:—

Postal	£28,051	17	9½
Telegraphs	5,194	12	6
	£33,246	10	3½

while the estimates called for:—

Postal	£24,000
	5,000
	£29,000

* Appendix VIII.

Comparative collections.

The revenue collections for 1903-4 compare with those of the two years preceding as follows:—

—	1903-4.	1902-3.	1901-2.
	£	£	£
Postages	26,326	26,234	22,337
Commission on money orders	637	539	446
Commission on postal orders	690	698	615
Telegraphs...	5,195	5,522	5,010
Miscellaneous	398	112	112
Total	33,246	33,105	28,520

177. The collections on account of postages and commissions on postal orders constitute a very good test of the general conditions of trade during the periods embraced in the above table, and the conclusion drawn from examination is that the effect of the hurricane on the year's transactions was to altogether discount the advancement which prevailing conditions would under normal circumstances have produced, and to leave matters much as they were in the year preceding.

178. The telegraph revenue shows a falling off in 1903-4 of £327 when compared with the yield in the year previous, but putting aside service messages, the cost of which is charged to the several public departments using the telegraph, the falling off in general business is represented by the sum of £448. This branch of the Department's business does not exhibit progress, the average yearly collections during the last ten years contrasting unfavourably with the similar collections during previous decades, notwithstanding increased facilities. This unfavourable result is in part due to the increase of postal facilities, many more offices than formerly enjoying a daily service, and in part to the fact that the United Fruit Company, which, in other circumstances would be a valuable client, makes use of long distance telephones under licence from the Government.

179. The progress of the business of the Department as measured by the collections in the last year of five successive decennaries is thus stated:—

—	Postages.	Commission on money orders.	Commission on postal orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
1863-4	11,067	115	—	—	171	11,353
1873-4	14,021	504	—	-	132	14,657
1883-4	16,232	250	—	4,512	386	21,380
1893-4	19,429	354	432	6,256	219	26,690
1903-4	26,326	487	690	5,195	398	33,246

In forty years postage revenue has increased by 126 per cent., notwithstanding the decrease in the rate of ocean letter postage

from a shilling to a penny and on inland rates from 3*d.* or 4*d.* (according to distance) to a penny, considerable abatements having also been made in respect of second class mail matter. The increase in postal order commissions indicates a rise in ten years of 60 per cent. in circulation, but telegraph revenues have only improved by 15 per cent. when compared with the results of 20 years ago, and exhibit an actual falling off in comparison with the figures of 10 years ago.

Comparative expenditure.

180. The expenditure in 1903-4, compared with the expenditure in each of the two preceding years, is thus stated:—

—	1903–4.	1902–3.	1901–2.
	£	£	£
Personal emoluments	15,745	15,581	15,096
Mail conveyance	11,436	13,198	12,291
Services	7,331	5,580	5,501
Maintenance of telegraph lines	1,705	1,135	1,027
Total	36,217	35,494	33,915

The increase in personal emoluments is mainly due to re-opening of certain district post offices and to employment of two messengers in the Mail Coach and Parcels Post Office. The decrease in cost of mail conveyance is attributable to the readjustment of our arrangements with the Imperial Post Office, whereby the annual claims for a special contribution to loss sustained consequent on joining the Postal Union, and for a proportion of our packet postages, are merged in our annual contributions to the Royal Mail subsidy. The increase in expenditure under the head of services is almost wholly accounted for by larger charges under the item "Manufacture of Stamps and Post Cards," partly the result of expenses in connection with the new issue of stamps and also in a measure due to the ordering of increased stocks to meet larger demands. The item of maintenance of telegraph lines is administered by the Public Works Department, and the increased cost was due to the work of the cyclone.

Retrospect of expenditure.

181. The following figures show the expenditure of the island on account of its postal and telegraph service for each tenth year under the principal heads of charge, viz.:—

—	Personal Emoluments.	Mail Conveyance.	Services.	Maintenance of Telegraph Lines.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1863–4	3,656	6,818	588	—	11,062
1873–4	5,386	9,784	604	—	15,774
1883–4	9,431	10,940	1,692	1,630	23,693
1893–4	12,467	13,224	4,718	1,994	32,403
1903–4	15,745	11,436	7,331	1,705	36,217

This summary, besides showing the expansion of the Department during the forty years embraced in the review, will, when considered in relation to the like summary of revenue given in paragraph 179, show that the Department has continuously had to make drafts on the general taxpayer for its maintenance, a circumstance which is not infrequently overlooked by applicants for new post and telegraph offices and for the extension in other directions of postal facilities.

182. No new post offices were opened during the year, but seven which had been closed for various reasons were reopened.

At the close of the year there were 159 post offices throughout the island serving the needs of the public, giving an average of an office to every 26.4 square miles of area and to every 4,720 of the population. According to tables of international postal statistics published by the Bureau of the International Postal Union, Jamaica would, both as regards numbers of offices to area and number to population, take high rank among Union countries. On this showing, the Postmaster considers that it may, with considerable force of reason, be claimed that the advisable line of progress lies not in the direction of the further multiplication of small offices, but in the improvement of the service to large communities.

Of the total number of 159 offices, 93, or nearly 60 per cent., enjoyed a daily service at the end of the year, this facility having been extended to 13 offices within the year. The number to which parcels could be sent owing to their being served by horse post was 86, the list having been augmented by four since the preceding year.

183. The systematic inspection of district offices is an essential feature in the administration of a service constituted as is the post office, and I am glad to say that during the year under review it was found practicable to inspect all but four of the district offices once, and a few twice. With one exception, the result of the inspection was generally satisfactory, but the exception disclosed shortcomings of sufficient gravity to justify the inspecting officer in at once relieving the postmistress of duty and temporarily closing the office.

184. There has been a fivefold increase in thirty years in the volume of correspondence handled, the increase being slightly greater in the inland circulation than in the oversea exchanges.

Ocean mail conveyance.

185. The following statement gives the particulars of oversea mails despatched and received during each of the last three years:—

—	Outwards.						Inwards.					
	1901-2.		1902-3.		1903-4.		1901-2.		1902-3.		1903-4.	
	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.	Vessels.	Mails.
Kingston – Contract ..	78	807	78	807	81	790	104	1,008	104	1,029	112	1,092
Non-contract ..	315	768	321	779	257	421	437	840	363	781	258	665
Outports— Non-contract ..	30	31	30	31	94	94	94	357	138	273	109	246
Total ..	423	1,606	429	1,617	432	1,305	690	2,205	605	2,083	479	2,003

It will be observed that although there was an increase of three in the number of vessels by which mails were despatched, when contrasting the figures of the past year with those of 1902-3 there was a decrease of 312 in the number of mails made up, and the statistics of mails received show a decrease of 126 in the number of vessels carrying mails and 80 in the number of mails received. The temporary dislocation of the fruit trade had the natural effect of largely reducing the number of opportunities for interchange with the United States and Europe, but the utilization of the ships of the United Fruit Company, in addition to those of the Royal Mail and Hamburg-American lines for the carriage of mails to the Republics of Central America has prevented an equally marked decrease appearing in the number of outward opportunities.

186. The number of oversea mails despatched averaged during the past year 4.3 per working day, and those received 6.6. These figures show how favourably the Colony is situated in the matter of extra-insular mail opportunities; most of these opportunities are not regular, but intermittent; and the resulting work is mainly centred on the Kingston staff.

187. The cost of the ocean mail service during the year as compared with the cost during the year preceding was as under:—

—	1903–4.	1902–3.
	£	£
Contributions towards Imperial Contract with R.M. Steam Packet Company.	2,100	2,161
Sea and Territorial Transit Rates paid to other countries.	150	150
Ship letter gratuities	1,093	1,067
	3,343	3,378

Rate for ship letters excessive.

The last item only shows a tendency to grow, the expenditure under this head having increased in a year witnessing a serious extraneous check by £26. The rate of payment for the carriage of mails by non-contract vessels was settled at a penny per letter so far back as 1877, and it is an anachronism that the period of time which has witnessed a reduction in ocean postage from a shilling to a penny and a reduction in the cost of the trans-Atlantic service from £3,500 to £2,100 should not also have seen a commensurate reduction in this service. The estimate of the proportion of the oversea correspondence conveyed by contract and by non-contract vessels, considered in connexion with the proportion of the subsidy falling on the Post Office Department, shows that the cost to the island of contract service per piece of first class mail matter was only a halfpenny for 5,000 miles of sea transit, whereas the rate of gratuity allows a penny per letter for what is, in practice, only 1,500 miles sea transport.

188. A consideration of the foregoing figures will show that the equities of the situation suggest a reduction by at least half of the rates paid for ship letter gratuities, and overtures were made to the several agents of steamship lines with a view to effect such a change without resort to legislation, but without result. In the course of these negotiations information was sought as to the conditions prevailing in neighbouring Colonies, and the following particulars represent those conditions:—

Barbados—

For every five letters sent to places included in the Imperial Penny Postage Scheme	1*d.*
For every five letters sent to other places ...	2½*d.*
For every five articles other than letters ...	¼*d.*

There is no law bearing directly on the subject of the carriage of mails by these steamers.

British Guiana—

For every ten letters sent to New York by the Quebec and Armstrong Lines ...	1*d.*
For every twenty newspapers and books ...	1*d.*

The local law makes it compulsory on masters of vessels to take mails tendered to them, and allows the Postmaster under regulations, to pay gratuity in respect of them. In practice, and outside of the two lines named, mails are made up for every steamer leaving the port, and signifying its willingness to take a mail, and for these no gratuity is paid.

In Trinidad no gratuity is paid for the carriage of either first or second class mail matter, nor does the local ordinance make it compulsory on non-contract vessels to carry mails.

189. The Postal Authorities at Washington have it in contemplation to endeavour to make arrangements to materially reduce the postage to those countries with which the United States of America have large commercial relations, but it is clear that Jamaica cannot participate in these advantages unless we are able in the meantime to make more economical arrangements for sea transit. The Government has therefore entered into communication with the United States Post Office, with a view to devising steps to ensure the carriage of mail matter by steamers on more reasonable terms.

190. The several services of the Postal Department have been rendered throughout the year without other interruption than the restriction of opportunity resulting from the hurricane. The steamers of the subsidized lines, especially those of the Direct Imperial Steam Service, have not always been punctual to schedule time in their arrival, and the default, besides entailing additional labour on the staff and irritation to correspondents, has resulted in extra charges on the Department for special mail conveyance approximating £278.

Inland mail services.

191. By a rearrangement of the time table of the East-bound mail coach it is scheduled to connect with the out-going train at Port Antonio on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to collect a mail from all offices on the route for conveyance by train, and on the return journey to distribute a Kingston mail conveyed by train on the days which alternate with the departure of the regular tri-weekly mails, thus all the offices on the main east end line are afforded a daily service.

A similar rearrangement has given the northside main line a daily service, and all offices within easy reach of the railway had already been served daily. In addition to the main line offices referred to, arrangements were completed during the year for placing the following on the daily schedule, viz., Hampstead and Clonmel in St. Mary and Hayes and the Alley in Clarendon. Proposals are under consideration for a general daily service, but I am afraid the general unsuitability and difficulties of accommodating the railway time table to postal purposes, and the expense, may operate to delay their execution.

192. Except in the east end route the necessity for subsidizing mail coaches, *qua* mail coaches, has practically passed away, competition having brought livery stable rates down to the level of those fixed for the coaches.

Telegraphs and telephones.

193. Having regard to the very sparse population served by some of the district telegraph stations, the lack of any tendency on the part of such communities to expand, the small advantage taken of the service, and the relative cost of its maintenance, the question has arisen whether the legitimate needs of such communities may not be fitly met by a less expensive telephone service linked with, and bringing feeders to, the trunk telegraph lines. I have long been of opinion that the interests of the

general community would be better served by development of trunk lines with telephone connexion than by the multiplication of small unremunerative district telegraph offices on branch lines.

The effects of the cyclone.

194. The hurricane of the 11th August last, for a time, paralysed the machinery of the Department, especially that appertaining to the telegraph branch. On the morning of the 12th Half Way Tree was the only district office in communication with Kingston; on the 13th Up Park Camp was added, and Port Royal and Stony Hill on the 15th. By the 21st of the month, or within ten days, communication had been restored with all but six offices, and by the opening days of September work was in full operation at all offices except Myrtle Bank, where the line was not replaced, owing to local circumstances, until some time afterwards. The record is one which reflects much credit on the several Superintendents of Public Works and on the Superintendent of Telegraphs and his assistants, and it affords practical testimony of energy and devotion to duty.

195. The offices at Bowden, Manchioneal and Rio Bueno were completely wrecked, and the business at Bowden and at Rio Bueno is still carried on in temporary premises.

In the postal service the disorganization consisted rather in delays than in actual suspension.

Retirement of Mr. Pearce from postmastership

196. Mr. G. H. Pearce, the late Postmaster, retired from the public service in October last, after a service extending to 38 years, during which period he bore a large part in the building up of the Department, and some idea of the scope and value of the labour performed will be gathered from a consideration of those portions of this report in which I have indicated the growth of business by making comparisons at decennial periods. Mr. A. H. Miles was appointed Postmaster in Mr. Pearce's place.

197. Arrangements were made during the year for putting the head office staff establishment, auxiliary and subordinate, on a proper footing of organization, without incurring additional cost.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

198. I quote the following extracts from the report of the Director of Public Works for the year:— *Expenditure.*

a. "The total expenditure amounted to £129,514 2*s.* 6*d.*, summarised under the following heads:—

I. Establishment—		
Salaries and other charges		£13,873 16 10
II. Works, Departmental—		
1. Roads and bridges, maintenance...	£55,116 6 4	
2. Roads and bridges, new works ...	8,220 9 4	
3. Public buildings and telegraphs, maintenance	13,383 7 1	
4. Public buildings, new works ...	2,524 18 6	
5. Lighthouses, maintenance... ...	1,518 12 7	
6. Rio Cobre irrigation, maintenance	1,794 8 10	
7. Spanish Town water works, maintenance	519 17 1	
8. Special relief works on parochial roads	11,006 0 8	
9. Falmouth harbour improvements...	1,733 2 6	
		95,819 2 10
III. Work done for other Departments—		
10. Parochial Boards		8,373 4 0
11. Vere Irrigation Commission		7,722 17 7
12. Miscellaneous		3,725 1 3
Total		£129,544 2 6

199. *b.* "This total expenditure is £11,505 7*s.* 10*d.* more than that of the preceding year, which is approximately the same amount as was spent on the special relief works in the impoverished districts consequent on the hurricane of the 11th of August, 1903. But the actual expenditure on relief works and the repair of damage to the roads and public buildings caused by that hurricane, very greatly exceeded this sum; the expenditure on the maintenance of main roads, public buildings, and telegraphs having been £12,200 more than in the previous year, chiefly owing to that disaster.

200. *c.* "The staff of the Department is very small relatively to the work done. The Vote for salaries, omitting that of the electrical assistant whose duties are quite outside of the work of the Department, being only 4 per cent. in excess of that for the year 1888-89; whereas the length of main roads has during the interval been increased by about 250 per cent., and the number of public buildings has been increased by about 150 per cent. The total expenditure of the Department on works in the year under review, has been about 40 per cent in excess of that in 1888-89. That year was the second after my appointment as Director of Public Works, and I take it for comparison because it was the last year before I began the reorganisation of the Department. In the year 1895-96, the last before the era of enforced retrenchment commenced, the expenditure of the Department was 43 per cent. more than in the year under review, and the salaries amounted to £16,104, or about 50 per cent. more than in the latter year. It must at the same time be borne in mind that the work of the executive officers of this Department is not at all in direct proportion to the expenditure on the works under their charge, but is more dependent on the distances they have to travel, which vary *Staff.*

but little with their expenditure. Of late, these officers have been working at high pressure, and this cannot be carried too far without serious results. The staff at the head office has also been somewhat below the required strength, owing to which, work is apt to get inconveniently in arrear.

Main roads. 201. *d.* "The total length of main roads at the close of the year was 1,930 miles, 52 chains, having been increased during the year by 14 miles and 36 chains. Excepting for about a week after the hurricane of the 11th of August, the main roads in the island were generally maintained in good order throughout the year. Only on the sea coast road, between Port Maria and Oracabessa, was any very serious damage done by the hurricane; the complete repair of this was postponed, and, had it not been necessary to provide, by making uncontemplated improvements on roads in Portland and St. Mary, relief work for the labourers, male and female, deprived of the means of subsistence by that disaster, there would probably have been no excess, and, possibly, a saving on the Vote for maintenance. This necessity led to the undertaking of certain works of improvement. This has caused an excess of £2,590 6*s.* 4*d.* over the Vote.

e. "The expenditure for new works on main roads, for which £4,991 was voted on the Estimates, and £3,430 on Supplementary Estimates, was curtailed; the total actual expenditure being as shown above.

f. "Road works to the value of £1,805 was carried out at the charge of funds borrowed under Law 17 of 1890.

g. "The construction of the driving road from Gordon Town to Mavis Bank, authorised by Law 13 of 1885, was commenced, from the Mavis Bank end, as a relief work for impoverished labourers in that district, and carried on during the remainder of the year and thereafter, the expenditure which at the end of the year amounted to £1,417 1*s.* 4*d.*, being provided for out of the loan raised under the above-mentioned law.

h. "The sum of £2 2*s.* 9*d.* was expended on a footbridge over the Negro River in St. Thomas, out of the unexpended balance of the loan raised under Law 7 of 1881.

Buildings. 202. *i.* "The total expenditure under this head was £4,481 7*s.* 1*d.* in excess of the total vote. By the postponement of all work that could be deferred, a saving of £2,559 8*s.* 1*d.* was effected on the items in Part III. of the estimates for the year. The restoration of public buildings and telegraphs destroyed and injured by the hurricane altogether amounted to £7,040 15*s.* 2*d.* summarised under the various heads as follows:—

A. Churches	223	1	7
B. Courts and public offices	1,432	14	2
C. Prisons, reformatories, and police stations...	928	14	9
D. Hospitals and asylums	2,045	4	1
E. Miscellaneous	2,411	0	7
F. Rent, taxes, and rates...	Saving.		
G. Furniture	Do.		
	£7,040	15	2

Telegraphs. 203. *j.* "The length of the telegraph lines remained the same as the year before, viz., 695 miles. Up to the time of the hurricane they were in fair order, and portions of the line in Portland had been reconstructed at a cost of £49 18*s.* The lines in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny, and St. Catherine were extensively damaged. The lines along the sea coast suffered most. Repairs were speedily effected and communication was restored within the course of a few days; but the permanent repairs were not completed

until much later. The total cost of making good the hurricane damage was £695 3*s.* 11*d.*

204. *k.* "It was found necessary during the year to carry out several works, the necessity for which was not foreseen when the estimates were submitted to the Legislative Council, and which were subsequently specially authorised. The total expenditure on these specially authorised works was £1,002 0*s.* 10*d.*; but by the postponement of certain items included in the estimates, the non-completion of others, and savings on others, the excess over the Vote was reduced to £148 0*s.* 8*d.* *Special works.*

l. "The 'A' ward of the new female lunatic asylum was completed and fitted up for occupation; and the work of completing and equipping the 'B' ward was put in hand; the expenditure was met out of the unexpended balance of the loan raised under Law 6 of 1893. Out of the same fund, an overseer's house, storeroom, and watchman's hut were built on the prison farm of St. Catherine's district prison.

m. "Under the power of Law 9 of 1904, the premises between East Queen Street and the Sutton Street police station, and between East Street and George's Lane were acquired, a sum of £50 being paid on account pending the preparation of the title.

205. *n.* "All the lighthouses were maintained in good condition and efficiently worked throughout the year. The outbuildings at Plumb Point, Morant Point, and Folly Point suffered damage from the hurricane; the cost of making good the damage and replacing stores amounted to £106 4*s.* 10*d.* Saving were, however, made on other items, and the total expenditure was only £37 12*s.* 7*d.* in excess of the Vote. *Lighthouses.*

o. "The new residence and kitchen for the Superintendent at Morant Point were completed before the hurricane; which was fortunate, as the old house was blown down.

206. *p.* "The dam, headworks, main, and branch canals were maintained in good order throughout the year. The cost of maintenance was £220 less than the estimate; and the expenditure on new works was £175 11*s.* less than the estimate; a total saving of £395 10*s.* 2*d.* on the Vote is thus shown. The total expenditure was £1,794 8*s.* 10*d.*; the earnings were £8,039 4*s.* 5*d.*, and the revenue collected was £7,939 12*s.* The earnings were thus £143 11*s.* 1*d.*, and revenue collected £383 1*s.* 7*d.* more than the previous year, in which, however, a large amount of arrears were paid up. Owing to losses by the hurricane, many consumers were unable to make prompt payment. *Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.*

q. "Details of the acreage irrigated, and of the water consumed for each description of cultivation on the 31st March, 1904, are given below:—

Cultivations.	Acreage of land irrigated.	Water taken for irrigation.	
		Cubic yards per hour.	Cubic yards per hour per acre.
Bananas	6,850	10,796	1.6
Sugar estates	800	1,200	1.5
Pens in Guinea grass	3,000	1,824	.6
Provision grounds...	270	117	.4
Oranges	600	300	.5
	11,520	14,237	1.2

"The average consumption of water per acre was the same as in last year.

r. "Three hundred and fifty more acres of land were under irrigation at the close of the year than at the close of the previous year, and these were cultivated in bananas.

Relief works. 207. *s.* "On the occurrence of the hurricane, it became evident that the almost total destruction of the banana, cocoanut, and other crops in the eastern part of the island must throw thousands of labourers out of employment for many months, if not a whole year, and that unless relief were given by the Government, these men and women would in a short time be unable to obtain sufficient food to keep themselves in health, and, in many cases, from starvation. In any case, such large numbers of idle and destitute people, even if supported by public and private charity, would become a menace to the community. The only remedy for this was evidently to provide work, by which these labourers, male and female, would be able to earn sufficient money to provide themselves and those dependent on them with food; but, at the same time, to so limit their possible earnings that other employers of labour should not be prejudiced, and that those who owned land should not be enticed away from the cultivation of it.

t. "The only means of providing such work appeared to be the improvement of existing roads, and the construction of new ones in the districts affected. The Acting Director of Public Works, Mr. D'Aeth, made a tour through the eastern part of the island, and made a very valuable report on the subject. Very considerable savings had been made by the labouring population, pecuniary assistance was at first afforded by the parochial authorities and from public subscriptions in the island and elsewhere; and so long as these savings and the native food products held out, the pressure was not serious.

u. "I returned to the island along with the Colonial Secretary early in September, and we set to work to organise relief works on main roads and on parochial roads where and when a demand for work manifested itself. Mr. Olivier devoted all his energies and a great part of his time in travelling over the affected districts, selecting roads to be taken up, deciding on the sources from which funds were to be obtained for each work, and advising and assisting in every possible way. He was ably seconded by Mr. D'Aeth, the Assistant Director of Public Works, who took special charge of this service, and by the respective Superintendents of the affected parishes.

v. "It was decided to give employment to all labourers who were willing to work at two-thirds of the normal rates; that is, at rates that would enable each man to earn a shilling a day, and each woman, ninepence. At first, very few were willing to accept work at these rates, showing that the pinch was not yet felt; they also were imbued with a foolish idea that money had been sent by the King for distribution among them. Gradually, as money became scarcer and food dearer, the numbers increased, and at the end of October there were 1,252 at work. By the end of December, 4,025, and the maximum of 4,873 was reached at the end of January; from this point the numbers gradually decreased, in February to 4,533, and the last week of the financial year, the numbers were 4,017. It then seemed probable that the necessity for relief works would cease about the end of July.

w. "Relief works on main roads were provided for, partly from the residue of the loans raised under Law 17 of 1890 and Law 13 of 1895, and were otherwise charged to Part I. of the Estimates, 'Maintenance of Main Roads.' The residue of the Parochial Road Reserve Fund provided for a certain portion of the works on parochial roads. Particulars of these will be found in their proper places in this report. But for the greatest part of the relief works on parochial roads, it was necessary to provide funds by a special, and until the end of the year undefined, grant

from General Revenue. The total amounted at the end of the year to £11,006 0*s.* 8*d.*, made up as follows:—

St. Andrew	£153 18 3
Portland	4,811 7 2
St. Mary	5,109 12 1
St. Catherine	931 3 2

x. "On the whole, I think the island will in the end prove to have got good value for the expenditure incurred; although this large expenditure, at a period when the revenue of the island is at a low ebb and collected with difficulty, is doubtless much to be regretted. I think, too, that the minimum amount of harm has been done in the way of retarding the cultivation of the land in the hands of the peasantry, or making them look to the Government to provide them with work. A certain amount of this kind of mischief is, I imagine, in such circumstances inevitable, but it will in the present case soon pass off.

"The total expenditure by this Department during the year under review, attributable to the effects of the hurricane on the 11th of August, may be summarised as follows:—

Repair of damage done to main roads		£2,766 13 7	
Public buildings	£6,526 4 3		
Telegraphs	695 3 11		
		7,221 8 2	
Lighthouses		106 4 0	
			£10,094 5 9
Work undertaken as Relief Work—			
Main roads, maintenance		£7,457 7 8	
Do. new works		904 1 3	
Do. Law 13 of 1895 ...		1,417 1 4	
Parochial roads, Parochial Road Reserve Fund		1,708 12 8	
Special grants from General Revenue...		11,006 0 8	
			22,493 3 7
Total...			£32,587 9 4

"But, on the other hand, it must be acknowledged that, had no such disaster occurred, the year would have almost certainly been one of great prosperity, and that consequently there would have been little or no hesitation in carrying out all the work provided for on the Estimates, and it would therefore seem fair that the estimated value of the works not carried out, less, say, 10 per cent. for uncompleted items and savings on estimates. These omitted works amounted to the following:—

Main roads, maintenance	£2,513 13 9
Do. new works	3,425 13 0
Public buildings, maintenance...	2,619 14 2
Do. new works	854 0 2
	£9,413 1 1
Less 10 per cent.	941 6 1
	£8,471 15 0

"The net expenditure in the year attributable to the hurricane may thus be taken to have been £24,115 14*s.* 4*d.*

208. *y.* "The Government having decided to remove the several rocks which obstructed this harbour and the entrance to it, provided that the *Falmouth Harbour Improvements.*

work could be done at a cost not exceeding £12,000, tenders for the work were invited in the island, in the United States, and in Canada; and on the 1st of August a contract was concluded with Mr. A. J. Laymon to carry out all the work for the lump sum of £11,775, payable in specified sums on the removal of the rocks to which they are respectively allotted.

"Shipping has already benefitted by the progress made in the work. It is expected that all the work will be completed by the end of the year 1904. The expenditure to 31st March, 1904, was £1,709.

Work done for other departments.

209. *z.* "*Parochial Boards.*—These works consisted of the following:—

Construction and re-construction of roads for which grants were made from the Parochial Road Reserve Fund	£6,856 19 10
Drainage of Coke Street, Sav. la Mar	72 16 2
Repairs and alterations in Poor House, Falmouth...	194 3 9
Widening and re-constructing West Street, Port Antonio	1,154 13 10
Linstead water works	94 10 5
	£8,373 4 0

Vere Irrigation Commissioners.

210. "The construction of the works of the Vere Irrigation Canal was completed during the year. The expenditure in the year under review was £7,722 17*s.* 7*d.*

211. From close personal observation of the work that was done, and knowledge of the difficulties involved, I feel bound to express my high appreciation of the ability with which the Public Works Department organised and executed the hurricane relief works. This extensive business was dealt with by the ordinary staff, and its conduct reflects credit upon the organisation of that branch of the Service under Mr. Bell. Mr. D'Aeth, the Assistant Director of Public Works, who had the more direct contact with the works, rendered most valuable service, and the Superintendents of St. Mary's and Portland parishes especially exhibited both untiring industry and great practical efficiency and judgment.

IX.—RAILWAY.

Revenue.

212. The railway revenue for the year was £126,838, being £13,292 less than the estimate for the year, and £15,467 less than the revenue for the previous year.

Up to the date of the hurricane the revenue was in excess of that of the same period of the previous year, and the Director considers that but for that misfortune the revenue for 1903-04 would have been at least £20,000 more than it was.

Expenditure.

213. The expenditure was £92,049, an excess of £14,287 over the estimate, and of £11,705 over the expenditure of the previous year. The excess and the increase were due principally to the expenditure of £2,073 on new freight cars, put in hand when the increasing traffic appeared to call for them; £8,647 for the restoration of buildings and works damaged by the hurricane and the effects of a landslip; £797

for new and additional works; and £1,001 due to increased cost of coal, although a less quantity was used.

214. The principal decreases in receipts were under the items:—

Goods and cattle	£13,407
Passengers	2,154

In the month of March, 1904, the receipts for goods and cattle were less by £2,498 than in March, 1903. This was entirely due to the absence of banana traffic. The passenger traffic in that month yielded £384 less than in March, 1903. The wharf receipts showed a diminution of upwards of £300, owing to the failure of the banana trade.

215. The repair of damage done by the hurricane and by the landslip at Bog Walk was not fully completed at the close of the financial year, and the traffic receipts of the railway have continued very unsatisfactory almost up to the date of this despatch. Improvement is now, however, beginning to show itself.

Profit and loss.

216. It will be observed that the profit on the working account of the railway was only £34,789. The annual debt charge borne by General Revenue for the railway is £121,745, of which £89,597 is for interest and £32,149 for sinking funds. The net cost to General Revenue Account of the railway in this year was, therefore, £86,956.

Condition of line and stock

217. The great improvement made in the condition of the line and of the rolling stock under the present Director and Locomotive Superintendent has been maintained and carried further during the course of the year under report. Indeed, one partial compensation for the damage done by the hurricane has been that the decrease of traffic has enabled all the locomotives of the railway to be put into thorough repair, and where necessary reconstructed, so that the locomotive power is now in a higher state of efficiency than it has been at any previous time in the history of the railway. The improvement in the condition of the permanent way and works has been evidenced by the decrease in the number of small slips and failures, and in the infrequency of derailments, which gave considerable trouble for some time after the line was taken over by the Government. The steady and solid progress made in establishing the railway as a sound asset of the Government has been chronicled in the reports of previous years, and is only temporarily interrupted by the depression now indicated. The work of the Director of the Railway has been to get the line and the rolling stock into efficient order, and this heavy task has, I think it must be recognised, been efficiently accomplished. He has continuously introduced economies where economy was possible, and very great savings have been accomplished in the cost of working the traffic. The railway

nevertheless still fails to pay the interest on its cost to its possessor—the Government. This circumstance has rendered it impossible for the Government, especially during the earlier period of its ownership of the railway, when its expenditure was heavily taxing its other sources of income, to take up and deal progressively with a policy for bringing the railway to its highest potential utility. Something has been done in this direction in the course of the year under review, and in previous years so far as means have allowed, by the construction of roads to feed railway stations or sidings, the provision of sidings, and the granting of facilities for the buying and storing of fruit at railway stations. The railway from Spanish Town to the north side crosses the island in a direction roughly parallel to roads which were previously the sole thoroughfares for bringing produce down to the shipping ports, and on the north side the railway has to compete especially with roads running parallel to it to the ports of Port Maria and Annotto Bay, the latter of which has also a station on the railway. During the course of the year under review three important roads were undertaken to feed the three successive inland stations of Troja, Richmond, and Highgate Siding. Two of these roads were carried out mainly as relief works for persons suffering from the results of the hurricane. The roads to Troja and Highgate will relieve the traffic over the main road to Port Maria, saving much of the high cost of upkeep on this very expensive road, and giving much greater facilities to fruit-growers throughout the immediate neighbourhood. The new road to Richmond Station comes from the other direction, and when completed to the distance contemplated, will be useful in a similar manner on that side of the railway. Roads have been surveyed to feed Albany Station between Port Maria and Annotto Bay, and to feed Catadupa and Cambridge Station at the west end of the island, as well as a siding which it is proposed to make between Catadupa and Ipswich. Money was voted to improve the road from Rio Magno to Riversdale Station; but the expenditure was countermanded after the hurricane for the sake of economy. These roads, when completed, will open country which has at present no satisfactory outlet either by road or rail, and which, though highly fertile, is consequently as yet undeveloped. The prosecution of these works has been suspended, owing to the financial exigencies arising out of the hurricane. Experience shows, however, that money judiciously laid out on such roads is soon repaid through the increase of indirect taxation yielded by the exports of fruit and other produce. From time to time it will, doubtless, be found advantageous to continue the survey and construction of such roads, and the provision of additional sidings. A siding has of late been pressingly called for to be constructed at Annotto Bay to enable fruit to be taken off the railway and shipped at that port. It has appeared very questionable whether it would pay the railway to do this. The fruit to be

shipped at Annotto Bay would be carried only comparatively short distances, and for the railway it is considered more economical to take all fruit to be shipped at Port Antonio, 25 miles further on even at a lower proportional rate.

Questions of railway policy.

218. Under the improved conditions which had manifested themselves for some time before the hurricane, it appeared that the time had come when a certain amount of risk might be faced in connection with the railway receipts, for the purpose of enabling experiments to be made in a more liberal policy with the object rather of developing the export trade of the island than of making the highest possible returns out of the traffic. For example: in the autumn of last year it was represented by the orange growers of Manchester that whereas when the demand for oranges was brisk the rates charged for such freight might not be excessive, yet when the American fruit came into the market, Jamaica fruit could not be moved at such rates, and the trade must cease altogether, whereas if the rates were lowered, although the profit to the railway might be cut very low, yet it might be that shipments would, under such conditions, continue, and the public revenue as well as the growers and shippers would continue to be benefitted. The experiment was, therefore, tried of granting a special low rate for the period during which the price of fruit was cut by the competition of California and Florida: the rates to be raised again from the 1st of August, when Jamaica fruit would begin to be in high demand. A similar policy in regard to rates has been urged for the carriage of bananas, the price of which in the spring months averages £12 10*s.* per 100 bunches, but only £5 after the 1st of August.

219. The question of rates on this railway can be dealt with from two points of view. The first is, taking the railway as an independent commercial or revenue earning concern, how best to get profit out of it, or to avoid loss within the compass of its own accounts?

The other is that which the Government must occupy as the administrator of an estate having an interest in all the other business of the island. It may be profitable from this point of view to give rates which a railway administration pure and simple would be justified in refusing in order to facilitate internal and export trade, which will yield revenue from other taxation besides increasing the general prosperity of the population. It may well be the case that particular articles can bear a high rate, and that no increase of traffic would result from any reduction. This is the case with oranges and bananas during the seasons of high prices. But the price of bananas is always reduced in the autumn and winter months, owing to competition of other fruit in the markets of the United States of America. The export of our bananas is the principal factor in producing our Customs and Excise Revenue, that is to say, it affects these revenues more substantially and more immedi-

ately than any other industry. It may, therefore, be good political economy to give a merely nominal rate for the carriage of bananas if such nominal rate would allow them to be exported at a time when the ordinary rate would stop exportation. I am of opinion that if a moderate reduction of rate in the poor season will enable bananas to be moved, which would otherwise remain unsold, it is advisable to so modify rates. Of course, the rates must be so adjusted as not to give away money to the fruit growers on shorter hauls. The rates to be reduced should be those on longer distances. Conversely, we might schedule somewhat higher rates than the present for the good season when the traffic can bear it. The difference of advantage to the island and to the public revenue between a state of things in which fruit can be moved, and one in which it cannot, is exceedingly great. It is in recognition of the indirect advantage of encouraging such movement and export that we make ordinary roads, the traffic over which pays nothing at all. It pays us to do so from the point of view of the revenue returns. Much more would it seem likely to pay us to keep bananas moving at any price which will bring us even a small profit in freights. From the point of view of this line of policy, such a question as that whether a siding should or should not be made at Annotto Bay, is really only slightly affected, and not at all to be determined by the fact that it may pay the railway better to carry fruit to Port Antonio and to close all other shipping places. If the whole island were the private estate of the Government it would appear unnecessary to carry bananas to Port Antonio when they could be shipped at Annotto Bay. No estate owner who makes a railway through his own property makes it longer than he can help, in order to show bigger traffic returns from that department in his books. He would obviously be losing in doing so. The Government has to look to its position as a Collector of Revenue, and as such it, of course, does not get the whole advantage of shipping bananas at Annotto Bay, rather than Port Antonio; but if by refusing facilities at Annotto Bay the shipment of fruit should be stopped (because it can be carried so far, but cannot pay the full freight to Port Antonio, even though it may get a longer ride for the cost per mile), it might very well be that the Government would lose heavily as a Revenue Collector by such a policy. It would not only lose the freight receipts, such as they are, but it would lose the Import Duties and the Excise Duties on the consumption paid for by this export, just as it loses them when there is no cart road to carry bananas. I believe it is worth while to enable fruit so to be moved, although from the point of view of the railway accounts it might result, though I doubt if it would result, that so much traffic would be withdrawn from Port Antonio as to counterbalance the additional receipts on freight sent to Annotto Bay.

220. I have thought it expedient without attempting to prejudice the facts of any particular question of this character,

which can only be ascertained on the advice of those specially responsible, to put on record the foregoing opinions as to the principles to which my experience here has induced me to think it would be of advantage that the Government should have regard in matters of railway policy. I would even go so far as to suggest that as soon as, and possibly even before, the railway earns interest on its capital the attempt to make it yield further profits in aid of the repayment of the capital should be relaxed, and the improvement of desirable fuller facilities arrived at without regard to their direct and immediate money return.

X.—MILITARY.

Militia.

221. On the 31st March, 1904, the strength of the Jamaica Militia was 600 (Artillery 146, Infantry 454), being practically the same as on the 31st March of the previous year. It has not been found practicable to increase the artillery up to its full strength of 206, but an attempt to do so will be made during the ensuing financial year. The infantry is still considerably under strength, which is mainly due to two causes, the almost entire cessation of recruiting on account of the introduction of what turned out to be an unpopular uniform, and the continued elimination from the force of men of poor physique, and of the very bad shots. A new uniform has now been devised, and it is hoped that as a result of this and of the increased attention that is now being paid to musketry, the force will shortly improve both in numbers and in efficiency.

During the year the designations of the corps were changed to the "Jamaica Militia Artillery" and the "Jamaica Militia Infantry."

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Results of last five years' finance.

222. The writer of this report was, in December, 1899, specially detached from the Department of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to serve for a period not exceeding five years in this island on account of the then difficult situation of the finances and the interest which the Imperial Treasury was considered to have in their stability, through the loans which it was contemplated on the recommendation of Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., should be made by the Imperial Government to the Colony. It will, therefore, perhaps, not be out of place that I should compare the present financial situation with that then obtaining, and should briefly review the measures that have been taken to bring the finances into a sound position in the period during which I have been the principal financial adviser of the Government. Having administered the Government for some months in 1900, and again in 1902,

and having had the duty of reporting on the affairs of those years, I have already reviewed somewhat fully some of the steps that have been taken.

223. The deficit on the General Revenue Account of the Government on the 31st of March, 1899, was £153,722. The excess of expenditure over revenue in the year then ended was £30,431. In view of this situation Sir David Barbour, who visited the island in 1899, for the purpose of reporting on its finances, had recommended that the Imperial Government should make a loan to the Colonial Government in aid of its deficit, to be repayable in ten years. A loan of £150,000 was authorised, and the necessary legislation passed. On investigating the financial position on my arrival it appeared to me that it would be quite unnecessary to borrow so large an amount since, although the liabilities of the Treasury so greatly exceeded the assets there was no proportionate call for immediate payments, and the available cash balances and incoming revenues appeared likely to be sufficient to enable the business of the Government to be carried on, provided that the expenditure of monies already borrowed for roads and public buildings were suspended until a more prosperous period. It would not, I believe, have been necessary to incur any obligation at all to the Imperial Government on this account. Through a misunderstanding, however, the sum of £20,000 in excess of what the Colonial Government had applied for was advanced by the Imperial Treasury as part of an authorised loan of £105,000 for the Kingston General Commissioners. When this mistake was realised it was decided to transfer the £20,000 to the credit of General Revenue Account as though it had been raised under the Deficit Loan Law. The amount outstanding on this loan was repaid out of General Revenue in the financial year 1902-03, and the account closed.

224. By the operation of the revised Customs Tariff introduced by Sir Augustus Hemming in March, 1899, and by the schemes of retrenchment instituted by him before I came to the Colony, and steadily followed out up to the present time, the insufficiency of the revenue to meet the expenditure was progressively reduced. The Customs Tariff is high, and will doubtless be revised when the term of seven years, for which it was intended to stand, expires in 1906. The permanent expenditure of the Colony on establishments has been substantially reduced, and retrenchment has now reached a limit below which it cannot be carried without provoking dissatisfaction on the part of the taxpayers and their representatives in the Legislative Council, who demand, and are presumably willing to pay for the maintenance, and in various directions, the extension of the services now rendered by the Administration. These demands are especially concerned with education, the agricultural department, the medical department, railway facilities, postal facilities, and roads and bridges.

225. Previous reports have recorded the improving fortunes of the island which have enabled the deficit of £153,722 to be converted into a surplus of £67,791 on the 31st March last, an improvement of £221,513 in five years. The improvement in the position of the Treasury is really greater than appears by these figures. A careful examination of the balance sheet in 1900 led me to consider that it indicated a position more favourable to the credit of the Government than could be held to be warranted, and steps were taken to eliminate unreal assets, and to bring concealed liabilities into account. The amounts thus written off for unsound assets and brought to account for concealed liabilities totalled £25,565. The actual total improvement in the position of the Government has thus been £247,078 in five years, of which £146,684 has been realised as between actual revenue and expenditure, and £100,394 by the transfer of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund recorded in paragraph 84 of this report.

226. Great difficulties have had to be overcome throughout this period. In the year 1899 Sir Augustus Hemming and his advisers had to face the anxious and unpopular duty of increasing taxation, and severely reducing expenditure and public establishments. In the following year the Colony had to take over the Jamaica Railway and its liabilities, adding enormously to its load of debt and to the charge upon its annual revenues. The railway debt created was £1,449,300 three and a half per cent. stock, imposing an annual charge of £65,218. An Imperial Loan of £198,000 was also necessitated, of which £110,000 was for railway repairs and equipment, and £88,000 for payment of outstanding interest liabilities of the railway company. The annual charge assumed for this Imperial Loan was £13,004. Had it not been for the occurrence of the hurricane it was the intention of the Colonial Government, in view of the transfer of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, to pay off last year the balance outstanding of the loan of £88,000. In the year 1900-01, the island had also to pay £9,760 for the expenses of the issue of the Railway Inscribed Stock. This amount was defrayed by a transfer from the balances of accumulated quit rents in the Parochial Reserved Fund. A sum of £48,706 had to be paid for arrears of interest on that stock due for the previous year, and £2,365 for debts of the railway company. The cash balances to the credit of the railway company taken over with that undertaking did not fully suffice to meet these obligations. In the following year provision had to be made for a permanent increase of £20,000 a year in the expenditure of the Colony for the subsidy to the Direct Imperial Mail Service. In the same period the complete reorganisation of the system of taxation on houses and lands had to be undertaken, and was carried through with an ultimate reduction in the amount of such taxes carried to General Revenue.

227. The finances of the Parochial Boards have also been placed on a sound footing. In 1899 Sir David Barbour con- *Position of parochial finances.*

sidered that the condition of their funds at that time threatened insolvency. On the 31st March, 1899, the debt of the boards to General Revenue Account was £108,645. On the 31st March, 1904, their debt was £58,599, a reduction of £50,000 in five years. By a series of Legislative enactments the accounts of the boards have been simplified by the amalgamation of funds and their sources of income by the revision of taxation above described. The annual estimates of the boards are carefully controlled by the Government, and their financial history for several years past leaves no reason for any apprehension as to their continued solvency.

The improved position of parochial finances is, as I explained in the full review which I made on the subject of direct taxation in my despatch on the Blue Book for 1901-02, due in great measure to the resolute discharge by the Collector-General's Department of the unpopular duty of collecting fully the taxes due from all persons liable to pay them.

228. This brief survey, and the observations that I have made on the financial history of the year under review justify, I think, a confidence that under normal conditions the position and prospects of the Government of Jamaica may be regarded as soundly established, and that a much less anxious task is before Sir Augustus Hemming's successor in this Government than the late Governor and his financial advisers had to encounter.

229. The following figures may suffice to give some indication of the cost inflicted on the island by the cyclone. The estimates are strictly moderate:—

Financial.

Loss to General Revenue—	
Customs (nett)	£30,000
Excise and Inland Revenue	15,000
Railway	20,000
Postal, Stamp Duties nnd other Revenues ...	5,000
Total loss to General Revenue	£70,000
Additional expenditure—	
Public Works (restorations)	10,094
Relief Works from General Revenue Account	19,367
Relief Works from other Funds	3,126
Railway	7,300
Public Gardens	500
Buoys and Beacons	145
Medical, Hospitals, &c.	2,500
	£43,032
Total for Island Exchequer	113,032
Approximate cost to Parochial Exchequer ...	12,000
Total cost in year to Public Finances, say... ...	£125,000

The cost to the public finances is not exhausted. There will be a deficit on the General Revenue Accounts of the year which can scarcely be less than £35,000, owing to failure of revenue and railway traffic, and the continued necessity for maintaining relief works. Parochial finances will also suffer for some time to come.

The loss to the community is more difficult to compute. But the returns show a loss of at least £750,000 in exports within the year, and the loss in the current year will be quite as great. This makes a total of £1,500,000 for the two years, and the results of the damage will not even then be exhausted. The destruction of products, which would have been consumed in the island, was also enormous. The total loss by destruction of crops cannot reasonably be estimated at less than £2,000,000. The destruction of houses, buildings, roads, fences, timber, clothes, and other private property must also be taken into account. I do not think this would be overstated at £250,000. The loss to the business community, and the loss of shipping business to the United Fruit Company, to the Direct Steamship Company and others engaged in the banana trade must have been at least another £250,000. These estimates give a minimum of £2,500,000 as the cost of the hurricane to the island.

Summaries of conclusions as to losses by cyclone.

230. I think it may be useful that I should attempt to sum up as best as I can the results of th xperien es of the past year which may serve in some degree or guidance in dealing with the situation likely to be created should this island have again the misfortune to be visited by a hurricane. It is improbable that any more serious and complete devastation can be suffered on any future occasion than was inflicted on the 11th of August, 1903. It has appeared that the island (assuming that such a blow does not fall upon it immediately after some previous disaster) has in itself fully sufficient resources to carry it through the resulting crisis. I have estimated the immediate destruction of property caused by the cyclone at not less than £2,500,000. To alleviate the resulting situation the Colony received through the generosity of its friends and sympathisers the sum of £12,786, an amount magnificent as a charitable donation, and most gratefully appreciated in itself, but insignificant in proportion to the calamity it was designed to mitigate. I have explained that there is reason to consider that notwithstanding the most judicious efforts on the part of the Government, the press, and the Committees who took the leading part in administering this assistance to prevent misapprehensions and impossible expectations as to its amount and its intended destination, the result of the creation of this small fund was to cause a loss to the island which, measured in money, would represent a far larger sum, as well as enduring evil results in particular districts. Looking at the matter then as simply as possible I conclude that it is not worth while for this

island to seek help from abroad under such circumstances. Even if the subscription had approached an amount sufficient to restore only the houses destroyed, which it did not, I believe that the mischief done would still have outweighed the benefit. I should, therefore, commend the following views of the situation for guidance in any future emergency.

231. The native resources, savings, and credit of the island of Jamaica may be relied on as sufficient to maintain its people even after so great a destruction of supplies and property as was wrought by the last cyclone. The organisation established for the relief of the destitute poor under the Parochial Boards and the Board of Supervision is, with temporary reinforcement of staffs, sufficient to deal with all cases in which even after such a calamity it is necessary that destitute and feeble persons should receive gratuitous support. If, as has not proved to be the case in this instance, the amount of such destitution should be so great as to overstrain the pecuniary resources of any parish, the situation can, and may, fairly be relieved by special grants in aid from the General Revenue of the island.

232. The assistance of able-bodied persons by the offer of public employment can be organised without difficulty, and will suffice to provide for those who cannot find wages-labour on estates. The difficulties which were experienced in promptly arranging for relief works in certain districts on this occasion may be avoided by having surveys made in advance of such roads as it is recognised it would be desirable to improve or to construct on such an emergency arising in any district. There are very few parts of the island where such work could not be done with economic advantage. Such a policy of foresight is established in India, and enables relief works to be undertaken to the best advantage at any date, and in any district where the rigours of famine may call for them. With regard to the reconstruction of houses it is plain that such assistance as was given from the relief fund could, without appreciable embarrassment, have been provided out of the public resources of the island, and I think with much less undesirable effect on the island's general credit abroad. It would be better, in my judgment, if such aid should on any future occasion be demanded, to give it in part, at any rate, by means of loans, and the loans might, in that case, be of amounts approximately sufficient to be a real help in reconstruction, instead of a merely nominal dole in aid, as they were in most cases last autumn. An organisation is requisite whereby on such emergencies loans may be made available to cultivators, especially of the small settler class. It is possible for such accommodation to be, as it has been in this instance, administered by the Colonial Government, but it is well worthy of consideration whether an effort should not be made to establish more permanent arrangements for agricultural banking accommodation, which should serve in ordinary times,

as well as in such a crisis. In order to avoid some of the difficulties that were met with on the present occasion in getting the machinery necessary for relief into working order, it might be advisable to provide by legislation for arrangements which could, on the occurrence of such an emergency, be brought into force by Proclamation of the Governor in Council.

233. I would suggest that under such conditions the ordinary disabilities attaching to the receipt of poor relief should be suspended, and that it should be allowable to grant relief to persons temporarily destitute and incapable without forfeiture of such house and ground as they may possess. It should also be understood that it would be the duty of the Parochial Board on the issue of such Proclamation to reinforce their staff by the appointment of additional assistant inspectors of poor.

234. I have thought it my duty to comment in what it is possible may appear an ungracious manner upon some results of the generous assistance which was so promptly offered by those who sympathised with the calamities of the island. Such energetic kindness as was shown by the West India Committee, by our friends in other Colonies, and by private sympathisers elsewhere is a thing to be thankful for, and cannot fail to be of value in strengthening good feeling between the communities of the Empire. It may even be thought—it is thought by many—that the exercise of the virtue of charity is so necessary and valuable a duty between human beings that its merits must outweigh any ill results it may appear to produce. In the sequel of the present hurricane it did appear beyond question that there was a class of sufferers who might without any demur be assisted by charitable relief, owing to the destruction of their clothes, their tools, and other means of subsistence. A number of such special cases was dealt with very carefully by the Central Relief Committee on the recommendations of the Parochial Boards, and a sum of £1,063 was so distributed. This amount, however, was less than the total of the subscriptions contributed in Jamaica itself. I conclude therefore that there was really no need to make an appeal outside the island even on behalf of these cases, and I cannot but think that had it not been for the assumption that the island was to be largely helped from abroad, the subscriptions made within the island itself would have exceeded the somewhat meagre sum of £2,292.

235. If any appeal can with advantage be made on behalf of an island of the size and resources of Jamaica to the charity of Great Britain, it seems to me that such an appeal might wholesomely be restricted to requisitions on behalf of religious denominations to sympathisers outside the island for assistance in rebuilding churches and denominational schools destroyed. But I trust that on no similar future occasion will there be any

disposition to apply for the opening of a relief fund by the Lord Mayor of London or any other such almoner.

236. Having regard to the enormous damage that was done by the storm in the destruction of exportable produce, home food supply, permanent plantations, houses, estates, buildings and other property, the suspension of employment following on the dislocation of the fruit trade, the exposure and hardship which resulted from the wrecking of dwellings, the sickness and diminution of vitality which resulted from the effects of wet weather and bad feeding, having in view also the pessimistic anticipations as to the future which prevailed so widely immediately after the event—the spirit in which the community has faced its misfortune, and the manner in which it has sustained itself throughout the autumn and winter, and is now recovering its lost ground, appear to me to be as remarkable as they are satisfactory. Whatever exaggeration there may have been in some quarters, and whatever particular cases there may have been of imposition upon the charitable, it can not be ignored, and must never be forgotten that a great number of persons have suffered severe and permanent loss and a great number continuous privation and hardship. It is unquestionable that able-bodied men have, in many cases owing to weakness from insufficient food or unsatisfying food and the results of exposure, been unable to help themselves by labour on their own property, or to work for wages as they would have been able to work under ordinary circumstances. Even when it could be bought wheaten bread does not "fill" like banana porridge and yam. The increased death-rates of the autumn and winter tell a tale that must disarm all scepticism as to the reality of the privations. Nevertheless, the settled and labouring population in the district affected, even where employment was scarce, and more so in districts which had previously been specially thriving, have shown themselves possessed of resources to carry them over a period of scarcity such as I, for one, should certainly not have expected to find available. It is exceedingly satisfactory, moreover, to have found that the impression which so widely prevailed, and was expressed so emphatically, to the effect that all the banana planters were ruined, and, notwithstanding their previous prosperity, had neither cash nor credit to carry on their estates, was a misconception. The only planters working on a large scale who applied to the Government for hurricane loans have been, speaking generally, capable and reliable men of an enterprising class who are either renting land or have taken up land under mortgages which, in a few years, they would have paid off, and who had engaged all their profits in purchase of stock and extension of cultivation. None, practically, of the established land-owning planters found it necessary, or considered it worth while to come to the Government for the loans which were offered at the ordinary rate of interest, being able, owing to the good credit to which their previous operations entitled them, to find accommodation

from banks or private lenders in cases in which they had not accumulated reserves at their own command. In this connexion again it must not be forgotten that many have, indeed, had to borrow largely, and that until next year's harvest has been realized and another hurricane season safely passed through, the situation must still be an anxious one. But if neither hurricane nor drought occurs within that period, I am confident that the condition of Jamaica by that time will again be markedly prosperous.

237. Since the hurricane the seasons have been more favourable on the whole than they had been for many years past. A hurricane appears to assist in promoting the fertility of the soil. The total destruction of the banana crop and the attention compulsorily given to clearing cultivation have resulted in the yield in the last few months of a much finer grade of fruit than has been exported on so large a scale previously. This is a most important result for Jamaica fruit, which last year was markedly suffering, from the deterioration of its quality, in the markets of the United States, and was losing in competition not only with Costa Rican fruit but even with that from Cuba and San Domingo.

238. Moreover, if my information is correct, there has been a larger area of new planting put in for the spring crop of next year than in any preceding year. The fruit so planted will be fit for cutting in the early summer months of next year, when the prices are highest.

239. A wholly wrong impression of the manner in which this community was prepared to meet and has met this calamity, was produced not only by such representations of the situation as were first sent abroad after the cyclone, but also, I cannot doubt, by appeals for assistance from Mansion House or other charitable relief funds. Making all due allowance, however, for the harm which was done by the expectation of gratuitous relief, which was specially marked only in particular districts, making allowance also for the ignorance and for the lack of agricultural and technical skill in the population, it must be admitted that the poorer section of the community showed, under their difficulties, not only a commendable patience and cheerfulness, but a considerable amount of practical effort in the direction of self-help. In the classes above the poorest, after the first discouragement had passed away, and especially where the profits of banana cultivation had already been appreciated, there was put forth a large amount of genuine effort of most valuable promise to redress the situation. The more important planters and the United Fruit Company gave an excellent example of spirit and enterprise in their determination to reinstate their properties as promptly and as effectually as possible.

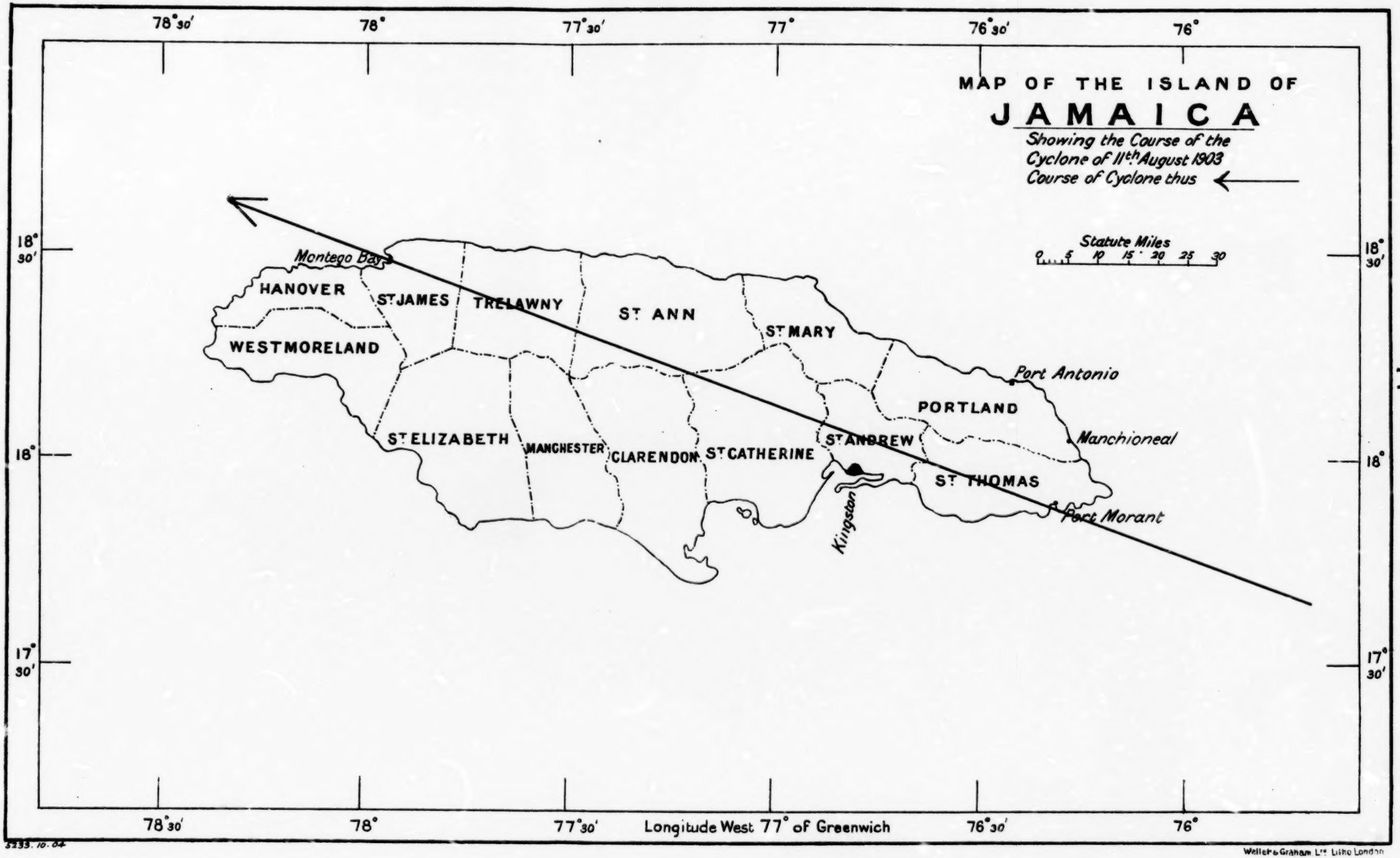
240. I cannot close this review of a disastrous year without bearing witness to what has deeply impressed me as a most

happy aspect of it, namely the generous and disinterested energy and sympathy displayed by all persons in a position to be of assistance and influence in their labours to redeem the situation. Few, if any, of those who had suffered heavy loss, have allowed the calls of their own interests to withhold them from devoting their time and labour unpaid to the public good. If through ignorance and helplessness the poorer classes have shown some lack of restorative industry and too great a disposition to wait for relief, it is just such public-spirited kindness and co-operation on the part of the more enlightened classes that can assist them most. Such humanity, such charity beginning at home, is infinitely more valuable and helpful than subventions of money, whether from public or private funds. And, in closing my connection with Jamaica I retain this impression as not the least valuable and gratifying to me of the many experiences for which I am indebted to this delightful island.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,

Acting Governor.


MAP OF THE ISLAND OF
JAMAICA
Showing the Course of the
Cyclone of 11th August 1903
Course of Cyclone thus
Statute Miles
0 5 10 15 20 25 30
78°30′
78°
77°30′
77°
76°30′
76°
18° 30′
18°
17° 30′
Montego Bay
HANOVER
ST JAMES
TRELAWNY
ST ANN
ST MARY
WESTMORELAND
Port Antonio
PORTLAND
ST ELIZABETH
MANCHESTER
CLARENDON
ST CATHERINE
ST ANDREW
Manchioneal
ST THOMAS
Kingston
Port Morant
Longitude West 77° of Greenwich
3233. 10. 04
Weller & Graham Ltd Litho London

Appendix I.

APPENDIX II.

King's House,
14th August, 1903.

DEAR SIR,

The calamitous and widespread destruction caused by the hurricane of 10th instant can hardly fail, I fear, to be productive of a large amount of want and distress among the poorer inhabitants of the island. I am desirous of taking such steps as may be possible, without delay, to relieve and alleviate this distress. But in order to do this in the most practical and satisfactory manner, it is necessary, in the first place, to obtain some information as to the nature and extent of the relief which is required, with an estimate, where possible, of the sums which it may be necessary to expend.

I should be much obliged, therefore, if you would render such aid as you may be able to afford in ascertaining the number of persons in the district or parish with which you are connected who are in need of immediate relief, and the manner in which that relief can most usefully be given, whether by the supply of foodstuffs, or by assistance in the re-erection of dwellings which have been destroyed, or in such other way as may seem to you most desirable and urgent.

It should be borne in mind that the grant of indiscriminate charity is most unadvisable, and that, at all events in the first instance, relief should be confined to cases, such as those of the aged and infirm or weakly, where the recipients are unable to provide or obtain subsistence, or to work for the support of themselves and those dependent upon them. It is pretty certain that, for some time to come at least, there will be plenty of work to be obtained by those who are able and willing to perform it, and such persons should not be encouraged to look for assistance to public charity.

These admonitions may at first sight seem harsh and unsympathetic, but it must be remembered that the majority of those who may be willing and desirous to give to the help of their poorer brethren have themselves suffered great losses, and that their power to assist is therefore considerably crippled and limited.

A public meeting is about to be held in Kingston, under the auspices of the Mayor and Council, with a view to starting a subscription list for the relief of distress, and I think it probable that this example may be followed in other parishes.

I would suggest for your consideration whether it would not be advisable in consultation with the

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to at once appoint a Committee consisting of the principal ministers of religion and other representative persons in your parish to investigate the position of affairs in their several districts, and to obtain and furnish the information for which I have asked in the earlier part of this letter, and to take such other measures as may be considered necessary and advisable.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING.

APPEN

FINANCE ACCOUNTS, YEAR

STATEMENT showing the TOTAL RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS in the

Receipts.	Amount Estimated.	Actual Receipts.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
General Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	365,000 0 0	398,993 7 11	33,993 7 11	—
Port, Harbour and Light Dues.. ..	6 500 0 0	5,316 12 3	—	1,183 7 9
Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	161,370 0 0	160,600 0 7¾	—	769 19. 4¼
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Re-imbursements-in-aid and Irrigation Receipts.	66,179 4 0	66,244 0 2¼	64 16 2¼	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	30,000 0 0	33,292 12 8	3,292 12 8	—
Railway	140,000 0 0	126,838 10 7	—	13,161 9 5
Rents	2,300 1 0	2,407 11 1	107 10 1	—
Interest	18,914 9 8	19,954 13 2	1,040 3 6	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,000 0 0	*8,960 4 3¾	4,960 4 3¾	—
Transfer from Widows and Orphans Fund.	—	100,393 11 2	100,393 11 2	—
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ..	794,263 14 8	923,001 3 11¾	143,852 5 10	15,114 16 6¼
Land Sales	1,775 0 0	2,702 1 0¼	927 1 0¼	—
Total Local Revenue	796,038 14 8	925,703 5 0¼	144,779 6 10¼	15,114 16 6¼
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	450 0 0	312 0 0	—	138 0 0
Loan to cover expenses of conversion	—	148 11 3	148 11 3	—
Total General Revenue	796,488 14 8	926,163 16 3¼	144,927 18 1¼	15,252 16 6¼
Carried forward	—	926,163 16 3¼	—	—

* Includes Receipts for Widows' and Orphans' Pensions, £4,183 15s. 7d.

DIX III.

ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1904.

Year ending 31st MARCH, 1904, together with the ESTIMATES.

Payments.	Amount Estimated.	Actual Payments.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
General Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt	194,139 17 9	188,624 2 0	—	5,515 15 9
Pensions	24,295 11 4	25,451 10 4	1,155 19 0	—
Pensions to Widows and Orphans ..	—	4,053 19 4	4,053 19 4	—
Governor and Staff	6,790 11 9	6,709 19 6	—	80 12 3
Privy Council	25 0 0	5 0 0	—	20 0 0
Legislative Council	502 0 0	294 14 8	—	207 5 4
Colonial Secretariat	4,848 8 4	4,861 1 10	12 13 6	—
Public Works Department	14,001 6 0	13,873 16 10	—	127 9 2
Parochial Roads and Works	1,672 0 0	1,692 14 2	20 14 2	—
Lands Department	3,476 6 0	2,918 15 10½	—	557 10 1½
Audit Department	4,305 4 0	4,174 10 1	—	130 13 11
Public Treasury	4,420 14 9	4,538 6 10½	117 12 1½	—
Government Savings Bank	2,898 15 9	2,761 11 10½	—	137 3 10½
Immigration	906 11 1	846 3 8½	—	60 7 4½
Clerks, Parochial Boards	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—
Stamp Office	874 8 0	840 3 6	—	34 4 6
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs.	39,897 5 0	38,238 19 1½	—	1,658 5 10½
Post Office and Telegraphs	33,492 9 1	34,558 15 9½	1,066 6 8½	—
Judicial	37,789 13 4	38,585 3 5	795 10 1	—
Ecclesiastical	1,850 0 0	1,850 0 0	—	—
Medical	51,005 5 6	52,249 12 0¾	1,244 6 6¾	—
Constabulary and Prisons	77,369 10 5	77,059 1 0	—	310 9 5
Reformatories	2,959 5 0	2,942 6 5	—	16 18 7
Industrial Schools..	573 18 0	581 14 11½	7 16 11½	—
Education	58,365 3 2	58,909 2 5½	543 19 3½	—
Harbours and Pilotage	2,143 0 0	2,296 5 0	153 5 0	—
Military	14,856 6 8	13,614 3 6	—	1,242 3 2
Telegraphic Communication between England and Jamaica.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	—	—
Registration and Record Office ..	4,644 12 0	4,717 12 9	73 0 9	—
Registration of Titles	967 8 0	1,108 17 4	141 9 4	—
Printing Office	7,275 10 4	7,823 9 1	547 18 9	—
Jamaica Institute	900 0 0	937 7 10	37 7 10	—
Board of Supervision	157 0 0	117 9 1	—	39 10 11
Agricultural Services	9,755 9 0	9,750 10 6	—	4 18 6
Miscellaneous	5,374 19 2	9,628 6 4	4,253 7 2	—
Public Works and Buildings	71,656 0 0	89,345 12 4	17,689 12 4	—
Lighthouses..	1,481 0 0	1,525 14 7	44 14 7	—
Railway	77,762 0 0	92,048 16 11	14,286 16 11	—
Jamaica Railway Extension Track..	—	167 16 0	167 16 0	—
Agricultural Lecturer	—	283 7 6	283 7 6	—
*Relief : Martinique Eruption ..	—	250 0 0	250 0 0	—
Real Property Valuation	—	200 4 2	200 4 2	—
Special Hurricane Expenses	—	838 16 0	838 16 0	—
	785,032 9 5	822,875 14 8½	47,986 14 0½	10,143 8 9½
Carried forward —	—	822,875 14 8½	—	—

* Amount returned by St. Vincent and paid over to the Hurricane Relief Committee.

APPENDIX

FINANCE ACCOUNTS, YEAR ENDING

STATEMENT showing the TOTAL RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS in the YEAR

Receipts.	—	Actual Receipts.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	—	926,163 16 3¼	—	—
Parochial Exchequer	128,894 4 7½		—	—
Immigration Exchequer..	11,383 0 6		—	—
Deposits at Interest	243,819 15 1¼		—	—
Trust Funds	7,062 18 9		—	—
Deposits not at Interest Invested ..	12,962 8 10		—	—
Deposits not at Interest Uninvested ..	128,063 16 11		—	—
Suspense Account for Sinking Funds	600 0 0		—	—
Defaulters Account	203 8 0		—	—
Public Works and Railway Stores ..	43,772 6 1		—	—
Advances to Parishes (*repaid*)	8,301 10 11		—	—
Loans to Crown Agents (*cash deposits repaid*).	175,000 0 0		—	—
General Advances (*repaid*)	18,529 16 5		—	—
Investments on account of Deposits at Interest.	101 5 0		—	—
Investments on account of Trust Funds.	40 0 0		—	—
Investments on account of Deposits not at Interest.	7,598 4 3		—	—
Investment on account of Loan Works Deposits.	156 0 0		—	—
Planters' Notes	4,172 8 8		—	—
Remittances	242,000 0 0		—	—
Advances for Sugar Industry	9,304 13 10		—	—
General Stores Advance	2,309 17 6	1,044,275 15 4¾	—	—
		1,970,439 11 8	—	—
Cash Balances from 31st March, 1903:—Treasurer, Crown Agents, and Sundry Sub-Accountants.	16,534 1 1¼		—	—
Colonial Bank	57,457 2 10	73,991 3 11¼	—	—
Total	—	2,044,430 15 7¼	—	—

Examined,

WM. DUFF.

I certify that this Account has been examined

III—*continued.*

31st MARCH, 1904—*continued.*

ending 31st MARCH, 1904, together with the ESTIMATES—*continued.*

Payments.	—	Actual Payments.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	—	822,875 14 8¼	—	—
Parochial Exchequer	139,662 16 6¾		—	—
Immigration Exchequer	11,989 13 1¼		—	—
Deposits at Interest	351,466 0 9¾		—	—
Trust Funds..	8,230 1 7		—	—
Deposits not at Interest Invested ..	15,818 13 2		—	—
Deposits not at Interest Uninvested..	119,501 2 4½		—	—
Deposits for Loan Works	6,943 12 9		—	—
Suspense Account, for Sinking Funds	400 0 0		—	—
Defaulters Account	1 11 0		—	—
Public Works and Railway Stores ..	52,530 1 6		—	—
Parochial Road Reserve Fund ..	7,898 12 11		—	—
Advances to Parishes	3,050 0 0		—	—
Loans to Crown Agents (*cash deposits at call*).	169,000 0 0		—	—
General Advances	21,119 14 2¾		—	—
Investments on account of Deposits at Interest.	1,181 18 5		—	—
Investments on account of Trust Funds.	17 13 6		—	—
Investments on account of Deposits not at Interest.	13,941 17 3		—	—
Planters' Notes	9,483 18 8		—	—
Remittances..	213,000 0 0		—	—
Imperial Grant for Sugar Industry..	10,000 0 0		—	—
Advances for Sugar Industry.. ..	5,849 17 1		—	—
General Stores	2,809 17 2½		—	—
Hurricane Loans, 1903	30,154 8 9	1,194,051 10 10½	—	—
		2,016,927 5 6¾	—	—
Cash Balances on 31st March, 1904:—Treasurer, Crown Agents and Sundry Sub-Accountants.	12,808 10 3½		—	—
Colonial Bank	14,694 19 9	27,503 10 0½	—	—
Total	—	2,044,430 15 7½	—	—

CHAS. W. CHAPMAN,

Acting Treasurer.

15th July, 1904.

under my directions and is correct.

LOUIS J. BERTRAM,

Auditor General.

August 8th, 1904.

APPENDIX IV.

A COMPARATIVE RETURN of the REVENUE of the COLONY for the period from 1st APRIL, 1903, to 31st MARCH, 1904.

Heads of Revenue.	Actual Revenue to 31st March.	Revenue for same period of preceding year.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Revenue—				
Customs	398,993 7 11	381,952 10 0	17,040 17 11	—
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues ...	5,316 12 3	6,924 17 1¼	—	1,608 4 10¼
Licence, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	159,735 7 2¾	183,675 10 11½	—	23,940 3 8¾
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-Aid and Irrigation Receipts.	66,244 0 2¼	70,321 0 1¼	—	4,076 19 11
Post Office and Telegraphs	33,292 12 8	32,804 18 5½	487 14 2	—
Railway	126,838 10 7	142,305 9 10	—	15,466 19 3
Transfer from Widows' and Orphans' Fund	100,393 11 2	—	100,393 11 2	—
Deductions from Personal Emoluments for Widows' and Orphans' Pensions.	4,183 15 7	—	4,183 15 7	—
Rents	2,407 11 1	2,532 16 7½	—	125 5 6½
Interest	19,954 13 2	19,431 6 4	523 6 10	—
Miscellaneous Receipts...	4,776 8 8¾	6,603 0 1¼	—	1,826 11 4½
Quit Rents	864 13 5	7,297 13 1¾	—	6,432 19 8¾
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	923,001 3 11¾	853,849 2 8	122,629 5 8	53,477 4 4¾

Land Sales	2,702 1 0½	2,125 7 7½	576 13 5	—
Loan to cover expenses of conversion ...	148 11 3	—	148 11 3	—
Total Local Revenue	925,851 16 3	855,974 10 3½	123,354 10 4	53,477 4 4¾
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture ...	312 0 0	540 0 0	—	228 0 0
Total for General Revenue	926,163 16 3¼	856,514 10 3½	123,354 10 4	53,705 4 4¾
Loan Receipts—				
Imperial Loan, 1900	—	44,000 0 0	—	44,000 0 0
Do. Railway, 1900	2,600 0 0	500 0 0	2,100 0 0	—
Parochial Exchequer—				
General	87,415 3 1¾	92,773 2 0	—	5,357 18 10¼
Roads	41,479 1 5¾	46,964 3 5½	—	5,485 1 11¾
Total	128,894 4 7½	139,737 5 5½	—	10,843 0 10
Other Receipts (Local or Separate)—				
Kingston General Commissioners	33,751 4 0¾	36,766 17 1¾	—	3,015 13 1
Immigration Fund	11,383 0 6	1,450 3 11¾	9,822 16 7¼	—
Road Reserve Fund, Quit Rents Law, 2, 1875	44 12 0	1,685 2 0	—	1,640 10 0
Total for Local or Separate Revenues	45,134 4 6¾	39,902 3 1½	9,822 16 7¼	4,656 3 1

A COMPARATIVE RETURN of the EXPENDITURE and certain other DISBURSEMENTS of the COLONY for the period from the 1st APRIL, 1903, to the 31st MARCH, 1904.

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure to 31st March, 1904.	Expenditure for same period of preceding year.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt—				
Interest	130,527 17 2	136,766 10 4	—	6,238 13 2
Arrears of Interest on Jamaica	—	—	—	—
Railway 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	1,447 5 0	52 10 0	1,394 15 0	—
Management	431 15 2	494 12 0	—	62 16 10
Expenses of conversion of Railway Stock ...	11 17 6	—	11 17 6	—
Sinking Funds	39,072 13 4	38,749 13 4	323 0 0	—
Expenses of conversion of Debentures and Inscribed Stock.	148 11 3	—	148 11 3	—
Annuities...	16,984 2 7	16,409 5 3	574 17 4	—
Miscellaneous Expenses	—	26 15 2	—	26 15 2
Redemption of Debt	—	16,708 16 11	—	16,708 16 11
Pensions	29,505 9 8	26,762 2 3¼	2,743 7 4¾	—
Governor and Staff	6,709 19 6	6,745 2 6	—	35 3 0
Privy Council	5 0 0	15 1 8	—	10 1 8
Legislative Council	294 14 8	636 6 10	—	341 12 2
Colonial Secretariat	4,861 1 10	4,685 6 3½	175 15 6½	—
Public Works Department	13,873 16 10	13,706 7 9	167 9 1	—
Public Roads and Works	1,692 14 2	—	1,692 14 2	—
Lands Department	2,918 15 10½	2,655 18 10	262 17 0½	—
Railway transfer and conversion expenditure....	—	—	—	—
Railway	92,048 16 11	80,341 7 3	11,707 9 8	—
Railway Extension Track	167 16 0	96 11 6	71 4 6	—
Audit Department...	4,174 10 1	4,166 12 11	7 17 2	—
Public Treasury	4,538 6 10½	4,048 18 10¾	489 7 11¾	—

Government Savings Bank	2,761 11 10½	2,702 10 1	59 1 9½	—
Immigration	846 3 8½	808 13 4	37 10 4¼	—
Clerks, Parochial Boards	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—
Stamp Office	840 3 6	819 14 1	20 9 5	—
Excise—Internal Revenue and Customs ...	38,238 19 1¼	38,564 4 8¼	—	325 5 7
Postal Service and Telegraph Service	34,558 15 9¼	33,092 8 7½	1,466 7 1¾	—
Judicial	38,585 3 5	38,290 18 9½	294 4 8½	—
Ecclesiastical	1,850 0 0	1,876 4 8	—	26 4 8
Medical	52,249 12 0¾	49,799 5 4¼	2,450 6 8½	—
Constabulary and Prisons	77,059 1 0	75,847 7 7¾	1,211 13 4½	—
Reformatories	2,942 6 5	2,868 11 11	73 14 6	—
Real Estate Valuation	200 4 2	290 14 11	—	90 10 9
Industrial Schools	581 14 11½	1,224 19 2	—	643 4 2½
Education	58,909 2 5½	55,423 6 9	3,485 15 8½	—
Harbours and Pilotage	2,296 5 0	3,042 4 0	—	745 19 0
Military	13,614 3 6	12,636 19 5	977 4 1	—
Telegraphic communication between England and Jamaica.	1,000 0 0	2,500 0 0	—	1,500 0 0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	—	—
Registrar General's Department and Island Record Office.	4,717 12 9	4,527 2 1½	190 10 7½	—
Registration of Titles Department	1,108 17 4	966 13 5	142 3 11	—
Government Printing Office	7,823 9 1	5,931 13 10	1,891 15 3	—
Institute of Jamaica	937 7 10	861 3 2	76 4 8	—
Board of Supervision	117 9 1	102 1 0	15 8 1	—
Agricultural Services	9,750 10 6	8,303 16 9	1,446 13 9	—
Agricultural Lecturer	283 7 6	446 13 8	—	163 16 2
Relief of Sufferers, Martinique and St. Vincent.	250 0 0	250 0 0	—	—
Do. do. do. Returned*	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—
Miscellaneous	9,628 6 4	7,750 14 2¾	1,877 12 1¼	—
Public Works and Buildings	78,239 11 8	64,232 10 7	14,007 1 1	—
Lighthouses	1,525 14 7	2,018 2 3	—	492 7 8

* Paid to Hurricane Relief Committee.

General Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure to 31st March, 1904.	Expenditure for same period of preceding year.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Special Hurricane Expenses, 1903	838 16 0	—	838 16 0	—
Hurricane Relief Works	11,006 8 0	—	11,006 8 0	—
Total for General Expenditure ...	822,875 14 8½	788,846 14 2	61,690 4 10¾	27,411 14 5¼
Nett increase...	—	—	34,279 0 6½	—
Expenditure out of Loans	6,905 1 11	52,389 11 11	—	45,484 10 0
Do. do. Railway, 1900	2,600 0 0	500 0 0	2,100 0 0	—
Parochial Exchequer—				
General	93,805 16 1½	87,635 9 1¼	6,171 7 0¼	—
Roads	45,857 0 5¼	43,628 12 10¼	2,228 7 7	—
Total	139,662 16 6¾	131,264 1 11½	8,399 14 7¼	—
Other Disbursements (local or separate)—				
Kingston General Commissioners	35,584 8 3	34,704 4 11	880 3 4	—
Immigration Fund	11,989 13 1½	14,986 14 4	—	2,997 1 2½
Road Reserve Fund, Quit Rents Law 2 of 1875	7,943 4 11	4,299 12 2	3,643 12 7	
	55,517 6 3½	53,990 11 7	4,523 15 11	2,997 1 2½

APPENDIX V.

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS of JAMAICA as ASSESSED by the CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

YEAR.	EXPORTS				IMPORTS.		
	Island Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Consumption including coal.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including coin, &c.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1898–99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432
1899–1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865
1900–01	1,738,523	20,820	37,733	1,797,076	1,621,794	30,883	1,652,677
1901–02	1,823,684	38,727	76,731	1,939,142	1,669,390	30,135	1,699,525
1902–03	2.224,116	14,466	53,753	2,292,335	1,951,192	39,692	1,990,884
1903–04	1,474,194	21,927	47,146	1,543,267	1,989,522	10,572	2,000,094
Total for last 5 years	9,058,513	122,185	259,201	9,439,899	8,965,564	184,481	9,150,045
Average of last 5 years ...	1,811,702	24,537	51,840	1,887,979	1,793,112	36,896	1,830,009

APPENDIX VI.

TABLE of LAWS passed by the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of JAMAICA, in the SESSION which began on the 27th JANUARY and ended on the 17th SEPTEMBER, 1903.

No.	Laws.
1	The Wireless Telegraphy Law, 1903.
2	A Law to amend the Rifle Clubs Gun Tax Relief Law, 1902 (No. 11 of 1902).
3	The Land Taxes Remission Law, 1903.
4	The Turks Islands Lunatics Law.
5	The Trustee Investment Securities Law, 1903.
6	A Law to amend the Quarantine Law, 1893.
7	A Law to Regulate the Law relating to the Sentence for Flogging.
8	A Law to Amend the Obeah Laws 1898 and 1899.
9	A Law to amend the Deficit Loan (Imperial) Law, 1900.
10	The Registration of Titles Law Amendment Law, 1903.
11	The Railway Inscribed Stock Deferred Interest Law, 1903.
12	The Real Property Representative Law.
13	The Immigration Laws Amendment Law, 1903.
14	A Law to amend the Pension Law, No. 26 of 1892, and to enable Dr. R. Dowden and Mr. P. J. O'Leary Bradbury to become contributors to the Pension Fund.
15	The Property Tax Law, 1903.
16	The Parish Rates Law, 1903.
17	A Law to relieve certain vessels from the full payment of Harbour Fees and Light Dues.
18	The Distressed Emigrants Fund Law, 1903.
19	The Cruelty to Animals Law Amendment Law, 1903.
20	The Parochial Loans Law, 1903.
21	The Cayman Islands Vessels Pilotage Exemption Law, 1903.
22	The Petroleum Law, 1903.
*23	The Bank Notes Law, 1903.
24	The Central Factories Law 1902, Amendment Law, 1903.
25	A Law to Amend the Parochial Road Law, Amendment Law, 1886 (No. 20 of 1886).
26	A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditure incurred in the Financial Year 1901–02.
27	A Law to amend Law 34 of 1881.
28	A Law to amend the District Constables Law, 1899.
29	A Law to indemnify Executors and Administrators.
30	The Casual Revenue Law, 1903.
31	The Produce Protection Law, 1903.

TABLE OF LAWS—*continued.*

No.	Laws.
32	A Law to amend Law 11 of 1875, entitled "A Law to make provision for the granting of Pensions to the Widows and Children of Deceased Public Officers in Jamaica" and other Laws amending the same.
33	The Registration Law 1881, Amendment Law, 1903.
34	The Spirit License Laws Amendment Law, 1903.
35	The Appropriation Law, 1903-04.
*36	The Marine Board Law, 1903.
37	The Electric Lighting Laws Amendment Law, 1903.
38	The Kingston General Commissioners Surplus Funds Law, 1903.
39	The Soap Excise Duty Law Amendment Law, 1903.
40	The Stamp Duty Law, 1903.
41	The Imprisonment for non-payment of Taxes Law, 1903.
42	The Tariff Law 1899 Amendment Law, 1903.
43	A Law to repeal the Act 29 George Chapter 4 and to amend the Act 17 Victoria Chapter 29.
44	The Water and Irrigation Rates Law, 1903.
45	A Law to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Sugar Experiment Station.
46	The Falmouth Harbour Loan Law, 1903.
47	The Hurricane Loans Law, 1903.
48	The Agricultural Loans Law 1887, Amendment Law, 1903. Forms and Rules under Tobacco Duty Laws. Addition and Amendments to Scholarship Regulations. Additional Customs Rule under Law 18 of 1877.

* This Law was reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure and was not in operation during the year 1903-04.

APPENDIX VII.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "JAMAICA GAZETTE."

(July 21, 1904.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,

28th June, 1904.

The Acting Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following Report on the operations of the Jamaica Hurricane Relief Fund Committee.

By Command,

H. CLARENCE BOURNE,

Colonial Secretary.

The Committee appointed at the meeting of the 1st February, 1904, to act with the Secretary in connection with the auditing of the accounts, the preparation of a report for publication, and generally to complete the work, beg to report as follows:—

The Jamaica Hurricane Relief Fund was opened on the 15th August, 1903, and its closing announced as of the 29th February, 1904, but the account in the Colonial Bank was kept open after that date, and was closed on the 20th April, 1904.

At a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall, Kingston, on Monday, 17th August, 1903, His Excellency the Governor presiding, a large General Committee was formed to collect and administer the Fund, His Honour Sir Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice, being appointed Chairman, and a small Executive Committee was appointed, Mr. C. W. Tait, Vice-Chairman of the Mayor and Council (the Mayor being off the island) being the Chairman, to act promptly in carrying out the decisions of the General Committee.

The General Committee has held 23 meetings, and the Executive Committee had held 19 meetings until the 27th October, 1903, when it was merged into the General Committee and ceased to have an independent existence.

In the course of the transactions, the following Sub-Committees were formed:—

Collecting Committee—Dr. A. A. Robinson, Chairman.
Purchasing Committee—Mr. E. X. Leon, Chairman.
Investigating Committee—Mr. C. W. Tait, Mayor, Chairman.
Committee to prepare statement for the information of the Government:—

As to extent of damage—Mr. C. E. DeMercado, Chairman.
As to recommended amount to be allotted to each parish—Mr. C. E. DeMercado, Chairman.
As to recommend a further distribution of £4,000—Hon. S. Olivier, Chairman.
As on applications for Special Grants—Mr. C. W. Tait, Mayor, Chairman.
As to wind up the affairs of the Fund—Mr. C. W. Tait, Mayor, Chairman.

These several Sub-Committees reported from time to time to the General Committee, and their recommendations were generally adopted and their actions confirmed.

A Ladies' Committee was formed to act with the ladies of the Charity Organization Society in the distribution of clothing prepared by them

as well as what was received for the relief of sufferers, and operated successfully, being ably guided by the Rev. Canon Kilburn, who devoted much time to this part of the work, in addition to valuable service on the General and Executive Committees.

At the instance of His Excellency the Governor, Parochial Committees were formed in each of the parishes that suffered specially from the hurricane, consisting of the members of the several Parochial Boards; and Local District Committees were also formed of the most responsible persons residing in every such district, who were cognizant of the condition of the people, and competent to advise the Parochial Committees. The Parochial Committees were supplied with funds in accordance with the ascertained needs of the stricken districts, and in proportion to the amount available for distribution; and were instructed by the General Committee to distribute only to cases of helpless sufferers, necessary foodstuffs and building materials for re-housing, no money being given, only relief in kind; but after a brief period, the distribution of foodstuffs was suspended, being continued only to those entitled under the Poor Law by means of the Pauper Fund, whilst the Hurricane Relief Fund was strictly applied to the re-housing of sufferers and the restoration of the cultivations of small proprietors in accordance with the expressed wish of the West India Committee, with which the General Committee was in complete agreement.

A total amount of £11308 14*s.* 11*d.* having been thus employed, it was decided that the balance of the Fund should be used in relieving special cases of suffering of individuals who had lost their means of living in consequence of the hurricane, and this work was carefully done; all applications were received through the Parochial Committees, whose recommendations were considered; each case was decided on its merits, and in this way the sum of £1,063 2*s.* 7*d.* has been used, and has enabled poor and deserving sufferers in some measure to tide over the calamity, and to make a fresh start in life.

The West India Committee of London early opened a Relief Fund, and forwarded the largest contribution; the Gleaner Co., Ltd., started a fund, and made a magnificent contribution; the Sister Colonies have nobly helped, in some cases sending foodstuffs and clothing in addition to money; and from other, and even distant countries, contributions were received, all which kindnesses have been gratefully acknowledged.

The Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia generously helped in the collecting of the fund; and the Colonial Bank very kindly opened Hurricane Relief Accounts with each of the stricken parishes, which enabled the Committee to make all disbursments through that Institution.

The Cash Transactions are shown in the accompanying Statement, and the accounts have been audited by Hon. Mr. L. J. Bertram, the Auditor-General of the Colony, who kindly undertook the work at the request of the Committee.

C. W. Tait,

Hector Josephs,

S. H. Samuel.

Kingston, Jamaica,
1st June, 1904.

Adopted at Meeting of the General Committee on 20th June, 1904.

C. W. Tait, Mayor,

Vice-Chairman, Presiding.

C. T. Burton,

Secretary.

A Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Jamaica Hurricane Relief Fund.

April 20th, 1904. Receipts—Contributions.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Great Britain—						
West India Committee, London, to closing of Fund ...	6,261	19	7			
West India Committee, subsequent to closing of Fund...	147	2	0	6,409	1	7
Others in Great Britain	739	6	3			
West India Regiment, Sierra Leone, through London ...	68	3	10			
				7,216	11	8
Sister Colonies—						
Trinidad	1,140	2	11			
Grenada	514	7	0			
Barbados	477	19	0			
Demerara	270	8	4			
St. Vincent	259	12	3			
St. Lucia	106	7	7			
Turks Island	100	0	0			
Bermuda	1	0	6			
Cape Colony	2	5	0			
				2,872	2	7
Other Places—						
United States of America	84	0	3			
Costa Rica	161	7	0			
Panama	56	13	8			
Colon	36	10	0			
Bocas del Toro	22	0	0			
Paramaribo	23	1	0			
Grey Town, Nicaragua	4	13	7			
Puerto Cortez, Spa Honduras	13	5	4			
Nickeric, Dutch Guiana	4	12	0			
				406	2	10
Jamaica—						
Collected through Gleaner Fund	1,326	13	7			
Collected through Secretary and Banks	964	17	9			
				2,291	11	4
Total				£12,786	8	5

April 20th, 1904. Disbursements.		£	s.	d.
Clothing		102	19	1
Foodstuffs		184	12	3
Building materials		608	14	0
Seeds and plants for distribution to small cultivators		410	0	0
Grants to parishes, principally for house restoration		10,290	0	11
Special grants to individuals		1,063	2	7
Freight, advertising, drayage, insurance, printing, &c.		46	17	10
Administration.				
Salaries	£74 6 8			
Contingencies	5 15 1			
		80	1	9
Total		£12,786	8	5

Examined and found correct.

L. J. Bertram.
14th May, 1904.

APPENDIX VIII.

List of Incapables sentenced for Prædial Larceny. (*See* par. 173.)

No.	Name.	Age.	Sentence.	Date of Committal.	Crime.	Where Tried.	Disease.	Expiration of Sentence.	Surgeon's Remarks.
1991	Simon Hendricks ..	60	3 months	14 July, 1904	Prædial larceny	Wigton ..	Dropsy and anæmia ..	13 Oct. 1904	
2071	Joshua Cross.. ..	14	3 "	20 " "	Larceny of fresh pork ..	Brown's Town	Necrosis, thigh ; tubercle	19 " "	
1990	Edward Garwood ..	32	3 "	14 " "	Prædial larceny	Wigton ..	Gen. debility ; anæmia..	13 " "	
1599	Hubert A. Dixon ..	25	3 "	14 June, "	" "	Cottage ..	Dropsy	13 Sept., "	
2050	Joseph Christie ..	34	3 "	20 July, "	Larceny of coconuts ..	Richmond ..	"	19 Oct., "	
2199	Samuel Steer.. ..	38	3 "	2 Aug., "	Larceny	St. Ann's Bay	Ch. ulcer. leg ; feeble ..	1 " "	
1911	George Butler ..	41	3 "	6 July, "	Prædial larceny	Chapelton ..	" " " ..	5 " "	
2156	Thomas Douglas ..	64	3 "	26 " "	" "	" ..	Cardiac	25 " "	
2391	Samuel Ruddock ..	20	90 days	19 Aug., "	" "	Miles Town ..	Ch. ulcer, leg	16 Nov., "	
1995	James McLaughlin..	25	3 months	13 July, "	" "	Lucky Hill ..	Dropsy	12 Oct., "	
2159	Charles Mattherson	55	60 days	27 " "	" "	Morant Bay ..	Ch. cystitis ; feeble ..	24 Sept., "	
2357	Frederick Williams	20	2 months	17 Aug., "	" "	Linstead ..	Ch. ulcer ; elephantiasis	16 Oct., "	
2261	John Williams ..	30	24 weeks	8 " "	" "	May Pen ..	Syphilis ; loss of nose ..	22 Jan , 1905	
2113	Robert Lewis ..	72	3 months	6 July, "	Larceny	Clark's Town..	Cardiac	19 Oct., 1904	
2390	Samuel Scott.. ..	48	60 days	19 Aug., "	Prædial larceny	Miles Town ..	Paralysis ; contr'd hand	17 " "	
1904	Charles McLean ..	22	3 months	6 July, "	" "	Richmond ..	Dropsy and anæmia ..	5 " "	
1908	Frederick Lewis ..	45	3 "	20 " "	" "	Kingston ..	Neuritis	5 " "	
1088	Edwin Anderson ..	19	6 "	17 Mar., "	" "	Bethel Town ..	Ch. rheumatism	16 Sept., "	
1688	David Coke	22	3 "	17 June, "	" "	Santa Cruz ..	Paralysis	16 " "	
1963	Edward Smith ..	22	3 "	12 July, "	" "	Cottage ..	Dropsy	11 Oct., "	
1854	Moses Freak	28	3 "	1 " "	" "	Annotto Bay ..	Extensive slough'g ulcer	30 Sept., "	
1756	George Fishley ..	46	3 "	22 June, "	" "	Morant Bay ..	General debility	21 " "	
1763	Thomas Thompson	27	3 "	17 " "	" "	Manchioneal ..	Cardiac	16 " "	
2274	Alexander Josephs..	22	2 "	2 Aug., "	" "	Port Maria ..	"	1 Nov., "	
1263	Minott Hammond .	25	4 "	19 May, "	Larceny	Half Way Tree	General debility	18 Sept., "	
2061	Joseph Hall	19	3 "	21 July, "	Prædial larceny	May Pen ..	" "	20 Oct., "	
508	Thomas Perry ..	20	7 "	26 Feb., "	Larceny	Brown's Town	" "	25 Sept., "	
1981	Josiah Buchanan ..	21	3 "	13 July, "	Prædial larceny	Frankfield ..	Dropsy	12 Oct., "	
2218	Isaac Robinson ..	27	60 days	2 Aug. "	" "	Sav-la-Mar ..	"		
2143	William Christie ..	37	2 months	25 July, "	" "	St. Ann's Bay..	"	24 Sept., "	

I recommend that the above-named prisoners be added to the list sent in by the Superintendent for release. These prisoners are unfit for labour.

September, 1904.

J. HUNTLEY PECK, *Surgeon.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1985])...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1902–1903
416	Leewards Islands...	"
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda	"
419	Weihaiwei...	"
420	St. Helena...	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas	1903–1904
429	Gold Coast, Northern Territories	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria...	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 454.

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1904.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1905.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
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1905.

[Cd. 2684.] *Price* 1*d*.

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No. 454.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

GOVERNOR SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. LYTTELTON.

King's House, Jamaica,
30th June, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1904, together with a copy of the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM,
Governor.

1000 Wt 23792 8/1905 D & S 5 22251 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1904.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1904 amounted to £6,466, and the expenditure to £8,001 10*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a deficit of £1,535 10*s.* 11*d.*, which has been met out of the surplus balances of the Dependency.

The revenue of the year was £2,259 below the average revenue of the Dependency for the previous five years. Of this falling off, £1,794 is due to a short salt yield, owing to the exceptionally unfavourable salt-making weather throughout the greater part of the year, and £350 to less sales of postage stamps.

The following table shows the receipts in 1904, compared with the average of those of the previous five years:—

Receipts.

—	1904.			Average, five years 1899 to 1903.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import Duties	3,128	10	5	3,510	10	3
Royalty on Salt	1,466	1	3	2,571	17	4
Port Dues	494	17	2	801	17	9
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	302	15	4	239	9	3
Payments for Specific Services ...	99	15	4	200	3	2
Post Office	311	7	4	661	14	10
Revenue from Government Property	92	11	9	238	13	2
Interest	354	15	9	217	7	11
Miscellaneous Receipts	27	7	8	33	13	1
Imperial Grant (Mail Service) ...	*187	10	0	250	0	0
Total	6,466	0	0	8,725	6	9

* Three quarters.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during 1904, under the several heads of service, is shown in the following table compared with the average expenditure of the previous five years:—

Expenditure.

—	1904.			Annual Average, five years 1899 to 1903.
	£	s.	d.	£
Pensions...	662	4	3	432
Commissioner's Department	2,110	13	8	2,271
Judicial	517	13	2	540
Police	472	2	0	479
Prisons	196	7	3	186
Medical	556	0	0	484
Paupers	327	14	2	335
Education	600	0	0	600
Registration and Vaccination ...	26	10	8	24
Public Market	21	0	0	21
Miscellaneous	535	1	2	472
Post Office	571	14	9	576
Lighthouse Department	244	16	8	268
Public Works Department	290	14	2	339
Do. Recurrent	528	5	5	580
Do. Extraordinary	338	4	1	510
Cost of Remittances	2	9	6	3
Total	8,001	10	11	8,120

A pension, at the rate of £267 12*s.* 3*d.* a year, lapsed on the 18th December last by the death of Mr. J. C. Crisson, late Accountant and Clerk in the Commissioner's Office.

The expenditure for the past year under Public Works Extraordinary, was on the Victoria Buildings, the Memorial in these Islands to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The buildings, which afford accommodation for the Customs, Treasury, and Post Office on the ground floor, and a chamber above for the Legislative Board, were so far completed as to admit of their occupation towards the end of the year, when they were opened and the annual meeting of the Legislative Board held in them on the 16th November.

The buildings are estimated to cost £940, of which the sum of £870 10*s.* 2*d.* has been spent to the end of the year.

The total revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the years 1899 to 1904, inclusive, are given below:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	8,032	9,190	9,030	8,693	8,673	6,466
Expenditure ...	7,644	8,052	7,989	8,006	8,910	8,001

The assets of the Dependency on the 31st December, 1904, amounted to £11,149 9*s.* 7*d.*, and the liabilities to £2,559 8*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a balance of £8,590 1*s.* 4*d.* to the credit of Surplus Funds, as may be seen from the following statement:—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	Assets.	£	s.	d.
Salt Pond Fund ...	202	6	3	Cash—			
Board of Education ...	248	9	2	In Colonial Chest	958	10	5
Deposits	0	8	4	Crown Agents ...	434	12	10
Money Orders ...	556	0	3	New York Agents	56	7	1
Savings Bank... ...	1,527	4	3	Jamaica Treasury	45	2	1
Pensions	25	0	0	Remittances maturing	265	8	0
				Bonds Import Duties	140	10	7
	2,559	8	3	Advances recoverable	6	14	0
				Invested Funds—			
				Government ...	7,500	11	4
Balance Assets—				Savings Bank ...	1,587	18	3
31st December...	8,590	1	4	Board of Education	153	15	0
	11,149	9	7		11,149	9	7

Of the Surplus Funds, £7,500 11*s.* 4*d.* were, on the 1st January of the present year, invested in:—

(1)	Government,	Queensland stock ...	£1,000	0	0
(2)	,,	Victoria stock	1,500	0	0
(3)	,,	South Australia debentures	1,000	0	0
(4)	,,	Jamaica stock	400	0	0
(5)	,,	Jamaica Savings Bank	1,100	11	4
(6)	,,	Gold Coast stock ...	896	2	4
(7)	,,	Sierra Leone stock ...	943	3	6
		Carried forward	6,839	17	2

Surplus Funds—cont.

Brought forward... ...	£6,839	17	2
(8) Government, Lagos, advanced against unissued stock ...	160	14	2
	7,000	11	4
(9) Cash lent out by Crown Agents at Bank rate of interest	500	0	0
	£7,500	11	4

No change was made in the Customs tariff during the year. The tariff has remained unchanged since it came into force in 1885.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold and silver coins, and local Government currency notes of £1 and 10*s*. American gold and silver coins are also current at a discount of 1½ per cent. on gold, and 4 per cent. on silver.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1904 were valued at £24,120 11*s*. 10*d*. and the total exports at £24,487 4*s*. 9*d*., compared with the average of £29,867 and £34,214, respectively, for the previous five years. The falling off in the value of the exports is due to the greatly diminished quantity of salt exported last year.

The following table shows the value of the imports and the countries from which imported for the years 1899 to 1904, inclusive:—

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1899 ...	2,684 18 2	3,289 3 6	19,733 9 7	25,707 11 3
1900 ...	3,385 1 11	3,939 10 4	22,239 10 1	29,564 2 4
1901 ...	3,110 15 6	4,092 2 1	23,614 5 11	30,817 3 6
1902 ...	3,463 3 0	5,792 19 0	23,035 9 0	32,291 11 0
1903 ...	3,948 7 0	6,434 11 0	20,573 13 4	30,956 11 4
Annual Average	3,318 9 1	4,709 13 2	21,839 5 7	29,867 7 10
1904 ...	3,226 0 10	4,153 18 2	16,740 12 10	24,120 11 10

The total value of the exports, produce of the Islands, compared with previous years is shown hereunder:—

Year.	Value of Exports, Produce of Colony, to			Total Value.
	United Kingdom	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1899 ...	—	4,650 8 1	26,871 4 10	31,521 12 11
1900 ...	291 4 0	7,384 1 1	25,714 10 7	33,389 15 8
1901 ...	—	12,290 0 6	27,461 9 1	39,751 9 7
1902 ...	2,307 5 4	5,637 9 2	24,010 4 6	31,954 19 0
1903 ...	1,774 2 3	3,348 15 2	26,755 4 7	31,878 2 0
Annual Average	874 10 4	6,662 2 10	26,162 10 8	33,699 3 10
1904 ...	131 15 3	2,974 10 4	20,913 7 5	24,019 13 0

Classified, the exports were:—

—	In 1903.	In 1904.
	£	£
Conchs	267	433
Turtle Shell	43	151
Salt	23,677	15,079
Sisal fibre	6,563	6,886
Sponge	1,252	1,414
Miscellaneous	76	56
Total	31,878	24,019

Of the above, shipments were made of:—

—	1903.		1904.	
Conchs—		£		£
To Hayti	—	267	—	433
Turtle Shell—				
To Bahamas	—		117	
„ U.S. America ...	43		34	
		43		151

Shipments—cont.

—	1903.		1904.	
		£		£
Salt—				
To Canada	2,854		2,341	
„ B.W. Indies	455		500	
„ Foreign Countries ...	1,566		757	
„ U.S. America ...	18,602		11,481	
		23,677		15,079
Sisal fibre—				
To United Kingdom ...	1,665		—	
„ U.S. America ...	4,898		6,886	
		6,563		6,886
Sponge—				
To Canada	29		—	
„ United Kingdom ...	47		131	
„ U.S. America ...	1,176		1,283	
		1,252		1,414
			—	
Miscellaneous	—	76		56
		31,878		24,019

The quantity of salt shipped in 1904, which included salt raked during the previous year, is shown in the following table, and, as may be seen, was far below the shipments of the two previous years:—

Salt Exported.

—	1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£		£
Canada ...	214,526	3,760	175,366	2,854	128,207	2,341
Jamaica ...	40,933	518	36,060	453	29,322	477
St. Pierre ...	94,359	1,562	85,510	1,425	10,096	252
United States America.	1,248,537	15,600	1,483,394	18,602	807,229	11,481
Miscellaneous.	58,375	756	26,364	343	30,394	528
Total ...	1,656,730	22,196	1,806,694	23,677	1,005,248	15,079

The year 1904 was the most disastrous year for the salt industry of the Islands within the experience of the oldest inhabitant. The year throughout was for the Islands an exceptionally wet one, and when an industry depends for its being on the absence of rain, it must necessarily follow that

any excess of rain must be fraught with disaster. And such was the condition of the staple industry of these Islands during the past year. It is estimated that the yield of salt for the whole Dependency during the year 1904 was no more than 686,500 bushels, compared with an annual average crop of 1,800,000 bushels. The contrast is accentuated the more by taking the returns of Grand Turk, the chief settlement, alone, where the yield for the year was 80,000 bushels, compared with an average annual raking of 700,000 bushels. In consequence of these short rakings there has been much poverty among the labouring community.

The fibre industry at East Caicos, owned by an American Company, is in a sound condition, and continues to turn out a quality of fibre commanding a good price in the American market.

The Company commenced work about 13 years ago. Their shipment of fibre in 1895 was 92,071 lbs., valued at £1,342. In 1902, their out-put increased to 189,936 lbs., valued at £2,769; in 1903, to 296,733 lbs., valued at £4,327; and last year to 462,423 lbs., valued at £6,743.

The fibre industry at West Caicos, which was closed towards the end of 1903, was again taken up towards the end of 1904 by a new Company formed in London. With careful management, the industry on this plantation should not be without success.

The total quantity of fibre exported last year from the Caicos Islands, which, practically speaking, is the output of the one plantation at East Caicos, amounted to 463,695 lbs., valued at £6,886, compared with 454,193 lbs., valued at £6,563, during the previous year, when the two plantations were at work for the greater part of the year.

The following tables give a comparative statement of the shipping, inwards and outwards, for the years 1903 and 1904:—

Entered.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	153	11,918	24	16,248	177	28,166
United States ...	13	11,904	48	96,398	61	108,302
Others	51	1,123	—	—	51	1,123
Total 1904 ...	217	24,945	72	112,646	289	137,591
Total 1903 ...	259	42,824	79	124,294	338	167,118

Cleared.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Total.
British	154	11,851	24	16,248	178	28,099
United States ...	17	12,024	48	96,398	65	108,422
Others	45	1,020	—	—	45	1,020
Total 1904 ...	216	24,895	72	112,646	288	137,541
Total 1903 ...	264	44,030	79	124,294	343	168,324

The Dependency enjoys excellent steamship communication from over the seas.

The islands are served by a fortnightly mail and passenger service from England direct, the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail calling at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica. By the "Port Kingston" of this line, the distance of 3,660 miles, between Bristol and Grand Turk, is covered in a little over 9 days, and by the other steamers of the line in 11 days.

A service has this year been inaugurated by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, leaving London monthly for Bermuda, Turks Islands, and Jamaica. Freight by these steamers is received here from London at the rate of 25*s*. a ton. The voyage occupies 14 days.

The Clyde Line steamers run regularly to and from New York direct, once a fortnight, carrying mails, passengers and freight, and accomplish the single journey each way in 4½ days.

There is also a monthly mail service carried on by Messrs. Pickford and Black, from Halifax with Bermuda, Turks Islands, and Jamaica; while, at the time of writing this report, a further service has been arranged for the steamers of the Canada-Jamaica line, from Halifax, to call at Grand Turk direct on their way to Jamaica *viâ* Cuba.

LEGISLATION.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year, of which The Pensions Ordinance, No. 2, The Medical Service Ordinance, No. 4, and The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance No. 5, are the principal.

The Pensions Ordinance is framed on the model law drafted and sent out by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for a uniform system of pensions in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in the several Colonies.

The Medical Service Ordinance provides for the medical service of the Dependency. The Ordinance limits the fees to be charged by the Government Medical Officers in their private practice commensurate to the means of the people of the Dependency. Under the Ordinance a Government dispensary has been established at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour, where the Government Medical Officers are in attendance daily, and patients can receive medical advice and medicine on payment of one shilling.

The Savings Bank Ordinance abolishes the Board of Savings Bank Directors established under the principal Ordinance of 1889, and facilitates transactions at the bank. It is hoped that the bank will in future be more generally used by the public.

EDUCATION.

The average number of children on the books at the seven Government Schools in the Dependency, maintained out of the annual grant of £600 from the Public Chest, was 804, with an average attendance of 585, compared with 770 and 542, respectively, for the previous year.

At the three principal settlements, where the compulsory clauses of the Education Ordinance are in force, the school returns show a very satisfactory result of the working of the Ordinance. In 1901, the year prior to that in which the Ordinance was brought into force, there were at the three Government Schools at these settlements, 252 children on the books, with an average attendance of 178. Last year the number on the books had increased to 403, and the average attendances to 336.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There were 223 depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1904, an increase of 12 on the number of the previous year. The total deposits amounted to £1,492 5*s.* 8*d.* at the end of the year, a decrease of £122 18*s.* 3*d* on the amount of the previous year. The transactions of the bank for the year amounted to:—

Deposits	£547	2	4
Withdrawals	670	0	7

The assets and liabilities of the bank on the 31st December, 1904, were:—

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	Assets.	£	s.	d.
Due Depositors ...	1,492	5	8	Government Jamaica Debentures.	200	0	0
„ Treasury ...	60	14	0	Government Jamaica Savings Bank.	1,387	18	3
Balance of Assets ...	34	18	7				
	£1,587	18	3		£1,587	18	3

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The prison at Grand Turk was maintained at a cost of £196 7*s.* 3*d.* for the year 1904. Twelve persons were committed to prison during the twelve months, and the daily average in prison was $1\frac{1}{3}$, compared with $\frac{8}{9}$ during the previous year.

The following table gives the number of offences reported to the police, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in the Courts of the Dependency for the years 1900 to 1904. It will be noticed that there were no cases before the Supreme Court during the year:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903	1904.
Offences reported to Police ...	131	69	135	143	134
Persons apprehended or summoned	128	69	135	143	129
Summary Convictions—					
Offences against the person ...	30	16	31	28	37
Prædial larceny...	6	—	—	—	—
Offences against property ...	10	7	4	6	7
Other offences	57	31	71	96	53
Convictions in Supreme Court—					
Offences against the person ...	2	—	—	—	—
Prædial larceny...	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against property ...	—	—	1	2	—
Other offences	10	—	1	—	—
Persons acquitted—					
Magistrate's Court	22	14	24	11	31
Supreme Court	3	1	2	—	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, as ascertained by the Census of 1901, was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Black	1,686	1,896	3,582
Coloured	572	791	1,363
White	150	192	342
Total	2,408	2,879	5,287

During the year 1904 there were 209 births and 117 deaths registered, and 33 marriages.

The public health of the Islands was good. There were no contagious or infectious diseases. As may be seen from the above figures, the birth-rate was 39·5 per 1,000, and the death-rate 22·1 per 1,000.

The following table gives the monthly averages of the meteorological readings for the year, and the actual rainfall, recorded at the United States Weather Bureau at Grand Turk.

Rain fell on 174 days during the year, and measured 43·79 inches, compared with 36·63 inches in 1903, 27·45 inches in 1902, 29·52 inches in 1901, and 23·59 inches in 1900. The average rainfall for the previous seven years, 1893-99, is 24·61 inches. The heaviest rain on any one day of the year 1904 was on the 28th May, when 4·34 inches were recorded at the station at Grand Turk.

Month	Means.				Actual Rainfall recorded.
	Barometer 8 a.m.	Temperature of Air 11·3 above sea level.		Wind Force. Miles per hour.	
		Max.	Min.		
	Inches.	Deg. F.	Deg. F.		Inches.
January ...	30·0	82	70	14	4·67
February ...	30·0	82	71	13	1·25
March	30·0	82	69	13	4·70
April	30·3	83	71	13	2·28
May	29·9	85	74	13	10·75
June	30·0	86	76	15	·39
July	30·0	87	74	13	1·43
August	30·0	88	75	13	1·42
September ...	29·9	88	75	12	3·14
October ...	29·8	87	75	10	6·49
November ...	29·9	81	74	11	5·82
December ...	30·0	76	70	10	1·45

Total rainfall for the year, 43·79 inches.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

There is no internal postal or telegraph service. The lock letter box system was introduced last year in the new Post Office in the Victoria Buildings, at Grand Turk, and takes the place of the primitive practice of the Colonial Postmaster, each time a mail was received and sorted, distributing the mail by calling out, in alphabetical order from the post office window, the names of the addressees.

The money order business for the year with the United Kingdom amounted to the issue of orders to the value of £2,011 12*s.* 7*d.*, and the payment of orders to the value of £85 0*s.* 7*d.* With other places the business was £1,141 1*s.* 10*d.* and £69 13*s.* 5*d.*, respectively.

The cable of the direct West India Cable Company is landed at Grand Turk. Messages to England, per word, 3*s.* The Company supply daily a news bulletin, for which they receive payment at the rate of £120 a year.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Commissioner,

Turks and Caicos Islands.

20th May, 1905.

OCT 6 1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
425	Ceylon	1903
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados...	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 492.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1904-5.

(For Report for 1903-4, *see* No. 438.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1906.

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No. 492.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1903-4, *see* No. 438.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
30th June, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the statistics presented by the Blue Book for Jamaica for the year 1904-05.

2. Sir Augustus Hemming left the Island on the 25th May, 1904, handing over charge of the Government to Mr. S. Olivier, C.M.G., who left on the 15th September.

I landed and assumed charge on the 30th September.

3. On the 10th and 11th of June a very heavy rainfall took place, giving as much as 13 inches in some places in Westmoreland, 18 in Manchester, 15 in Clarendon, 19 in St. Catherine, and 12 in Kingston. This rain damaged roads and bridges in nearly all the parishes in the Island.

Another and more partial flood occurred in October between the 13th and 19th, chiefly in the eastern parishes.

In January, 1905, there was a short period of high wind and unusual cold, which had an evil effect on growing produce.

The cost of restoring the roads amounted to almost £7,500, of which £4,112 was met by a supplementary vote.

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FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

4. From 1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905—

The revenue was	£751,562
The expenditure was	824,816
Leaving a deficit of	£73,254

5. The year combined the lowest revenue with the highest expenditure of any of the past five years.

No additional taxation was imposed to cover the deficit. The taxes and rates on property had recently been revised (Report for 1903-4, paragraphs 73 to 80) at a loss to the general revenue, and it was thought very undesirable to make a fresh change before giving the revision a fair and sustained trial.

The Customs tariff, already too high (Report 1903-4, paragraphs 224, 118), was prospectively from 16th March, 1905, augmented by a surtax of six per cent. on the duty in the hope of preventing another deficit in the year's operations for 1905-6. No ready machinery was available for imposing new taxes and under all the circumstances it was deemed best to suffer this deficit patiently in the hope of better times hereafter.

6. The estimate for the year 1904-5 was not realised. The revenue actually collected was less than that originally anticipated by £56,069, and the expenditure proved £7,728 in excess of that anticipated.

7. The following items of revenue were the principal ones overestimated:—

Customs by	£20,422
Licences by	19,532
The Railway by	23,148

The following items of expenditure exceeded the original estimate, as follows:—

Relief works	£8,076,
reduced by savings on other public works to	4,955
Constabulary and prisons	2,800
Education	3,232
Miscellaneous	3,133

8. Owing to delay on the part of the contractor for the Falmouth harbour, a sum of £5,591, which should have been paid in 1904-5, escaped being charged to that year's expenditure.

9. In addition to the actual deficit on the general account, the immigration fund manifested a deficit estimated at £4,500, of which only £900 was charged to the year 1904-5.

10. The balance sheet of the Colony, which on 1st April, 1904, indicated a surplus of £67,791 of assets over liabilities, exhibited on 31st March, 1905, an excess of liabilities over assets of £5,463; and on the day last mentioned the Colony had overdrawn its account with the Crown Agents by the very large sum of £88,832.

11. Under "Internal Revenue," excise duties were originally estimated to yield £109,950; they actually produced £90,233 only, chiefly owing to the diminution in the consumption of rum, due to hard times.

Land taxes yielded £1,211 less than the estimate, and licences £454 less than the estimate.

The revenue from the railway was £114,851, falling short of the estimate by £23,148; compared with the previous year the shortage was almost £12,000.

12. The Post and Telegraph Department showed a gratifying increase over the estimate of £425; rents an increase of £236, and interest an increase of £772.

Land sales produced £677 more than was expected.

Port and harbour dues were less by £964 than the estimate, a disappointing result when taken with the fact that the tonnage showed a large increase and fewer ships left in ballast.

13. Under expenditure the principal excesses over the estimate (after excluding public works) were:—

Education	£3,232
Miscellaneous	3,134
Constabulary and prisons	2,800
Judicial	1,545

The principal instances of economy were:—

The Railway	£2,949
Excise, &c.	2,518
Postal and Telegraph Department ...	1,416
Military	1,117
Medical	706
Lands Department	562

The expenditure under the head of "Public Works" will be mentioned in a separate chapter.

14. The revenue accounts include an item (not in the estimates) of £3,585 transferred from the credit of the pension fund, created under Law 26 of 1892 and wound up under Law 24 of 1904, whereby deductions from salaries on account of pension are to be henceforth credited to revenue instead of being held in deposit or invested in securities, and the Government in return undertakes the responsibility of guaranteeing pensions.

The fund had also investments in London which cost the sum of £3,026, and at the end of the year it was returned as creditor of the Government by £3,171; this sum with further contributions was credited to general revenue in the next year.

The miscellaneous receipts of the Government produced £3,556 more than the estimate.

15. The Customs revenue, which had been estimated to produce £370,000, actually yielded £349,576 only—a decrease on the receipts for 1903-4 of no less than £49,407; this decrease occurred chiefly in the following items:—

Flour	£17,383
Dried and salted fish	6,348
Non-enumerated merchandise (clothing, &c.)	19,006
Intoxicating liquor	2,951
Tobacco, prepared and raw	1,144
Lumber and wood for construction ...	3,081

There was a comparative increase in a few items, the principal being pickled fish, £1,281; the price of fish locally was unusually high during the year.

Oils, £2,512; much was required to paint houses repaired or replacing those destroyed by the hurricane. The Report for 1903-4, paragraph 20, explains that the local food supply was then destroyed and there had been considerable demolition of houses.

The decrease in intoxicating liquor is probably due to the impaired purchasing power of the people.

Compared with the previous year, the rum duty showed a falling-off of £14,585. There was a decrease in imported sugar worth £706.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

IMPORTS.

16. The total value of imports for home consumption was:—

—	Value.	Customs Revenue thereon.
	£	£
Paying specific duties ...	712,274	231,718
,, *ad valorem* duties	707,923	117,858
Duty free	251,971	—
Total	1,672,168	349,576

The entire duties distributed over £1,420,217 of dutiable goods indicate a tariff amounting to almost one-quarter of the value.

17. This is an extremely heavy rate, even after allowing for the fact that the value assessed for Customs purposes under Section 24 of Law 18 of 1877, is taken to be the first cost of the goods at their place of shipment without the addition of any shipping or other charges thereon.

18. Goods paying specific duties averaged a payment of 32 per cent. of their purchase value, and those rated *ad valorem* 16⅔ per cent. until 16th March, 1905, and 17 per cent. thereafter—the additional one-third per cent. for sixteen days yielded £929.

19. The aggregate value of the total imports (including those re-exported) was £1,682,355.

During the past ten years, once only, viz., in 1900-01, has the aggregate value been as low as during the year under review.

20. The average value of imports for home consumption for each of the ten years ending with 1903-4 was £1,742,055.

Taking averages for five years in succession, the value of such imports per head of calculated population has been:—

Years.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1890-1 to 1894-5	2	19	3
1895-6 to 1899-1900	2	9	10½
1900-1 to 1904-5	2	3	2

I am unable to attribute the falling off to any notable growth of local manufacturing enterprise, except in the case of tobacco, the manufacture of which is flourishing.

21. Compared with the previous year the proportion from the United Kingdom of the whole imports diminished, while that from the United States increased a little.

22. The total value of imports was shared as follows:—

	per cent.
United Kingdom	21
United States	58
Canada	16·4
Other countries	4·6

Exports.

23. The exports for the year were valued at £1,436,725, of which goods worth £1,334,619 were produced or manufactured in the Colony, the remainder being of extraneous origin.

At no time during the past ten years has there been so short an export in point of value.

24. The average value of exports for each of the ten years ending 31st March, 1904, was £1,781,565, so that last year was £344,840 below the average.

The value of the export of fruit for 1904-5—£601,816—was the lowest since 1st April, 1897. The following table shows the export of bananas:—

1902-3 ...	14,660,582	stems	value	£1,134,750
1903-4 ...	7,803,243	,,	,,	585,243
1904-5 ...	8,903,739	,,	,,	514,191

The proportion of the whole which went to England was almost 10 per cent.; in 1902-3 it was 8·1 per cent.

25. The figures for last year fell far short of expectation and estimate. Compared with the preceding year there was a diminution in value of exports under the following heads, principally:—

Bananas	£71,052
Logwood	35,249
Coconuts	32,702
Ginger	15,232
Oranges	10,206
Sugar	5,356
Honey	5,265
Rum	4,452
Fustic	3,789
Grape-fruit	2,353

26. There was an increase of value in the following:—

Pimento	48,122
Logwood extract	16,060
Goat skins	4,431
Cattle	2,326
Tobacco—Cigars	1,620
Cigarettes	1,056
Leaf	30

In the quantity of cocoa and kola nuts exported there was a gratifying increase, but no increase in value.

27. Taking averages for five years and computing the usual increase of population, the value of exports per head appears to have been:—

	£	s.	d.
1890-1 to 1894-5	2	14	9
1895-6 to 1899-00	2	4	4
1900-1 to 1904-5	2	4	5

28. The destinations of the exports of the Colony during the year under review were:—

Exports.	Destination.
In respect of 18·8 per cent. of the total ...	The United Kingdom.
" 53·4 " " " ...	United States of America.
" 8·8 " " " ...	Canada.
" 19·0 " " " ...	Other countries.

The exports to Canada have increased considerably.

29. Of the principal products of Jamaica, sugar valued at £116,366 was exported. The average value of the export for the previous ten years was £164,175, and in no year did the value fall so low as in the one under review.

Rum exported was valued at £92,576, the average for each of the previous ten years having been £133,257.

The exports of coffee were valued at £85,173, or less than half of the average of the previous ten years (£187,478).

30. Dyewoods, oranges, and pimento are generally sown by nature, and the export of the farmer is governed not only by the market price, but also by the pecuniary needs of the landed proprietor, who can generally augment the average export from his still uncut reserves. In the year under review wood worth £78,226 was exported in addition to logwood extract worth £63,689—total £141,915—the average for the antecedent ten years being £169,149.

The pimento exported was worth £136,969, the highest value attained in the decade; the average of the previous ten years was £97,658.

31. The tobacco trade has progressed very satisfactorily in the past eleven years; Jamaica cigars and cigarettes have gained a very enviable reputation, and the manufacture is well established.

The returns of exports for the past eleven years are as follows:—

	Value.
1894-5	£9,005
1895-6	7,648
1896-7	11,363
1897-8	18,090
1898-9	17,230
1899-1900	16,659
1900-1	22,679
1901-2	15,960
1902-3	20,411
1903-4	19,567
1904-5	22,408

For everything but leaf tobacco, foreign States are our best customers. For leaf tobacco there is a steady demand in England, and the quantity grown is not sufficient to supply that demand after supplying the local manufactures.

32. Under the head of "Minor Products" are classified exports other than sugar, rum, coffee, dyewoods, pimento, and fruit.

The principal items were:—

Cocoa (including beans)	£40,798
Ginger (including preserves and wine)	27,346
Bees-wax and honey	15,464
Hides and skins	16,963
Turtle; shell, skins, and dried flesh...	6,197
Woods	8,940
Horses and horned stock	4,970
Lime juice	3,897
Straw hats	3,119

33. The proportion to the whole of minor produce has risen from 11 per cent. in 1902-3 to 22 per cent. in the year under

review, value £318,158. The average of the previous ten years gave £163,488.

34. Two small exports deserve particular notice, they are tea, worth £60, and copper ore, worth £21.

The tea plantation in St. Ann, belonging to the Honourable the Custos, has proved successful, and as long as the Colony charges an import duty of one shilling per lb. and imports nearly 60,000 lbs. a year from abroad, the local market must be so good as almost to preclude exportation.

The export of copper ore is interesting, because one of the principal rivers in the Island was called by the Spaniards the Rio Cobre (Copper mine river).

Perhaps the most notable feature in the exports is shown in the following table:—

Sugar exported.

Destination.	Year 1902-3.	Year 1903-4.	Year 1904-5.	Percentage in 1904-5 of total export.
	£	£	£	Per cent.
To the United States of America.	134,165	39,980	2,561	2·2
To Canada	8,744	48,792	87,153	74·9

35. The existing system whereby the values for import are assessed, renders nugatory all comparison between the values of imports and exports.

36. Of local manufactures, sugar takes the first place, with rum derived from the same product.

The local manufacture of logwood extract, worth £63,689, facilitates the export of the dye, and it has been so successful that a second factory is projected.

The local manufacture of lime juice is capable of great expansion; hardly any place in the world is so well adapted as this for the growth and manufacture of this product.

37. The local manufacture of what are classed as straw hats has developed considerably. The hats are made not from straw but from a small palm tree—*Carludovica jamaicensis*—locally named Jippi-jappa (the orthography whereof varies considerably), and they strongly resemble the expensive hats, misnamed Panama hats, which come from Colombia. The export figures (£3,119) do not indicate the total export, as tourists and visitors

buy many on the spot and take them away as private wearing apparel. The spread of this industry is very creditable to the enterprise of the more industrious of the peasantry, the remuneration is high and the work not difficult; all that is now required is to secure a steady supply for export, the demand for which exceeds the supply.

38. It is very desirable that other handicrafts, such as spinning and weaving, should become popular amongst the peasantry of the Island.

SHIPPING.

39. While the tonnage of sailing vessels visiting the Island decreased by 8,459 tons, there was an increase of no less than 100,426 tons in British steamships and of 81,139 in foreign steamers visiting the Island, compared with the previous year.

The extensive work going on at the Panama canal zone tends to increase the visits of ships.

MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

40. There are fifteen parish boards in the Island, one for each parish, and Kingston has a City Municipal Council, as well as a corporate body called the General Commissioners.

41. This last-named body is responsible for the supply to Kingston of water, gas, slaughter-houses, markets, and for certain street improvements, and the sewerage system. Its revenue was £37,366 and its expenditure £35,796.

42. The City Council had an income of £32,418; it has managed its affairs with success and economy, and has reduced the total rates from 4*s.* 5*d.* in the pound of rental value in the year 1901-2 to 4*s.* 2½*d.* in the pound in the year under review.

43. The city and parish boards are elected by a limited franchise, there being in all 16,256 registered electors out of a population approaching 800,000 souls. The General Commissioners hold office either by nomination or *ex-officio.*

44. The aggregate revenue of the parish boards was £99,469.

Their aggregate debt (all due to the Government) was £50,118. This debt has been greatly reduced of late years; on 31st March, 1902, it was £73,023.

The parish general rate, which is their principal source of revenue, varied as follows:—

Trelawny St. James	fixed 1*s.* 5*d.* property tax per £10 capital values.
St. Andrew Hanover St. Thomas Portland St. Mary St. Catherine	fixed 1*s.* to 1*s.* 5*d.* property tax per £10 capital values.
Westmoreland Clarendon St. Ann	fixed 9*d.* to 1*s.* property tax per £10 capital values.

Manchester fixed 8½*d.* property tax per £10 capital value.

St. Elizabeth fixed 7*d.* property tax per £10 capital value.

In Port Royal, the circumstances of which are exceptional, the tax was 1*s.* 10*d.*

45. In no case did the tax exceed that levied in the preceding year, and the boards all seem duly impressed with the necessity for promoting economy; in three parishes the tax was reduced.

PUBLIC DEBT.

46. The gross public debt stood at the end

of the year at	£3,456,111
the sinking funds on which aggregated	317,104
the redemptions aggregated	125,898
leaving outstanding	£3,013,109

47. Besides the above figures the following should rank as debt:—

Rectors and curates' fund	£41,582
Funded debt under Act 28, Vic. ch. 29	77,416

and the Government guarantees certain loans contracted by the Kingston General Commissioners—capital, £377,100, less sinking funds, £33,859; and redemptions, £11,638; nett, £331,603—and by the Vere Irrigation Commissioners, £40,000.

The total nett liability including guarantees is, therefore, £3,503,709.

48. The debt is an exceedingly heavy one for so small a Colony, and it furnishes a sufficient explanation of the extremely high Customs tariff already mentioned.

49. Since 1902 the debt has been diminished by £212,613, and the 3½ per cent. inscribed stock of the Colony is quoted almost at par on the Stock Exchange.

MILITARY AND NAVAL.

50. During the year under review the Naval Establishment at Port Royal was withdrawn.

Port Royal has formed a naval station since the days of King James II. It comprised a coaling station with wharves, naval stores, a naval establishment, and a remarkably fine, well-fitted naval hospital; all in charge of a commodore of the Royal Navy.

The stores were removed, the hospital dismantled, and the buildings were placed in charge of the Director of Public Works.

51. This step involved a shrinkage of payments in wages, pay, &c., exceeding £40,000 a year; it also cut off from promising Jamaican mechanics a desirable career in the naval yard, and it led to the North American Squadron paying fewer visits to the Colony.

At the same time it was rumoured that a reduction in the European troops in the garrison was in contemplation.

CONSTABULARY.

52. The Police Force was maintained at the usual strength throughout the year, and did very good service in detecting and suppressing crime.

The Government and the Force sustained a very serious loss by the death of Mr. E. F. Wright, C.M.G., the Inspector-General, who had, since assuming duty in 1899, improved the discipline and efficiency of the Force in a very marked degree. His death was the consequence of a cowardly outrage committed at Montego Bay in 1903, from which his friends hoped he had completely recovered. His place has been taken by Major Kershaw, head of the Cyprus Police Force.

PUBLIC WORKS.

53. The financial prospect for the year necessitated great economy in this department. The expenditure on public buildings was curtailed, and the only items on which increased expenditure took place were those for special relief works, due to the hurricane of 1903, on which £13,235 was spent, and the Falmouth harbour improvements, which cost £6,184 on account of an estimate of £12,000, and were left unfinished at the close of the year owing to the delay on the part of the contractor.

54. In the original draft estimate nothing was proposed for relief works, but in the revised estimate a sum of £9,500 was inserted for this object; as the year went on, it was seen that this sum would be exceeded, and a supplementary vote of £4,160 was granted. The total expenditure proved to be £13,236.

55. I regret to write that owing to the necessity for stopping expenditure which the Government had no funds to meet, about twenty per cent. of the relief work expenditure will yield little or no immediate benefit unless and until work can be resumed, and a question will arise when the financial difficulty of the Government has been surmounted, whether unfinished works, undertaken not as the best for all purposes but as the best for the purpose of affording temporary relief to necessitous persons in certain localities, should take preference of works more desirable in other respects for the public benefit.

56. In one case—the road from Gordon Town to Mavis Bank through Guava Ridge—the work was begun not from the end which joined a high road but from Guava Ridge in the centre. The result is that the £1,636 spent cannot be utilised until some £7,000 more is available for completing the road. The road was constructed from the proceeds of a loan under Law 13 of 1895, and the funds remaining are insufficient to complete the work, even if the unexpended balance had been available, but like the funds mentioned in paragraph 70 of the Blue Book Report for 1901-2 they have been employed to support the Treasury balances in lieu of borrowing to satisfy the deficit between revenue and expenditure.

57. The expenditure of many items (thirty-one) under the head of new works was necessarily deferred for more prosperous times.

58. The Director of Public Works gives the total sum expended from general revenue for hurricane relief works 1903-5 as £41,273, chiefly in four parishes.

59. A sum of £430 was expended for the Vere Irrigation Commissioners in reconstructing part of the works. There is

always trouble when channels have to be taken across new earthen embankments; no matter how well the channels may be puddled, the earthwork continues to sink by the natural process of consolidation, and the water has to be shut off to preserve the embankment. The usual expedient of making the embankment one-ninth higher than its intended final level, is impracticable when it has to carry water, as water will not flow up hill. Those interested in such works require abundance of patience, and it is impossible not to share their disappointment.

GOVERNMENT HOUSES.

60. The King's House near Kingston was maintained as usual for the Governor's residence, and electric light was installed therein in November in all rooms except the ball-room.

The King's House at St. Jago de la Vega, twelve miles from Kingston, is under lease to a private tenant.

LEGISLATION.

61. The legislation during the year under review included laws for temporary loans which the Crown Agents' good management subsequently rendered unnecessary; for issuing currency notes of small value, which was not put into force from considerations of expense; for amending the Emigrants Protection Law, in view of the increasing demand for Jamaicans as emigrants; and for protecting rum—one of the principal productions of the Island, by sending, partly at the expense of those interested, a special officer to England to endeavour to check the sale of rum produced elsewhere as pure Jamaica rum.

One of the sugar-planting community was chosen and was commissioned to take up the work.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

62. The over expenditure in this department was due to two factors: one a decision arrived at by the Government some years ago, but delayed in the expectation of a more favourable financial season, to make the grants-in-aid of aided schools payable in twelve instead of fifteen monthly instalments; the second was the expenditure of grants for replacing schools injured by the hurricane.

63. One of the consequences of the hurricane of 1903 was to cause a great diminution in school attendance; this diminution was disguised in the total returns for the year 1903-4 because the attendance in the first four months preceding the hurricane was remarkably good. Compared with 1903-4 the average attendance for the varying school year of 1904-5 indicated a falling-off of 5,325, and the percentage of the numbers enrolled which made average attendance was 60·3 against 63·3 in the previous year. The number of scholars on the roll fell off from 88,381 the previous year to 83,894 in 1904-5, and the average attendance was only 50,612. This must have caused great discouragement to all interested in the schools. With returning prosperity the attendance will, no doubt, improve.

64. There was an improvement in the practical teaching of agriculture and horticulture, the grants for which have been as follows:—

1900-1	£34
1901-2	47
1902-3	77
1903-4	105
1904-5	171

65. The Hope Industrial School suffered from the illness of the Master during part of the year.

66. The Industrial School and Reformatory at Stony Hill increased in numbers during the year by 71 boys and 8 girls, and at the close of the year there were 264 inmates.

67. In the Shortwood Industrial School there was an increase of four children; in the Alpha Cottage School an increase of one boy and three girls; and in the Belmont Orphanage an increase of one girl.

68. A new industrial school was certified under the Law at Happy Grove, Hectors River, where eight orphans of East Indian parentage are being taught and cared for.

CURRENCY.

69. The Currency Note Law, No. 27 of 1904, was not brought into operation on account of the expense it would have caused to the Government. It was intended to supply currency notes of the value of ten shillings each, and when the cost of providing such notes in England was calculated and the cost of frequently renewing such notes, which soon become fit for withdrawal, it was found that the comparatively small proportion of the money to be paid for such notes which the law permitted to be invested would hardly produce sufficient interest to repay the cost of the undertaking.

It is a fact, however, that an unlimited tender of silver is in practice inconvenient.

70. The note circulation returned by the banks for the year 1904-5 is as follows:—

Colonial Bank	£113,340
Nova Scotia Bank	18,196
Total	£131,536

71. The quarterly returns of the Colonial Bank show that their weekly average circulation fell off from £173,650 in 1896 to £105,813 in 1905.

The falling off is accounted for by the quantity of gold which now finds its way to Jamaica by tourists and other means.

72. The Colonial Bank makes the following return of gold and silver coin imported and exported:—

—	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
1896	36,800	26,076
1897	21,200	9,492
1898	10,200	38,848
1899	56,800	10,632
1900	—	74,377
1901	—	72,499
1902	—	17,738
1903	—	32,362
1904	—	74,743
1905	—	35,867

73. The above figures seem to suggest that if the legal tender of silver were limited gold would remain in circulation and the half-sovereign would fulfil the purpose aimed at by ten-shilling

notes. Gold is at present in circulation in Jamaica to some extent, and proves extremely convenient. The Canal Administration at Panama has recently begun to pay the labourers there, of whom Jamaicans form a majority, in gold, and the result is said to be that the labourer has become more thrifty.

LANDS DEPARTMENT.

74. The Surveyor-General reports:—"From 1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1905, a total of 3,288 applications have been received for 34,283 acres, of which 3,192 have been satisfied covering 31,189 acres.

"Of the total of 31,189 acres that have been allotted nearly 3,000 acres held by 252 lot holders have reverted to the Crown by reason of default in payment of instalments of the purchase, or about ten per cent. of the lands allotted. Most of the defaulters complain of hurricane and hard times; but while the hurricane may in many cases have caused the default, in others it is an excuse for evading payment. So far as can be foreseen, a much larger area of land allotted will eventually revert to the Crown, as while purchasers are always ready and anxious to pay down their deposits in order that land may be allotted them, they cannot be relied upon to keep faith and pay their subsequent yearly instalments of purchase money. It is with great difficulty and only by the expenditure of an amount of anxiety and labour out of all proportion to the result, that payments of instalments are now secured from purchasers."

75. Notwithstanding this discouraging experience I think that sales should continue on the instalment plan, except in localities where the purchasers have combined to resist both payment and eviction for default. In his relations with the Government, the Jamaican peasant is not over punctual when it is incumbent on him to discharge his obligations, and he is generally encouraged by vague expressions of sympathy from people who seem to think it a duty of the Government to countenance, and frequently to pardon, laxity.

76. It is good policy to locate peasant proprietors on land of their own, provided always that such persons punctually and scrupulously pay their debts.

77. If they have not this virtue then they cannot retain the land, and it is not good policy to sell it to them. If they were given as a gift as much land as they could beneficially occupy, they would by subsequent default in paying taxes or in paying their debts to their neighbours lose the property. It would be of great service to the railway if some of the large uncultivated tracts, now in private hands next the line, were cut up and sold to small settlers for cultivation.

78. The large areas of Crown land selected by the West India Improvement Company and transferred to that Company under the railway contract are now in the hands of the Administrator-General. They aggregate from 70,000 to 75,000 acres, most of which is entirely undeveloped and not easily accessible by existing roads. Want of funds has prevented the Government from making a firm offer for the property which is now beginning to become liable to taxation.

AGRICULTURE.

79. The portion allotted to Jamaica of the grant of £250,000 made in 1902 by the Imperial Parliament to assist the West Indian sugar industry to maintain itself until September, 1903, was £10,000.

80. With the sanction of the Imperial Authorities this sum was devoted to defraying the cost of experiments connected with sugar-growing and the production of rum and sugar, conducted scientifically under the auspices of the Island chemist.

81. Under the approved scheme the funds allotted should suffice till April, 1910.

An experimental distillery has been started, and the Island chemist hopes to be able to supply selected yeasts in a vigorous state to start the first vat of the season in all estate distilleries which need such assistance.

82. Irrigated nurseries for growing promising varieties of sugar cane have been started at Hope Gardens, desirable canes have been imported and close observations are being made of the comparative value of various fertilisers.

Seedling canes of various varieties are supplied to the estates which require them.

83. A very important feature in the scheme is a course of six weeks' training which is given to such distillers on the sugar estates as desire to undertake the study; the response to invitations to join the course has been very gratifying, and it may be hoped that in time distillation and its products may be greatly improved by the scientific knowledge thus imparted.

84. A locked still has been established on a private estate at a cost of £380, and it is reported to be successful.

85. The Brussels Convention has given decided encouragement to the sugar industry, and planters seem confident that cane sugar can for the future compete successfully with sugar

produced from beetroot. Schemes were being promoted during the year for consolidating sugar properties and manufacturing at central factories. The two principal sugar-producing districts of Jamaica are on the north-west of the Island and on the south-west. Each has now a Planters' Association, but they do not combine, because on the north side the principal product is rum and on the south it is sugar.

86. Vigorous steps were taken to induce cultivators and others to grow cotton.

In April, 1904, an expert (Mr. Seabrook) visited the Colony and gave practical lessons in cotton ginning.

The travelling instructors employed by the Government continually impressed on the people the desirability of giving this product extensive cultivation.

87. In November Messrs. Oliver & Stancliffe were deputed by the British Cotton Growing Association to visit the Colony and give advice and assistance, and they met those locally interested at a meeting at which the Governor and Colonial Secretary were present. There the cultivators expressed a strong desire to ratoon cotton (*i.e.*, to take more crops than the first from the same stock by leaving the plants in the ground), which was strongly opposed by Mr. Oliver, both on account of the alleged inferiority of ratoon cotton and the risk of breeding and encouraging insect pests.

Hand gins were supplied by the Cotton Growing Association and Paris green as an insecticide by the Government.

88. The result was rather disappointing—an export of cotton of 14,466 lbs., worth £546, to the United Kingdom, and of cotton seed, worth £20, to the United Kingdom and United States.

The prices realised were decidedly good, and the cotton grown was of very high quality.

89. It is well known that after the American war of independence many loyalists left the United States for Jamaica and Berbice, where they planted cotton with great success, and it is disappointing to find that with so much in favour of the cultivation it has not been pursued with more energy in this Colony.

90. Amongst the causes for this unsatisfactory state of things I may mention the ratoon difficulty, which, however, could be avoided by a rational system of rotation of crops, wherein cassava and the local peas (red peas and cow peas) or grain should take their places, and the existence of animal pests, which require extermination at some expense and trouble, and the want of skill on the part of local pickers. This last difficulty would, of course, vanish with practice.

91. A company is engaged in growing cassava on a large scale for the local manufacture of starch. Great attention was paid to this product at the Hope Gardens, where many experimental plots were devoted to ascertaining which kinds were the most profitable to grow.

92. An experimental growth on a considerable scale of wrap or Sumatra tobacco, under coarse canvas, was undertaken at Hope Gardens and proved very successful, the valuation being so good as to demonstrate the enterprise would pay well.

93. Fruit generally, and bananas in particular, are recovering from the effects of the hurricane, but it will take many years before the coconut resumes its old position amongst exports.

Ten millions of nuts was the diminution shown in the exports of 1904-5 compared with the previous year, which had also suffered from the hurricane, and in its turn exhibited a diminution exceeding ten millions compared with the export of 1902-3. The growing of this tree is very lucrative, the nuts command a high price in the United States, and it is to be hoped that extensive new plantations will be formed.

94. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the high tariff on rock oil (sevenpence half-penny per gallon imported) the local manufacture of cocoanut oil is so small—only 565 gallons were exported, valued at almost 2*s*. a gallon.

A disease, thought to be fungoid in its nature, has been damaging the trees in Hanover parish to the extreme west of the Island.

It is a remarkable fact that the coconut grows better on the north side of the Island than on the south, where it would find a warmer climate and often a more sandy soil.

95. The oranges of Jamaica are, all but some two or three per cent., sown by nature, and before the tariff of the United States included them, a very profitable export took place to that country. Even now, with an adverse tariff, more than half the exports go to the United States, and more than one-quarter to the United Kingdom. The total export of oranges was valued at £62,095, and grape-fruit at £9,346. Much depends on getting the oranges to market at times when there is least competition, and growers in Jamaica are giving great attention to the matter, especially growers of regular plantations. It was represented to the Government that exporters being permitted to use any number of different trade marks led to carelessness in gathering and packing, and imperilled the good name of the Colony, but a meeting of those concerned did not reveal a majority in favour of restriction.

96. The pineapple exports were worth £1,138, the greater share going to Canada.

97. Coffee grows to great perfection in large tracts of Jamaica from 500 to 5,000 feet above the sea, and it is disappointing to observe how sadly neglected are the trees in most places; not only is the weeding neglected, but also the pruning, and it is rare to find a new plantation, though the country could easily export four times the present value (£85,173) exported. The trees in Hope Gardens bear very good crops, simply because they receive proper attention. The five agricultural instructors make a point of recommending this cultivation, but their hearers are very slow to follow their advice.

98. Of rubber, for which there is such a keen demand at the present time, Jamaica possesses only a few small plantations of *Castilloa elastica* (some damaged by the hurricane) which are not on a commercial scale, but would afford seed enough for any enterprising planter desirous of planting a large area.

99. Of camphor no plantation has been made.

100. The great want of the Colony is the plantation on an extensive scale of its large properties, which at present are used for pastures or allowed to grow up in brushwood.

Unfortunately, there is a want of confidence in the application of capital to land, except in certain favourite ways, such as banana planting.

PRISONS.

101. The year was remarkable for the unusual amount of crime. During the four years ended 31st March, 1905, the following statistics are recorded:—

—	1901–2.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1904–5.
Offences reported to the police ...	2,030	2,108	2,187	6,339
Convictions in Resident Magistrates' Courts—				
1. For offences against the person	432	422	415	512
2. For prædial larceny	1,137	651	1,359	2,672
3. Other offences against property	1,222	1,130	1,268	1,652
4. All other offences	1,375	1,598	2,332	2,668
Punished in Resident Magistrate's Courts by—				
1. Fine	1,368	1,498	1,660	2,014
2. Imprisonment without option of fine.	2,337	1,965	2.653	4,325
3. Imprisonment for default of fine	53	71	155	143
4. Whipping	186	116	397	336
Number of prisoners in all the prisons 31st March.	1,110	1,067	1,178	1,402

102. The year 1902-3 was a very prosperous one; it will be seen that in it were the fewest prisoners and the fewest convictions for offences against property and prædial larceny. The year 1904-5 was the least prosperous of the four, and it had the greatest number under the heads above mentioned. The daily averages throughout the year in the two convict establishments were:—

Kingston (Penitentiary)	838
Spanish Town (St. Catherine)	553

The accommodation being:—

Kingston cells ... ... (excluding association wards).	660
Spanish Town cells ... ... (excluding association wards).	536

Both prisons were somewhat overcrowded during the year, but the deaths were less by 20 than in 1903-4.

103. A remarkable feature in Jamaica is the large number of criminals recommitted; of those under sentence in the two convict establishments 528 had been convicted once, 340 twice, and 877 twice or more.

The courts do not punish habitual criminals as severely as in some other colonies, and in many instances the interval between discharge and recapture was surprisingly short. It may also be that the hard labour enforced in prisons is not sufficiently deterrent. In a recent case a prisoner only a few days after his discharge burglariously entered the prison in which he had been confined in order to steal tools from it.

ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS.

104. In the lunatic asylum the number of patients increased from 1,000 to 1,034, the daily average being 1,021; in 1892 it was 579 only. This rapid increase caused considerable overcrowding, and after the close of the year steps were taken to complete some new wards which had been built but left unused for want of funds.

105. The leper asylum contained 118 inmates at the beginning of the year and 115 at the end of the year; there is accommodation for 127, which was the actual number of inmates in 1897-8. The Government hospitals admitted during the year 14,980 patients, the daily average under treatment in hospital was 732.

106. The Government also maintains a lying-in hospital, mainly for the instruction of nurses. This institution had an

average of 21 inmates daily, and 655 patients were admitted during the year. The proportion of illegitimate children born there was three out of four.

107. One case of yellow fever was reported at Port Royal; the patient, a soldier, recovered.

108. The Superintending Medical Officer reports that the child population is fairly well vaccinated, but more revaccination among adults is very desirable.

109. A Bill to adopt for Jamaica the new and more rational system of quarantine recommended by the Colonial Conference held at Barbados in April, 1904, was put before the Legislative Council and passed by the casting vote of the Governor after the close of the year.

110. The quarantine stations and buildings need very considerable improvement.

The matter is one of great importance, because of the great and increasing tourist traffic to Jamaica.

The year under review was, I am informed, the best year for tourists which Jamaica has yet experienced.

Large numbers arrived from America and the United Kingdom, and the hotel accommodation was fully occupied.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

111. The postal and telegraph department inaugurated and carried out a daily mail service throughout the Island very successfully and economically. The revenue of the department exceeded the estimate, and the expenditure fell short by a considerable sum of that allotted to it.

112. In expectation of the termination of the contract on the 30th June, 1905, for ocean carriage of mails with the Royal Mail Steamship Company fresh tenders were called for.

113. The Royal Mail Company demanded a higher sum than they had been receiving, and their tender was consequently rejected. A subsequent offer on advantageous terms from the Direct line of steamers aroused considerable opposition in Jamaica, due partly to fear of a monopoly of the carriage of mails and perhaps of freight vesting in the hands of the contractors for the Direct line, and partly to a sentimental feeling for the older contractors.

It was finally decided to have no contract at all.

114. The postal work at Kingston is carried on under great disadvantages, having quite outgrown the local office accommodation. In this, as in other urgent matters, improvement has been delayed for want of funds.

POLITICAL.

115. Emigration from Jamaica to the Panama canal zone continued on a large scale throughout the year.

116. The Cayman Islanders suffered considerably from being deprived by the exclusive claim set up by Nicaragua of the unrestricted right of a free turtle fishery on the Mosquito banks and among the Mosquito cays, which they had been enjoying for upwards of a century.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

117. The state of the Treasury, which ended the year owing to the Crown Agents a debt of £88,600, necessitated the most rigid economy in all departments, and the Government was compelled to defer not only all improvements, but even many administrative expenses very desirable for better carrying out public duties.

118. The empty Treasury brought out very strongly a curious feature in past legislation, viz., the many laws which have been passed designed to weaken the control which the Government and Legislature of the day ought always to be able to exercise over public expenditure, passed, too, on the unquestioned assumption that there would always be found in the Treasury ample funds for almost all purposes which called for public expenditure.

119. For example, Laws 14 of 1873, 9 of 1874, 28 of 1889, and 21 of 1894 authorise the Governor to advance to parish boards whatever sums (without any limit) may be applied for, for local sanitary works, markets, poor-houses, waterworks, and cemeteries, and only one of these, viz., Law 7 of 1886, gives the Governor a discretion to refuse, the others give none.

Law 30 of 1879 compels the placing on the public estimates of each year of double the subscriptions collected each year for a sailors' home.

Law 19 of 1894 makes the cost of erecting private telephone wires a charge on the Public Treasury.

Laws 31 of 1890, 31 of 1893, and 32 of 1896 compel the Treasury to make advances for reconstructing streets and for maintaining and repairing sewers in certain localities. They also compel the expenditure from general revenue of £200 a year on streets, and enforce provision being made for that sum on the annual estimates.

Law 14 of 1891 casts upon the Treasury the burden of extinguishing all deficits on the Immigration Fund.

120. It seems never to have been contemplated that the Treasury might some day be exhausted, or that occasions might present themselves when there was too small a balance to meet all these irregular and often unlimited demands.

121. I use the word irregular as meaning a demand which no taxation has been devised to meet, and for which no funds have been provided.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
464	St. Vincent	1904
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	"
468	Somaliland Protectorate	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas...	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	"
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia...	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda...	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 495.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 454.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1906.

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No. 495.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 454.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
8th August, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1905, together with a copy of the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM,
Governor.

1125 Wt 23907 9/1906 D & S 5 25829 A

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1905.

FINANCES.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1891 ...	7,354	7,996	—	642
1892 ...	7,836	7,596	240	—
1893 ...	7,434	7,816	—	382
1894 ...	8,840	7,459	1,381	—
1895 ...	7,312	7,547	—	235
1896 ...	9,707	7,383	2,324	—
1897 ...	9,477	8,384	1,093	—
1898 ...	7,232	8,061	—	829
1899 ...	8,033	7,644	389	—
1900 ...	9,190	8,053	1,137	—
1901 ...	9,030	7,989	1,041	—
1902 ...	8,693	8,006	687	—
1903 ...	8,678	8,910	—	232
1904 ...	6,466	8,001	—	1,535
1905 ...	6,243	7,279	—	1,036

REVENUE.

Head.	Average, five years 1899 to 1903			1904.			1905.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duties	3,510	10	3	3,128	10	5	2,940	9	7
Royalty on Salt	2,571	17	4	1,466	1	3	1,402	3	0
Port Dues	801	17	9	494	17	2	477	19	2
Licences and Internal Revenue...	239	9	3	303	15	4	260	1	9
Payments for Specific Services ...	200	3	2	99	15	4	124	11	6
Post Office...	661	14	10	311	7	4	433	9	8
Revenue from Government Property.	238	13	2	92	11	9	93	2	5
Interest	217	7	11	354	15	9	245	5	11
Miscellaneous Receipts	33	13	1	27	7	8	15	14	0
Imperial Grant (Mail Service) ...	250	0	0	*187	10	0	250	0	0
Total	8,725	6	9	6,466	0	0	6,242	17	0

* Three quarters.

EXPENDITURE.

Head.	Average, five years 1899 to 1903.	1904.			1905.		
	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pensions	432	662	4	3	490	16	6
Commissioner's Department ...	2,271	2,110	13	8	2,044	1	6
Judicial	540	517	13	2	542	14	10
Police	479	472	2	0	639	17	11*
Prisons	186	196	7	3			
Medical	484	556	0	0	563	18	3
Paupers	335	327	14	2	350	13	8
Education	600	600	0	0	600	0	0
Registration and Vaccination ...	24	26	10	8	25	4	5
Public Market	21	21	0	0	21	0	0
Miscellaneous	472	535	1	2	489	19	5
Post Office...	576	571	14	9	539	9	10
Lighthouse Department	268	244	16	8	245	13	5
Public Works Department ...	339	290	14	2	298	16	11
Do. Recurrent... ...	580	528	5	5	300	13	4
Do. Extraordinary ...	510	338	4	1	52	17	9
Cost of Remittances	3	2	9	6	72	15	10
Total	8,120	8,001	10	11	7,278	13	7

* Police and Prisons Departments amalgamated.

From the above tabulated statements it will be seen that the receipts amounted to £6,242 17*s.* 0*d.* and the disbursements to £7,278 13*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a deficit of £1,035 16*s.* 7*d.* on the year's transactions. This deficit has been met out of the surplus balance of the Dependency which in consequence became reduced on the 1st January, 1906, to £7,579 4*s.* 9*d.*, of which amount £7,028 1*s.* 4*d.* is invested in approved securities.

Compared with the previous year (1904) the receipts of 1905 were short only by £200—more than accounted for by less importation of spirits—but when compared with the annual average of the previous five years (1899-1903) they show a shrinkage of about £2,500. This fall in revenue may be attributed in great part to the disastrous salt year of 1904 and the short yield of salt at Grand Turk during the past year. At Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour the salt yield may be viewed as satisfactory. The yield of salt is estimated for Salt Cay at 440,000 bushels, and for Cockburn Harbour at 686,000 bushels, but for Grand Turk at no more than 141,000 bushels as compared with an annual average of 700,000 bushels. The crop at Grank Turk was wasted by rain more or less throughout the year.

With regard to the revenue, there was, as compared with the annual average of the five years ended 1903, which may be regarded as normal years, a falling off under—

	£
Import Duties	570
Royalty on Salt	1,170
Port Dues	324
Post Office	228

Turning to the disbursements for 1905 the total expenditure, £7,279, is about £850 less than that of the average of the five normal years ended 1903, and about £700 less than the amount (£8,000) provided for the service of the year. The expenditure was kept down to the lowest possible figure.

Assets and Liabilities.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	Assets.	£	s.	d.
Salt Pond Fund ...	202	10	6	Cash—			
Board of Education ...	267	6	3	In Colonial Chest	616	10	10
Deposits	56	12	10	Crown Agents ...	510	19	9
Money Orders ...	468	10	7	New York Agents	19	13	7
Savings Bank... ...	1,710	2	6	Jamaica Treasury	125	2	4
				Remittances maturing	110	8	0
	2,705	2	8	Bonds Import Duties	57	14	10
				Advances recoverable	32	11	0
				Invested Funds—			
				Government ...	7,028	1	4
Balance Assets—				Savings Bank ...	1,625	14	3
31st December, 1905	7,579	4	9	Board of Education	157	11	6
	10,284	7	5		10,284	7	5

Government Funds Invested.

	£	s.	d.
1894	2,000	0	0
1895	2,000	0	0
1896	4,500	0	0
1897	5,500	0	0
1898	5,500	0	0
1899	5,500	0	0
1900	5,900	0	0
1901	7,900	0	0
1902	7,947	11	4
1903	8,947	11	4
1904	7,500	11	4
1905	7,028	1	4

Of the surplus funds invested, £7,028 1*s.* 4*d.* were, on the 1st January of the present year, invested in:—

		£	*s.*	*d.*
(1)	Govt. Queensland stock ...	1,000	0	0
(2)	,, Victoria stock ...	1,500	0	0
(3)	,, South Australia debentures	1,000	0	0
(4)	,, Jamaica stock ...	400	0	0
(5)	,, Jamaica Savings Bank	1,124	1	4
(6)	,, Gold Coast stock ...	896	2	4
(7)	,, Sierra Leone stock ...	943	3	6
(8)	,, Lagos stock	160	14	2
		£7,028	1	4

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1905 were valued at £28,230 and the total exports at £24,022, compared with the average of £29,869 and £34,214, respectively, for what may be termed five normal years, 1899-1903, and as against £24,121 and £24,487, respectively, in 1904. The exports of salt fell in value even below those of 1904, considered the most disastrous on record, being £14,604 as compared with £15,079 of the previous year. Again, the export of fibre, the most important subsidiary industry, fell from £6,886 to £5,862.

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1899 ...	2,684 18 2	3,289 3 6	19,733 9 7	25,707 11 3
1900 ...	3,385 1 11	3,939 10 4	22,239 10 1	29,564 2 4
1901 ...	3,110 15 6	4,092 2 1	23,614 5 11	30,817 3 6
1902 ...	3,463 3 0	5,792 19 0	23,025 9 0	32,291 11 0
1903 ...	3,948 7 0	6,434 11 0	20,573 13 4	30,956 11 4
Annual Average	3,318 9 1	4,709 13 2	21,839 5 7	29,867 7 10
1904 ...	3,226 0 10	4,153 18 2	16,740 12 10	24,120 11 10
1905 ...	5,490 9 2	3,974 17 9	18,765 1 2	28,230 8 1

Year.	Value of Exports, Produce of Colony, to			Total Value.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1899 ...	—	4,650 8 1	26,871 4 10	31,521 12 11
1900 ...	291 4 0	7,384 1 1	25,714 10 7	33,389 15 8
1901 ...	—	12,290 0 6	27,461 9 1	39,751 9 7
1902 ...	2,307 5 4	5,637 9 2	24,010 4 6	31,954 19 0
1903 ...	1,774 2 3	3,348 15 2	26,755 4 7	31,878 2 0
Annual Average	874 10 4	6,662 2 10	26,162 10 8	33,699 3 10
1904 ...	131 15 3	2,974 10 4	20,913 7 5	24,019 13 0
1905 ...	225 3 10	3,865 12 11	19,807 9 4	23,898 6 1

Classified, the exports were comprised of :—

—	1904.		1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Conchs—				
To Hayti	—	433	—	656
Turtle Shell—				
To United Kingdom ...	—		52	
„ Bahamas	117		439	
„ U.S. America ...	34		42	
		151		533
Salt—				
To Canada	2,341		2,558	
„ B.W. Indies	500		594	
„ Foreign Countries ...	757		783	
„ U.S. America ...	11,481		10,669	
		15,079		14,604
Sisal fibre—				
To United Kingdom ...	—		135	
„ U.S. America ...	6,886		5,668	
		6,886		5,803
Sponge—				
To United Kingdom ...	131		—	
„ U.S. America ...	1,283		1,984	
„ Bahamas	—		237	
„ Jamaica	—		2	
		1,414		2,223
Miscellaneous	—	56	—	79
		24,019		23,898

As the past year was even more unfavourable than 1904 to the salt industry, the following tables may be of interest as showing how much the yield of salt has fallen within the two years in consequence of the unusual rainfall:—

Whither Exported.	1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£		£
Canada ...	175,266	2,854	128,207	2,341	138,115	2,558
St. Pierre ...	85,510	1,425	10,096	252	22,113	406
United States America.	1,483,394	18,602	807,229	11,481	735,641	10,669
Miscellaneous.	62,424	796	59,716	1,005	65,430	971
Total ...	1,806,694	23,677	1,005,248	15,079	961,299	14,604

The quantity of salt exported from the three settlements of the Dependency was:—

	Bushels.
Grand Turk	110,475
Salt Cay	361,412
Cockburn Harbour	489,412
	961,299

In 1904 the yield in Grand Turk had been only 80,000 bushels, as compared with an average annual raking of 700,000, so that the low export of 1905 had a deplorable effect upon the industry.

Again, the chief subsidiary export, sisal fibre, fell in value from £6,886 to £5,803, which added to the general depression.

SHIPPING.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1904 and 1905:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	134	10,784	34	34,215	168	44,999
United States ...	17	12,031	26	51,406	43	63,437
Others	42	1,249	33	56,110	75	57,359
Total 1905 ...	193	24,064	93	141,731	186	165,795
Total 1904 ...	216	24,895	72	112,646	288	137,541

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Commissioner, Mr. W. D. Young, was absent from the Dependency from the 30th August to the 13th December, during which period the Judge, Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, performed the duties of that office.

The Judge, Mr. St. Aubyn, was on leave from the 12th May to the 24th August, and during his absence the Commissioner acted as Judge of the Supreme Court, and the Assistant Commissioner of Grand Turk, Mr. A. W. Harriott, as auditor.

Dr. T. R. Robertson was appointed Assistant Commissioner and Government Medical Officer of Salt Cay on the 25th February, 1905, and was on the 18th August promoted to the office of District Commissioner and Medical Officer of the Caicos Islands, vice Dr. W. H. Clements, transferred to British Honduras.

Dr. G. S. S. Hirst was appointed Assistant Commissioner and Government Medical Officer of Salt Cay on the 18th November, vice Dr. Robertson, promoted to the Caicos Islands.

Mr. B. H. Roberts was appointed Lighthouse Keeper on the 23rd January, vice Mr. A. G. Wynns, deceased.

LEGISLATION.

The Hon. Walter Stanley Jones was appointed Member of the Legislative Board on the 3rd July, 1905, vice the Hon. C. R. Hinson, deceased.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year:—

The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1.
The Custody of Infants Ordinance, No. 2.
The Police Ordinance, No. 3.
The Prisons Ordinance, No. 4.
The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 5.
The Customs Tariff Ordinance, No. 6.

The most important of these were Nos. 3 and 4, amalgamating the Police and Prisons Departments, and No. 6, revising the tariff. The amalgamation of the Police and Prisons Departments will effect economy and increase efficiency. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, while avoiding levying higher duties on imported foodstuffs of the labouring population, will, it is hoped, raise the revenue to such an extent as to effect financial equilibrium.

EDUCATION.

The average number of children on the books at the seven Government schools in the Dependency was 798, with an average attendance of 598, compared with 770 and 542 in 1903 and 804 and 585 in 1904, respectively. There were also 187 children of school age attending private schools which had been approved of by the Board of Education. The total expenditure of the Board for the year amounted to £587 17*s.* 9*d.*, as against £599 0*s.* 10*d.* in the previous year. A balance of £267 6*s.* 3*d.* was carried forward to the credit of the Board on the 1st January, 1906. The public schools were inspected in May and June by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, who reported that the primary subjects were efficiently taught and that good work in sewing was shewn.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

During the year the prisons and police were amalgamated with a view to economy and increased efficiency. Twenty-one persons were committed to prison during the year, and the daily average in prison was $3\frac{1}{91}$, as against $1\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{8}{9}$ in 1903 and 1904, respectively. The following table gives a comparative statement of the criminal statistics of the Dependency for the years 1902 to 1905:—

—	1902.	1903	1904.	1905.
Offences reported to Police	135	143	134	128
Persons apprehended or summoned ...	135	143	129	128
Summary Convictions—				
Offences against the person	31	28	37	26
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	5
Offences against property	4	6	7	6
Other offences	71	96	53	63
Convictions in Supreme Court—				
Offences against the person	—	—	—	—
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
Offences against property	1	2	—	2
Other offences	1	—	—	—
Persons acquitted—				
Magistrates' Courts	24	11	31	21
Supreme Court	2	—	—	—

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following readings and statistics were from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, latitude 21° 21′ N., longitude 71° 7′ W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet.

Rain fell on 156 days during the year and measured 41·97 inches, compared with 43·79 in 1904, 36·63 in 1903, 27·45 in 1902, 29·52 in 1901, 23·59 in 1900, and an average rainfall of 24·61 for the previous seven years, 1893-99. The heaviest rain on any one day during the year was 5·34 inches on the 12th October, while the wettest months were February, June, October, and November with 5·01, 8·45, 8·08, and 7·88 inches, respectively.

The coolest and hottest months were January and August, with mean readings of 71·3 and 84·4, while the mean temperature for the year was 79·2. On the 20th August the thermometer rose to 93, while on the 25th February it fell as low as 61·8. There were 173 days with clear sky and 192 days overcast. The wind blew as follows:—

N.	10	days.
N.E.	37	,,
E.	192	,,
S.E.	97	,,
S.	12	,,
S.W.	8	,,
W.	3	,,
N.W.	5	,,
Calm	1	,,

Month.	Means.				Rainfall.	
	Barometer 7.30 a.m.	Temperature of Air 11·3 above sea level.			1904.	1905.
		Mean.	Means of			
			Max.	Min.		
January ...	30·075	71·3	73·5	69·0	4·67	3·30
February ...	30·048	72·7	75·1	70·2	1·25	5·01
March	30·048	73·8	77·0	70·5	4·70	1·36
April	29·972	78·6	83·8	73·4	2·28	·93
May	30·338	81·6	87·5	75·6	10·75	1·02
June	29·996	81·6	87·5	75·6	·39	8·45
July	30·062	83·6	89·4	77·7	1·43	·78
August... ...	30·019	84·4	90·7	78·1	1·42	1·46
September ...	29·960	83·6	90·1	77·1	3·14	2·16
October ...	29·847	81·0	87·3	74·8	6·49	8·08
November ...	29·963	79·6	86·1	73·1	5·82	7·88
December ...	30·043	78·6	83·9	73·5	1·45	1·54

As I have been for so short a time in the Dependency, I am not in a position to report personally upon the year under review, and I have to record my obligations to Mr. L. Lea Smith, the Commissioner's Clerk, for valuable assistance in the preparation of the Blue Book.

F. H. WATKINS,

Commissioner of the

Turks and Caicos Islands.

28th June, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	"
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon...	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 524.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1905-6.

(For Report for 1904-5, *see* No. 492.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1907.

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1907.

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No. 524.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1904-5, see No. 492.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
1st May, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the statistics presented by the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1905-6.

1125 Wt 24282 6/07 D & S 5 28552 A 2

FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total amount credited to general revenue of the year was £865,696, but for purposes of comparison with other years an extraordinary item of £24,602 (to be explained presently) should be deducted, leaving the ordinary revenue as £841,094.

The total amount charged to expenditure of the year was £821,611, but from this again may be deducted for purposes of comparison the above sum of £24,602, which was expended in reducing that portion of the funded debt of the Colony which comes under the head of "Railway Annuities."

The normal expenditure was thus £797,009.

There was consequently a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £44,084 after reducing the funded debt by £23,360 and paying the interest which had accrued on that sum.

The extraordinary item of revenue of £24,602 is explained as follows:—By an agreement between the Government and the promoters of certain railway extensions all proceeds of certain railway bonds were to be placed in some bank agreed on between the parties to the joint credit of the Governor and of the Railway Company, to be paid out only on their joint signatures, and the Colonial Bank was selected.

When the Governor claimed to withdraw a sum of £21,912 remaining to the credit of that account, the Bank objected to pay, claiming to retain that amount on the ground that they had a prior claim on the fund for what was due to them from the promoters which would more than exhaust the entire amount. From March, 1897, till July, 1905, the matter was in dispute or litigation, and finally the High Court gave judgment in favour of the Government for the whole sum claimed with interest.

As the Government had been compelled to borrow on railway annuities a sum of £110,000 to defray charges to which the fund was applicable, the nett proceeds of the judgment were appropriated towards paying off that debt.

The Table I. (Appendix A) shows the state of the finances from year to year since 1890.

The surplus of the year under review, £44,084, was not sufficient to counterbalance the deficit of the antecedent year, which was £73,254.

On the 31st March, 1906, the balance of assets on the general revenue account was £38,621. Compared with the same date on the previous year there had been recovered on hurricane loans the sum of £27,988, and the assets had been increased by a new item of £35,030 for investments on account of miscellaneous deposits in partial fulfilment of a pledge given to the Legislative Council as consideration for passing Law 32 of 1903.

The overdraft on the Crown Agents had been reduced from £88,832 to £23,376, and was more than covered by remittances of £45,000 in transit on the 31st March, 1906.

Compared with the original estimates for the year there were excesses of £19,516 on Customs, £7,415 on licences and excise, £7,158 on fees of office, &c., £3,928 on post and telegraphs, £4,307 on miscellaneous receipts, and £713 on land sales.

The only items which did not come up to the estimates were railway £2,930, and interest £672.

Under expenditure some heads showed considerable economies, for instance:—

Pensions	£1,019
Excise, &c.	1,650
Judicial	1,367
Medical	1,483
Constabulary and prisons	1,430
Education	1,186
Military	1,485
Works and Buildings	4,254
Railway	9,553

A few others showed considerable excesses, for instance:—

Immigration	£2,306
Miscellaneous	2,895

The railway returned a profit over working expenses for the year of £56,099; the debt charges (in interest and sinking fund) amounting to 4½ per cent. on £1,493,400, being £67,203, or £11,104 in excess of profits.

The parish general funds had an increase of income compared with the previous year of £5,080, but their road fund income fell off by £1,116. Compared with the original estimates, the general fund realised an increase of £3,054, and the road fund a deficiency of £1,148.

The parish administration was well and economically conducted as a rule. At the end of the year the parishes collectively owed the Government £45,642, while their deposit accounts with the Treasury amounted to £32,151.

St. Catherine still owed the Government the comparatively large sum of £12,786 at the end of the year.

The Parish General Rates were as follows:—

	s.	*d.*	
Port Royal	1	10	property tax per £10 capital value.
Trelawny	1	5	
St. James	1	5	
St. Andrew	1	3½	
Hanover	1	3	
St. Catherine ...	1	2	
St. Thomas	1	1	
Portland	1	0	
St. Ann	1	0	
St. Mary	1	0	
Westmoreland ...	0	11	
Clarendon	0	10	
Manchester	0	8½	
St. Elizabeth ...	0	7	

The Kingston City Council levied rates aggregating 4*s.* 2½*d.* in the pound of rental value. Their income was £30,684, and expenditure £29,219. They had no debt.

The Kingston General Commissioners, who manage the sewerage system of Kingston, its water supply, gas supply, markets, and slaughter-houses, and execute street improvements, had a revenue of £17,841 from water, £7,148 from gas, £3,525 from markets, £1,232 from the slaughter-house; and collected £1,999 in repayment of advances made for house-sewer installations.

Their aggregate debt at the end of the year was £295,949.

No street improvement was undertaken during the year. Out of £23,769 advanced for connecting private houses with the sewerage system, £13,742 remains outstanding for collection.

CUSTOMS.

Imports

The estimate for Customs receipts under the normal tariff had been £370,000. Under Law 3 of 1905 a surtax of 6 per cent. was imposed from 16th March, 1905, which was calculated to yield £22,000 if continued in force till 31st March, 1906; but the revenue proved sufficient to enable the Government to cease collecting the surtax on the 27th February, 1906, and the total collection, under the normal tariff and surtax combined, proved to be £389,516 for the year.

Compared with the previous year there was an increase in the yield of *ad valorem* duties amounting to £21,821, and a decrease on articles reckoned as food stuffs amounting, approximately to about £7,000.

The total imports exclusive of coal, coin, and bullion were valued at £1,825,961 for customs purposes, being an increase of £237,299 on the previous year's value, chiefly due to increase in prosperity.

Of coal, the value imported was £82,234, a decrease of £11,960, due in some measure to the abandonment of Port Royal as a naval station.

The exports of the Colony were valued at £1,843,180, being an increase on the figures of the previous year of £406,455.

The principal increases were under the following heads:—

Bananas		£328,498
Coffee		49,110
Oranges	£28,573	
Grape fruit	2,764	
		31,337
Cattle	£13,306	
Horses and mules	1,712	
		14,018
Cocoa		12,056
Coconuts		11,172

Certain woods—		
Ebony	£422	
Fustic	8,005	
Lignum vitæ	1,094	
		£9,521
Rum (accompanied by decrease in quantity of 103,808 gallons)		6,347
Sugar		5,962
Yams		4,192
Annatto		4,106
Turtle		2,885

Under logwood there was an increase of the prepared extract worth £4,591, and a decrease of the raw material valued at £5,945.

Under tobacco there was a decrease in exports of leaf, £367, and cigarettes, £2,039, but an increase of cigars to the value of £1,940.

Limes and limejuice fell off by £759, and pimento by the large sum of £56,701. Lancewood and bitter wood by £3,267.

The increased exports of cattle and horses are very gratifying, as they show a good demand for the superior animals bred in the Colony. The export of yams is due to the demand at Colon.

The proportion of trade with various countries for three years is shown below, reckoned in percentage of the total trade done by the Colony:—

IMPORTS.

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
United Kingdom	47·0	46·8	48·9
United States of America	42·6	42·8	39·0
Canada...	7·2	5·9	8·1
Other countries	3·2	3·5	4·0

EXPORTS.

—	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.
United Kingdom	18·8	18·8	19·3
United States of America	59·4	53·4	57·4
Canada...	5·4	8·8	6·1
Other countries	16·4	19·0	17·2

The United States of America have lost 56 per mille, the United Kingdom has gained 24 per mille, and Canada and other countries each 16 per mille in the three years under review.

The trade with the United States would have been far larger but for the tariff on citrus fruits.

The value of imports per head, reckoned on a population estimated at 800,000, was, taking values entered for home consumption only and excluding coal, coke, coin, and bullion. £2 5*s.* 7½*d.*, as against £2 3*s.* 2*d.* for the previous five years.

The value of exports per head (excluding foreign produce) was £2 4*s.* 2½*d.*, as against £2 4*s.* 5*d.* for the previous five years.

Sugar to the value of £122,328 was exported, of which 59 per cent. went to Canada, and ½ per cent only to the United States of America.

Tea grown in the island was exported to the United Kingdom to the value of £139.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES.

The general agricultural condition of the Colony has shown steady improvement during the year under review.

The seasons have been unbroken by any very exceptional weather, and have been on the whole favourable to the agriculturist.

The rainfall for the whole island—78·43 inches—has been about the average (77·76 inches).

In the south and south-western parts the reaping of the sugar crop was somewhat retarded and made more expensive by unusual rain in the winter and early spring. Some damage was done in the north-east by heavy winds, and on the north side there was a shortage of rain which reduced the sugar and other crops in that district. These, however, may be regarded as ordinary fluctuations.

It continues to be true that while there is some scarcity of labour, particularly in the banana districts, and, at certain times, in the sugar districts, complaints come of want of work from several parts of the island. Perhaps in time some means of adjusting supply and demand in our labour market may be evolved amongst those directly concerned. In the meantime, some planters maintain that a proportion of immigrants is as indispensable to them as it has hitherto been for steadying the supply of agricultural labour. No further effort has been made in the experiment initiated in the year 1902 of utilising the Immigration Department as a Labour Intelligence Office for enabling labourers desiring employment to meet the requirements of employers in other parishes. The experiment, as far as it went, was not a success. The rate of wages of agricultural labourers continues much as heretofore—men from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, and women 6*d* to 9*d.*; at task work they are said to be able to earn more, sometimes as much as 50 per cent. more.

In July, 1905, the steamship "Indus" brought 789 East Indian immigrant adults, the majority of whom were located on the banana plantations in St. Mary and Portland, and the sugar estates in Vere. In January, 1906, the "Erne" sailed for India with 593 returning immigrants. These repatriated East Indians took home with them savings in bills or coin estimated at an average of nearly £15 a head.

The experiment of offering to the East Indian immigrant a grant of ten acres of land in lieu of a free return passage was continued during the year, and 30 allotments (aggregating 311 acres) were made, but the arrangement has not been successful in its principal objects. Apparently, only those who would have remained under any circumstances have taken the grants of land, for the proportion of return passages has continued undiminished; and the Immigration Fund has been burdened with the expense of making the allotment. The experiment will, therefore, be discontinued.

The property now owned by East Indian immigrants who have settled in the island (and can be identified) is reported as amounting to 7,489 acres of the value of £35,060, or, including live stock, of over £40,000. The health of the indentured immigrants has been fairly good, allowing for the large number of new arrivals who have had to pass through the process of acclimatisation.

Whatever effect the emigration of labourers may have on our labour market later on when the operations in the Canal Zone extend, it has produced little effect so far. During the year 8,293 emigrants, mostly of the labouring class, have left Jamaica for the Isthmus and 2,240 for Costa Rica, where they find employment on the banana cultivations, mostly under the auspices of the United Fruit Company. There appears to be a good deal of ebb and flow in this migration; for against the number reported as having left we have to set 3,821 reported as having returned from the Isthmus during the year, and 1,930 from Costa Rica. The proportion of arrivals from these places is even larger during recent months.

In the matter of crimes affecting agriculture, prædial larceny and the larceny of ground provisions principally invite comment. Under the head of "Police" we have noted a reduction in both classes of offence. With improvement in the general agricultural situation and the circumstances of the rural population, and with the removal of many of our habitual offenders by emigration, we may anticipate further reduction and a return to normal rates. The system of agriculture in the Colony, and particularly the small settler's custom of cultivating a provision field far away from his home, must cause this particular offence to figure largely in the criminal returns, so long as we have a considerable proportion of the population very little removed from a condition of vagrancy, and indifferent or averse to regular means of livelihood.

As a result of strong representations to the Government that the system under which agricultural produce was bought by itinerant and unscrupulous purchasers (under a small two shilling agent's licence) was working injuriously both in lowering the quality of the produce and in facilitating the prompt disposal of stolen goods, an amending Produce Protection Law has been passed, abolishing the objectionable agent's licence and increasing the duty for a dealer's licence from £1 to £2. Under the same amending Law exporters of packed fruit have been limited to the use of a single Registered Trade Mark, the object being to discourage careless exportation by making the consequences more certain for the persons responsible.

A reference to the Collector-General's report for the year shows that while if we go back to 1902-3 (the last year before our recent lean years began) we find that in many points we have not yet reached the figures which that year showed we have in most of our exports considerably improved on last year's returns.

In a few things we have actually exceeded the output of 1902-3. Thus, annatto (mostly a peasant's crop) shows an increase of over 110,000 lbs. exported; kola nuts an increase of 42,754 lbs.; bananas an increase of 796,770 stems; cigars. an increase of £2,721, in value (though 1,562 lbs. less in weight was exported); leaf tobacco, a small increase of 1,730 lbs. In the logwood extract there has been an increase in value of £34,917, which more than compensates the diminished value of the export in wood (£27,371).

But comparing the Collector-General's returns for the year under review with those for 1904-5, as he compares them in paragraph 23 of his report, the results are much more encouraging.

Increase in quantity and in value is exhibited in the following principal items of agricultural exports:—

—	Increase in Quantity.		Increase in Value.
			£
Annatto	199,660	lbs.	4,106
Cocoa	7,608	cwt.	12,056
Cocoanuts	2,845,817	No.	11,172
Cattle	1 993	"	13,306
Coffee	29,152	cwt.	49,110
Fruit, bananas	6,077,406	stems.	328,498
" grape	9,769	pkgs.	2,764
" oranges	1,450,443	No.	28,373
Honey	835	cwt.	501
Horses and mules	141	No.	1,712
Kola nuts	19,389	lbs.	508
Sugar	40,623	cwt.	5,962
Tobacco, cigars	4,888	lbs.	1,940
Yams	—		4,192

Principal items of Agricultural Exports—cont.

—	Increase in Quantity.		Increase in Value.
			£
Divi divi	1,833	cwt.	575
Hides	55,274	lbs.	2,601
Sheep, wool	2,051	"	237
Wood, ebony	211	tons.	422
" fustic	3,545	"	8,005
" lignum vitæ	416	"	1,094
Walking sticks, loose	5,023		659
" " bundles	352		
Logwood extract	210	pkgs.	4,591

Decrease in quantity but increase in value appears in the following:—

—	Decrease.	Increase.
		£
Ginger	2,206 cwt.	489
Rum	103,808 galls.	6,347

Decrease in quantity and value are shown in the following:—

—	Decrease.		Decrease.
			£
Fruit, limes	21	brls.	21
" mangoes	772	pkgs.	161
" pines	3,049	doz.	533
Lime juice	13,709	galls.	738
Pimento	62,600	cwt.	56,701
Tobacco leaf	9,221	lbs.	367
" cigarettes	12,530	lbs.	2,039
Bees wax	43	cwt.	424
Wood, lance and spars	14,778	No.	2,217
" bitter	800	tons.	1,050
" logwood	455	tons.	5,945
Skins, goat	14,202	lbs.	1,242

The following table, which is also an extract from the Collector-General's report, shows the relative importance of the Colony's chief agricultural exports in the last official year as compared with the two years preceding, in the form of percentage:—

Chief Agriculturul Exports.

—	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sugar	8·2	8·1	6·9
Rum	6·5	6·4	5·6
Coffee	7·6	5·9	7 6
Dyewoods	7·9	5·4	4·5
Fruits	45·3	41·8	55·0
Pimento	6·0	9·5	4·5
Minor products	18·5	22·9	15·9

Annatto is almost entirely the production of the peasant class or small cultivators. In the last year the export reached the very respectable total of 457,248 lbs., and was of the value of £5,715. This is nearly three times as much as the highest previous record.

Cocoa also shows very satisfactory advance, viz., 31,066 lbs., as compared with 23,458 lbs. in the previous year, and 39,953 lbs. in 1902, which was our previous best record. As a considerable number of young plantations, which have been established in conjunction with bananas, is coming into bearing, we may look forward to a much more rapid development in this most desirable cultivation. It is to be regretted that a still larger proportion of the banana growers do not adequately realise the profitable opportunity which in so many places banana cultivation offers for establishing cocoa, almost free of cost. In the western parts of the island the criollo variety, distrusted in many places on account of its delicate constitution and poor yield, is reported to thrive very well, and its produce is among the best in value. The agricultural instructors and the local branches of the Agricultural Society devote a good deal of attention to much-needed improvement in the curing of the cocoa amongst the small settlers.

About 3,000,000 more cocoanuts were picked than in the preceding year, but the number was only about a third of what it was before the hurricane, and it will take years before this crop returns to its former proportions. It is satisfactory to know that the devastated groves have received the attention they needed, and there is likely to be considerable extension of cocoanut cultivation in the future. Disease amongst cocoanut trees is causing some anxiety in the western parishes.

Coffee is a crop which fluctuates much in bulk from year to year. This year the quantity exported is a good deal larger than last year, and the high mountain coffee, which comes largely from established estates, maintained its reputation and high value. But with the discouraging markets of late years the cultivation of coffee has considerably deteriorated and diminished amongst the peasantry who supply the bulk of the

island's produce. The rise in the rate of exchange in Brazil is likely to diminish the output of coffee in that country, and any considerable reduction in production, along with increased consumption, may in a few years give opportunities for realising profits of which we should be ready to take advantage. Even with present prices our output should be much larger than it is, and improved cultivation and curing and grading will certainly mean enhanced value. To this point also the attention of the agricultural instructors is being specially directed.

Amongst the exports of fruit, bananas of course hold the principal place, and the output for the year reached a total of 14,981,145 bunches of the reported value of £842,689. This is our best record so far, and exceeds the output of 1903 by 796,770 bunches, though the reported value was £292,061 less. To the United Kingdom we shipped 1,217,901 bunches, and 13,703,363 bunches went to the United States of America, while Canada took 57,611 bunches. The export to the United Kingdom was 522,949 bunches more than in 1904-5, and 941,446 bunches more than in 1903-4. To the United States of America we shipped 5,510,393 more bunches than in the previous year, and 6,239,480 more than in 1903-4. A larger quantity of fruit was shipped during the slack season (late summer, autumn, and early winter), during which time in previous years there has been much waste of fruit; and there has been steady increase in the production of bananas in the north-western parts of the island, for which small cultivators are principally responsible.

The export of oranges to the United Kingdom has considerably increased, being 21,640,730, as against 18,683,600 the year before, while the numbers exported to the United States of America, where there is a high import duty to face and also the competition of oranges from Florida and California, have correspondingly decreased, the numbers being 44,801,671 (1905-6), 47,441,518 (1904-5), 64,225,690 (1903-4). The export of oranges to Canada was 7,479,875, and shows steady increase during the last three years.

Special effort has been made to induce early maturity, as the earlier market in August, September, October is the best, and it is hoped that the restriction of shippers to a single registered mark will secure greater carefulness in the selection and handling of the fruit.

The exportation of grape fruit has materially increased, amounting to £9,109 as against £6,345 in the preceding year, and it was almost the same as in 1903. Increased familiarity with this delicious and wholesome fruit is certain to increase its popularity abroad, but for its proper appreciation not a little depends on the manner in which it is eaten.

The exportation of other fruit, mangoes and pineapples, continues to show somewhat disappointing decline.

The exportation of ginger has continued to diminish every year for the last four years; the fall in prices is no doubt the explanation, and, perhaps, absorbing attention to bananas. This is unfortunate, as the crop is one not liable to damage by wind except from fallen trees. In the exportation of lime-juice, also, similar decline during the last five years is apparent. In the past year the dry weather in St. Anns caused considerable failure in the crop.

Kola nuts continued to exhibit steady increase in the quantity exported—last year 63,811 lbs.—but the value of this export (last year £1,063) is not sufficient to attract attention from more profitable crops to its serious cultivation.

With regard to sugar it will be noted that while showing a positive increase of 40,623 cwt. in the quantity, and of £5,962 in the value exported, as compared with last year it declines from 8·1 to 6·9 in the percentage of relative importance amongst the island's exports. The year records considerable activity in the extension of cultivation and also in the cheapening of production by improvements in machinery and by the amalgamation of estates as central factories. In the Parish of Clarendon already three central factories are in process of formation, and on the north side at least two more are in contemplation. Cane-farming, *i.e.*, the growth of canes by large or small landowners on lands adjoining sugar estates for sale to the estates for manufacture, annually takes a more definite place in the industry, and with the lessons that have been taught by experience in other places will no doubt prove a very valuable auxiliary for increasing the output of sugar. It is clear that increased confidence has characterised the sugar industry as a whole, both in the operations of the planters and in the introduction of capital. It is estimated that in one parish not less than £38,000 worth of new machinery has been imported during the last four or five years. The successful working of the two recently established Planters' Associations in the island is in itself an encouraging symptom, seeing how little has been successfully attempted in the way of co-operation in the past, and how much may be effected by discreet combination.

Rum, while showing a decrease of 103,808 gallons, has brought a higher price, the increase in value over last year being £6,347. The efforts that have been made to protect the genuine article from imitation and from the competition of spurious compounds put on the English market as Jamaica rum have met with considerable success, and the appointment of a special officer to take the necessary action in the United Kingdom has been entirely justified. A three weeks' course for the scientific instruction of rum distillers was held in August at the Government Sugar Experiment Station, and ten gentlemen engaged in this work on sugar estates attended it. Experimental investigations in rum manufacture have

been zealously prosecuted during the year at the Sugar Experiment Station and at the Government Laboratory, with the object of standardising our rum at a standard of ethers, and of increasing its flavouring power by the utilisation of material which is at present wasted. These experiments are having the advantage of being tested on a commercial scale in the actual working of an estate. The Island Chemist is confident of very advantageous results.

The condition of the tobacco industry is disappointing. Last year we exported 40,325 lbs. of cigars valued at £20,312 (as compared with 35,437 lbs. valued at £18,372 the previous year), 6,554 lbs. of leaf tobacco valued at £245 (as compared with 15,775 lbs. at £612 the previous year), 11,261 lbs. of cigarettes, value £1,250 (as compared with 23,791 lbs., value £3,289, the previous year). The total value therefore of our export of tobacco, £21,807, is somewhat less than last year, £22,273, and although our export of cigars is considerably larger, it is certainly not as large yet as one might reasonably expect; and we should have a large export in tobacco leaf. But the cultivation must be on a large scale if the trade is to attract the dealers, and we have yet to find the means of developing largely the production of good tobacco amongst the peasantry, and of making the cultivation attractive and profitable to large growers. Attempt has been made to place our tobacco on the market as a pipe tobacco; the prospects are not discouraging, but at present supply is not equal to demand.

Pimento, like coffee, is a very fluctuating crop, and last year it was a small one, 91,725 cwt., as compared with 154,335 cwt. in 1905. This island being the only source of supply, the value usually varies inversely with the size of the crop. An attempt has been made to regulate and raise the price by a combination amongst the growers, with what permanent results remains to be seen.

The export of cotton amounted to 75,307 lbs. of lint, as against 14,210 lbs. the previous year. Insect pests have been favoured by the weather conditions and have considerably diminished the crop. The failure of cotton-growing enterprise in one or two localities has also been a discouragement, though the causes of failure have been special rather than general, and should not be in any way a permanent deterrent. The question of a suitable rotation of crops on land devoted to cotton cultivation has received a good deal of attention. Considering the place the island once occupied amongst cotton-growing countries, it is to be hoped that the cultivation of cotton on a much larger scale than has so far been attempted here will soon give it an important place in our agricultural records.

The export of animals and animal products has been relatively considerable during the year:—Cattle, 2,769 head, value £16,579, as against 776 head, value £3,273, the year before;

horses and mules, 237 head, value £3,408, as against 96 head, value £1,696, the year before; hides, 375,324 lbs., value £8,061, as against 320,050 lbs., value £6,000; sheep wool, 42,287 lbs., value £572, as against 40,236 lbs., value £335, the year before. Cuba has principally offered this outlet for cattle. The total number of cattle reported in the island exceeded the previous year by about 4,000 head, including working stock, but the number of horsekind "for breeding purposes" shows decrease to almost the same extent. There is, however, considerable increase in the number of horsekind used on roads. The number of sheep given in the Collector-General's return shows a reduction of 3,260 head, and while there is complaint that mutton is scarce, there is also complaint amongst producers that it is difficult to sell. As compared with some years ago, the general health of stock has been good, and no serious or widespread epidemic has been reported. The average price per head of the cattle exported, which included a good many young stock, is given at about £6; of the horses and mules exported, about £14. With the present methods of pen-keeping in Jamaica, which involve much supervision and care in consequence of the ticks that are prevalent during certain seasons of the year, our cattle can scarcely compete abroad with the cheaper cattle exported from South America, and have but little opportunity except when special breeds are required or stock of better quality for breeding purposes.

Crosses of Indian cattle are now found in most parts of the island, and have done much to improve the size and vigour and endurance of the native stock; and sanction has been obtained for the introduction of animals direct from India when opportunity is offered by ships bringing East Indian immigrants; such importations, though they are not likely to be numerous, will be of great benefit by bringing in fresh blood. The number of cattle imported during the year is given as 57 head, and the average value (nearly £20 a head) indicates that these have been animals of good quality. The same may be said of the horsekind imported (17 head, reported value £2,092).

With regard to dyewoods, improvement in demand has made the export of fustic (4,689 tons, value £10,551) much larger than in the preceding year (1,144 tons, value £2,546). Ebony and lignum vitæ also show considerable increase; bitter wood shows decrease. Logwood, with reduced prices, stands in about the same position as last year in the quantity exported, but was about £6,000 less in the value. The export of logwood extract, however, has continued in steady annual increase, and shipments to the value of £68,280 were reported last year. A second factory for the preparation of logwood extract in the island has been established in St. Elizabeth since the close of the year.

The steady increase in the items grouped together as minor products is satisfactory. In 1903-4 their value was £218,726,

in 1904-5 £223,520, in 1905-6 it had climbed to £280,242. The operations of the Agricultural Society and the agricultural instructors are to receive the credit for much of this improvement. Amongst the minor products exported we note that yams to the value of £5,328 were shipped last year, the average export trade in this vegetable for the previous four years being under £150. The export, of course, has been in response to the demand of West Indian labourers at the Isthmus for their accustomed food. The crop is almost exclusively produced by small cultivators and chiefly in the Parish of Hanover. There are indications that during the construction of the canal there will be a very considerable demand for vegetables from this island. Rubber does not yet find a place calling for special notice amongst the exports, but commencement has been made in cultivation, and the prospects are encouraging. The export of sarsaparilla also is of increasing value, and it is likely to be a useful addition to the list of products profitable for peasant cultivation.

The following imports of agricultural products during the year 1905-6 deserve mention. While the increase that is reported in most points is welcome evidence of increased purchasing power amongst the people, it suggests very seriously the need for increased local effort to supply the local demand:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Bacon and Hams	243,670 lbs.	7,332
Salt Beef and Pork (wet)	13,087 barrels	37,868
Butter and substitutes	796,176 lbs.	22,542
Cheese	190,111 „	5,544
Milk, condensed	44,847 cases	28,590
Lard	163,846 lbs.	2,389
Corn	201,183 bushels	30,177
Meal	31,922 barrels	22,026
Peas and Beans	15,845 bushels	5,545
Rice	9,841,923 lbs.	44,289
Tea	55,911 „	2,795
Leaf Tobacco	59,614 „	993
Tobacco, manufactured, and Cigarettes	117,075 „	12,668

In all the above, except lard, butter, meal, peas and beans, rice, and tea, increase is shown on last year's figures.

Amongst the local efforts to develop manufactures for export or for the supply of local demand (in addition to the sugar factories and the new logwood factory in St. Elizabeth, already referred to) may be mentioned the continued growth of the jippi jappa hat industry. The plant which produces the straw for this manufacture grows readily in most parts of the island, and in several places classes for instruction in hat making have been established, which promise to encourage a remunerative

industry for women. The demand for the hats still considerably exceeds the supply. In the Parish of Clarendon two starch factories are now in operation, and in St. Andrew there is a new factory for canning fruit. The establishment of a creamery in Manchester and of successful processes for curing bacon and hams in St. Andrew also deserves mention. The increase in the output of cigars has already been noted. The tea plantation in St. Anns has extended its cultivation, and its produce improves in quality. Benefiting as it does by the high duty of 1*s*. per lb. on imported tea, now that the possibility of successful production is demonstrated, it will no doubt grow in importance amongst the local enterprises. Perhaps I may add to this list of developing industries (which I would wish to see a much longer list) the brick manufacture at the General Penitentiary, as the output has now become so considerable as to allow of some export.

While the returns of the agricultural exports show us the crops harvested during the year, the returns which deal with the acreage under cultivation guide us as to what we may expect in the future. It is satisfactory to note that the Collector-General's figures under this head are equally encouraging, and indicate considerable progress in the Colony.

The total acreage under tillage is given as 246,373 acres, as against an average for the four preceding years of 217,896 acres. Towards this total increase of 28,477 acres cane cultivation (chiefly in the Parishes of Clarendon and Westmoreland) contributes 980 acres, coffee 542, bananas 23,112, cocoa 1,600, ground provisions 2,379, and minor items 1,192 acres.

There are now reported 22,415 more acres in bananas, and 3,043 more acres in cocoa than the returns for 1902-3 give. This increase denotes considerable agricultural activity in these products and a complete recovery from the effects of the hurricane of August, 1903. But the effect of the hurricane is still very noticeable in the case of cocoanuts, which must take several years to recover. Possibly, however, there would hardly be as large a difference as that reported, viz., 4,078 acres (comparing 1903 with 1906), if young plantations were given in as in cocoanuts.

The area in minor products includes 609 acres in oranges (an increase of 401 over the four years' average) and 480 acres in cotton (an increase of 472 acres) and 165 acres in rice (an increase of 42 acres), 259 acres in ginger (an increase of nine acres), corn exhibits a decrease of nine acres, and tobacco of 74 acres. Rubber makes its appearance for the first time and registers five acres; the Botanical Department has distributed a considerable number of rubber plants.

The acreage assigned to pasture land of different sorts shows an increase of 23,878 acres over the previous four years' average, and this includes an increase of 2,731 acres in guinea grass, which is our most valuable grazing.

These figures do not claim to represent accurately the exact distribution of the cultivated land in the Colony. Often two or more cultivations go on together, *e.g.*, bananas and cocoa, and the statistics are compiled from the voluntary ingivings of taxpayers and do not immediately affect revenue. But they are fairly reliable as indicating tendency, and the tendency which they indicate is in the direction of improvement and is satisfactory.

The Board of Agriculture controls the work of the Botanical Department, such of the work of the Government Laboratory as is connected with agriculture, and the sugar experiment scheme.

On the suggestion of the Board an Advisory Committee was appointed early in the year to co-operate with the Island Chemist in the management of the sugar experiment. This Committee consists of four experienced sugar planters. It was found necessary, by an amending law (3 of 1906) to remove some restrictions which it was thought existed under the law establishing the scheme (45 of 1903) and might prove inconvenient, and to extend the discretion of the Board of Agriculture subject to the sanction of the Governor in Privy Council. Out of the Imperial grant of £10,000 made by Parliament in aid of the sugar industry in 1903, a sum of £3,000 had been devoted to capital expenditure, allowing £1,000 to the Sugar and Fermentation Laboratory buildings, fittings, and appliances; £1,000 to the Experimental Distillery and its appliances; £1,000 to alterations and new plant on estate distilleries, such as the experimental processes, which the Board of Agriculture might initiate or desire to control, would demand. Of this £3,000 only £447 15*s.* 9*d.* now remains unexpended. Out of the Imperial Grant £7,000 was devoted to annual expenditure, and the portion of this now remaining unexpended is an estimated balance of £5,606 9*s.* It is estimated that this will adequately finance the scheme until April, 1910.

The report of the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations covers the experimental cultivation (which has chiefly been at the Hope Gardens) of tobacco, cassava, sugar cane, cotton, rubber, cocoa, coffee, fodder plants, fruit plants, and ground provisions; also some educational agricultural work; also the work of the Department in connection with the Library and Herbarium at Hope, the maintenance of the Garden at Hope, Castleton, King's House, Kingston, and the Hill Gardens; and the distribution of plants to private growers.

The experiments in the cultivation and curing of Sumatra and Havana tobacco were continued during the year for the sake of fuller experience in cultural requirements and in the cost of cultivation. From the report of the experts, to whom samples of the tobacco were submitted, it appears certain that tobacco of the very best quality for use as a pipe tobacco,

particularly when blended with other sorts, can be grown; and also wrapper tobacco "equal to most in the world."

The Gardens have continued experiments in cultivation of local and imported varieties of cassava, and the Government Laboratory has tested the results. The different varieties prove to be very variable under different conditions of soil and locality, not only in the yield of tubers but in their starch content and period of profitable growth. The experiments need to be continued, and this is being done. Already, however, cassava has been grown without irrigation on a soil and with a rainfall which without irrigation would certainly not give good crops of sugar cane; and it has produced a yield of starch greater than has ever been recorded before of any starch-yielding plant. There is thus the prospect of large areas of land at present yielding little or nothing becoming useful for the cultivation of cassava for starch manufacture. In Clarendon, 400 acres are now reported as under cultivation, and two starch factories have been established.

The experiments with cotton cultivation have chiefly aimed at determining the question of suitable rotation, and attention was also given to the insect pests to which the weather conditions of the year have been eminently favourable.

In sympathy with developments elsewhere, several plantations of rubber have been started in different parts of the island, some of them on a rather experimental scale. Castilloa plants to the number of 4,359 and 5,642 Para rubber plants were distributed to planters during the year.

The effects of the hurricane have proved the practical value of recent experiments in the budding of cocoa trees which bear inferior fruit or have had their main trunks damaged. Experiment has also been made in removing the tap roots of cocoa trees, when they fail on reaching a layer of uncongenial soil.

Experience in the growing of alfalfa, which is not only very valuable as a fodder plant but materially improves the subsoil by the penetration of its roots, seems to indicate that the artificial inoculation of soil with bacteria, which is required elsewhere, may be dispensed with in Jamaica.

Experiments in growing gram were to a great extent frustrated by caterpillars, which damaged the plants, and the birds and rats which plundered the grain, but they will be resumed next year.

The date palms have borne good fruit, pollenisation having been effected artificially by tying bunches of pollen-bearing flowers over the bunches of the female flowers as soon as the spathes opened, and several young date palm suckers have been distributed in suitable localities. The collection of varieties of pineapples has been enlarged by fresh importations, and experiments in cross pollenation have been continued with the object of combining good carrying qualities with all that is esteemed in flavour and appearance—a combination of virtues which no one variety at present adequately possesses.

The collections of varieties of bananas and mangoes have also been considerably augmented, but the attempt to procure several new plants from Singapore by the steamship "Indus" was unfortunately not a successful one. Native and imported varieties of sweet potatoes, cocoes (or eddoes), tanias, and yam continue to be grown for experimental purposes. The Bulletin of the Botanical Department has been published monthly (the periodical distribution within the island being reported as 1,696 copies), and has contained a number of papers dealing with agricultural matters of local or general importance.

During the year 69,400 economic plants and 14,133 ornamental plants were sold from the Hope Gardens, while 171,810 plants of economic or medicinal value or useful as timber or shade trees have been distributed free.

The agricultural work conducted at the Government Laboratory covers a considerable field. A great many samples of soils, foodstuffs, cassava tubers (for starch), milks and fertilisers were analysed, and some injurious insects studied.

Amongst the interesting results reported, corn grown in the island has been found much richer in albumenoids than the corn imported from the United States of America, of which we import £30,000 worth without reckoning the £22,000 spent on imported meal. The high food value of guinea corn has been demonstrated by analysis, and much more of it should be grown. Meals from the sweet potato and coco (or eddoe) were also proved to be useful food products.

The results of experiments with cassava show an increase in the yield of starch from 3½ tons to 5½ tons to 7½ tons at 12 months, 15 months, and 21 months' growth, respectively.

Another interesting investigation was as to the expediency of utilising for fibre the stems of the banana trees which ordinarily are left to rot in the fields. The manurial value of 200 stems from an acre was found to be £2 (potash being the principal constituent). This is lost to the land if the stems are sold. If an abundant yield of good commercial fibre can be got, the pecuniary return would justify the corresponding loss of humus and manure, but not otherwise.

The chief interest of the year at the Sugar Experiment Station has been in the rum manufacture, and particularly centres round the question of the possibility and the expediency of standardising rum according to ether contents, and of increasing ether contents as a means of raising the market value of the spirit.

There have also been field experiments carried out under the direction of the Experiment Station to test the effect of manures in conjunction with soil analysis, and the value of specially selected seedling canes. Cotton, coffee, and tobacco have been similarly experimented with, and about 100,000 tops and cuttings of selected seedling canes were distributed.

The instruction imparted to teachers with the object of stimulating and improving agricultural teaching in the elementary schools may best find place in the educational section of this report, but the special opportunities afforded for technical instruction from which commercial advantage may be directly looked for, and the efforts made to reach the labouring population now engaged in productive labour may be noted here.

The apprentices at Hope Gardens who receive practical teaching with demonstrations in agricultural and horticultural work have continued to find good positions in private establishments in Jamaica and elsewhere after leaving the Gardens. The laboratory students also once a week, for 2½ hours, have lectures and demonstrations in agricultural work dealing particularly with the economic products of the island. The special course for distillers, held in August and lasting three weeks, was a very successful course, and besides the ten gentlemen who took the full course, seven others subsequently attended for special instructions in distillery methods. Rum manufacture is certainly the subject now of more scientific interest and investigation than it has been in the past. Only one of the three £36 scholarships, offered by the Board of Agriculture and tenable at the laboratory, was awarded, owing to lack of candidates of sufficient standard of attainments.

The work of the agricultural instructors increases in amount and continues to be popular and to promise success. Two of these officers are under the control of the Board of Agriculture, and three others giving different proportions of their time to the work are controlled by the Agricultural Society. Each works within an appointed district, and they visit, lecture, and demonstrate either in connection with the local branches of the Agricultural Society or (where none of these exist) independently. They give instruction either on the general principles and practices of agriculture, or deal with special difficulties or defects of cultivation in any particular locality, or suggest new objects for cultivation. They help to organise and judge at Agricultural Shows, visit and report upon school gardens, and advise the teachers about such work. They also instruct and judge the holdings which compete for the prizes offered under the Prize Holdings Scheme.

The Prize Holdings Scheme has continued to prove a very successful means of testing the practical result of the instructors' efforts. In recent years three parishes have been dealt with each year; this year the Parishes of Clarendon, St. Catherine, and Portland have been included. It is arranged that for several months before its turn comes round an agricultural instructor works the parish so as to prepare the ground, and take advantage of the stimulus which the prospect of a sort of examination may impart to his teaching. There are three classes of holdings according to acreage, and there were altogether 239 entries in the three parishes.

The Agricultural Society has continued to carry out the objects with which it was established, 11 years ago, with very commendable zeal. These objects were to obtain useful information and to disseminate it, to encourage improved cultivation of products and improved breed of stock, and to watch over the agricultural industry generally. The Board of Management of 15 members, with the Governor as President, and two Vice-Presidents and the Director of Public Gardens as Deputy Chairman, is representative as far as possible of the different branches of our agricultural industries and also of the different parishes in the island. The central society now has 498 members, and the membership of the 50 branch societies, scattered all over this island, is reported as 2,580. The society's journal, issued monthly with a publication of 3,365 copies, is sent to all the members of the central society and the branch societies alike; and it not only stimulates and guides agricultural improvement by disseminating useful information in a popular form, but serves a very valuable educational purpose in providing literature to many to whom reading as a source of information is not familiar. The half-yearly reports of the Society's work show that its interests have covered a very wide field. The Government grant to this society in 1905-6 was £1,250.

MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

Jamaica is divided into fifteen parishes, of which each is under the control of a Parochial Board for local purposes, such as the maintenance of local roads, poor relief, the management of markets and sanitary matters. All these bodies are elective with the exception of the Port Royal Parochial Board. The Kingston Board is known by the name of the Mayor and Council of Kingston, but it stands on the same footing as the other Parochial Boards. At the same time certain functions, namely, the management of water-works, sewerage, markets, and certain street improvements, are in the hands of the Kingston Commissioners, a body not elected, but appointed by the Governor. The operations of this body are explained at the end of this section. The Parochial Boards have power to levy a general rate and also a special road rate for purely local purposes, such as water works. Special local rates may also, with the consent of the Government, be imposed. The highest parochial rates are those of Kingston, where the general rate stood at 3*s.* 1*d.* in the £1 (rental value) in 1905-6, but has been reduced to 2*s.* 10½*d.* for the year 1906-7. In every other parish taxation in on the capital value. The lowest rates are those for St. Elizabeth, the general rate of which was 7*d.* in the £10 capital value, with a road rate at one penny. The adjoining Parish of Manchester had a general rate of 8½*d.*, and found it unnecessary to levy a road rate, relying on the tax on wheel and on horsekind, by which all the road funds of the

parish are fed, to provide the means of maintaining their parochial roads. The general rates of the other parishes varied from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 10*d.* in Clarendon, and in all the other parishes the road rate stands at a penny.

The process of repayment of debt has proceeded satisfactorily. At the present time the following parishes are entirely free from debt, viz.: Kingston, Port Royal, St. Andrew, St. Mary, St. Ann and Manchester, and the total amount owing by the Boards to the Government of Jamaica stood on the 31st March last at £45,642.

With the consent of the Government, special districts may be formed within a parish, and a special district rate levied for purely local purposes, such as waterworks. This power has been exercised in a few cases.

There are two Irrigation Boards of sufficient importance to deserve notice; the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canal and the Vere Commission. The former is now under the management of the Colonial Secretary and the Director of Public Works, and the large extension of the cultivation of bananas in the district which it irrigates is due to its existence. The Vere Commissioners are partly elected by the consumers of water and partly appointed by the Government. Their works have scarcely emerged from the difficulties incidental to construction, but they have already enabled the proprietors of the lands in South Clarendon to extend their cultivation both of sugar and of bananas.

There are also various charitable endowments administered by boards of trustees. An account of these, which are mainly of an educational nature, is to be found in the Jamaica hand book.

The Kingston General Commissioners.—The Kingston General Commissioners manage the water supply of Kingston and its suburbs, the gas works, the markets and slaughter houses, the Kingston Street Improvement Scheme, and the Sewerage System, which is at present incomplete.

With regard to the water works, they supply the city and Liguanea Plains from two sources, the Hope and the Wag Water Rivers. The revenue for the year 1905-6 was £17,841, as against £17,472 the previous year, and the expenditure £6,101 as against £6,247. There was thus a small increase in receipts and a small reduction in expenses. The original loan capital of the water works, £167,000, has been reduced by debentures redeemed to £144,067, and there were at the end of 1905-6 sinking funds accumulated for future redemption to the amount of £10,481. The Engineer reports that the works were maintained in efficient state, and a full supply of water provided, the average being five and a half million gallons daily. The Island Chemist's bacteriological and chemical reports show the water to have been of excellent quality.

With regard to the Kingston Gas Works: the receipts for the year are given as £7,148 as against 6,643 in the preceding year, the expenditure as £5,100 against £4,990. The loan capital—£30,000— has been reduced by redemption of debentures to £24,986. Street lighting was extended in some of the suburbs of Kingston, and the lighting in the city somewhat improved. The consumption of gas by private consumers and for the working of gas engines shows some increase.

With regard to the two large markets, the "Victoria" and the "Jubilee" markets, the receipts reported are £3,525 as against £3,373 in 1904-5 and the expenditure as £2,187 against £2,105 in 1904-5; the extra expenditure being attributed to additional sanitary precautions carried out.

At the slaughter house 5,344 cattle were slaughtered besides smaller animals, but a good deal of the butcher's meat consumed in Kingston and its outskirts is slaughtered in the adjoining parishes of St. Catherine and St. Andrew. The receipts at the slaughter house were £1,232 as against £1,180 the preceding year, and the expenditure £562 as against £550.

With regard to the Kingston Improvement Works, the large intersecting sewer and the works of the pumping station and on the street sewers having been completed in past years (with a total mileage of 46 miles, including the house connections laid down to the boundaries of private property), the work of connecting private premises with the sewers has been proceeded with; and 2,030 houses are now attached as against 1,896 last year. The quantity of sewage pumped daily averages 125,000 gallons. No additional work of street re-construction or in connection with street sewers was taken in hand during the year 1905-6, and the total length of streets re-constructed remains about 12 miles.

The interest and redemption charges required for such of the works constructed or managed by the Commissioners as are not remunerative are provided partly out of the profits of the remunerative works, partly by a small allotment (£600 a year), from the tax on wheels and horses collected in Kingston by the Mayor and Council, and partly by a special rate known as the Improvement Rate. This rate, which in 1903-4 was 9*d.* in the £1 annual value, has since that date remained at 7½*d.*

MILITARY AND NAVAL.

The naval buildings at Port Royal remained throughout the year in charge of the Director of Public Works.

The three companies of European Infantry were withdrawn from Jamaica, but detachments of the Royal Engineers and Garrison Artillery remained on the station, together with details (Europeans).

On the other hand a whole battalion of the West India Regiment was located in Jamaica in lieu of the strength previously stationed in the colony, viz.: Headquarters and four companies.

The Militia Infantry in this their last year, prior to disbandment, distinguished themselves by excellent shooting.

CONSTABULARY AND CRIME.

The strength of the constabulary force at the close of the year 1905-6 was as follows:—

Officers	18
Sub-officers	135
Constables	635
District Constables	777

These figures include the Water Police Force of 33 men, who look after the waterside protection of wharf premises, &c.; it includes also detectives and mounted orderlies. There were one sub-officer less, three constables more and 31 district constables less than at the close of the preceding year. The district constables were nearly 100 below their allowed strength.

There was a good deal of sickness amongst the men of the Kingston Division, attributable partly to the unsatisfactory barrack accommodation at Sutton Street, which is being remedied; and many of the trained men have been attracted to the Isthmus of Panama by the high pay which they command there. This has not affected the number of applicants for admission, but it may affect the standard of the recruits.

The Inspector General's Report contains an interesting comparison between the proportion of police to population in Jamaica, and the proportion in other Colonies with which comparison is reasonable. It is excellent testimony to the law-abiding character of our population. Major Kershaw notes, that while in Jamaica there are 9·83 policemen to every 10,000 inhabitants; in Barbados the number is 15·83; in Mauritius 20·22; in British Guiana 22·10; in Trinidad 23·98; in Cyprus 29·53. It has been arranged to provide one hundred additional men in the ensuing year. These will be very valuable as a reserve which will ensure better training for recruits, help to keep the divisions up to their full strength, and allow some divisions to be strengthened, which have often been too weak in the past to cope successfully with their work.

The Inspector-General speaks generally with commendation of the way in which the duties of the police force have been performed in the year under report. These duties are very multifarious; they include preservation of the peace, and detection of crime, the apprehension of summoning of people who violate criminal or conservancy laws, the execution of warrants, summonses, and subpœnas, and other processes which courts of justices of the peace may issue, assistance to health

and sanitary officers in the execution of their duty, apprehensions of smugglers and others who violate Revenue Laws, the escort of prisoners and patrol duty, seizure of contraband goods and taxable property for non-payment of taxes, and the keeping of order in towns, and villages and places of public resort.

The district constables are paid at the rate of 2*s*. a day, when engaged in their work. The system works moderately well, but tends to place the men under a suspicion of making work.

The total number of cases prosecuted both by private parties and by the police was 27,583, as against 30,267 the previous year, and 28,991 in 1903-4; of these cases 10,202 were prosecuted by the police. The percentage of convictions on the whole number of prosecutions was 60·26; on the police cases, 78·14.

As was to be expected, Kingston shows by far the largest incidence of crime, viz., 883·43 per 10,000 of its estimated population; the Parish of St. Thomas shows the lowest (239·61); but six other parishes show less than 400. A very large proportion of the cases brought into court in Jamaica on summonses issued by private parties are grotesquely trivial, and many of them more of a civil than a criminal character. The incidence of crime therefore is by no means as serious as the figures might appear to indicate. Nearly the whole of the reduction (which amounts to 2,684 cases in the year 1905-6 as compared with the previous year) is under the head of "Offences against property committed without violence."

"Offences against the Person" in Circuit and Resident Magistrate's Courts show 601 convictions as against 552 (1904-5), and 449 (1903-4). Offences of this class prosecuted in petty sessions show a few more convictions than in the preceding year, but considerably fewer convictions than in 1903-4. There were three convictions for murder during the year, as compared with two and four in the two previous years respectively.

"Cutting and Wounding" is the only class of serious crime which calls for any comment, the convictions being 68 and 115 more than in 1904-5 and 1903-4 respectively. But it hardly calls for graver comment than the Inspector-General's remark —"that although the cases are not very frequently of a serious character, the majority being attributed to petty jealousies and to small fights, still the offence is unpleasantly frequent throughout the Colony, and requires vigorous punishment when there is the slightest tendency to anything of a serious nature."

Amongst "Offences against Property committed with Violence," the cases of "Breaking into Dwelling Houses and Stealing" and of "Breaking into Shops and Warehouses and Stealing" both show decrease as compared with the year 1904-5, but they are still higher than in 1903-4. Under

"Burglary," however, there were 9 convictions as compared with 4 in 1905 and 2 in 1904. In Kingston and St. Andrew it is hoped that what the Inspector General describes as an "epidemic of burglary" has been brought to an end by the conviction of the principal offender and his accomplice who received the stolen goods. In Port Antonio shopbreaking was exceedingly prevalent for a time, and entailed much extra patrol work on the police. As a very large proportion of dwelling houses, either from carelessness or for the sake of ventilation, offer exceptional facilities to prowlers by their unfastened doors or open windows, it is not very surprising that thieves are often tempted to enter in. However, there is less carelessness than hitherto, for the number of houses in Kingston found by the police open or inadequately secured at nights is only about one-half what it was two years ago.

Convictions in the cases of "Offences against Property committed without Violence" were 3,479 as compared with 5,015 in 1904-5, and 3,047 in 1903-4, the decrease in the more serious cases tried in the Circuit or Resident Magistrate's Courts being 1,294; in the minor offences tried in Petty Sessions 242 as compared with last year. The convictions in cases of Larceny of Ground Provisions were 59 less and 7 more than in 1905 and 1904 respectively; of Simple Larceny 353 less and 214 more, and of Praedial Larceny 1,071 less and 242 more.

Praedial Larceny, as was forecasted, has diminished with favourable seasons and good crops, for the bounties of nature while they increase opportunities diminish temptation, and make the man who is ready to live on his neighbour's crop at any time of need, temporarily independent; in times of abundance also people are less careful to prosecute in petty cases. Nor is it unlikely that emigration has relieved us of some of our professional pilferers. It is hoped that the abolition of the itinerant produce-dealing agent with the 2*s*. licence will further reduce the temptation and opportunity to turn pilfered goods into ready cash.

The fact, to which the Inspector General calls attention, that the average value assigned to the stolen property in 2,493 cases of Praedial Larceny only amounts to 1·03 shillings, shows that most of this work is of the nature of pilfering. Its seriousness lies in the proportion of undetected crime, which must from the circumstances be very large; in its discouraging effect on honest industry amongst a people prone to fatalism and therefore rather easily discouraged; in the cruelty of it, when the weak and indigent are its victims and lose in a single raid or more frequently, little by little, the food supply which represents almost their whole provision for future sustenance. Nor is it a little demoralising to any community, even if individual offences are trivial in themselves, when practices become prevalent which demonstrate to large classes only too ready to

learn the lesson that the sweat of the brow is unnecessary for securing a livelihood.

It is such considerations that justify the heavy sentences passed upon praedial thieves, and demand that punishment shall take its most deterrent form. It has to be remembered that in four-fifths or perhaps a larger proportion of cases, the praedial thief plunders the crop of members of the community of his own position or poorer than himself, and not the cultivation of a large proprietor.

Short terms of imprisonment with flogging on a second or subsequent conviction are the punishment least costly to the community, and according to local opinion most efficacious in deterrent effect. Excluding the cases in which juvenile offenders were switched in lieu of being sent to goal, only 54 persons were flogged on reconviction for Praedial Larceny in the year under review, the total cases of flogging being 186 as compared with 319 the year before.

In all the sub-classes of "Malicious Offences against Property"—arson, felonious wounding of stock, forcible entry and wilful damage—the year's returns show reduction. Three of these classes of crime are the means that readily suggest themselves to people bent upon revenge; arson also is particularly tempting to such as desire to get money dishonestly out of fire insurance.

An increase of 162 over the previous records in convictions for cruelty to animals is satisfactory evidence of increased attention to this offence on the part of the police, and also of an advance in public sentiment on the subject. In some measure at least, we may credit this to the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and to the attention which the matter receives from some of our tourist visitors. There has been ample room for such improvement, though the cruelties perpetrated are mostly the result of indifference, and a lack of sympathy which is in itself, perhaps, due to defective power of imagination, amongst our lower classes; there is little taint of deliberate cruelty in the racial character.

The number of habitual criminals under police surveillance during the year was 1,978, practically the same number as in the two preceding years; and 750 of them were reconvicted during the year. It is now recognised as wise policy to remove these jail birds from the free enjoyment of the opportunities they abuse, and the transfer of their cases to the Circuit Courts for trial, regardless of the gravity of the specific offence, will secure longer security for the public against their depredations, and relieve the police of some of the recurrent trouble of recapturing them.

PRISONS.

The number of persons in custody at the end of the year was 1,317, as compared with 1,432 at the same date in the preceding year, but about 100 in excess of the average number of the five years previous. The total number of committals was 5,751, as compared with 7,604 in 1904-5; the latter was an unusally large number, and attributable no doubt to the economic effects of the hurricane of 1903. "The reconvictions amounted to 1,528, of which 638 were second convictions, 312 third, and 578 fourth or more."

Both in the St. Catherine District Prison and in the General Penitentiary, Kingston, school has been regularly held and religious services have been regularly conducted by the representatives of various denominations. The death-rate in the General Penitentiary was higher than usual (45·04 per 1,000 of inmates, as against 34·99 the average for the previous five years); but the sanitary conditions of the prisons have been reported as quite satisfactory, and the buildings in good order.

The cost of the two prisons was as follows:—

General Penitentiary (average number of prisoners daily, 733), including labour charges, fuel for kilns, soap, implements, blasting materials	£13,868
St. Catherine's District Prison (average number of prisoners daily, 554)	6,395
	£20,263

against this, we set:—

General Penitentiary, gross earnings in cash	£3,834
Cost of materials used for prison	113
St. Catherine's District Prison, gross earnings in cash	1,156
	£5,103

thus the nett cost of the prisons was £15,160, or £11 15*s.* 7*d.* per prisoner per annum. In the preceding year this was £9 19*s* 4½*d.* As much as possible is done to keep down the expense, by utilizing the labour of the inmates of the prisons. The St. Catherine's District Prison supplied farm produce, valued at £740, for the consumption of its inmates, and produce was sold to the value of £570. Clothing was made, mended, and washed for prisoners at the General Penitentiary to the estimated value of nearly £1,100. There would be further reduction in the reported cost of the prisons if the value of work done for other public institutions that gives no return in money were credited. Washing for the Public Hospital done at the General Penitentiary was estimated at

£468, and stones supplied to the Public Works Department from St. Catherine's District Prison at a value of £546. The total value of labour at the prisons giving no return in money is estimated at £7,301.

The discipline of regulated agricultural labour on the farm at the St. Catherine's District Prison is directed to the reformation of offenders who are not hardened criminals, but it is open to criticism as deterrent from crime.

At the General Penitentiary brick-making has been the leading industry. In fact, this brick-factory may be reckoned amongst our larger manufacturing concerns. The output of bricks for the year (clinkers, hardburnt, red, and yellow) amounted to 1,568,975; and the island was able to export bricks. The produce of the prisoners' labour included 10,709 barrels of lime, 1,958 tons of road metal, and 2,439 tons of marl. There was also some manufacture of coir, and beds and mats from cocoanut fibre.

PUBLIC WORKS AND RAILWAY.

The work of this Department during the year 1905-6 was as far as possible restricted to maintenance, and protection against damage. Very little new work was carried out, except the completion of the lunatic asylum (in the matter of buildings), and some deviations (in the matter of roads). Considerable progress was also made with the Falmouth Harbour Improvement Scheme, though much less progress than was expected.

2. The total expenditure by the Department during the period was £100,563 5*s.* 11*d.*, summarised under the following heads in the Director's Annual Report:—

"Establishment:—					
"Salaries and other charges			£13,841	18	5
"Works under Public Works Votes:—					
"1. Main roads and bridges, maintenance ...			57,975	1	8
"2. Main roads and bridges, new works ...			4,625	2	3
"3. Public buildings and telegraph, maintenance			6,761	3	6
"4. Public buildings, new works, including works under Laws 6 of 1893, 40 of 1894, and 27 of 1897 ...	£4,019	14 8			
Falmouth Harbour Works	2,799	9 10			
			6,819	4	6
"5. Lighthouses, maintenance			1,585	17	11
"6. Rio Cobre Irrigation, maintenance ...			1,675	15	9
"7. Spanish Town Waterworks			458	4	3
"8. Special relief works			156	17	7
			£80,057	7	5

"Work done for other Departments £6,442 7 7

"This included:—

"Post Office, including mails conveyance	£2,593	8	4
"Education	416	17	7
"Jamaica Government Railway	1,892	13	

"This expenditure was £14,365 14*s.* 7*d.* less than that of the preceding year. The principal causes of this were the small expenditure by the contractor upon the Falmouth Harbour Works, and the almost entire absence of expenditure upon Special Relief Works Account.

"The cost of the Department was equal to 13·8 per cent. of its total expenditure.

"The total length of main roads at the close of the year was 1,943 miles 75 chains, or practically the same as that at the close of the previous year.

"The average cost of ordinary maintenance per mile of road was £26 2*s.* 2*d.*, or £1 10*s.* 3*d.* less than in the previous year. For the several parishes the highest average cost was £44 5*s.* 5*d.* per mile in St. Mary, and the lowest average £15 18*s.* 9*d.* in St. Elizabeth. The average annual expenditure for ordinary maintenance in the previous eight years was £24 1*s* 2*d.* Including special repairs to bridges, retaining walls and protective works, the average cost per mile of maintenance of main roads and bridges was for the whole island £29 16*s* 5*d.*"

Two circumstances combined to lower the standard at which our main roads have been hitherto maintained by the Department. Except in St. Thomas, where some damage was done to bridges, and in Portland, there were no flood-rains, such as in many previous years have been recorded, but in several parts of the island moderate rain has continued over longer periods than usual; and at the same time, in many parts there has been considerable increase of heavy traffic. In North Manchester, Trelawny, Clarendon, Hanover, and in the hills of Westmoreland, increased banana transport, in the plains of Westmoreland increased transport of logwood, and in Vere the cartage of new machinery for the sugar estates, have found out the weak places in the surface of the roads. The studied economy of past years has made the crust of many roads thinner, and the metalled area narrower than it should be—the sparing use of metal being the point in road repair where the opportunities and the temptation of economy are greatest. Given damp weather, and heavy traffic under such conditions, and unusual damage is bound to ensue. Scarcity of labour towards the close of the financial year also necessitated the postponement of some work which it had been proposed to carry through.

The departmental expenditure on public buildings and undertakings other than roads and bridges, which is chargeable to general revenue, was, as regards repairs and maintenance, £647 below the estimate (£6,507); as regards new works, £3,288 less than the total amount authorised. The total amount authorised for new works, namely, £8,062, consisted partly of the amount originally voted, £6,991, and partly of a sum of £1,071 subsequently authorised. Almost the whole saving (£3,288) was due to the fact that the expenditure of the contractor for the Falmouth Harbour improvement (£2,799) did not reach the amount provided for the work —£5,901—within the financial year.

The length of telegraph lines remained practically the same as in the previous year, viz., 695 miles.

Expenditure on public buildings and telegraphs for maintenance and for new works, respectively, is classified in the Director of Public Works' Report as follows:—

—	Repairs.			New Works.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
A. Churches	85	14	0	Nil		
B. Courts and Public Offices	1,248	12	2	127	6	1
C. Prisons, Reformatories, and Police Stations.	1,355	1	3	887	4	4
D. Hospitals and Asylums	1,030	2	8	404	18	5
E. Miscellaneous (excluding telegraphs) ...	1,482	4	0	3,354	4	11
F. Rents, Taxes, and Rates...	611	15	9	Nil		
G. Furniture	45	19	8	Nil		
	5,859	9	6	4,773	13	9

Under the Public Buildings Loan Laws, the wards in the new female lunatic asylum were completed at an expenditure of £2,045.

The four lighthouses were maintained in good condition and received the necessary repairs; and at Port Morant the outbuildings destroyed by the hurricane of 1903 were replaced by substantial structures. Out of the sum authorised for their maintenance (£1,642) there was, at the close of the year, a balance of £56 unspent.

The Rio Cobre Irrigation Works, dam and head works, main and branch canals, were all maintained in good order. The new works and their maintenance cost, respectively, £56 and £261 less than their estimates; and a further saving of £338 was effected in the total estimated expenditure (£1,675). The earnings for the year (£8,458) and the revenue collected (£9,154) exceeded the previous year's returns by £525 and £1,238, respectively. The area benefited by the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works is 11,700 acres, of which 8,800 acres are reported to be in bananas, 800 acres parts of sugar estates,

2,100 acres on pens and in guinea grass, 200 acres in provision grounds, and 600 acres in oranges. The canals yielded 13,841 cubic yards of water per hour, an average supply of 1·2 cubic yards per hour per acre. These figures are much the same as those given last year.

The waterworks at Spanish Town and at Linstead are managed by the Public Works Department, the waterworks in other parishes being under parochial administration. At both places they were maintained in effective condition.

The small expenditure under special relief works, £156, was entirely in connection with lands acquired for relief works previously carried out, the titles for which could not be obtained earlier.

The expenditure on behalf of the Post Office Department, £2,593, was almost all incurred for the conveyance of inland mails. It is reported that "the service was, as a rule, conducted with efficiency and regularity."

The expenditure charged to the Lands Department, £726, was incurred mostly in the construction of roads opening out Crown Lands intended for sale or allotment.

A school house was erected at Annotto Bay, and buildings were made suitable for school purposes at Falmouth and at Buff Bay, on behalf of the Education Department.

Various other works carried out, either for public departments, or on roads and bridges and buildings, in the several parishes, are enumerated in detail in the annual report of the Director of Public Works. Amongst these he notes the construction of a large outlet drain in St. Andrew which removes the danger and inconvenience caused by heavy rains on the Half-Way-Tree Road; the erection of a school house at Port Morant, begun but not completed in the financial year; and the opening of a wide canal between the Yallahs Ponds and the sea, the object of this being to secure interchange between the sea and the stagnant water of the ponds, which afflicted Kingston with bad smells for many weeks. At Port Antonio the improvement of a stretch of main road near the town, carried out in co-operation with the Parochial Board, has removed an insanitary and unpleasant feature in its environment. In St. Mary an embankment of considerable size was constructed at Jack's Rock, to control the vagaries of the Wag Water River which threatened serious damage to road and railway. The cost of this work was charged to the railway.

The Falmouth Harbour improvement works were taken out of the contractor's hands in November and carried out departmentally during the remainder of the financial year.

Railway.

The Director of the Railway reports the receipts for 1905-1906 as £134,602, or £3,457 more than the revised estimates for the year, and £19,751 in excess of the receipts in 1904-5.

The chief items in which this considerable increase is exhibited are: passengers, £4,108; wharf dues, £2,101; goods and cattle, £13,385.

The detailed classification under the last heading, while it shows reductions for the transport of logwood (£616); spars and other woods (£644); pimento (£235); ginger (£215); sugar and rum (£137); grass and hay (£95), shows increases which far out-weigh them under the following heads:—Coffee (£555); general merchandise (£3,958); cocoa (£160); oranges (£600); and bananas (£8,895).

At only five stations out of the 36 are diminished receipts reported. At Kingston the increase is £5,048, at three other stations it exceeds £1,000, and at eight others it exceeds £500.

The working expenses of the railway amounted to £78,718, inclusive of charges for new rolling stock and for special services, as compared with £89,914 for 1904-5, and exhibiting a decrease of expenditure of £11,196. In 1904-5 while receipts were exceptionally low, the working expenses were high, owing to an expenditure of over £15,000 for new rolling stock.

The principal reduction in expenditure is classified under the following heads:—Mainway and works (£2,528); rolling stock (£13,843); law costs (£346).

On the other hand, increase over the expenditure of 1904-5 is noted in locomotive power (£728); carriages and waggons (£621); traffic expenses and wharves (£68); general charges (£977); additional work, including a siding for bananas between Kingston and Gregory Park Station, for a shed at the Port Antonio Wharf (£545); and for extension of track (£523); special works and alterations (£2,056), the last-named expenditure being mainly attributable to the works which had to be constructed to resist the encroachment of the Wag Water River on the railway track. This cost £1,923.

The following table of the nett earnings of the railway during the last five years is particularly interesting in the light which it throws on the general recovery of the island from the effects of the hurricane of 1903:—

Nett Earnings—

1905-1906	£55,504
1904-1905	24,306
1903-1904	33,740
1902-1903	63,108
1901-1902	40,330

The permanent way, all buildings and structures, engines, rolling stock, and plant were maintained in fair order.

Since the railway was taken over by the Government in 1900, the locomotive stock has been increased by six new engines,

built in England, and the capacity of the waggon stock has been increased by over 50 per cent.

LEGISLATION.

Of the laws which came into force in the year under review, all but one were passed in the session in spring in 1905. Of these the greater part were directly or indirectly passed to increase or protect the revenue of the Colony. It is proposed to allude to these measures in the order in which they were passed.

Law 13 of 1905 was intended to secure *inter alia* the payment already prescribed by existing law by employers of fees for employing Indian immigrants who have completed their term of indenture but not lived ten years in the Colony. The laxity with which such fees had been collected in the past was one of the causes contributing to the insolvency of the Immigration Fund.

Law 15 extends the power of the Marine Board to recover from owners the cost of removing wrecks.

Law 16 provides that the relief given by the Revenue Commissioner from payment of taxes on account of poverty shall not operate to relieve the premises. Unpaid taxes are to remain a charge on them, which may be realised when the property changes hands or earlier if the Commissioner thinks fit.

Law 18 follows Imperial legislation in making the Law of Escheat applicable to incorporeal hereditament and to equitable estates.

The Immigrants Finance Law (No. 20) enables the Governor, with the advice of the Privy Council, to increase or reduce the payments to be made by employers on the allotment of immigrants. This measure is intended to restore the solvency of the fund, which had recently become a heavy burden on general revenue.

Law 21 of 1905 deprives ordinary witnesses of the right to be paid from public funds for attendance at police courts, coroners' inquests, and fire inquests. A large and growing increase in the cost to the Government on this head had recently developed, and it was thought desirable to check it at its present stage.

Law 23 of 1905 empowers the Commissioners under the Vere Irrigation Law of 1907 to raise £10,000 on debentures on the security of the undertaking without a Government guarantee, and it also enables them to increase the price of water and gives them fuller power to recover rates in arrear. The Irrigation Scheme, though promising for the future, stood in need of further capital in order to put its work in a better condition.

The previous capital had been raised on a Government guarantee, but empowered by this law they have raised all the additional capital which it is believed is necessary without increasing the liability of the Government by £1.

Law 25 of 1905 authorises the exclusion from landing of persons likely to become a charge on public funds.

Law 29 of 1905 is intended to cure certain defects in detail of the Stamp Duty Law, 1903, It relates chiefly to cheques, bills of exchange, and bankers' receipts.

The Spirits Licence Law 31 of 1905 is merely a consolidating law.

Law 33 of 1905 amends the Emigrants Protection Law by enabling the Governor in Privy Council to fix the amount of deposit to be paid by or on behalf of an emigrant in the case of any proclaimed place. The amount had previously been fixed by law at 25*s*., but this amount had been found insufficient to cover the cost of repatriation in the case of certain countries. This law also imposes stringent conditions with the view to prevention of the illicit recruit of labour for service abroad.

Turning now to measures of a more general nature, the Slander of Women Law 8 of 1905, follows Imperial legislation in making proof of special damage unnecessary in the case of slander imputing unchastity to women.

The Dental Practitioners' Law 11 of 1905 provides for the registration of dentists, a profession which has hitherto received no recognition.

Law 24 of 1905 is intended to ensure that Building Societies shall render better accounts and be subject to greater scrutiny.

The Motor Car Law 26 of 1905 has been necessitated by the increase of the tourist traffic. It empowers the Government to pass regulations for their registration and for the licensing of drivers.

The Usury Law 27 of 1905 enables borrowers in certain cases to re-open transactions and obtain relief. It also makes all interest over 8 per cent. per annum irrecoverable after the aggregate interest in arrear is equal to the principal.

The Marriage Law 1897 Amendment Law of 1905 was passed to facilitate marriage by shortening the period for the publication of banns and also introducing a cheap marriage licence which may be issued by a justice of the peace or any person appointed for the purpose. This licence dispenses with the necessity of publication of banns, but not a 15 days' residence.

The Protection of Property Law 30 of 1905 makes it a criminal offence in a person employed under a contract of service in any public undertaking for the supply of water or light or for the conveyance of passengers, freight, or mails to break his contract if he has reason to believe that his action will result in public inconvenience. It also makes it a criminal offence for any person employed under any contract for service

to break it if he has cause to believe that his action will result in danger to life or limb or to valuable property.

The Quarantine Law 32 of 1905 contains a suspensory clause and has not been brought into operation. It introduces the changes recommended by the recent inter-Colonial Conference on Quarantine, including the substitution of surveillance and observation in many cases for detention in the Lazaretto. The Legislative Council took the view that the close proximity of Jamaica to foreign West Indian Islands and Central American Republics rendered the protection which might suffice in the case of other British West Indian Colonies insufficient in the case of Jamaica, and therefore refused the Vote required to provide the means of carrying the new system into effect.

The only law passed in the session of 1906, which came into force in the year under review, was 1 of 1906, which repealed 3 of 1905 by which the import duties were temporarily increased.

EDUCATION.

The secondary education of the island, so far as it is maintained out of Government funds or endowments administered under Legislative enactments, is chiefly controlled by the Jamaica Schools Commission, which body also acts directly in the management of the Jamaica College. The Secondary School at Montego Bay is under the Board of Education.

The Government grants directly in aid of secondary education in 1905-6 were:—To Jamaica College, £1,227; to Montego Bay Secondary School, £200. The Government also offers in connection with secondary education, six scholarships worth £10 a year each, and tenable for one year to the three boys and three girls standing highest in the Cambridge Junior Local Examination; one scholarship of £60 per annum, tenable for three years, to the Jamaica candidate who stands highest in the Cambridge Senior Local Examination next to the winner of the Jamaica Scholarship; and the Jamaica Scholarship of £200 per annum for three years, which is a prize for competition amongst those who obtain honours in the senior examination. The total amount offered for scholarships is thus an annual charge of £840 when all the scholarships are filled. In addition to the scholarships provided out of the revenue of the Colony, the benefaction of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes has also furnished Jamaica with an annual scholarship of £300 a year, tenable for three years at Oxford.

The interest and annuities payable to educational institutions under Law 28 Vic., Cap. 23, considering the rates allowed under the law and since continuing in full force, may be reckoned among Government aids to secondary education. The annual charge on the revenue amounts to £5,466, one trust obtaining interest at the rate of 10 per cent., five at the

rate of 8 per cent., and the remaining six at 6 per cent. on the principal monies, all together amounting to £64,803 appropriated for the public of the island prior to the year 1865.

Thanks to the pious liberality of former benefactors, secondary education is a smaller charge on the public funds of the Colony and on the private resources of parents than it might be. Leaving out of account the 169 foundationers at secondary schools who obtain their education free and the 38 scholars who pay half the ordinary fee, a comparison of the amount paid in fees and the annual income of the schools from endowments shows that the ordinary pupil gets his education at a good deal below its cost price.

The incomes derived from endowments at the several secondary schools with which this report deals are detailed as follows:—

Jamaica College	£996	0	0
Guthrie Davidson Bequest, Montego Bay	60	0	0
Wolmer's Schools, Kingston	1,044	0	0
Titchfield Trust, Portland	869	15	6
Rusea's Trust, Hanover	270	0	0
Manning's Trust, Westmoreland	471	3	3
Munro and Dickenson's Trust, St. Elizabeth and Manchester	1,597	15	11
Manchester Free Schools	195	10	8
Beckford and Smith's Trust	305	8	7
Total	£5,809	13	11

The reports on these institutions for the year 1905-6 supply the following figures:—

Schools.	Pupils.	Foundationers.	Fees. £	s.	d.
Jamaica College	60	23	1,147	17	10
Wolmer's Boys	102	29	1,124	11	3
„ Girls	119	25			
Titchfield Higher Grade	35	10	130	0	0
Rusea's	46	16	153	18	4
Manning's	65	29	188	0	0
Munro and Dickenson's Trust—					
Potsdam Boys	68	12	1,607	1	8
Hampton Girls	61	7	1,669	10	0
Manchester Free School	25	8	128	8	0
Beckford and Smith's	22	10	59	14	0
Montego Bay Secondary School ...	45	—	280	0	0
Total	—	—	6,489	1	1

At the Jamaica College 42 of the boys are boarders, and all the pupils are boarders at Potsdam and Hampton; besides foundationers, Potsdam receives 20 boys, Hampton 8 girls, and Manning's 10 pupils who pay half the ordinary fee. Of the total number, 648 scholars, attending these secondary schools here dealt with, about 225 are girls.

The education aimed at in these schools is generally that of a modernized English Grammar School; at Port Antonio with a commercial inclination; at Montego Bay science teaching is specially developed, and with promising success. Effort is being made to develop science teaching in all these schools; but for various reasons, the process of change being expensive, is difficult and slow. The standard by which the schools measure their work is generally that of the Cambridge Local Examinations, which have been held annually in the island for twenty-four years. In December, 1905, at six centres in the island, 222 candidates sat, of whom 168 (or 75·6 per cent.) passed, and 47 (or 21 per cent.) with honours. The schools dealt with in this report supplied 176 of the candidates, 144 of those who passed, and 44 of those who took honours. In addition to those examinations, seven candidates sat for the Higher Local Examination, and nine for various examinations of the University of London. The results generally of these examinations compare favourably with the general average of success elsewhere, and it may be considered that our schools are successful in attaining the standard that is set before them. With scarcely an exception, the principals are graduates with English University Degrees, and at most of the schools, English graduates are among the assistants. In addition to the Cambridge Local Examinations for selected pupils, each of the schools is subject to an annual examination held by an examiner appointed by the Local Board with the approval of the Schools' Commission or the Board of Education.

The report of the Superintending Inspector of Schools shows 14 fewer schools on the list of the elementary schools aided by Government, viz., 692 against 706 last year; and there were 81,857 children on the registers, as against 83,974 in 1904-5. The average attendance, however, had increased by 1,319, and there are clear indications in more recent returns of a general revival in school attendance. The recent decline in attendance was accompanied by some deterioration in efficiency, the first and second class schools being 15 less than the year before, and the third class increased.

The grants to schools, which fluctuate with attendance and marks, diminished to the amount of £6,045. Although this reduction is, most of it, apparent rather than real, three-fourths of it being nominal and due to a change of method in pay, still the reduction told seriously on the staffing of many schools.

The total amount expended through the Education Department in 1905-6 was £58,858. The following classification, which is extracted from the departmental report, compares the expenditure during the last three years:—

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
	£	£	£
Grants to Elementary Schools and Teachers.	46,129	50,264	44,037
Building Grants	1,027	2,659	2,994
Administration and Inspection	4,976	4,992	5,050
Government Training College	1,204	1,204	1,204
Aid to Voluntary Training Colleges ...	2,544	2,518	2,551
Board of Education	249	142	170
Jamaica College	1,250	1,250	1,227
Scholarships (including Secondary Education Scholarships).	1,262	1,225	1,368
Secondary School, Montego Bay ...	198	200	200
Printing	48	51	57
	58,887	64,505	58,858

Of the six Government schools that have been established in Government buildings, only three had got into working order at the close of the year. The advocates of Government schools claim for the system economy, at least of educational effort, as they represent amalgamation; but except in their management, which rests with a Local Board instead of with a single manager, and in the receipt of an additional grant by way of rent of one shilling per scholar, where the building is denominational property, they differ little from the ordinary denominational school. No addition has been made during the year to the Government schools (55 in number) in denominational buildings.

The usual examinations were held of teachers, training college students, and pupil teachers. 43 teachers sat for the examination for permanent registration or certificate, and 19 passed; 126 training college students were presented, including 51 female students, and 114 passed; 300 pupil teachers sat, and 217 passed; besides the latter, 1,140 outside volunteer candidates took the pupil teachers' examination, paying a five shilling fee, and of these 503 passed. Like the Cambridge Locals for the secondary schools, this examination serves a useful purpose as a common standard for guiding and measuring the work in the elementary schools.

All the training college students referred to above came from voluntary training colleges (which received grants amounting to £2,551), except 34 female students from Shortwood Female Training College, which is still a quasi-Government institution, managed by an undenominational Board. Its Government grant was £1,204. Of its 34 students, 32

passed, 8 in honours. The ordinary course of training now covers two years, but the admission of a considerable number of girls (without payment of the £5 entrance fee) as preliminary students, secures an extra year's discipline accompanied with some educational opportunities for these, as well as most useful training in domestic work; they do the bulk of the domestic work of the college.

The Manual Training School in Kingston, which is managed by a Committee of the Board of Education, has continued to work efficiently. Besides the manual training afforded to the scholars, the principal and the kindergarten mistress hold classes for teachers and the principal also takes work at the training colleges. It thus serves as the centre from which manual training and kindergarten work are distributed throughout the island. It entered 18 candidates at the examination in manual work held by the City and Guilds of London, and 12 of these were successful in gaining certificates. There are now five centres in various parts of the island where the teaching of advanced manual training is systematically attempted with more or less success, and small special grants amounting to £39 were made to the teachers in charge of them.

The grants to elementary schools for practical agricultural and horticultural work in school gardens amounted to £226, an increase of 30 per cent. on the previous year's grant. The Board of Agriculture has aided in the encouragement of school gardens, and there were 19 gardens established under its auspices. It will probably be well in the future to confine the control of agricultural work in the elementary schools to the Education Department, although the co-operation of officers of the Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Society in guiding the work cannot at present be dispensed with. Considerable change has been made by the Education Department in its regulations for the practical work, part of it now counting as school time, and the special grant which previously could only be earned by work out of school hours has been proportionately reduced. An initial grant for the purchase of tools is now also allowed when the work begins. These changes appear to be popular, and we are likely to have considerable increase in the number of school gardens in the near future.

The school garden work is for practical convenience of nomenclature styled "Agricultural." The term, however, should not be misunderstood. Its main object is, in fact, essentially identical with that of the work known as "Manual Training." It aims at the training of the hand and eye and the development of the general powers of observation under circumstances and in a medium which corresponds to the conditions under which the great majority of the children will earn their livelihood. Incidentally, no doubt, the work

tends to increase the esteem in which, from both an intellectual and an economic point of view, agriculture is held.

The Special Courses of Agriculture teaching at the Mico Training College, which have been held annually for the last six years, have been exceedingly helpful in improving the agricultural teaching of the schools. They have been attended by teachers engaged in actual work in Elementary Schools who had no such opportunities during their training. This year's course, which lasted the usual month, was as successful as its predecessors. Sixty-five teachers of whom six were women attended it. We may reckon that at least half the teachers now at work in the schools have had some special training of this kind.

Further effect has been given to the desire to advance the teaching of elementary principles of agriculture as a part of the science work which elementary schools may properly attempt, by changes in the code, which have increased the number of marks for elementary science (including agriculture) in country schools, and reduced to a corresponding extent the number of marks given for drawing and manual work. In town schools the proportion of marks has been altered *vice versa.*

Some other important changes in the elementary school code deserve note. The hour of morning roll call has been fixed at 9.30, although for a short time ten o'clock has been allowed as the time for closing the roll, in order that the change may be less sudden. This change has been most necessary, in order to secure earlier and more punctual attendance of the children. The usual hour was formerly ten o'clock, sometimes 10.30, occasionally 11.0.

A change has also been made in the period from which the grants based on marks and average attendance are to be calculated. Instead of being paid as hitherto, on the results of the preceding inspection, the attendance is to be made up for the twelve months ending 31st October, and this is to be the average for the ensuing financial year. The marks which have to determine the grant will be those at the inspection next before January 1st in the preceding financial year. The result of this change will be, that the department will be able to forecast its expenditure more exactly than hitherto, and there will be no unexpended balances out of the money voted for the year, in case of attendance or efficiency falling below expectation; and teachers and managers will know exactly what to expect. But the change makes payment by results somewhat retrospective, and cancels at least some of the advantages claimed for such a system.

Considerable discussion has taken place over a proposal to introduce amongst the schedules of the code a day school catechism, which the representatives of the various protestant denominations had combined to prepare, as a suitable basis of

religious instruction and a needed stimulant for the teaching of morals. After a very careful and exhaustive discussion, the Board of Education recommended its adoption, and various safeguards were recommended in the interests of such as might have conscientious objections to its use. In view of the animated opposition which the proposal has met from a small minority of those who object to catechisms of all sorts, and those who objected on various grounds to the catechism proposed and the safeguards recommended, no decision in the matter has so far been made.

Steps have been taken by the adoption of a suitable manual and by the encouragement of the training colleges, and by attaching some importance to the matter in judging of the discipline and organization of schools, to make exercises in physical drill a commoner feature in the work of the elementary schools. Such exercises while of comparatively little importance for physical development in Jamaica where nearly all the children have abundant opportunities for exercise in the open air, will no doubt be of educational benefit and improve school discipline.

The Industrial Schools reported on by the Superintending Inspector of Schools are: The Hope Industrial School (50 boys), Alpha Boys' School (38 boys), Alpha Girls (40 girls), Belmont Orphanage (17 girls), Shortwood Industrial School (45 girls and 5 small boys), and a small school at Happy Grove, where 8 orphan or destitute East Indian girls were kept. At all these institutions, with varying degrees of organization and success, various industrious pursuits are carried on, chiefly of a domestic character, and such as reduce the cost of the establishment. The Hope boys have good agricultural opportunities, working under supervision at the Hope Gardens. At the Alpha Boys' School, the output of the bakery was valued at £546. At the Alpha Girls' School, sewing done for the establishment was valued at £71. At Shortwood, the total value of work done was estimated at £337; and the report of the work at the Belmont Orphanage is particularly creditable. At some places articles are made for sale, and sold; and effort is made to apprentice the boys to tradesmen, or to find other service for the children when they leave.

At Stony Hill the Institution is at once an Industrial School and a Reformatory. It is a matter of regret that for reasons of economy it has not yet been found practicable to separate the two classes of boys. As a Reformatory, it is under the control of the Inspector General of Police, the school work being tested as at other schools by one of the Inspectors of the Education Department. The Girls' Department which had in it 37 girls (as against 35 the previous year), is purely Reformatory for girls with a criminal record. At the Boys' Department there were 47 Industrial Boys (pauper children) as compared with 44 in 1904-5; and 232 reformatory boys as against 185 in the previous year. About 27 per cent. of the inmates

are between the ages of 9 and 12; the remainder between 12 and 16. The institution is a large one, and well managed. Between 60 and 70 of the boys work under master tradesmen as carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, masons and bricklayers, and in the kitchen and bakery; and agricultural work of all sorts is done under supervision in the land under cultivation, which is now 33 acres. The total value of the work done at the institution is reported as £1,983 (in 1904-5, £1,184), of which £1,492 was the value of work done for the institution for which no money was obtained. The various workshops did outside work for customers, which realised £150. The Girls' Department did for the institution washing worth £439 and sewing worth £90. The agricultural cultivation, amongst other products accounts for vegetables to the value of £61, 3,576 bunches of bananas, and 3,375 lbs. of coffee, the whole produce reaped being valued at £329, as against £206 last year.

The expenditure at Stony Hill is thus summarised for the last two years, the daily average number of inmates being 290 as against 223 in 1904-5. Total expenditure for 1905-6, £3,883 (last year £3,286), reduced by reimbursements from the Parishes for Industrial School Children, £572 (last year £560), and by work done for money and sales, £372 (last year £234); the cost to General Revenue, therefore, was £2,939 as against £2,490 in 1904-5. The cost per inmate per diem, after the deduction of reimbursements and monies received for work and sales was 6·66*d.* as against 7·34*d.* last year, and the average earnings of each inmate for the year amounted to £6 16*s.* 9*d.*, which exceeds last year's figure (£5 12*s.* 4*d.*) very considerably. The reward system has continued, and the sum of £29 was paid for rewards during the year. Of 125 children discharged during the last three years, 7 were reconvicted during 1905-6.

The Institute of Jamaica.—This Institution represents efforts to keep alive literary and artistic and antiquarian interest that cover a considerable period of years. Seventy-six years ago, the Royal Agricultural Society of Jamaica began a natural history museum, and the Royal Society of Arts was established eleven years later. After a few years, the societies amalgamated, but in 1873 they had to be wound up, the Government being placed in charge of the Museum collections. In 1879, the present Institute was established under a Board of Management, whose duties are to establish and maintain an Institution comprising a library, reading room and museum, and to provide for the reading of Papers, the delivery of lectures, and the holding of examinations on subjects connected with literature, science and arts, to award premiums for the application of scientific and artistic methods to local industries, and to hold exhibitions, illustrative of the industries of Jamaica. For the execution of this scheme a Government grant as high as £2,000 has in the past been given. It now stands at £900. Within the means at their disposal, the Governors endeavour to fulfil their trust.

The Library contains about 11,500 volumes catalogued, and a good many other volumes besides, the Libraries of the old House of Assembly and the old Legislative Council having been transferred to the Institute when it was established. The West India section of the library contains a collection of books of the very highest value, and tourists and visitors surpass the residents of the Colony in their appreciation of it. Popular wants are consulted in the reading room by a fair provision of periodical literature and newspapers, and popular works find place in the library. Subscribers of ten shillings per annum get books other than light literature transmitted to them free by post, yet in spite of the diligent service of the secretary and librarian, the membership is: honorary members 10, corresponding members 17, life-members 2, subscribing members 120. During the last year visitors to the reading room (15,811) showed some increase; 1,122 volumes were added to the library; and the number of books lent out was about 20 per cent. greater than the preceding year.

The museum specimens, which are in a separate building, aim at representing the fauna and flora of the island, along with its geology and anthropology. There is also a Herbarium which contains a collection of the economical woods in the island. Little is now being done to complete these collections, and a caretaker supplies the place of the former curator.

The art galleries include a portrait gallery of persons of note in the history of the island, to which nine portraits were added during the year, making a total of 149, and a small collection of paintings of local interest and value has been commenced. Effort has been made to illustrate the history of art by means of engravings and the exhibition of art objects. An interesting collection of ancient Egyptian pottery was received as a donation from the University of Liverpool during the year. Art classes have been held as usual and lectures were delivered and Papers read as opportunity offered, advantage being taken of the presence of visitors from England or America, competent and willing to give service in such ways. Two exhibitions of Arts and Crafts were held within the financial year, the first in April and May, 1905; the second in March, 1906; both were fairly successful, and undoubtedly appreciated, and altogether 3,336 people visited them; and several exhibitors received commissions for work in consequence of the exhibitions.

To the thirty or more publications issued by the Institute from time to time on matters dealing with literature, science or art, was added "Jamaica in 1905," a remodelled edition of a work which first appeared under the title "Jamaica in 1895"; a brief handbook of information for intending settlers and others, compiled with a view of giving in handy form such particulars concerning the island as might prove useful to intending settlers. In the present issue notes of interest to the tourist have been added.

CURRENCY.

The note circulation as returned by the banks is as follows:—

—	1905-6.	1904-5.
	£	£
Colonial Bank	107,062	113,340
Nova Scotia Bank ...	26,138	18,196
£	133,200	131,536

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The Report of the Manager of the Government Savings Bank begins with the following statement of its Liabilities and Assets:—

Liabilities:—

To sundry depositors on 31st March, 1906 ...	£388,581 13 1	
Suspense Account ...	1 14 0	£388,583 7 1

Assets:—

Securities held	£388,068 17 5	
Uninvested	383 10 8	
Cash in hand	130 19 0	£388,583 7 1

Comparing 1905-6 we find that of the fourteen parishes with separate Savings Banks, increase in deposits is shown in eight parishes, and decrease in six; and, that while the total increases amount to £22,857 (to which Government Deposits contribute £10,164) the total decreases only amount to £1,226. The following summary exemplifies the comparison between the two years in the matter of deposits:—

Summary.

—	Amount.
Ordinary deposits:	£ s. d.
For the year ended 31st March, 1906	166,099 6 11
For the year ended 31st March, 1905	154,632 3 2
Showing an increase of	11,467 3 9

Summary—cont.

—	Amount.		
Government deposits :	£	s.	d.
For the year ended 31st March, 1906	41,152	11	11
For the year ended 31st March, 1905	30,988	3	3
Showing an increase of	10,164	8	8

The most marked increase in deposits is shewn at Kingston (2,105 ordinary deposits, not Government); in Portland (£3,786); St. James (£3,609); and in Hanover (£1,438).

Comparing deposits with withdrawals in the year under review, we find that the former (including interest) amounted to £207,251; the latter to £213,627, the amounts withdrawn thus exceeding the amounts deposited by £6,375. The following summary, however, shows that this result is largely due to Government withdrawals:—

Summary.

—	Amount.					
Ordinary withdrawals :	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
For the year ended 31st March, 1906 ...	166,407	4	6			
For the year ended 31st March, 1905 ...	183,787	1	7			
Decrease of	—			17,379	17	1
Government withdrawals :						
For the year ended 31st March, 1906 ...	47,220	0	11			
For the year ended 31st March, 1905 ...	32,648	19	7			
Increase of	—			14,571	1	4
Net decrease in withdrawals				2,808	15	9

Comparing 1905-6 with 1904-5, while increase in withdrawals is shown in six parishes, amounting to £20,990 (of which £14,571 is the amount of the Government withdrawals), eight parishes show diminished withdrawals to the amount of £23,799. Portland and St. James show most increase, Kingston (ordinary deposits), Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth show most decrease.

It is to be noted that the several amounts charged as Government deposits and Government withdrawals are amounts lodged for convenience at the Savings Banks, awaiting the orders of Courts in suits pending, or withdrawn on the orders of Courts on the conclusion of suits.

In 1904-5 in the ordinary transactions of the year, *i.e.*, eliminating Government accounts, deposits showed a decrease of £34,178, and withdrawals also showed a decrease of £5,760;

in 1905-6, deposits showed increase of £11,467, and withdrawals decrease of £17,379, a much healthier state of affairs. In Kingston, the improvement is very remarkable, for a total of £2,105 more was deposited there and £18,533 less withdrawn than in the preceding year; Trelawny and St. Catherine also make a very satisfactory appearance. In the other parishes where less favourable return is made, the result may be due to lingering effects of the hurricane, or, in some cases, to the superior attraction of agricultural investments.

The profits of the Savings Bank for the year 1905-6 on invested monies, after paying management of head office and branches, £2,512; loss on investments sold, £78; and the interest credited to depositors, £9,127, was £3,936.

There are now thirteen branches of the Savings Bank in the principal towns, and nine sub-branches in other centres, without including the chief office in Kingston. During the year 4,164 new accounts were opened, 2,806 accounts were closed, and 36,188 accounts remained open; the last number being 1,360 more than in 1904-5. Nearly the whole of the increase is amongst the accounts of £5 and under, which exceeded the number in the preceding year by 1,033. It is reported that out of the total number of accounts, no fewer than 27,004 were accounts of £5 or under; ten years ago the number of similar small accounts was 19,929. The rate of interest continues at 2½ per cent. to which it was reduced from 3 per cent. in 1897.

It is noted this year that East Indian Immigrants have to their credit in the Savings Bank £14,330, distributed amongst 985 separate accounts. These figures are less than in 1905-6, owing to the return of time-expired immigrants during the year, who took away with them £5,635 out of the Government Savings Bank.

IMMIGRATION.

In July, 1905, the "Indus" brought 812 East Indian immigrants (including women and children), the majority of whom went to banana plantations in St. Mary and Portland, and some to sugar estates in Vere. Six of these immigrants have proved unfit for work. In January, 1906, the "Erne" took return immigrants to India to the number of 680. They did not return empty, but took Treasury Bills to the value of £5,940 and jewellery and coin valued at £1,320. Twenty-six immigrants were released from their indentures during the 15 months ending 31st March, 1906, four of these by purchase, the rest for incapacity, and 41 time-expired East Indians have obtained passports during the year and left the island, most of them for Colon and Port Limon.

According to the Collector-General's report, East Indians who can be traced by the retention of their Indian names,

now own 7,489 acres of land in the island, their property being valued at £35,060, and live stock to the value of £5,759. Their trade licences number 348, spirit licences 87.

The health of the immigrants is reported to have been fairly good, allowing for such illness as new arrivals may expect in the process of acclimatisation. During the earlier part of the period, the wages earned by the immigrants were good, and exceeded the rates allowed by law; towards the end of the year their employment was less remunerative. There were 43 marriages performed by ministers of religion between East Indians who had become Christians, and three marriages according to their own religion and personal law.

During the 15 months covered by the Protector's report, 30 allotments of land were given in lieu of return passages, the total number of acres being 311; but as these allotments do not reduce the proportion of the returning immigrants, and impose the expenses attending allotment, and in some cases of new roads on the Government (amounting in 1905-6 to £695), offers of land in lieu of return passages will cease.

The conduct of the immigrants has been good; 17 were in gaol for various offences at the end of the year, and 60 were undergoing treatment in the lunatic asylum, a slight increase on the previous year's figures. Seventy complaints against indentured immigrants were tried before Resident Magistrates during the 15 months, and 117 complaints before officers of the Department. No cases were brought by immigrants against their employers. There were no cases of murder, but two cases of suicide.

The sum of £1,488 was collected during the 15 months covered by the Protector's report from the employers of second-term coolies (as against £1,075 for the preceding 12 months). To meet the difficulties of tracing these men, it has been found necessary to require them to report themselves quarterly to the police.

In order to defray the charges sometimes made on general revenue to make good deficits in the accounts of the Immigration Fund, the fees payable by importers of immigrants have been increased, and at the close of the year stood at £21 4*s.* payable on allotment, or £22 payable in instalments.

The number of indentured immigrants in the island on 31st March, 1906, was 1,427.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

The sale of Crown lands in small lots to purchasers on payment by instalments, under the scheme formulated in 1895, has not been extended during 1905-6, though 87 allotments, consisting of 22 town lots, and 427 acres were made. These allotments were among those taken back from purchasers in previous years who have made default. Up to the 31st of March, 1906, 3,288 applications, covering 34,283 acres, have been received, and 3,219 lots covering 30,172 acres have been surveyed and put in possession of the purchasers; the total amount paid on account of these lands being £15,879 up to 31st March, 1906. The acreage of land taken back from defaulting purchasers now amounts to 13 per cent. of the whole, and there are still on hand, undisposed of, 321 lots covering about 3,500 acres.

During the year 2,669 acres and 43 town lots of Government lands have been leased for £264 per annum, and 265 acres and two town lots have been allotted to East Indian immigrants in lieu of return passages to India. Altogether, some 3,123 acres have now been allotted under this plan to 554 persons, but the system is to cease.

No fresh notification of land forfeitable for nonpayment of taxes was issued during the year, there being an accumulation of lands advertised in previous notifications not yet disposed of by final judgment. In 1905-6, 2,720 acres were finally forfeited.

The Department's work for the year includes 169 lineal miles of survey work for the purpose of defining Government lands and making allotments; the map of Jamaica of 1888 has been revised and brought up to date for the issue of a fresh publication; and a very large collection of plans of properties has been sorted out for reference. The number of plans for properties in the Office is now about 40,000.

The expenditure of the Department for the year amounted to £2,507, the receipts to £4,716; the latter include deposits on sale of Crown lands, £43; annual instalments on Crown lands sold, £1,994; sales of Crown lands outright, £486; rents of Government lands and buildings, £2,055. The receipts are £634 and the expenditure £61 in excess of the corresponding amounts for 1904-5.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS).

The gross expenditure of the Island Medical Department for the year 1905-6 was £52,672, this amount being reduced by the collecting of dues and reimbursements to £50,593.

The expenditure covers the cost (including personal emoluments) of the Head Office; of the 34 medical districts into which

the island is now divided, each with a medical officer in charge; of the Public Hospital at Kingston, with a resident staff of four medical officers; of the 17 Public General Hospitals in various parts of the island, with total accommodation of 554 beds; of attendance on immigrants; special yaws fees and vaccination fees; the expenses incurred in five prosecutions under the Drugs and Poisons Law at the instance of the police; and expenses in carrying out the Quarantine Law and in connection with the Central Board of Health and the Medical Council. It also includes the expenses of the Lepers' Home, the Lunatic Asylum, with a resident staff of three medical officers, and the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital; also the personal emoluments of the Medical Officer of the General Penitentiary and the Health Officer at Port Royal. Drugs, stimulants, surgical appliances and lymph were issued to the institutions and to medical officers amounting in value to £2,461.

Savings have been effected by the abolition of one of the two appointments as Supernumerary Medical Officer at the Public Hospital (salary £200) and by the abolition of three separate medical districts, by which a further annual saving of £275 has been secured. The three medical districts (Manchioneal, Old Harbour, and Gayle) were small districts, and the first had only been a temporary arrangement; they have been sub-divided and included in the medical districts adjoining. In no case has the abolition involved any addition to the pension list or the superannuation of the medical officer in charge. The resolution of the Legislative Council, passed on 11th May, 1889, recommending the reduction of medical districts from 48 to 36 and, later, as opportunity might arise, to 34, has now been fully carried into effect.

In the absence of Government dispensaries, the system instituted in 1880 of assisting poor persons, not on the pauper roll but unable to pay the usual minimum fee of 4*s* for medical advice and medicine, has continued to be appreciated in Kingston. These tickets are given gratuitously by distributors appointed by the Governor, and in Kingston 6,397 tickets, which reduced the cost of advice and medicine to the applicant to 1*s*., and 2,427 tickets, reducing the cost to 2*s*., are reported as having been issued. In the country districts, however, the system does not appear to be in general use.

In the Public Hospital, Kingston, there were treated during the year 3,961 patients, and the average number of beds in daily occupation was 206. Out-patients, including casualty patients to the number of 7,078, were also treated, and the prescriptions for out-patients, with or without tickets (including constables, prisoners, and the patients of the Lying-in Hospital) amounted to 13,650. In all these figures some increase is shown on the returns of the preceding year. The mortality-rate was 6·9 per cent., nearly one-half of the 273

deaths occurring within 72 hours of the patient's admission; the number of operations recorded was 1,440, the death-rate under this head being only 2·17 per cent.

The number of applicants for admission who were rejected for want of accommodation or as unsuitable was 4,579; many of these were admitted subsequently or referred to the District Medical Officer for Kingston or to the Inspector of Poor.

A new children's ward with 20 cots has been added to the Public Hospital during the year; it has been named after Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and provision has been made on next year's estimates for the expenditure of £1,013 for a new operating theatre and some other improvements which have long been urgently required. Arrangements have also been made by voluntary effort to secure board and lodging within the hospital precincts for the probationer nurses; this should remove some of the difficulties which these probationers have experienced and caused.

The Dispensing School in the Public Hospital for the training of dispensers has continued its work. As instruction is given in the dressing of wounds as well as in pharmacy, the students get good practical training. Of the apprentices, seven completed the term of their indenture during the year, and five new apprentices were admitted, the number under tuition at the close of the year being 16. Of the 28 candidates for examination under the Drugs and Poisons Law, the seven candidates from the Public Hospital were amongst the 12 who satisfied the examiners and received licences. Classes of instruction in medical and surgical subjects and in bandaging have also been held in the Hospital by the Deaconess Matron, and have been of great value.

The gross expenditure at the Public Hospital during the year was £7,888, which was reduced by receipts to £7,460, the daily cost per bed being 2*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with 2*s.* 1½*d.* last year.

In the 17 Public General Hospitals distributed over the island, 13,895 patients were treated during the year, the daily average number of patients being 534. The total accommodation, so far as room is allowed for beds, was reported last year as 554 beds. There has, therefore, been very little margin, and in some places on occasions overcrowding has been unavoidable. It is hoped that the stricter enforcement of the long-established rule that chronic and incurable cases must be removed from hospital or otherwise arranged for by the Inspectors of Poor, will diminish the chances of congestion in the future. Unless the rule is strictly adhered to, the facilities which hospitals properly afford for the relief of cases urgent or otherwise suitable, must be seriously restricted.

The average mortality-rate in the Public General Hospitals was 2·08 per cent.; four hospitals only showing an average of over 4 per cent., and six showing an average of under 2 per

cent. The total cost of these hospitals for the year amounted to £9,038, the average daily cost for each patient being as low as 7¼*d.* in one hospital, and as high as 1*s.* 6¼*d.* in another. The number of out-patients treated gratuitously by District Medical Officers in their several districts (constables, prisoners, paupers, immigrants, and parochial midwifery cases) was 21,896.

Some effort has been made to improve the equipment of the Public General Hospitals in necessary instruments and furniture, and several gifts of conveniences and luxuries, such as couches, reclining chairs, &c., in which our hospitals are conspicuously deficient, have been reported, and have been greatly appreciated.

The Superintending Medical Officer calls attention to the absence, even in Kingston, of private nursing homes, where at a reasonable rate efficient nursing might be secured by private patients.

There has been a much larger number of vaccinations during this year than for several years, the total being 30,205, as compared with 22,772 last year, and in all, except about 1,000 cases, the vaccination was reported as successful. The total cost of this service was £1,672.

Arm to arm vaccination has now been almost entirely abandoned in the Government medical service, and regular supplies of calf-lymph have been sent out fortnightly from the Jenner Institute with very satisfactory results.

The new Quarantine Regulations approved and recommended at the Inter-Colonial Conference at Barbados in 1904 are not yet in operation here. The Legislative Council passed the necessary Quarantine Law in 1905, but it subsequently refused by the unanimous vote of the elected members to sanction the expenditure required to put the Quarantine Station at Green Bay in a condition suitable to meet the new law's requirements. The reason of the refusal was, partly, the large immediate outlay demanded, partly the dislocation that might be caused in the fruit trade with America, if quarantine regulations such as at present find no favour there should be adopted in Jamaica, and partly, that the community are not convinced that the substitution of "surveillance" for "observation" in a large class of cases would be free from great risk.

During the year the Lazaretto has been placed in telephonic communication with the Health Officer's quarters at Port Royal and also with Kingston.

The Lazaretto received 74 passengers who were landed from four ships quarantined, and the net expenditure for the year, after deducting amounts collected from some of the passengers for maintenance during the time of their detention, was £542.

The Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital was founded in commemoration of Her late Majesty's Jubilee, and raised, to a considerable extent, by the voluntary contributions of the people. It is maintained by an annual grant from the Legislature. While serving as a charitable institution for the relief of suffering, its main object was to diminish mortality and the hardship caused all over the island by the lack of trained midwives. But its very usefulness has opened the door to abuse, and two years ago the Acting Governor reported that "it was coming to be regarded as a free nursing home available for all applicants"; and it was frequently overcrowded. The number of patients admitted increased from 217 in 1895-6 to 813 in 1903-4. This large number was reduced to 655 last year, and has been further reduced to 415 in the year under review. The number of beds available for ordinary use has been reduced from 20 to 18, and the pupil nurses from eight to six. The daily average number of beds occupied this year has been 13. Of the 407 children born in the institution this year, only 101 were legitimate. In nine cases admission had to be refused, because the institution was full at the time. The death-rate was 2·4 per cent. as against 1·2 per cent. last year. Nine pupil nurses completed their course of training, and six new ones were admitted. The nurses trained at this institution are now established at many places in the island, and are rendering most valuable service. Of the 415 patients admitted 274 paid some fees, the rest were treated gratuitously. The gross expenditure for the year was £1,189, reduced by receipts to £939. Last year the net cost of the institution was £1,034.

At the commencement of the year there were 1,034 patients in the Lunatic Asylum. During the year 230 were admitted, 121 were discharged, and 86 died. The numbers, therefore, show an increase of 23. There was marked improvement in the death-rate, 8·2 per cent., as compared with 10·8 per cent. of the preceding year on the average number of residents. Of the 121 discharged 111 were recoveries, and the recovery rate, calculated on the total number of admissions, was 48·2 per cent., as compared with 43·77 per cent., the average of the previous 10 years. The number of inmates is more than twice what it was 20 years ago, but the new buildings for the accommodation of females were completed for occupation in the last month of the year, and now that the overcrowding from which this institution has long very seriously suffered is relieved, a further improvement in the health of the inmates may be anticipated.

The net cost of this institution for the year, after deducting reimbursements, was £16,220, or an average of 10·17d. per head per day, as compared with £15,557, or 10d. per day last year. The parochial contributions towards the maintenance of lunatics amounted to £14,397, leaving the net cost of the asylum to general revenue £1,823.

There were 115 patients at the Lepers' Home at the beginning of the official year; 2 were discharged, 3 absconded, 14 died, and 19 fresh patients were admitted. The number therefore remains unchanged.

Both at the Lunatic Asylum and at the Lepers' Home every use is made of such service as the unfortunate inmates are able to render in laundry work and in keeping the buildings and premises in order and in growing some crops for the use of the institutions. Such employments of course help to relieve the tedium of their life, and improve their health, and are at the same time of some assistance to the public purse.

In the city of Kingston the reports show a fairly satisfactory condition of public health during the year. As usual the mortality was higher in the cool dry months when the variation of diurnal temperature was greatest than in the hot wet months when the daily temperature was more uniform and the rains flushed the surface drainage frequently. The Kingston death-rate was 29·07 per thousand of the estimated population (54,444), as compared with 31·78 the previous year. Enteric fever accounted for 0·76 of this rate (last year 1·22). Malaria accounted for 1·62 (last year 0·86), and phthisis accounted for 1·82 (last year 2·70). The infantile mortality continues enormously high in Kingston (231 per 1,000 births), though this is somewhat better than last year's return (244 per 1,000 births).

The general sanitary condition of the city continues to improve, particularly in the better streets, but improvement is slow, and there is still much that needs attention from the sanitary point of view. The Medical Officer's report points out the need for more thorough cleansing of the water tables, and calls attention to the condition of the gullies which intersect the city and of the disused cemeteries within its limits; also to the dangers which arise from the present method of selling milk.

In Port Antonio, where the health conditions need special vigilance, in view of the considerable intercourse with America and the shortness of the voyage, the District Medical Officer reports that the year has been very free of disease. Only seven cases of diseases notifiable under the law have been reported, and three of these came from America. One very insanitary feature, previously complained of, has been remedied in the reconstruction of the road through Somers Town; other portions of road near the town, he reports, require to be similarly improved. He adds that, while the streets and lanes are swept and the drains flushed regularly, insufficient attention is paid to the condition of private yards and premises where refuse and waste receptacles collect and afford breeding places for mosquitoes. This remark applies probably with more or less completeness to sanitary proceedings in all our towns.

The general health of the island may be considered as having been about normal during the past year, and no epidemics of any serious proportions were reported. Some districts have suffered from influenza or measles or chicken-pox or scabies (or similar skin affections) or typhoid fever, but the outbreaks have not been extensive or destructive anywhere. The "vomiting sickness" which in previous years has been responsible for considerable mortality amongst children in several districts is reported as having been less prevalent and of a milder type, and the "stock" medicines for this disease which were supplied to police stations for distribution have afforded relief in a great many cases.

The arrival of 800 East Indian immigrants who had to be acclimatised, and the unusually heavy rainfall in the last six months of the year probably account for the increase in cases of malarial fever reported. At the public general hospitals 5,336 cases, and at the Public Hospital, Kingston, 949 cases, were admitted, as compared with 4,174 and 653 cases respectively in the previous year. The total number of deaths from malarial fever only amounted to 55 in the country hospitals and 33 in the Kingston Hospital. The "intermittent" or mildest variety includes about 80 per cent. of the cases treated, with a death-rate of only 39 per cent., and the "remittent" type, with a death-rate of 1·94 per cent., accounts for nearly all the rest. The "pernicious" type includes only 24 cases, but in these the death-rate was 75 per cent., the delay of proper treatment being the probable cause of such high mortality. It is reported that since the outlet from the Yallahs Pond into the sea has been opened the smell which had caused so much dissatisfaction in Kingston has practically disappeared. Chest complaints are somewhat fewer than last year, perhaps because the winter was mild, but diseases of the digestive organs and syphilis and venereal diseases show an increase. Yaws does not appear to diminish, and we shall not be rid of this repulsive complaint until we can establish compulsory isolation or the people cease to think lightly of it.

When we take into account the circumstances under which a very large proportion of the people live, the unhealthy situation of their houses in damp places overshaded with tropical vegetation, the imperfect construction of many of them and the slight protection they afford against tropical rains, the popular ignorance of hygienic conditions and lack of ventilation, and the overcrowding of the houses at night, the common neglect of refuse, the lack of proper clothing and reckless exposure to wet, the improper diet and the excessive proportion of purely vegetable food, and the carelessness that is common with regard to drinking water, it is not surprising that the resisting power against disease is often feeble and the death-rate of the island much higher than it need be.

Such adverse conditions as these, however, we must mainly depend on increase in knowledge and intelligence and ambition and advancement in civilization to remove.

Not least important amongst the factors of high mortality is the neglect of disease in its earlier stages, the result of ignorance or poverty, and in many cases of the distance from a doctor. The means of increasing the supply of qualified medical men in the country districts of the island has engaged the attention of the Government, but so far I am unable to report any action calculated to secure this desirable object. There are now 117 registered medical practitioners (including Government officers) reported as practising in the island. While the Government salary of the District Medical Officer is partly a fee for which certain public service is exacted (*i.e.*, attendance on paupers and on the constabulary and indentured immigrants, and the medical charge of any hospital, almshouse, or prison in the district, &c.), the District Medical Service is also to be regarded as a system in aid, the object of which is to diffuse medical assistance throughout the parishes by inducing practitioners to settle in districts which, without such contribution from Government, would be altogether destitute of medical aid. At the same time such salary as the public funds afford is a small one (it is fixed at £100 per annum for future appointments), and it is obvious that a medical man must depend in the main on his private practice and that only in populous districts can this yield such an income as a man with English qualifications may reasonably expect. It is a matter for much concern that in many parts of the island the nearest doctor is 20 or more miles away, and practically beyond the reach of poor persons. There are in consequence many preventable deaths. The death-rate for the island (21·9 per 1,000 of the population) is considerably less than in the two preceding years, in both of which it exceeded 24 per 1,000. The Parishes of St. Ann and Manchester continue to report the lowest rate; St. Elizabeth is a good third.

The Dental Practitioners' Law, passed in the Legislative Council last year, came into operation in October, 1905. It provides for the registration of dentists qualified to practice in the United Kingdom, and of those engaged in practice in Jamaica, who hold the diplomas of certain selected dental colleges in the United States of America. 51 dental colleges have been recognised for the purpose; it also provides for the examination by a local board of examiners of applicants for registration with specified qualifications. It will be needful, therefore, for the future that any dental surgeon seeking to practise in Jamaica should have had first-class training at a recognised dental school.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

Both under postal revenue and under telegraphs the cash collections for the year 1905-6 exceeded the estimates. They are thus compared with the collections of the previous two years:—

—	1905-6.			1904-5.	1903-4.
	£	s.	d.	£	£
Postages	29,593	10	4	26,538	26,326
Commission on money orders	440	18	5	560	637
Local Commission on British postal orders	97	12	0	37	—
Commission on local postal orders ...	689	11	1	657	690
Miscellaneous	614	7	1	863	398
Telegraphs	5,982	19	6	4,792	5,195
£	37,418	18	5	33,447	33,246

The presence of large numbers of Jamaicans at the Isthmus may account for some of the increase in postages and in commissions on postal orders, and the extension of the daily post to all the offices in the island has, of course, had some share; but we may reasonably regard this considerable improvement among the reliable indications of general progress in the island during the year.

The Postmaster submits an interesting review of the revenue of the Department taken decennially during the last 40 years:—

Year.	Postages.	Commission on Money Orders and British Postal Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Telegraphs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1865-6 ...	11,260	585	—	—	741	12,586
1875-6 ...	14,856	281	—	—	614	15,751
1885-6 ...	15,681	314	—	4,055	205	20,255
1895-6 ...	22,439	388	520	6,156	173	29,726
1905-6 ...	29,560	538	689	5,983	806	37,577

During this period inland letter postage has been reduced from 4*d.* and 3*d.* according to distance, and postage to the United Kingdom from 1*s.*, by successive steps, to the uniform rate of 1*d.* per half-ounce.

The expenditure of the Post Office Department for the year 1905-6 is thus stated:—

Personal emoluments	£15,252	9	1
Mail conveyance	10,862	8	5
Services	5,202	0	9
Maintenance of telegraph lines by Director of Public Works	798	14	10
	£32,115	13	1

The excess of £391 over the expenditure of the previous year is accounted for by the expenditure of £1,130 in the year for the manufacture of stamps. Under each of the three principal heads of expenditure, viz., "Personal Emoluments," "Mail Conveyance," and "Maintenance of Telegraph," there has been successive reduction in the last three years.

The revenue collected on postages during the last three years is apportioned between ocean postages and inland postages as follows:—

—	Ocean Postages.	Inland Postages.	Total.
	£	£	£
1903–4	4,892	21,434	26,326
1904–5	5,712	21,390	27,102
1905–6	6,749	23,534	30,283

Amongst small changes affecting in one way or another the convenience of the public, the Postmaster notes the reduction of postage to Australia to 1*d.* per half-ounce, although the same postage from Australia remains at 2*d.*; also the addition of one letter box in Kingston making the number 22, and the provision of facilities for obtaining inland postal orders and embossed stamps at the Circulation Branch of the Kingston Post Office. Mail coach service between Ewarton and Dry Harbour and between Kingston and Port Antonio has been discontinued.

The estimates taken quarterly at the Control Office in Kingston and at the district post offices give the following analysis of the correspondence handled by the Department, the previous year's returns being also submitted for comparison:—

Analysis of Correspondence.

—	Outwards.		Inwards.	
	1904–5.	1905–6.	1904–5.	1905–6.
Inland Mails—				
Ordinary Letters—				
Public	1,464,216	1,671,084	1,592,572	1,725,698
Official	151,736	122,304	169,884	142,402
Post Cards	51,116	57,876	35,048	53,118
Registered Letters—				
Public	27,407	42,994	72,632	80,239
Official	30,195	28,320	18,798	34,072
Ocean Mails by vessels under contract—				
United Kingdom—				
Ordinary Letters ...	301,804	218,470	388,900	398,900
Post Cards	4,960	5,112	1,400	1,400
Inter-Colonial, British West Indies, &c.—				
Ordinary Letters ...	115,279	116,560	205,918	206,800
Post Cards	2,372	2,460	2,095	2,180
By vessels not contract—				
United States of America—				
Ordinary Letters ...	169,095	197,481	215,545	252,708
Post Cards	30,693	73,862	16,696	18,481
Other Countries—				
Ordinary Letters ...	85,922	243,324	128,879	152,135
Post Cards	6,870	21,726	959	9,600
Registered Letters, over-sea.	24,235	28,735	26,997	41,273
	2,465,900	2,830,308	2,876,323	3,119,006

This shows an increase of 717,541 in the number of letters and post-cards dealt with (or nearly 12 per cent.); registered letters have increased by 58,849 (nearly 24 per cent.); insured letters to the number of 29 and of declared value of £1,267 were received; and 63 letters of the declared value of £5,218 were despatched.

The conveyance of ocean mails was performed—outwards—by 54 vessels under contract carrying 421 mails, and 438 vessels non-contract carrying 908 mails: inwards—by 34 contract vessels carrying 264 mails, and 524 non-contract vessels carrying 2,105 mails. The number of transit mails was 265.

The mails despatched exceed the number of the previous year by 161, and the mails received are 290 in excess.

There is a fortnightly direct service each way between Bristol and Kingston, provided under contract with Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. For this service the Colony contributes £20,000 a year. Its primary object is the development of the fruit trade with the Mother Country.

The expenditure charged to this department on the ocean mail service is as under:—

Contributions towards Imperial contract with Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to 30th June, 1905	£525	0	0
Sea and territorial rates paid to other countries	157	8	8
Ship letter gratuities	1,657	19	3

In the matter of convenience for correspondence with the United Kingdom little change has been caused by the cessation of the Royal Mail contract. The company carried on its sailings much as usual to the end of October. The new itinerary then introduced, while it diminishes considerably the means of communication with the neighbouring West Indian Colonies, has added another quick and reliable service between Jamaica and the United States of America and by New York to England. The rate of gratuity for the conveyance of mails by non-contract vessels has been considerably reduced.

The inland mail service has been carried out at a cost of £8,722, partly by contractors, partly by the Public Works Department. The cost of this service in 1904-5 was £8,290. The district post offices now number 159. One district postmaster was prosecuted for misappropriation of money, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

With regard to money orders issued payable abroad, the number in 1905-6 was 8,023, and the total value of the orders £23,913, as compared with 11,086 orders and £29,200 value in 1904-5. The issues of other countries payable in Jamaica were 3,873, value £11,165, as compared with 4,816 orders, value £12,721, in the preceding year. The money order exchanges added £440 to Post Office revenue.

Postal orders, 226,105 in number, £33,193 in value, and yielding £691 in commissions, were issued in the year under report, the corresponding figures in the preceding year being number, 208,455; value, £31,713; commission, £652.

The transactions of the parcel post branch were as follows:—

From.	Parcels.		Import Duty.					
	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.			1905-6.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	12,736	13,496	2,144	18	0	2,565	6	4
British West Indies... ...	262	275	18	4	0	21	6	6
United States of America ...	6,489	8,080	585	0	2	826	6	7
Dominion of Canada ...	285	398	96	11	11	92	9	6
Turks Island...	16	29	0	5	7	2	7	11
Belize...	—	—	—			—		
Bermuda	81	41	2	12	7	1	14	6
	19,869	22,319	2,847	12	3	3,509	11	4

The postage which accrued to Jamaica was £594, as compared with £375 in 1904-5, and the declared value of the parcels was £22,357 as against £23,370 in the preceding year.

At the end of the year 1905-6 64 telegraph stations and six telephone stations were connected with the postal system, the numbers in 1904-5 being 69 and 5 respectively. The railway telegraph service provides 35 additional centres at which telegrams may be received and despatched. The number of telegraph messages sent during the year exceeded the previous year's total by 12,494 messages. Working in harmony with the ocean cables, the department collected £2,820 on behalf of the Direct Cable Company and £212 on behalf of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The necessity of providing a new building for the General Post Office at an early date is recognised.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Vital Statistics.

No census having been taken since the year 1891, the population of the island is arrived at by adding annually the natural increase on the results obtained 15 years ago. Such calculation, the Registrar-General reports, gives the estimated population of the island on 31st March, 1906, as 820,437.

The number of marriages registered during the year 1905-6 was 3,116, being 3·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is a slight advance on the preceding year, when the proportion was 3·6, but below the rate reported in the six previous years. The percentage of bridegrooms who signed by "mark" was 31·6 and of brides 37·8. The gradual improvement in ability to write which the last ten years have shown in this way is maintained. Last year the figures were 34·6 and 40·4 respectively.

The birth-rate was 38·8 per 1,000 of the population, as against 36·1 in 1904-5, the births in 1905-6 numbering 31,618, viz., 15,938 males and 15,680 females. In the proportion of illegitimate children the improvement noticed last year has not been maintained, being 65·2 per cent. of the children born; only in three years out of the last ten years has this rate been exceeded; in 1904-5 it was 63·2.

The death-rate was 21·9 of the estimated population as compared with 24·7 in 1904-5. The deaths registered numbered 17,871, viz., 8,865 males and 9,006 females. The parishes of St. Ann, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth exhibited the lowest death-rate, but in all the parishes except St. Thomas it was lower than last year. Of the 17,871 deaths registered, 5,219, or 29·2 per cent., were those of children

under one year old, and 7,927, or 44·4 per cent., were of children under five years old. Out of every hundred legitimate children 11·97 died under one year; the proportion amongst the illegitimate children was 18·91. The proportion of deaths not medically certified was 79·7, almost exactly the same proportion as in the four preceding years.

The following table of statistics is given for purposes of comparison:—

Colony.	Year.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Illegitimate Births.
		Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 100 Births.
British Guiana ...	1903...	—	29·3	28·9	67·2
Barbados	1905...	9·6	39·8	28·9	55·9
Trinidad	1903–4	7·9	33·5	24·2	65·4
Jamaica	1905–6	3·8	38·8	21·9	65·2

GENERAL.

I left Jamaica on the 2nd May, 1905, in H.M.S. "Diamond" on a visit to the Cayman Islands, and returned on the 5th idem.

The Colonial Secretary accompanied me, and during my absence I appointed Brigadier-General J. E. W. S. Caulfeild to act as Deputy Governor.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX.

JAMAICA.

A comparative table of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE compiled on the principles adopted in Sir D. BARBOUR'S REPORT in 1899.

—	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–90. (½ year.)	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.
General Revenue	460,390	486,015	467,069	498,019	466,283	487,381	568,033	570,643	403,729*	619,586	580,656	548,731	585,549
Expenditure	460,126	459,564	452,056	476,210	493,585	507,116	524,349	543,159	269,379	562,386	629,289	602,236	614,350
Surplus, or	264	26,451	15,013	21,809	—	—	43,684	27,484	*134,350**	57,200	—	—	—
Deficit	—	—	—	—	27,302	19,735	—	—	—	—	48,633	53,505	28,301
Loans issued	400,700	—	—	265,500	42,830	35,300	58,500	32,100	—	—	2,526	81,871	180,000
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.	1903–04.	1904–05.	1905–06.
General Revenue	611.581	632,675	577,665	540,509	600,271	624,622	760,387	774,837	856,514	926,164†	751,562	865,696
Expenditure	605,108	613,506	650,024	627,423	620,701	593,927	763,902	751,700	788,847	822,876	824,816	821,611
Surplus, or	6,473	19,169	—	—	—	30,695	—	23,137	67,667	103,288†	—	44,085
Deficit	—	—	72,359	86,914	30,430	—	3,515	—	—	—	73,254	—
Loans issued	42,420	25,000	33,900	214,800	—	—	1,591,900	31,400	44,500	2,769	—	900
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,567‡

* Includes £100,000 for sale of railway.
† Includes £100,394 uninvested balance Widows and Orphans' Fund
‡ Also £29,187 in 1906–07.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
494	Ceylon	1905
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas...	1905-1906
497	Barbados...	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar...	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia...	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony.	Subject.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Forests of Kenia.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 541.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 495.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.

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No. 541.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 495.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
4th September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1906, with the Commissioner's Report thereon for the same period.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 10/07 D & S 5 30044

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

FINANCES.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1891 ...	7,354	7,996	—	642
1892 ...	7,836	7,596	240	—
1893 ...	7,434	7,816	—	382
1894 ...	8,840	7,459	1,381	—
1895 ...	7,312	7,547	—	235
1896 ...	9,707	7,383	2,324	—
1897 ...	9,477	8,384	1,093	—
1898 ...	7,232	8,061	—	829
1899 ...	8,033	7,644	389	—
1900 ...	9,190	8,053	1,137	—
1901 ...	9,030	7,989	1,041	—
1902 ...	8,693	8,006	687	—
1903 ...	8,678	8,910	—	232
1904 ...	6,466	8,001	—	1,535
1905 ...	6,243	7,279	—	1,036
1906 ...	6,809	7,080	—	271

REVENUE.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900–1906.

Head.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Average Annual Revenue 1900–04.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duties	3,280	3,557	3,825	3,684	3,129	3,495	2,940	3,516
Royalty on Salt	2,634	2,518	2,416	2,635	1,466	2,334	1,402	1,523
Port Dues	824	775	752	832	495	736	478	549
Licences and Internal Revenue.	247	223	248	261	303	256	260	290
Payment for Specific Services.	223	182	146	197	99	169	125	112
Post Office	1,283	869	493	361	311	663	434	406
Revenue from Government Property.	180	475	222	127	93	219	93	134
Interest	260	127	269	254	355	253	245	266
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	19	54	72	15	27	36	16	15
Imperial Grant (Mail Service).	250	250	250	312	188	250	250	—
Total	9,190	9,030	8,693	8,678	6,466	8,411	6,243	6,809

EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900–1906.

Head.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Average Annual Expenditure 1900–04.	1905	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pensions	400	413	459	479	662	483	491	541
Commissioner's Department.	2,347	2,197	2,236	2,249	2,111	2,228	2,044	2,105
Judicial	553	531	520	538	518	532	543	536
Police and Prisons ...	668	660	677	671	668	669	640	677
Medical	544	467	388	545	556	500	564	611
Paupers	308	339	329	341	328	329	351	357
Education	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Registration and Vaccination.	24	22	20	24	27	23	24	35
Public Market	21	21	21	21	21	25	21	21
Miscellaneous	354	443	554	604	535	498	490	415
Post Office	749	533	530	540	572	585	539	259
Lighthouse Department	238	280	253	258	245	255	246	235
Public Works Department.	397	331	321	314	291	331	299	409
Public Works, Recurrent	746	770	490	543	528	615	301	264
Public Works, Extraordinary.	40	371	608	1,169	338	505	53	—
Cost of Remittances ...	—	—	—	14	2	3	73	15
Drawbacks and Refunds	42	11	—	—	—	11	—	—
Totals	8,053	7,989	8,006	8,910	8,002	8,192	7,279	7,080

From the above tabulated statements it will be seen that the revenue, estimated at £7,770, amounted to only £6,810, a difference of £960, which serious falling off was mai[illegible] to the small shipments of salt, resulting in a loss of [illegible] £176 in the royalty on salt and port dues respectively [illegible] not been for "The Customs Tariff Ordinance 1905" r[illegible]ing, in spite of the general depression in the staple industry of the Dependency, all that was expected of it, the deficit would have been largely increased.

The approved estimate of expenditure was £7,681, but by dint of rigorous economy in all departments, the actual amount disbursed was only £7,080, a saving of £601 on the estimates, and £1,112 less than the average annual expenditure for the five years ended 1904.

Assets and Liabilities.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	Assets.	£	s.	d.
Deposits	51	3	8	Cash—			
Salt Pond Fund ...	197	18	11	In Colonial Chest	475	17	0
Money Orders ...	552	7	6	Crown Agents ...	325	4	1
Board of Education ...	296	2	4	New York Agents	32	6	3
Savings Bank ...	2,044	15	0	Jamaica Treasury	1	14	9
	3,142	7	5	Remittances maturing	312	10	0
				" Savings Bank.	100	0	0
				Import Bonds ...	164	1	9
				Advances recoverable	151	10	4
				Invested Funds—			
				Government ...	7,056	5	4
				Savings Bank ...	1,670	4	5
	7,308	16	6	Board of Education	161	10	0
	10,451	3	11		10,451	3	11

Government Funds Invested.

Year.	Amount. £	s.	d.	Year.	Amount. £	s.	d.
1894	2,000	0	0	1901	7,900	0	0
1895	2,000	0	0	1902	7,947	11	4
1896	4,500	0	0	1903	8,947	11	4
1897	5,500	0	0	1904	7,500	11	4
1898	5,500	0	0	1905	7,028	1	4
1899	5,500	0	0	1906	7,056	5	4
1900	5,900	0	0				

Of these surplus funds the sum of £7,056 5*s.* 4*d.* was, on the 1st January of the present year, invested in :—

	—	Amount. £	s.	d.
(1)	Government Queensland Stock	1,000	0	0
(2)	" Victoria Stock	1,500	0	0
(3)	" South Australia Debentures	1,000	0	0
(4)	" Jamaica Stock	400	0	0
(5)	" Jamaica Savings Bank	1,156	5	4
(6)	" Gold Coast Stock	896	2	4
(7)	" Sierra Leone Stock	943	3	6
(8)	" Lagos Stock	160	14	2
	Total	£7,056	5	4

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1906 were valued at £27,572 and the total exports at £24,940, compared with the average of £29,549 and £32,119, respectively, for the five years 1900-1904, and as against £28,230 and £23,898 in 1905. The exports of salt fell in value even below that of 1905, the lowest on record, being £14,275, as compared with £14,604 of the previous year. The export of fibre, the most important subsidiary industry, fell from £5,803 to £5,605.

Imports.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900–1906.

Year.	From United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1900	3,385	3,940	22,239	29,564
1901	3,111	4,092	23,614	30,817
1902	3,463	5,793	23,035	32,291
1903	3,948	6,435	20,573	30,956
1904	3,226	4,154	16,.40	24,120
Annual Average 1900–1904 ...	3,427	4,883	21,239	29,549
1905	5,490	3,975	18,765	28,230
1906	3,958	5,727	17,887	27,572

Exports.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900–1906.

Year.	To United Kingdom	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1900	291	7,384	25,715	33,390
1901	—	12,290	27,461	39,751
1902	2,307	5,637	24,010	31,955
1903	1,774	3,349	26,755	31,878
1904	132	2,975	20,913	24,020
Annual Average 1900–1904 ...	901	6,327	24,971	32,199
1905	225	3,866	19,807	23,898
1906	780	5,297	18,863	24,940

ublishing company, inc

Classified, the exports were comprised of :—

—	1905.		1906.	
	£	£	£	£
Conchs—				
To Foreign Countries ...	—	656	—	509
Turtle Shell—				
To United Kingdom ...	52		—	
To British Colonies ...	439		1,768	
To Foreign Countries ...	42		—	
		533		1,768
Salt—				
To British Colonies ...	3,152		3,302	
To Foreign Countries ...	11,452		10,973	
		14,604		14,275
Sisal fibre—				
To United Kingdom ...	135		515	
To Foreign Countries ...	5,668		5,090	
		5,803		5,605
Sponge—				
To United Kingdom ...	—		233	
To British Colonies ...	239		40	
To Foreign Countries ...	1,984		2,145	
		2,223		2,418
Miscellaneous	—	79	—	365
		23,898		24,940

As the Dependency is passing through the most critical period in the history of its staple industry, the following tables may be of value and interest, as showing how low the exports of salt have fallen since the last average year, 1903:—

Whither Exported.	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
Canada	175,266	2,854	128,207	2,341	138,115	2,558	146,747	2,503
St. Pierre	85,510	1.425	10,096	252	22,113	406	18,260	294
U.S. America ..	1,483,394	18,602	807,229	11,481	735,641	10,669	781,692	10,128
Miscellaneous ..	62,424	796	59,716	1,005	65,430	971	96,775	1,350
Total	1,806,694	23,677	1,005,248	15,079	961,299	14,604	1,043,474	14,275

SHIPPING.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1905 and 1906:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	155	10,390	32	46,149	187	56,539
United States ...	17	14,135	25	49,730	42	63,865
Others	56	2,092	36	55,788	92	57,880
Total 1906 ...	228	26,617	93	151,667	321	178,284
Total 1905 ...	193	24,064	93	141,731	186	165,795

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Commissioner, Mr. Douglas Young, having been promoted to the Administratorship of Dominica, left the Dependency on the 26th March. The Judge, Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, administered the Government, and Mr. A. W. Harriott, Assistant Commissioner at Grand Turk, acted as Auditor, pending the arrival of Mr. Young's successor.

Mr. Frederick Henry Watkins, Companion of the Imperial Service Order, having been appointed Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, arrived in the Dependency and assumed the duties of his office on the 10th May.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year:—

The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1.
The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, and
The Court of Appeal Ordinance, No. 3.

By the last-named Ordinance the local Court of Appeal was abolished and appeals from the judgments of the Supreme Court were made to lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

EDUCATION.

In 1883 an Ordinance was passed to make it conpulsory upon parents, as far as local circumstances permitted, to cause their children to attend the public elementary schools, but there was a provision that the compulsory clauses should not come into operation except by order of the Commissioner with the approval of the Governor of Jamaica. For eighteen years the Ordinance, so far as compulsory attendance was concerned, remained a dead letter, and in 1901 when the provisions were found unsuitable for the requirements of the Dependency, the present Education Ordinance was passed. The administration of education is vested in a Board consisting of the Commissioner with not more than seven or less than four other persons appointed annually. The Board meets twice a year for the despatch of general business and at any other time when necessary.

The sum of £600 is placed at the disposal, annually, of the Board for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance, but the details of the expenditure are left entirely to the Board.

The Commissioner appoints such schoolmasters as are necessary, who, although subject to the same discipline as the other public officers, are not entitled to receive pensions.

To encourage or compel attendance at the schools of the principal settlements, a school-rate is made payable to the Board by a parent in respect of each child of school age (the words "school age" means over six and under thirteen years of age) living within a mile and a half of a school, except the following requirements are satisfied:—

(1) That the child has been in regular attendance at a school approved by the Board.

(2) That the child has been prevented from attendance by sickness or other reasonable cause.

(3) That the child has received sufficient instruction by private tuition.

(4) That the child has reached the age of ten years and has been granted a certificate by the Board of his ability to read and write and of a knowledge of elementary arithmetic.

All rates collected under this Ordinance are applied in such manner as to the Board seems fit.

The Bible is a daily class book in every school receiving aid, but no child may be excluded from such a school on account of his religious denomination.

A code of regulations was made for the Government schools in 1903. The rules deal with the school records and attendance book, sewing classes and pupil teachers, together with a schedule of graded instructions.

The pupil teachers, who are engaged for a course of four years, are examined annually in the examinations for pupil teachers held by the Education Department of Jamaica.

There is, at present, no course of training for teachers, locally, but this is a defect which will, it is hoped be soon remedied, for the question of obtaining qualified teachers has been one of peculiar difficulty. How successful the operation of the Ordinance in the compulsory districts has been, may be gathered from the following comparative table:—

District.	On Roll.		Average Attendance.	
	1901.	1906.	1901.	1906.
Grand Turk°	163	219	79	190
Salt Cay*	49	42	31	35
Cockburn Harbour°	100	121	68	100
Kew	74	102	49	63
Blue Hills	79	78	34	47
Lorimers	83	102	41	42
Bottle Creek	—	113	—	92

* Compulsory District.

There are several private schools within the Dependency, but the attendance at such schools, unless licensed by the Board, does not exempt the parent from the payment of the school-rate. There are 207 children in attendance at the private schools.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Throughout the Dependency serious crime is of rare occurrence, abusive language being the most frequent offence.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the criminal statistics of the Dependency for the years 1903 to 1906:—

—	1903	1904	1905.	1906.
The number of offences reported to the Police.	143	134	128	160
The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates.	143	129	128	160
The number of Summary Convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person ...	28	37	26	27
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	5	1
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	6	7	6	13
4. For other offences	96	53	63	93
The number of Convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. For offences against the person ...	—	—	—	2
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	2	—	2	—
4. For other offences	—	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Superior Courts	—	—	—	5
2. In the Inferior Courts	11	31	21	24

VITAL STATISTICS.

The year 1906 was healthy, no epidemics or serious outbreaks of sickness having been reported. During the wet season cases of malaria, as is usual, occurred in the Caicos Islands.

The number of births and deaths was 190 and 107, being 40 per thousand and 20 per thousand of the population respectively.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the financial condition of the Dependency, no works of importance were undertaken, but the survey of the Caicos Islands was continued by Mr. E. G. Reid, the Colonial Surveyor, who has been engaged under a three years' agreement for that purpose. During the year, Mr. Reid was occupied in field work for six months, during which period about 100 lots near Kew and about 150 lots near Bottle Creek, in the North Caicos, were surveyed. It is to be hoped that this important work will be pressed vigorously and finished within a reasonable time.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

There is no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service. There is frequent, but irregular, steamship communication with the United Kingdom and other countries. The only line which has any pretence to fixed date is the Imperial Direct West India Mail, the steamers of which call at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica every other Wednesday, bringing mails and parcels post from Bristol. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient inducement offered to these steamers to touch on their return voyage. The voyage from Avonmouth occupies about 12 days, and freight is brought out by the "Port Kingston" every six weeks, at the rate of 25*s.* a ton. The subsidized steamer "Beta" from Halifax, Nova Scotia, calls about once a month both on her way to, and on her return from, Jamaica, and is the only means of steam communication from Jamaica. The subsidy paid is £120 a year.

Most of the mails to the United Kingdom are carried to New York by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call here on their voyage to and from San Domingo, at intervals of about 14 days each way.

The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1906 was £406, made up of—

	£	£
Receipts.		
Sales of Stamps	193	
Commission on Money Orders ...	37	
Commission on Postal Orders ...	3	
Sale of Stamps to Collectors ...	153	
Other receipts	20	
		406
Expenditure.		
Office Expenses	34	
Transit Charges	8	
Mail Subsidy	217	
		259
Net Revenue of Post Office ...		£147

The estimated number of letters and postal matter beyond the seas dealt with by the local Post Office during the year 1906 may be seen from the following table:—

—	United Kingdom.		Other Places.		Total.
	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters	3,000	3,050	13,500	11,720	31,270
Post Cards	500	600	750	1,250	3,100
Newspapers	2,000	450	16,150	1,325	19,925
Book Packets	1,250	50	1,300	100	2,700
Parcels	219	62	209	51	541

Money orders to the value of £768 were issued during the year on the United Kingdom, and orders for £124 drawn in the United Kingdom paid in the Dependency. The money order transactions with other places abroad amounted to £731 issued and £141 paid in the Dependency, the majority of the transactions being with Jamaica.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, is connected with Grand Turk. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made. The rates chargeable under the Cable Company's Ordinance 1898, are as follows:—

	s.	d.	
To Jamaica	1	0	a word.
,, Bermuda	1	6	,,
,, Halifax	2	0	,,
,, United Kingdom ...	3	0	,,

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following readings and statistics were from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, latitude 21° 21′ N., longitude 71° 7′ W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet.

Rain fell on 149 days during the year, and measured 28·36 inches, compared with—

41·97	inches in	1905
43·79	,,	1904
36·63	,,	1903
27·45	,,	1902
29·52	,,	1901
23·59	,,	1900

and an average rainfall of 24.61 for the previous seven years, 1893-99. The heaviest rain on any one day during the year was 3·70 inches on the 5th November, while the wettest months were March, June, and November, with 4·24, 3·94 and

9·00 inches respectively. It is intended to have the rainfall recorded in other places as soon as possible.

The coolest and hottest months were December and August, with mean readings of 74·4 and 83·8 respectively, while the mean temperature for the year was 79·6.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

United States of America:—J. A. Howells, Consul; W. S. Jones, Vice-Consul.

France:—W. S. Jones, Consular Agent.

Denmark:—H. M. Murphy, Consul.

Dominican Republic:—W. A. Manuel, Consul.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general condition of the Dependency still continues to be one of depression and to cause the gravest anxiety for the future of the staple industry of these islands. Owing to the abnormally wet seasons, the two previous years had been classed among the worst ever experienced in their history, and this disastrous state of things continued until the middle of the past year, when the dry weather allowed average rakings to be made. The inability on the part of the salt pond owners during the two years and a half to meet the demand, had in the meantime caused the purchasers at the principal markets to seek fresh sources of supply, especially in the Trapani district of Sicily, so that at the end of the year when, at last, abundant salt was ready for shipment, little or no demand for local salt at profitable prices existed. How serious the situation is, especially for Grand Turk, may be gathered from the following tabulated statement, showing the export value and the number of bushels of salt shipped during the past four years:—

Year.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Total.	Value.
	Average export 700,000 bushels.	Average export 400,000 bushels.	Average export 700,000 bushels.	Average export 1,800,000 bushels.	
					£
1903	694,609	418,480	693,605	1,806,694	23,678
1904	193,305	210,566	601,477	1,005,248	15,079
1905	110,475	361,412	489,412	961,299	14,604
1906	104,648	369,725	569,101	1,043,474	14,276

From the above statement it will be seen that Grand Turk has in three years of disaster, 1904-6, shipped less than two-thirds of what should be its average export.

It addition to the drawbacks of the heavy rains in 1904 and 1905 and the low prices at present obtainable, the high protective duty, about 6 cents or three pence per bushel, on foreign salt imported into the United States, makes it a matter of impossibility for the majority of salt pond owners to retrieve their losses. New districts in the United States by the development of railways are gradually being opened up for the utilization of salt lakes and mines, and this increased production of domestic salt is confining, more and more, the use of imported salt to the packing factories situated in close proximity to the seaboard of the Atlantic. Efforts to extend our trade with Canada, would, I am disposed to believe, not be without result, but united effort and enterprise are necessary, and both, I am sorry to say, are not forthcoming to any large extent at present in this Dependency. Under even the most favourable circumstances, the profits of the salt industry are small and uncertain, and the words of the report for 1899 of one of my predecessors, now Sir H. M. Jackson, deserve to be quoted as being as true with regard to the conditions now existing as they were at the time when written. "The salt industry is, nevertheless, perhaps the most uncertain that could be found, as a single day's rain in the raking season will reduce the crop by one fourth, and yet, as it has hitherto been the only possible industry in these islands, the merchants have gone struggling on, barely keeping their heads above water in an average year, and in a good year tormented with the prospect that it may be followed by a 'dripping season' which will swallow up all their hardly-earned profits. It is not too much to say that but for the 'store' which is the necessary adjunct of every salt merchant's business here, no salt raker could pay his way, and those among them who have attained to even the most modest competence have done so by what they have taken across the counter, not by what they have gathered from their ponds."

The salt ponds are divided into too many interests, and the small owners and even some of the large proprietors are now unable to bear the strain of the last three years.

Although, owing to its size, the introduction of subsidiary industries into Grand Turk is almost impossible, there are several sources of export from the Caicos Islands to supplement the production of salt, as may be seen from the following table:—

Comparative Statement of the value of the Principal Exports other than Salt from the Dependency, 1887–1906.

Year.	Sisal Fibre.	Sponge.	Turtle Shell.	Dried Fish. Conchs.
	£	£	£	£
1887	—	282	56	—
1888	—	287	230	92
1889	—	249	400	—
1890	50	181	30	78
1891	11	1,250	37	41
1892	25	940	77	—
1893	—	618	176	—
1894	420	218	62	44
1895	620	552	150	69
1896	1,047	957	230	6
1897	2,539	4,484	276	—
1898	2,902	982	799	—
1899	7,494	2,004	823	111
1900	5,081	3,951	652	190
1901	6,551	9,277	937	186
1902	7,101	1,961	547	313
1903	6,488	1,253	43	268
1904	6,887	1,414	151	434
1905	5,803	2,223	533	656
1906	5,605	2,418	1,768	509

As will be seen, by far the most important of these industries is that of sisal fibre, which is of comparatively recent introduction into the Dependency. Capt. (now Sir H. M.) Jackson was the first Commissioner to direct practical attention to the possibilities of this plant, for he sent on to Kew specimens of the Pita found in the Caicos, which were identified as the sisal of commerce. The seedlings of the original plants are said to have been brought from Crooked Island in the Bahamas to the Caicos Islands by Mr. Henshall Stubbs about the middle of the last century, but it was not seriously cultivated for export purposes until 1890, when two companies at West Caicos and East Caicos were formed and registered under the Trading Companies Ordinance. Despite the inevitable initial discouragements and difficulties, these companies have struggled on and have proved the practical salvation of the Caicos Islands. Prior to the commencement of the cultivation of fibre, the chief occupations of the people had been wrecking and primitive cultivation of ground provisions. The erection of the Grand Turk Lighthouse had deprived them in a large measure of their chief source of livelihood, and one of my predecessors had quaintly to lament, in enumerating the disasters of the year, that there had been only three wrecks. As the soil in the Caicos at the best is shallow in the extreme, the crops in the frequent seasons of drought were absolute failures, so that the Government had almost yearly to send relief in the form of

food to the half starving people dependent, as has been said, upon crops which, in most favourable years, could, with difficulty, satisfy their wants. Coming at an opportune time, the fibre industry gave steady employment and established habits of industry in place of precarious and demoralizing conditions of work to the people, who were rapidly relapsing into semi-savagery. At the present moment 250 to 300 persons are regularly engaged in the fibre cultivation, and in addition to the two pioneer companies already mentioned, several persons belonging to the Dependency have commenced planting fibre, and are increasing the area of cultivation as quickly as their limited capital will allow. A rough estimate as follows may be given of the land now planted in sisal:—

East Caicos	Acres	2,000
West Caicos	,,	1,000
Bellevue, North Caicos ...	,,	150
Haulover, Grand Caicos ...	,,	50
		3,200

At East Caicos 1,000 acres more are to be planted in the near future, while there will still remain about 3,000 acres for future development. In West Caicos there are about 4,000 acres belonging to the Company suitable for sisal, and 600 acres of Crown Lands are also to be leased. At Bellevue and Haulover there are 1,500 and several thousand acres respectively. In the Turks Islands, the recent unfortunate experience in the salt industry has clearly indicated the importance of introducing fibre to afford, during wet seasons, employment to the labourers and prevent their wholesale emigration, and two leases for Crown Lands of 430 and 350 acres in Grand Turk and Salt Cay, respectively, have been signed during the past year. These leases, which are for 21 years, with the option of renewal for a further term of 21 years, stipulate that the lessees shall within three years commence the cultivation of the land, and within five years have at least so many acres under cultivation as are approved by the Government. In the Caicos Islands there are thousands of acres suitable for sisal cultivation, which, being surveyed, can be either sold or leased on conditions similar to those already stated.

Sponge gathering as an industry of commercial importance is also of recent date. At present, there are three sponging establishments in the Caicos Islands; at Cockburn Harbour, Dellis Cay, and Five Cays, where sponges are purchased, cured, assorted, baled, and shipped. The gathering of the sponges is carried on by more than 50 sloops belonging principally to Blue Hills or Providenciales, each of which employs three to nine men according to the number of boats carried. The best

months for sponging are April, May, September, November, and December. After being cured, the sponges, when carefully graded, are pressed in bales, averaging 50lb. in weight, and exported. The sponges are bought locally in 2 strands of 15 pieces each, the total weight being from 1½ to 2lb. on an average. Although inferior to those imported from the Mediterranean, these sponges find ready sale at fairly remunerative prices at the local establishments, and in the United States bring—

Grade.	Local Prices.	Prices in New York.
	cents.	cents.
Sheep's Wool	50–125	70–175
Reef (local)	20–25	75–120
Yellow and Hard Head ...	11–15	30–40
Velvet	10–12	40
Grass	10–12	20–40

Turtling is carried on for the sake of the shell of the Hawksbill, and, owing to the lack of local enterprise and knowledge, is largely in the hands of the Bahama schooners, which come in large numbers into these waters during the season. Legislation is necessary for establishing a close season, or else the turtle will soon be rarely seen, owing to its shy habits and the modern ingenious contrivances for ensnaring it, which, in sporting parlance, leave the turtle, when once seen, no off-chance of escape.

Conchs are a favourite article of diet among all classes in these Islands, and if properly dressed can be made exceedingly palatable. When dried they are exported principally to Hayti, where they find a ready sale. Occasionally those engaged in the trade have the good fortune to find pink pearls, for which high prices are obtained.

The bat manure caves at East Caicos and Conch Bar, in the Grand Caicos, have long since been exhausted.

Although the immediate outlook is gloomy in the extreme, it is to be hoped that the clouds will soon lift and that all classes of the Dependency who have met the recent adverse years with grit, patience, and fortitude, will once more experience what they deserve—a long period of prosperity.

F. H. Watkins,
Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

*** A Report upon the Sisal Industry of the Caicos Islands is being published separately; Colonial Reports (Miscellaneous) No. 43 [Cd. 3766].

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
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522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
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529	Gibraltar	"
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532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
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539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906

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36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 549.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 525.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1907.

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1907.

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No. 549.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 525.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
17th October, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1906-7, which has been prepared by Mr. H. C. Bourne, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

2. Having assumed the Government of this Island since the close of the period dealt with, I have no observations to make upon this Report, which appears to me to present a well-composed and interesting survey of the year's transactions.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

The improvement in prosperity which set in towards the end of 1905 and indicated the recovery of the Colony from the cyclone of August 11th, 1903, continued under favourable climatic conditions throughout the first three quarters of the year under review, and in January, 1907, the prospects of agriculture and trade were bright, and a large surplus was anticipated. On the 14th of that month at 3.33 p.m., when the West Indian Agricultural Conference, held at Kingston under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and attended by an unusual number of distinguished visitors from the Mother Country was taking place, a terrible earthquake occurred which wrecked almost all the brick buildings in the town. It was immediately followed by a fire, which broke out at three different points, and rapidly spread over the business and shipping section of Kingston. In a few hours the commercial quarter was reduced to ruins, and nearly all the trading stocks and food supplies of Kingston were destroyed.

The following is the account of the catastrophe given by the Inspector-General of Constabulary in his Annual Report:—

"The disastrous earthquake which destroyed the business part of Kingston, and rendered almost all the dwellings in the remainder of the city and lower part of Saint Andrew uninhabitable, occurred on the afternoon of the 14th January, about 3.30. Several fires broke out immediately after the shock, within that portion of the city south of the Parade, between Church Street on the east, and Orange Street on the west, which rapidly spread and consumed the entire area down to the sea, including the wharves situated within these boundaries.

"The loss of life caused by the falling buildings and subsequent fire (many persons who survived the shock got pinned under the debris and collapsed buildings, or being too seriously injured to escape unaided, were burnt to death by the quickly advancing fire before they could be rescued) must have been over 1,200, including strangers who were visiting Jamaica, and some of the leading citizens, and prominent and business men, while numbers of persons were seriously injured. I am unable to state, with any degree of accuracy, the loss to property, but it must have been very great.

"As soon as possible after the catastrophe, with the assistance of the Deputy Inspector-General and other Officers, I organised the police, as well as was possible under the circumstances, and sent out parties to assist in rescuing the wounded and help at the fires, which could not, however, be checked, owing to the destruction of the principal fire station.

"The police, assisted by parties of the West India Regiment, who soon arrived from camp, and the Royal Garrison Artillery, continued during the night to patrol the streets and remove the wounded to the Public Hospital and other places of safety outside the fire-swept area. Picquets and guards were posted at the two banks (which although burned down had their contents safe in the vaults), Myrtle Bank Hotel, and at all other points in the city where their services were most urgently required, while the Water Police protected the sea front.

"Next day the work of rescuing the wounded and burying the dead was continued, and numbers of bodies, many of which through disfigurement could not be identified, were buried. Two sub-officers and eighty men were continuously engaged on this work for forty-eight hours, owing to the pressing necessity of quick burial.

"A cordon of police and military was formed round the burned area, and was extended so as to include the Railway Station and Kingston Mills, also the Customs and Bonded Warehouses, and the Hamburg-American and Railway Wharves. Everybody was excluded and none allowed to re-enter, except on production of a written pass. Guards of police and military were also mounted on the banks, wharves, customs, and bonded warehouses, the railway, and the few stores which were opened for business. The West India Regiment supplied a guard for the Public Hospital and Cross Roads, and the city and suburbs were constantly patrolled by police and military picquets.

"Almost the entire population of the city took refuge on the Race Course, and other open spaces, north of the Parade Gardens, being afraid to return to their damaged houses, but some of the lower order returned and looted many of the stores north of the police and military cordon. Numbers of them, however, were arrested, and a considerable quantity of loot was recovered on that and succeeding days, and removed to Sutton Street Station and restored to the owners.

"Reinforcements were called up from the Depôt and the parishes of Manchester, Saint Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Saint James, and Saint Mary, and I was able to relieve the great strain on the Kingston men, who had been on duty continuously for two days and nights, as well as to afford the much needed protection which the city called for in its altered and defenceless condition. The Militia Artillery guarded the Railway buildings and contents, the Kingston Mills, and the Customs and Bonded Warehouses, the West India Regiment, the Wharves, Banks, Ordnance, &c., while the police and Saint Andrew Rifle Corps supplied the cordon and mounted guards on all the public offices, wharves, and food distributing depôts, and guarded the relief supplies as they arrived. The Kingston Rifle Corps, some of whom were mounted, rendered good service in patrolling the suburbs and keeping in touch with, and

reporting to, Police Headquarters, and Mr. F. C. Burke, B.A., of Westmoreland, and some of his friends, did valuable work in this direction for a considerable period.

"As the dead bodies were being recovered, and the streets within the burnt area cleared and opened to traffic, the cordon gradually closed towards the sea, when, at the end of two weeks, the whole city having been sufficiently cleared, it was withdrawn, and the services of the regular and irregular forces dispensed with. The extra police from the country continued to guard the lower part of the city, and mount the guards and picquets already established, down to the 1st of March, when the Kingston Division, having been increased by twenty men from the Depôt, resumed entire control of the city, and the country detachments returned to their Division.

"For fully a week after the earthquake, Sutton Street Police Station and its approaches were actually besieged by the terror-stricken population, who looked upon it as a sort of information bureau, and every effort was made to supply information to persons—native and foreign—regarding missing friends, &c. As written permits were required to pass through the cordon the issue of these alone kept a couple of officers continually busy. An unusually large number of permits were also issued to persons leaving the Island.

"I have much pleasure" (writes the Inspector-General of Constabulary in the report from which this is quoted) "in expressing my appreciation of the valuable services rendered in aid of the police, under circumstances of almost unparalled difficulties, by the Officers and men of the West India Regiment, the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Jamaica Militia Artillery, and the Saint Andrew and Kingston Rifle Corps, without which it would have been impossible to police the fallen city, immediately after the earthquake. The conduct of the men and the harmony with which they worked together was admirable, considering the depressing and disagreeable nature of the duty, the long spells of watching, irregular meals, contact with the dead and dying, and the dispiriting example of a despondent populace. Everything was done in a humane manner, and not one complaint of rough handling on the part of the police or military reached me. I must also pay a similar tribute to the Officers and men of the police, who worked, with untiring zeal, under very great difficulties. Their barracks were down, and when not on duty they had to sleep in the open. For days after the catastrophe they had to remain on duty for twelve hours at a time in the streets, with fixed bayonets, without a regular food supply, and, except where an occasional man dropped out through physical exhaustion, not a murmur or complaint was heard.

"The Water Police kept a vigilant watch on the sea front, and after the first day, at least, effectually prevented looting in that direction, and also made some smart detections of looted goods, while the detectives were responsible for the recovery

of a large amount of property which had been looted immediately after the earthquake.

"When we bear in mind the unprotected condition of the partially destroyed wharves, warehouses, railway premises, bonded warehouses, and private houses, containing goods and valuable property, it is satisfactory to state that, after the great panic of the first day and night—when it was almost impossible to prevent it—little or no looting or serious robberies took place. The conduct of the people was good. They gave the police very little trouble, and obeyed those to whom were entrusted the maintenance of social order, and I doubt if the people of more enlightened cities elsewhere would have acted as well, in face of such a calamity."

The Inspector-General's estimate of the loss of life is probably excessive. An alternative estimate of 800 is based on the following particulars:—

Buried up to 28th January—		
May Pen	501	
Half-Way-Tree	18	
Catholic Cemetery	57	
Up-Park-Camp	27	
Spanish Town	5	
Stated to have been cremated	91	
		699
Deaths in Hospital after January 28th ...		13
		712
Bodies still buried in ruins and other deaths not included in above, say		88
		800

Any estimate of the destruction of property is necessarily very rough, but the following are the figures set out in the petition presented to the Imperial Parliament:—

	£
Loss of buildings in the burnt area ...	500,000
Losses on private buildings in Kingston and suburbs of St. Andrew	900,000
Ecclesiastical buildings in Kingston ...	60,000
Merchandise and personal property in burnt area	500,000
Ecclesiastical buildings out of Kingston ...	30,000
Other buildings in other parishes	20,000
	£2,010,000

The following paragraph from the annual report of the Collector-General indicates the extent to which the wharves and the wholesale stores suffered:—

"Out of twenty-one bonded warehouses fifteen were destroyed by fire and five by earthquake, but one escaping. The special stores fared no better, the freight house at the Royal Mail Wharf and that of the Hamburg-American Atlas Company being the exceptions. There were found to be capable of being patched up for immediate requirements seven special stores and four bonded warehouses. Of twenty-two wharves used for the commerce of the City six were totally destroyed by fire. Duty approximating £11,842 was remitted on goods in warehouses destroyed by fire and £1,260 in respect of goods short on stocktaking in those warehouses wrecked by earthquake."

The Petitioners' estimate of the loss by destruction of buildings in Kingston was computed by taking the annual assessed rental of houses (including sites) at 15 years' purchase, and roughly estimating the depreciation at 95 per cent. in the case of premises in the burnt area and 75 per cent. in that of those in the rest of Kingston, and then deducting 5 per cent. from the total to cover inaccuracies. It may be doubted whether this allowance of 5 per cent. was sufficient, seeing that as regards the burnt area the value of the site alone would in every case represent more than 5 per cent. of the value of the premises, and as regards the district in respect of which a depreciation of 75 per cent. on the premises is assumed, that rate would imply a very much larger depreciation of the buildings taken alone and one obviously not in agreement with the facts. It may be noted that the properties in or about Kingston, roughly numbering 700, in which one of the leading building societies was interested were re-valued after the earthquake at nearly 95 per cent. of their former values, and many owners of sites in the burnt area claim that they have increased in value since the earthquake. On the other hand the value of the stocks and personal property destroyed is estimated by some whose opinion is entitled to respect at a very much higher figure than £500,000. The total amount of fire insurance policies on property in the burnt area is computed at £800,000.

The relief of immediate distress was ably carried out by a Committee appointed by the Governor, under the Chairmanship of His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, and among other steps taken by the Government, all the stores of foodstuffs remaining in the warehouses were commandeered to maintain a supply of the necessaries of life at a reasonable price, and were sold to the public through the agency of shops specially opened or kept open under police protection. Goods were retailed across the counter at Wolmers School by the Headmaster of the School and the Secretary of the Jamaica

Institute, and credit is due to the Auditor-General for ultimately disposing of surplus stores.

Though the sum of personal loss has been enormous and a great part of the working capital of the trade of the Colony has been destroyed, its agricultural resources are unimpaired, and its productive power is reduced only in so far as local capital for agriculture derivable from Kingston is diminished and capital is diverted from agriculture to the replacement of capital required for trade. These effects, however, will, it is to be hoped, be materially checked by the munificent assistance afforded by the Imperial Government and the generous donations contributed through the Mansion House Fund and other agencies from all parts of His Majesty's dominions and from foreign countries.

The total contributions (apart from the Imperial Grant and Loan subsequently voted by the Mother Country, and excluding the stores which were distributed in kind) amounted to £103,670, which was made up as follows:—

	£
Mansion House Fund	54,053
United Kingdom—other public subscriptions	15,778
United Kingdom—private subscriptions ...	533
British Colonies—Government contributions	7,179
British Colonies and India—private ,, ...	8,302
Foreign countries	6,804
Sale of relief stores	7,469
Island of Jamaica	3,010
Interest	542
	£103,670

Of this, £32,683 was spent in the relief of immediate distress, and a balance of £70,987 was handed over to the Assistance Committee, which has now been constituted to disburse the Imperial Grant in assistance of a more permanent nature. The operations of this Committee, and of the Loan Board, which is entrusted with the administration of the Imperial Loan, fall outside the year with which this report deals.

FINANCIAL.

The immediate effect of the earthquake on the revenue of the Colony was a few weeks' industrial paralysis, followed by a great increase in receipts from import duty and rum duty resulting from the demand for the re-placement of stocks. This increase commenced soon enough to neutralise the short period of stagnation which preceded it, and the surplus anticipated before the catastrophe has consequently been realised.

The accounts of the Colony for 1906-7 are not yet finally completed, but so far as at present ascertained the following are the results of the year's transactions:—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue	886,911	7	0
Expenditure	827,386	8	11½

showing a surplus of £59,524 18*s.* 0½*d.* This surplus added to the balance of assets with which the year commenced, £38,621 18*s.* 1¼*d.*, has left the Colony at the close of the year with the balance of assets £98,146 16*s.* 1¾*d.*

A table in which the revenue and expenditure are compared with those of previous years is appended to this Report. The original estimate of revenue was exceeded by £84,752. A surplus was realised on every head of revenue except rents, which fell short by £150. The excesses were as follows:—

	£
Customs	41,000
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues ...	850
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue ...	11,500
Fees of Office, Stamp Duty, Reimbursements, &c.	6,500
Post Office and Telegraphs	4,800
Railway	13,000
Interest	400
Miscellaneous	5,000
Land Sales	13,000

The original estimate of expenditure, £801,230, was increased by supplementary appropriations of £25,591, and also by £29,187 devoted to the repayment *pro tanto* of the loan under the Imperial Colonial Loans Act, 1900, for arrears of Railway Interest. Of the total appropriation of £856,008, the amount expended was £827,386, showing a saving of £28,662.

A policy of strict economy was observed throughout the year, but the Supplementary Estimates would probably have included provision for certain road extensions and other extraordinary works, if the occurrence of the earthquake had not led to the postponement of all new works which were not considered to be matters of most pressing urgency. As it was, however, considerable expenditure was incurred on roads in Vere and St. Thomas which had been necessitated by traffic in the former case, and in both, by the economies which had been practised for years in the upkeep of the roads of the Colony.

The excess of assets over liabilities was at the close of the year £98,146. The only assets which are not immediately realisable, are the following:—

	£
Parochial Improvement Loans and Advances to Parishes	37,744
Planters' Notes	29,828
Stores	30,172

and a few other Miscellaneous Advances. The amount still outstanding on account of Loans under the Hurricane Loans Law, 1903, was £2,648, and on account of advances to Sugar Industry £460.

For the benefit of readers who are not acquainted with the system of Public Official Accounts it is perhaps desirable to explain that the published statement of assets and liabilities relates only to transactions on general revenue account. Accordingly the liabilities do not include the amount of the funded debt nor do assets include the results of expenditure from loans. It is unnecessary to add that the Statement takes no account of Crown Lands and other items of wealth which have not been acquired from general revenue, or of the taxable capacity of the Colony which is the ultimate measure of its solvency.

The Public Debt, that is to say the funded debt of the Colony together with certain loans for special purposes charged on the undertakings and guaranteed by general revenue, amounted on the 31st March, 1907, to £3,654,388, and the Sinking Funds for the redemption of debt to £447,533. By the ordinary operations of the Sinking Funds, the repayment in certain cases by annuities, and the prescribed drawing and repayment of debentures, the outstanding debt will be reduced in 1915 to about £3,611,000, in 1925 to £3,494,000, in 1935 to £3,179,000, in 1945 to £1,688,000, and in 1955 to £36,000.

A lucid and exhaustive examination of the composition of the Public Debt is to be found in Sir Sydney Olivier's report on the Blue Book for 1901-2.*

The amount of revenue raised by direct taxation is comparatively small. Of the total revenue—nearly £887,000 last year—£411,000 was contributed by Customs and £101,000 by Rum Duty. It may be noted here that the existing Customs Tariff, by which imports not specially rated or scheduled in the free list are subject to the high *ad valorem* duty of 16⅔ per cent. has been renewed for five years from June, 1906. The Excise Duty on rum has remained at 5*s*. since 1898. The Railway (the gross receipts of which are credited to General Revenue) yielded over £148,000, and the Post Office and Telegraphs over £39,000. If licences, which are not compulsory imports, are excluded, the only direct tax for colonial purposes is the Property Tax, which is fixed by Law at 8*d*. in the £10 gross capital value, and last year yielded £29,000, and a House Tax in Kingston (in lieu of the Property Tax), which ceased at the end of the year, which yielded £5,779. The total of the Parochial Rates was £64,000, exclusive of about £3,000 Road Rates, by which, together with Taxes on horse-kind, carts, and other vehicles and a few minor items the Parochial Road Funds are fed. The total collections for these funds was £38,000. One other item of direct taxation not

* Colonial Report—Annual—No. 373.

included in the above should be added, viz.: Water Rates, which are for the most part compulsory in the districts served. These produced £16,800* in Kingston and St. Andrew, and £5,400 in the other parishes.

The Parochial General Exchequer shows a slight diminution compared with the collections of 1905-06, due entirely to the remission of rates in Kingston after the earthquake. But for this disaster the Collector-General reports that notwithstanding a reduction in the rating of Kingston of 2*d.* in the pound of rental the collection would have been maintained at the preceding year's figures, and so satisfactory were the City's finances at the end of 1906 that a further reduction of 3*d.* in the pound was contemplated.

The collection of the General Parish Rates under Law 16 of 1903 was very satisfactory. Arrear taxes were collected on 250,000 acres, while at the close of the year the arrear accounts consisted of only 66,000 acres. As regards Kingston, the system of taxation has since the close of the financial year been assimilated to that of the other parishes. Hitherto the house has been the unit for taxation, and it may be instructive to take this the last opportunity of noting the results of an analysis of the City's assessment.

The houses of and under £12 rental numbered 3,355, or 55·7 of the whole, while those of a rental of £59 and upwards were only 355, or 4·5 of the whole. The Collector-General observes that these figures suggest either that Kingston before its destruction was a very squalid city or that rents were very low. He adds that as a matter of fact rents were not low compared with rents of provincial towns in England. As regards the parishes other than Kingston the General Parish Rate was altered last year in only four cases. In St. Andrew it has been reduced from 1*s.* 3½*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*, and Port Royal from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* In St. Thomas it has been raised from 1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 1½*d.*, and in St. Elizabeth from 7*d.* to 8*d.* It varied from 8*d.* in St. Elizabeth, and 8½*d.* in Manchester, to 1*s.* 5*d.* in Trelawney and St. James, and 1*s.* 8*d.* in Port Royal. The maximum of the Parochial Road Rate fixed by Law is 2*d.* In very few cases does it exceed 1*d.*, and in some no such rate is levied at all. The number of properties rated as being of £20 gross value or less numbered 54,827 or 43·7 per cent.; those valued at over £40 gross value numbered 21,285 or 17 per cent.

Of 160,000 tax accounts on the Rolls only 4·7 per cent. were in default at the end of the year, and it must be remembered that the arrear lists include derelict accounts and lands, the owners of which cannot be traced. The open accounts, which numbered at the end of 1904-5 nearly 19,000, and at the end of 1905-6 nearly 11,000, were at the end of 1906-7 only 7,954.

The following abstract indicates considerable progress in the ease or willingness of the taxpayers to pay their direct taxes:—

* Original estimate.

Taxpayers.

—	1906-07.	1905-06.
Taxpayers on roll	161,625	161,472
Paying voluntarily to end of June	85,484	69,779
Cases in which relief (partial or total) has been granted.	1,968	2,626
Assessment notices issued	91,166	106,279
Levy writs issued	57,506	67,288
Number paying to 31st December	146,444	136,842
Summonses issued	19,324	27,785
Paid on issue of summonses	11,059	14,112
Commitments applied for	2,502	3,935
Paid on issue of commitments	1,649	2,953
Number sent to prison...	76	91

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The value of the imports into the Colony in the year under review was £2,261,469, as against £1,941,937 in the preceding year, which had shewn a very large advance on 1904-5. The exports for 1906-7 were valued at £1,992,007, as against £1,568,224 in the preceding year, which showed an advance of over £406,000 on 1904-5. As regards imports the increased collection of duty is shewn under many heads, the largest increases being flour over £5,000, and fish (dried or salted), whisky, tobacco, and oil, each over £2,000. A decrease exceeding £1,000 is shown only in the case of fish (alewives), the high price of which resulted in the substituted importation of dried or salted fish. The large increase in flour though due for the most part to satisfactory causes was also enhanced by the drought which set in before the close of the year and reduced the local supply of farinaceous food. The exports show an increase in value under each of the four heads under which they are classified, viz.:—

	£
1. Live animals, food, &c.	88,900
2. Raw materials	3,000
3. Manufactured articles	24,000
4. Coin and bullion	31,000

Under Class I. the chief increases were the following:—

—	Quantity.		Value.
			£
Cocoa	16,500	cwt.	57,000
Bananas ... ... over	1,000,000	stems.	37,800
Rum	32,500	galls.	35,200
Cocoanuts ... ... nearly	4,000,000		15,800
Cigars	500,600	lbs.	4,500
Tobacco leaf	39,000	,,	1,100
Turtle ... ... nearly	599		1,000

It is very satisfactory to note that the increase in the export of cocoa exceeds even that in the case of bananas. Cocoa is still classified among the minor products, but its cultivation is steadily extending, and it is a less precarious crop than fruit. The increased export of cocoanuts is an indication of gradual recovery from the hurricane of 1903. Smaller increases appear in grapefruit, limes, limejuice, and horses, and increases in quantity, but accompanied by decrease in value, in the case of sugar, annatto, kola-nuts, and yams. On the other hand the ginger exported, though less in quantity, was valued nearly £11,900 higher than the preceding year's crop. The chief decreases were:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Coffee	25,900 cwt.	45,800
Oranges	19,300,000 No.	19,500
Pimento	6,400 cwt.	1,300
Cattle	2,240 No.	13,000

Under Class II. the most important increases are wood (logwood) nearly £3,700, wood (bitter) £1,600, tortoise shell £1,700, and under Class III. logwood extract £16,600.

The following table taken from the Collector-General's annual report shows the relative importance of the Colony's staple products and the place that those still classified as minor products take in the list:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sugar	8·1	6·9	6·3
Rum	6·4	5·6	7·1
Coffee	5·9	7·6	4·7
Dyewoods	5·4	4·5	4·4
Fruits	41·8	55·0	53·7
Pimento	9·5	4·5	4·2
Minor products	22·9	15·9	19·6

The one item under the general head "Fruit" that gives it its important place is bananas. The following are the number of stems exported in each of the past four years:—

1903-4	7,800,000
1904-5	8,900,000
1905-6	14,980,000
1906-7	16,000,000

The vast bulk of the crop goes to the United States, but the quantity sent to the United Kingdom, which was under

695,000 in 1904-5, rose to 1,217,000 in 1905-6, and 1,254,000 in 1906-7. In the same period the quantity exported to Canada has risen from 10,500 to nearly 118,000.

The number of oranges exported has fallen since 1903-4 from 82,600,000 to 55,100,000 last year, the export to the United States having fallen from 64,200,000 to 18,400,000. On the other hand the quantity exported to the United Kingdom which was 12,100,000 in 1903-4 has risen to nearly 26,000,000 last year, and to Canada from 4,500,000 to over 10,000,000. Pimento, of which Jamaica has practically the monopoly, fluctuates continually from year to year. The value of this export was worth in 1904-5 nearly £137,000, only £80,000 in 1905-6, and under £79,000 in 1906-7.

The following table shows the proportions in which our exports, including imports re-exported, were distributed among the markets of the world:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.
United Kingdom	18·8	19·3	21·6
United States of America	53·4	57·4	57·2
Canada...	8·8	6·1	7·5
Other countries	19·0	17·2	13·7

It will be observed that in the last year there has been a slight movement in favour of the United Kingdom and of Canada at the expense of the United States and other countries. The United States, however, take more than half of our exports.

It is a matter of gratification that the prospects of a great development in our export trade in rum are very good. According to the special Commissioner appointed under the Jamaica Rum Protection Law, 26 of 1904, the planters have received for their last crop £20,000 more than they would have received had there been no protection against fraud hitherto perpetrated against the Jamaica product. Many planters have combined and entered into contracts to sell their rum for a term of years to a company specially formed for the purpose of securing Jamaica rum against such fraud. The action of Mr. Nolan and of this company, together with the assistance to their efforts given by the Imperial Departments in the United Kingdom are likely to increase the demand for and stimulate the production of the genuine article.

An analysis of the shipping returns shows a net increase of steam ships coming to the Island of 103, tonnage 120,430. This increase, however, is entirely in foreign shipping, British steamships showing a decrease in number of 11·8 per cent., and in tonnage of 12·1 per cent. The total tonnage of British steamers in 1906-7 was 506,000 tons, and of foreign steamers 968,000. The

steam tonnage entering at Kingston has increased in 14 years from 409,096 tons in 1892-3 to 1,097,668 tons in 1906-7. The relative position of the ports of entry in Jamaica has changed little since 1903, and that little is in favour of Kingston. Kingston, which in 1903 did 71·6 of the total trade, in 1906-7 did 73·4. Montego Bay shows an increase from 5·8 to 6·1, while Port Antonio has advanced only from 4·4 to 4·5; Port Maria and Annotto Bay have both gone back and now stand at 2·7 and 2·1 respectively; and Falmouth, in spite of its harbour improvements, remains at the same figure, 2·1.

The land statistics of the Colony classify the land enumerated under four heads, viz.: tilled lands, guinea grass, commons, and wood and ruinate.

The following table shows the average acreage of each returned for last year and the average for the last four years:—

—	1906–7.	Average of four years.
Tilled lands	255,414	229,127
Guinea grass	138,569	122,894
Commons	476,863	432,013
Wood and ruinate	1,270,551	1,292,531
	2,141,397	2,076,565

The acreage not accounted for varies from 3·9 in the case of Hanover to 32·3 in the case of Trelawny. A glance at this table suggests that there is much scope for the extension of agriculture. A further table is added showing approximately the acreage of the different cultivations:—

—	1906–7.	Average of four years.
Canes	29,182	25,732
Coffee	27,783	26,348
Cocoanuts	9,782	10,915
Bananas	62,685	43,625
Cocoa	8,586	5,040
Ground Provisions	113,995	115,974
Other items	3,401	1,493
	255,414	229,127

Apart from agriculture and penkeeping, that is the raising of stock, the chief industries other than those connected merely with distribution are, of course, those incidental to agriculture. With the exception, however, of sugar and rum, and cigars,

no elaborate preparation of the produce of agriculture is necessary prior to exportation. Rum and sugar are manufactured on the estates on which they grow, and though various schemes for central factories for sugar are in process of organization, the manufacture of sugar as an industry distinct from the production of the cane has still to be developed. There are several factories of excellent cigars in Kingston, and the merits of Jamaica cigars are becoming slowly recognized. The demand for the tobacco is in excess of the supply, and in view of the special skill required in its treatment the position in this respect will be changed only very gradually. The five chief factories respectively produced last year quantities varying from 245,000 to 3,459,000 cigars, and two factories produced 3,000,000 and 23,000,000 cigarettes respectively. The cigarettes are chiefly made from imported tobacco. Cigars are also made in six of the parishes. There are half a dozen aerated water factories at Kingston and others in other towns. Ice is manufactured at several centres. Small breweries and tanneries exist in many places. Butter making is being developed as a special industry at dairies in Manchester and Westmoreland. A factory at Spanish Town (The West India Chemical Works) for the production of logwood extract has in recent years been a large purchaser of all logwood within its reach and the establishment last year of a similar factory at Lacovia in St. Elizabeth promises to be of great value to that parish. A small company has also been established in St. Ann for the manufacture of meal from native corn, and it is understood that in St. Mary the Patterson Food Company of London is exploiting the banana for prepared food. Reference has been made in the reports on the Blue Book for former years to local match and soap factories. Under the protection of the Colonial Tariff the match factory has continued to manufacture matches from imported materials and to compete with the article imported ready-made. The number of boxes made last year was nearly 77,000 gross. The Doncaster Brick Works at Kingston is the only rival of the Penitentiary in the manufacture of bricks. The hotel industry is gradually developing. In addition to the hotels in the neighbourhood of Kingston, the large Hotel Titchfield at Port Antonio, and the smaller hotels at Spanish Town, Mandeville, Moneague and Montpelier, there are now some fifty licensed hotels or recognized lodgings in different parts of the Island available for tourists, and the accommodation provided is improving year by year. Of those owned by the Government, Moneague Hotel has, in response to popular demand, been enlarged in the past year. The tourist season naturally comprises the winter months, but the large majority of visitors who come from the United States do not reach Jamaica until after Christmas. Hence the tourist traffic for last year was to a great extent destroyed by the earthquake. The Collector for Portland records that the number of tourists entering the

Island through Port Antonio, the port at which the visitors from the United States chiefly arrive, fell off by 985.

Reference may conveniently be made in this section of my Report to those agencies which exist for the promotion and encouragement of agriculture and other industries of the Colony. The Board of Agriculture, which is under Government control, co-ordinates and supervises the Departments of Public Gardens and Plantations, and of the Island Chemist in so far as he is concerned in agricultural experiments. It also has control of the expenditure of the Imperial Grant of £10,000 allotted prior to the Brussels Convention for the relief of the sugar industry in Jamaica. Of this £10,000, £3,000 was allocated to capital expenditure on building machinery and appliances required to carry out experiments in the manufacture of rum. The bulk of these experiments are conducted at the Government Laboratory, but a part has been carried on at estate distilleries. Of this sum allocated to capital expenditure £147 only remains. The balance of the fund was appropriated to current expenditure and will suffice to provide the means of carrying on operations until 1910. This recurrent expenditure includes the salaries of a fermentation chemist and a superintendent of field experiments, and also provision for the cost of systematic experiments in the value of manures as applied to cane cultivation and in the relative merits of different varieties of seedling and other canes. Provision is also made for the training of distillers in a more scientific manner than has been customary in the past. One result of the united labours of the Island chemist and the fermentation chemist has been the discovery of what is now known as the high ether process in the manufacture of rum. At the outset practically nothing was known as to the composition of the materials used and of the changes which occurred during the process of fermentation. The Island chemist claims that it is now established that the flavour of Jamaica rum, to which the great variety in its character and quality is due, is the result, not of alcoholic fermentation by yeasts, but of acidic and putrefactive fermentation by bacteria. It has been demonstrated further that the compound ethers are the chief source of the special aroma on which the commercial value depends. The high ether process reinforces the ether content of rum by recovering the volatile acids left in the spent liquor from the retorts and returning them into the process. This process was last year carried out on a commercial scale on six estates. The rum produced was sold in London and favourably reported on by brokers and merchants. In some cases, however, the extraordinarily high standard of ethers in the new rum has made the market slower to welcome it than might have been anticipated. Experiments in manures have been carried on in conjunction with soil analysis on selected estates in four parishes, and the experiment to test the value of seedling canes as compared with

the ordinary estate canes on twenty-four estates in eight parishes. Progress has been made in the agricultural education centred at the laboratory which is carried on in connection with the scientific work of the department. The training of distillers has been mentioned above. Seven students attended the course of agricultural science during the year: of these five presented themselves for diploma examination and were all successful. The standard of competition for agricultural scholarships was also much higher than last year.

The Department of Public Gardens and Plantations also carries on both experimental and educational work. The department has three stations, Hope Gardens near Kingston, Castleton Gardens on the banks of the Wag Water (s.c., Agua Alta) in St. Mary, and the now neglected Hill Gardens at Cinchona in the Blue Mountains (5,000 feet above the sea). The experimental plantation at Hope included during the year under review seedling canes, Havana and Sumatra tobacco, cassava (various varieties), cocoa, coffee, citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, various vegetables, rubber, and vanilla. Possibly the most valuable part of the educational work of the department is that carried on by the two travelling instructors who spend their time visiting whatever districts in the Colony are in the greatest need of their services, to lead the peasant proprietor into the better way of cultivating economic plants. These instructors work in co-operation with those appointed for similar purposes by the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The management of that Society is entirely independent of the Government, though the Governor is its chairman, and it is supported by a Government Grant which last year amounted to £1,250. The various Agricultural Shows which are held under the auspices of the Society are popular social gatherings, and they stimulate competition in the minor agricultural industries and still more the breeding of high-class horsekind and stock. The Society also awards prizes directly for the best cultivated holdings in selected districts. The Westmoreland Sugar Planters Association and the Northside Sugar Planters Association are, as their names imply, devoted entirely to the interest of sugar and rum. They may congratulate themselves on the success of the measure promoted by them and accepted by the Government for the representation of the rum industry of Jamaica by a direct agent in London.

The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, which was established in 1885, performs the functions of a Chamber of Commerce. It receives a grant of £100 a year from the Government.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

English silver is legal tender to any amount in the Colony, and the currency consists mainly of English silver, nickel coined specially for Jamaica, and bank notes for one pound issued by the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony last year is estimated at £300,000. The note circulation of the Colonial Bank was a little over £100,000, and that of the Bank of Nova Scotia a little under £40,000

The local bank-rate of interest is 6 per cent. The average rate of exchange with London during the past year was, bankers' selling rate 90 days, par, buying rate 90 days, ½ per cent. discount. The Bank of Nova Scotia has opened a savings bank branch in which it allows 3 per cent. interest on deposits. The Government Savings Bank allows 2½ per cent. The latter has fourteen branches in the Colony. The total number of depositors and amount of deposits at the commencement and the end of the year respectively were as follows:—

—	31st March, 1906.	31st March, 1907.
Depositors	38,971	40,056
Deposits	£ 353,125	£ 349,616

LEGISLATION.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, five ex-officio members, ten members nominated by the Governor, and fourteen members elected by the fourteen parishes other than Port Royal respectively. The bare majority of the votes under the Governor's control cannot be used by the Governor in all cases, as the votes of the ex-officio and nominated members cannot be taken in support of a law, vote, or resolution imposing any new tax or appropriating public revenue if nine elected members vote against it, unless the Governor declares from the chair that the passing of the measure is of paramount importance in the public interest, and similarly if the fourteen elected members are united on any question the votes of the rest of the Council cannot be taken unless the Governor declares that its decision in a contrary sense is a matter of paramount importance. The law of Jamaica is based on the English Common Law.

The following were the principal measures enacted during the year under review:—

Law 7 of 1906 provided for the appointment of an Assistant to the Attorney-General on the abolition of the Solicitor-Generalship.

Law 8 of 1906—the law to amend the Post Office Law 1868—compels all vessels outward bound to take mails at such rates as the Governor in Privy Council may fix.

Law 9 of 1906—the Produce Protection Law Amendment Law 1906—effected two changes. It compels every shipper of produce always to use the same trade mark, leaving it open to him, however, to employ subsidiary marks. It also abolished servants' licences under the amending Law of 1904, which appear to have created a class of tout who encouraged the peasant to sell him immature fruit for export, and also, as it is alleged, instigated praedial larceny.

Law 10 of 1906—a law to amend the Port Royal Law, 1900—reconstructed the Parochial Board of Port Royal on its abandonment as a naval station in being.

Law 20 of 1906—a law to amend the law as to the Registration of Voters and the Election Law, 1884—provides for the automatic registration of persons qualified as voters, provided they have paid their taxes, while it preserves the exclusion of persons who cannot write by excepting those who have signed their ingiving for tax purposes with a mark. The necessity of this law was suggested by the observation that a comparatively small number of persons who are entitled to be registered as voters took the trouble to get their names placed on the list. There has been a large increase in the lists since the law came into operation.

EDUCATION.

The secondary education of the Island, so far as it is maintained out of Government Funds or endowments administered under legislative enactments, is completely controlled by the Jamaica Schools Commission, which also acts directly in the management of the Jamaica College. The Secondary School at Montego Bay is under the Board of Education. The Government grants appropriated directly to secondary education in 1906-7 were:—

			£
Jamaica College	...	...	1,206
Montego Bay School	...	...	210

In addition about £1,150 was appropriated for scholarships. The Report on the Blue Book for 1905-6 gave a detailed account of the objects on which these appropriations are ex-

pended and also of the incomes derived from endowments by the secondary schools of the Colony. The total of such endowments belonging to nine different institutions amounts to about £5,800. The report for last year was received from the Schools Commission after this report was written, and it will perhaps be sufficient to refer for information on this head to the Blue Book Report mentioned above.

The basis of the elementary education of the Colony is a system of voluntary schools "assisted" by Government grants based mainly on the results of annual examinations. At the present time the whole expenses of these schools except for the provision and maintenance of buildings is so provided. At the end of 1906-7 they numbered 687, as against 692 at the close of the preceding year. These numbers include about 60 so-called Government schools, of which all but six are held in denominational buildings. In the past year Government schools at Annotto Bay and Port Morant have been opened and are in successful operation. The advocates of Government schools claim for the system economy at least of educational effort. They at any rate represent amalgamation, but, except in their management, which rests with a local Board instead of a single manager, and in the receipt of an additional grant by way of rent of 1*s*. a scholar where the building is denominational property, they differ little from the ordinary denominational school. A change which has been introduced in the method of calculating the numbers on the books and the average attendance makes an accurate comparison between the returns for last year and its predecessor impossible. The average number of scholars on the books for the year ending October 31st was 84,439, and the average attendance 54,868. The numbers on the register for 1905-6 and 1904-5 were 81,857 and 83,974 respectively. The average attendance for 1905-6 and 1904-5 was 51,931 and 50,612 respectively. The total payments to elementary schools and teachers were £43.845, as against £45,635 in the preceding year. The attendance in Kingston, St. Andrew, and part of St. Catherine, was naturally affected by the earthquake. An improvement in the efficiency in the schools, however, is evidenced by an increase of 8 per cent. in the number of first class schools. A slight decrease in the total amount spent on education is more than explained by the fact that for the first time since the hurricane the estimates for the year made no provision for building grants.

The Superintending Inspector of Schools observes that with a steady increase of trained and efficient teachers the attendance at the school barely, if at all, keeps pace with the increase in the population, and repeats the suggestion that compulsion is the only remedy.

The annual examination of teachers and students in the training colleges took place as usual. The training colleges

are voluntary institutions receiving grants from the Government, except the Shortwood Female Training College, which is still a quasi-Government Institution managed by an undenominational Board. The grant to that college is £1,204, to the Mico College £1,650, and to other training colleges, including bonuses, £910.

The teaching of advanced manual training has continued in the centres in which it has been carried on in preceding years. As a result of the earthquake the manual training school in Kingston has been removed from the centre of the town to a site where a much larger area of ground is available.

Certain changes made in the Code last year have, Mr. Capper observes, stimulated the formation and maintenance of school gardens with great educational benefit, not only to the school but to practical agriculture in their neighbourhood. It should however, never be forgotten that the main object of such work in elementary schools is in fact essentially identical with that of manual training. It aims at the training of the hand and eye and the general development of the powers of observation under circumstances, and in a medium, which correspond to the conditions under which the great majority of the children will earn their livelihood. A new officer has been appointed inspector of school gardens who has had experience of their working in the United States.

Two changes in the code, which have been the subject of much discussion, have come into operation and appear to be working satisfactorily. One of these effected a change in the hour for calling the roll, and the other, which causes the grants for the whole of the financial year to be regulated by the results of the examination held before its commencement, has removed a great inconvenience by securing a fixed income for the year. Another matter to which public attention has been largely directed was the proposed adoption of a day school catechism on the preparation of which all the Churches and sects collaborated. In the end the Secretary of State for the Colonies has found himself unable, in the absence of complete unanimity, to sanction its compulsory adoption, and so far little use of it has been made in the schools.

The loss of life in the schools caused by the earthquake was much less than might have been expected, seeing that the shock occurred at an hour when the schools would have ordinarily been in full operation. Fortunately in several which suffered most the children had been dismissed at an earlier hour than usual. Of the 31 Kingston schools four were completely destroyed and twelve were badly and six slightly damaged. Many owed their immunity to their wooden construction. January the 14th was the day on which most of the schools assembled after the Christmas holidays, and, though the attendance was probably rather below the

normal, some 4,000 children must have been in school at half-past three. In one case the children ran from the school-house, which remained standing, to the adjoining chapel, which collapsed and killed 14 of them. One child was also killed at another school. These appear to be the only fatal cases. Great energy was displayed by the teachers in making arrangements for the resumption of work, which was often carried on under booths made of branches or in the shade of a tree. Within three weeks all the schools except six were in operation. The Mico College and Shortwood College were both wrecked and their operations have since been carried on under great difficulties.

The system of payment by results is often the subject of adverse criticism, but the following extract from the Report by the Superintending Inspector of Schools shows that any departure from the system would be attended with serious danger:—

"In connection with the remarks of the Inspectors which I quote below, on the working of Article 28A, which allows the usual annual examination to be omitted for two, three, or more years, in the case of schools which have attained 60 or more marks, its place being taken by two visits of inspection and observation without notice during the year, I have made more particular enquiries from the Inspectors and others. The result of these enquiries is that the omission of the annual inspection is considered by all the Inspectors, and by the majority at least of Managers and teachers, to be detrimental to the efficiency of the schools. The one exception quoted by one of the Inspectors is a teacher whose school it was deemed desirable to examine, in the exercise of the discretion reserved to the Department, with the result that it was found, without reasonable cause shown, to have dropped several marks. The teacher in this case was opposed to the examination."

—	1905-6.	1906-7.
Grants to elementary schools and teachers	44,037	45,047
Building grants...	2,994	—
Administration and inspection	5,050	5,072
Government Training College (now under an Undenominational Board).	1,024	1,024
Aid to Voluntary Training Colleges...	2,551	2,534
Board of Education	170	108
Jamaica College	1,227	1,297
Scholarships	1,368	1,134
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	200
Printing...	57	55
	58,858	56,561

The certified Industrial Schools have not changed since the date of the last Blue Book Report. The Hope School, where

the boys do agricultural work under the supervision of the officers of Hope Gardens, again had an average of 50 boys in residence. Efforts have been made to keep in touch with the nine discharged during the year. Of these five were reported to be working, three were at home with their relatives, one had left his employment, and one was imprisoned for stealing. Of six boys licensed out of school five for various causes returned. Under the management of the new master, whose death since the close of the year I regret to have to record, the school work of the Institution has made good progress and improvement in the general conduct of the boys is also reported.

At St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys there were 38 inmates at the close of the year. St. Mary's Industrial School for girls had 40 scholars at the end of the year. Of the four girls discharged, three are reported doing well, one as a cook and two as first-class laundresses. A noteworthy feature of this school is the manufacture of Jippi-jappa hats.

At Belmont Orphanage for girls (about 17) agricultural work is a leading feature of the industrial training. The girls attend the first-class Government School at Stony Hill. Four girls have been discharged and have turned out satisfactorily.

The Shortwood Industrial School provided at the close of the year for 45 girls and 5 boys. This is the largest industrial school for girls in Jamaica. The rate per child per diem charged against the parishes responsible for the children's maintenance varied from 7*d.* in the first quarter to 9*d.* in the second. The girls in addition to school work do their own laundry work, cooking, and dressmaking. They also make clothes for the Hope Industrial School, and work in the garden.

Happy Grove School, containing 23 girls, appears to have had a prosperous but uneventful year.

The Institution at Stony Hill, which is at once an Industrial School for boys and a reformatory for boys and girls, is dealt with in another part of this report. It is a matter for regret that it has not yet been found practicable to separate the two classes of boys which are committed respectively under the Reformatory and Industrial School Laws.

An educational institution to which reference should be made is the Institute of Jamaica. An account of this institution was given in last year's Blue Book Report, and it is perhaps unnecessary to repeat it. The Government vote for its support was again £900. It may be noted with satisfaction that though the building of the Institute was wrecked by the earthquake and much of its property damaged, the valuable library escaped with little loss.

CONSTABULARY AND CRIME.

The strength of the Constabulary Force at the close of the year was as follows:—

Officers	19
Sub-officers	136
Constables	675
District Constables	814

In the preceding year the numbers had been—

Officers	18
Sub-officers	135
Constables	635
District Constables	777

These figures include the Water Police Force and also detectives and mounted orderlies. The number of Sub-officers and men who were sick during the year was considerably greater even than in 1905-6, when the amount of illness in the force was a matter for comment. 1,921 men were at one time or another under treatment, the average sickness per man for the whole force being 8·43 days.

The Inspector-General in his annual report again makes a comparison between the proportion of police to population in Jamaica and in certain other Colonies respectively. He notes that while Trinidad has to every 10,000 of the population 23·98 policemen, British Guiana 22·10, Mauritius 20·22, Cyprus 29·53, and Barbados 15·83, Jamaica has only 10·1. While in Trinidad for every 10,000 of the population 918 cases are reported to the police, in Barbados 800, in British Guiana 335, the number in Jamaica is only 318. On the other hand, in spite of the numerical weakness of the force, the percentage of convictions of persons prosecuted was in Jamaica 68·36, whereas in Cyprus, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana the numbers were respectively 66·90, 65·47, 62·65 and 58·59. Varying inferences might be drawn from these figures, but the Inspector-General bases on them a claim that Jamaica possesses the best behaved population of the larger West Indian Colonies, and that as regards detection the Jamaican Police are more successful in their results than the English Police, and in the matter of prosecution more successful than the police of the other Colonies with which a comparison has been made.

The total number of persons prosecuted in the year, including private prosecutions, was 27,178, being less than any of the other four preceding years and more than 3,000 below the total for 1904-5.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 2,404, against 2,349 in the preceding year. Of these 1,711 were convictions in petty sessions. Five persons were convicted of murder, against three and two respectively in the two preceding years. There was no execution in 1907.

The convictions classified under "offences committed against property with violence" were 216 against 275 for the preceding year. These included 13 convictions for burglary, 199 for house-breaking, and 75 for shop-breaking.

The convictions for "offences against property without violence" were 2,861, being 700 less than the preceding year. The bulk of these cases were, as usual, very petty. There were 1,216 cases of simple larceny, the average value of the property stolen being under 1*s.* 6*d.* The number of cases of praedial larceny was 1,082, more than 500 less than the preceding year, and nearly 1,600 less than in 1904-5. Though the advocates of heavy sentences and corporal punishment may attribute the reduction in certain districts to a strict administration of the law, there is no doubt that it has been in great measure due to the fact that throughout the greater part of the year the peasantry have had no difficulty in providing themselves with food by lawful means. Praedial larceny is committed for one of two reasons, either to satisfy immediate hunger or to sell the stolen produce. When the produce of the peasant's own garden fails to supply his wants he is tempted to steal, and in view of the difficulty of detection no effective deterrent is likely to be found until the practice is much more generally reprobated than at present by the public opinion of the class to which the offender belongs. As regards the more serious offence of stealing to sell, this occurs chiefly in the case of bananas and is always apt to increase when prices offer the greatest temptation. A subsidiary cause of the decrease in praedial larceny is possibly to be found in the recent abolition of agents' licences under the Agricultural Produce Protection Law, which, as I have stated in another part of this report, appear to have brought into existence a class of itinerant receivers of stolen produce.

Malicious offences against property caused 43 convictions, including six for arson. Forgery and offences against currency accounted for 22 convictions. Of convictions for "other offences," disorderly conduct is responsible for 4,412, and bad language for 2,930. The prosecutions for cruelty to animals numbered 515 against 607 in the preceding year. Obeah convictions were exactly the same as in the preceding year, 38. The number of habitual criminals under police surveillance during the year was 2,030. In connection with crime it may be noted that the Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court of three Judges (a Chief Justice and two puisne Judges), who sit separately as Judges of first instance at Kingston and on circuit in the chief towns of the Colony, and also sit jointly as a court of appeal, of a bench of lay magistrates for each parish, over each of which presides a Custos (*i.e.*, Custos Rotulorum), who is entitled to considerable social precedence, and of a number of stipendiary Resident Magistrates—at present ten—each assigned to a parish or a pair of parishes. These last, in

addition to their magisterial functions, exercise a large civil jurisdiction. Trial by jury is in force, but in civil actions it is much less common than in similar cases in the United Kingdom.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES.

The number of prisoners in custody at the close of each of the past five years was as follows:—

March 31st,	1903	...	...	1,067
,,	1904	...	...	1,178
,,	1905	...	...	1,402
,,	1906	...	...	1,295
,,	1907	...	...	1,176

There were also 14 persons undergoing imprisonment in local lock-ups for periods of 14 days or less. Of the re-admissions, 1,318, 483 had been committed three or more times previously. There were 32 deaths in the General Penitentiary and 14 in the St. Catherine District Prison, against 33 and 26 respectively in the preceding year. School has been held regularly in both institutions. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary was £13,427 and for the St. Catherine District Prison £6,131. The gross earnings at the Penitentiary were in cash £3,228, and in materials used for the prison £214. The gross earnings at St. Catherine were £1,512. The net cost of the prisons was therefore £14,544, or £11 14*s.* 2*d.* per prisoner per annum. The manufacture of bricks at the Penitentiary, its most important industry, has been interrupted for the time being owing to the destruction by the earthquake of the Hoffman Kiln. The work at the St. Catherine District Prison, intended for short-sentence prisoners, is entirely agricultural, and the farm yielded crops valued at £1,490.

The only reformatory is the institution at Stony Hill, of which the boys' department is also certified as an Industrial School. At the close of the year it contained 218 boys committed under the Reformatory Law, and 46 industrial school boys. The girls' reformatory had 35 inmates. The boys have worked partly at agriculture and partly under skilled workmen in the carpenters', blacksmiths', and tailors' shops. Others also are trained as masons and bricklayers and in cooking. The girls do all the laundry work, make and mend their clothing and do some work for the boys. The expenditure for the year has been £4,034, of which £531 has been reimbursed by the different parishes and £407 has been recouped by sales. The gross cost of each child is a little over £13 per annum, or 8·6*d.* per diem, against 8·8*d.* in the preceding year. The average earning of each inmate has been £5 13*s.* 7*d.*, in 1905-6 it was £6 19*s.* 6*d.*

MILITARY AND NAVAL.

The naval buildings at Port Royal have been transferred from the care of the Director of Public Works to that of the Military Authorities. The expenditure incurred by the Colony on account of its Military Defences amounted in the year under review to £8,821, of which £1,794 was the cost of the Militia (excluding the band), and the Rifle Clubs, and the balance represents allowances to officers and men of the Imperial Service in lieu of free imports. The expenditure of the Imperial Government for the military establishment stationed in the Island and in aid of the civil establishment was £134,893. The Imperial troops stationed in Jamaica consisted of the second battalion of the West India Regiment and of detachments of the Royal Engineers and the Garrison Artillery, with other details. The total number of officers and men was, Europeans 403, and West Indians 741. The Militia Infantry was disbanded at the commencement of the year, but the Militia Artillery and the band were retained. The strength of the former was 104. The Rifle Corps, whose establishment was authorised on the disbandment of the Militia Infantry, consisted of the St. Andrew Rifle Corps with a strength of 135, and the Kingston Rifle Corps with a strength of 51. These Corps receive a grant of £2 for each efficient.

The barracks at Up Park Camp suffered very severely in the earthquake. There were, as stated in an earlier part of this report, twenty-seven deaths, and many casualties. The fire which broke out in the buildings imposed great additional work on the troops, but they were able to render valuable assistance to the police in the arduous duties which devolved on the latter in Kingston.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS).

The total appropriation for the Medical Department last year was nearly £55,000, as against an actual expenditure of £56,632 in 1905-6. The expenditure covers the cost of the Head Office, of the Medical Districts, at present 34, into which the Island is divided, each with a Medical Officer in charge, of the Public Hospitals and Asylums, of attendance on indentured immigrants, of special yaws fees and vaccination fees, of the execution of the Quarantine Law, and of the Central Board of Health, and of the Medical Council. The relief of destitution is delegated to the Parochial Boards, under a Poor Law system based on the Scotch Poor Law. With the exception of Manchester and Port Royal each parish has established a Poor-House. Kingston and St. Andrew combine to maintain one such institution. The hospitals directly maintained

by the Government are the Public Hospital at Kingston, and seventeen hospitals in various parts of the Island which had at the close of last year a total accommodation of 793 beds, and the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital at Kingston. The Government also maintains the Lunatic Asylum and the Lepers Home. The most noteworthy events which occurred at the Kingston Hospital last year were concentrated in the few weeks following the 14th January. The Superintending Medical Officer reports that when he entered the hospital shortly after the earthquake the whole quadrangle and the spaces between the female words were crowded to overflowing with wounded people. "The patients," he states, "were lying with clothes partially torn off by falling masonry and many of them soaked in blood. The wounds were not ordinary wounds, clean made, like those to be dealt with after an action, but wounds made by the grinding and falling of masonry." The male wards had been shaken and the wounded refused to enter them. The plaster at the top of many of the female wards was loosened and fell in many places. The partly finished new operating theatre was wrecked when it was most needed, and the X-ray apparatus ordered previously had not yet arrived. The number of patients for whom provision is made on the Estimates is 214. The number on the night of January 14th was 624. In the first instance patients were to a great extent laid out in the open air, tents not being obtainable for several days, but fortunately the weather remained remarkably fine. The female wards were occupied, and the piazzas surrounding them afforded excellent accommodation, as did also the covered ways between the wards. Many, however, had to lie out in the open, and many had to be operated on where they lay. It is a matter for congratulation therefore, that the efforts of the medical staff, reinforced by medical officers from outside, and of the nurses, assisted by volunteers, were rewarded with results as successful as those shown by the returns of the institution. The total number of patients injured by the earthquake dealt with between the 14th of January and the 31st of March was 499, exclusive of a large number of cases treated for minor injuries of which no record was kept. Between the 14th and the 15th of January there were thirty-eight deaths, and between the 16th and 17th sixteen, but many of these cases had been brought to the hospital in a moribund condition. Of the 445 cases operated on 28 died. Seven of these deaths were caused by tetanus—a small proportion, considering the nature of the injuries and the conditions under which they were treated.

The failure of the ordinary sources of supply demanded extraordinary organization for the provision of food, drugs, and medical appliances, but the difficulty was successfully overcome with the aid of volunteers drawn not only from the neighbourhood, but also from across the sea.

This account would be incomplete without a reference to the means by which wounded patients found their way to the hospital on the evening and night of the 14th of January. They were brought in not only by relatives and friends, and by the police, but also by volunteers mostly working independently. Among those who did especially valuable service in this way it is not invidious to specially mention one name. Mr. Hodge, a rifle leader of the Kingston Rifle Corps, is entitled to the credit of having saved over twenty lives by his individual energy and initiative. By commandeering such carts as he could find, and impressing the services of stray spectators, he conveyed a large number of persons disabled by the earthquake and threatened by the advancing fire, first to a place of safety and subsequently to the hospital.

The gross expenditure of the hospital for last year was £9,192, against £7,888 for the preceding year; the average daily number of beds 229, against 206, and the daily cost per bed 2*s.* 2¼*d.*, against 2*s.* 2*d.* The total number of patients admitted to the Hospital in 1906-7 was 4,045. 2,870 were discharged cured, 300 died. The death-rate was 7·4. The Nurses' Home, attached to the hospital, which had been started in the previous year has been enlarged to provide for the housing of nine nurses. There is no doubt that this provision has tended to create a communal feeling among these young women and a devotion on their part for their work of which they gave such excellent proof when an extraordinary demand was made upon them.

Of the seventeen public general hospitals other than the Kingston Hospital, Port Antonio is perhaps the best equipped, owing partly to the liberality of American visitors who frequent the town. For example, the hospital is by these means in possession of an operating room and appliances superior to those at present available in Kingston. This hospital is one of many which were originally started to satisfy the law relating to Indian immigration. No distinction now exists between these hospitals and those provided primarily to meet the needs of the creole population. But the hospitals situated in the neighbourhood of estates which take indentured coolies are still distinguished by having a large proportion of Indian patients. Of these one or two have suffered from over-crowding in the past year, and one of these, Lionel Town, in Vere, has been considerably enlarged to meet the demands upon its accommodation. The daily average of patients at Lionel Town was 152, at Annotto Bay 139, at Spanish Town 58, and at Port Maria 54. The others have varied between 33 and 6. The daily cost of each patient depends largely upon their numbers, and also to some extent upon whether they are Indians or creoles. The daily cost of each patient varied from 6*d.* at Lionel Town to 1*s.* 9*d.* at Lucea. The highest death-rate was at Falmouth, 6·48 per cent., and the lowest at Cave

Valley, where the daily average number of patients was 6 and where there were no deaths. Port Antonio Hospital has been enlarged by the addition of two wards (30 beds) by fitting up the under building. These wards have been rendered mosquito proof by the erection of bronze gauze screens. This is a new departure in Jamaica. The out-door patient treatment, other than the treatment at the hospital, and the treatment of paupers includes treatment by the Government Medical Officers at cheap rates (1*s.*, 2*s.*, and 3*s.*) on tickets distributed for the purpose by persons specially authorised by the Governor. The number of such tickets issued last year was: 1*s.*, 3,936 (all in Kingston); 2*s.*, 2,018; and 3*s.*, 16. The number of successful vaccinations last year was 24,470, against 29,112 the year before. The number of Yaws cases attended was 3,512, against 1,554 the year before and 1,367 in 1904-5. The Lazaretto opposite Port Royal was opened on five occasions during the year for passengers detained in quarantine. A number of cases of measles were landed from the Coolie Emigrant Steamship "Indus" and there treated. It cannot be claimed that the accommodation at the station is up-to-date, and the Quarantine Law of 1905 which would bring the Law of the Colony in this matter into line with other West Indian Colonies, by substituting *inter alia* surveillance for detention in the station in many cases, has not yet been brought into force. There is no doubt that the conditions of Jamaica differ from those of the Colonies which have accepted the most modern ideas on the subject. Jamaica has not only to protect itself from the importation of disease from the other British West Indian Colonies which have adopted a common system of precautions, but is within a few days' voyage of Haiti, Cuba, and the Central American ports, and is commercially to a great extent within their trade system.

The number of patients admitted during the year to the Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital was 441, an increase of 6 on the preceding year. 132 of the women were married, and 127 legitimate children were born. 309 of the mothers were unmarried. The death-rate was the same as in the preceding year, viz., 2·4. 301 patients paid fees. The youngest mother was 14 years of age, as against 15 and 12 in the two previous years. Since the earthquake the work of the hospital has been carried on in marquees floored with wood work and with water laid on.

The patients at the Leper Asylum at Spanish Town numbered 113 at the close of the year, which had commenced with 115. There were fifteen deaths. The surgeon in charge reports that the farm attached to the asylum is in fair condition of cultivation considering the prolonged drought. During the past two years he has been treating leprosy by new methods, namely by preparations of red mangrove bark and latterly by subcutaneous injections of iodoform. He is not

sanguine as to the results of these methods and hazards the opinion that success in the treatment of leprosy will eventually be found in opsonins on the lines on which bacteriologists are working with reference to tuberculosis.

The report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum contains some interesting observations on the effects of the earthquake and the subsequent shocks on the mental condition of many of the inmates. "The noisy and turbulent became quiet, and the quiet became excited, noisy, and destructive, and one woman who had been dumb for years was roused from her lethargy, and becoming noisy resumed her former life." A large proportion of the admissions subsequent to the earthquake are attributed to it, insanity resulting either directly from shock, or indirectly following from family bereavement or privations. The buildings suffered very severely from the disaster. Nine men were killed on the spot, and there were at least two subsequent deaths. On the other hand 20 sick patients in the female infirmary, which collapsed, were all rescued from the ruins. With the exception of four one-storied buildings and two ranges of single rooms, the whole range of buildings for male patients was totally destroyed, but though the patients had subsequently to sleep in the open air there were fewer sick patients under treatment after the earthquake than at any other period during the year. Sixteen patients escaped, and it was found necessary to seclude a number of turbulent lunatics pending temporary repairs. 33 harmless patients were sent home in order to relieve the pressure on the institution. The staff of the asylum, both professional and subordinate, are to be congratulated on the success which rewarded their untiring efforts to preserve the working organization of the institution during the crisis, and to minimize the suffering and discomfort of the patients. The total number of patients at the end of the year was 1,006, against 1,057 at its commencement. The diminution in number was due to the causes to which reference has been made, the actual admissions having exceeded those of the preceding year. The admissions were 234, including 62 re-admissions. 152 patients were discharged as recovered, and 9 as relieved. The total expenditure at the Asylum was £16,298, and the cost of maintenance 10*d*. per head per day.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The cash collections of the Department for 1906-7 were—

	£
Postal	33,360
Telegraphs	6,614

The estimates were exceeded on both heads and surpassed the revenue of the preceding year by a substantial amount. The total revenue of the department for the two preceding years had been 1905-6 £37,418, and for 1904-5 £33,447. The expenditure amounted to £32,194, against £32,115 in 1905-6, and £31,724 in 1904-5.

The department has in recent years been yielding a profit, but it must be borne in mind that it is not charged with any part of the subsidy of £20,000 a year payable to Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. under their contract for a fortnightly direct service between Bristol and Kingston. This contract, however, has for its main object the development of the fruit trade with the Mother Country, and if the Jamaica Post Office were debited with a portion of the subsidy equivalent to what was paid under the last mail contract for the carriage of mails the department would still be more than self-supporting. The ocean postages collected have risen from £5,712 in 1904-5 to £7,659 in 1906-7, and the inland postages from £21,390 to £24,400.

The total number of letters and postcards passing through the head office is estimated at—outwards 3,123,551, inwards 3,263,010. The corresponding figures for 1903-4 were 2,133,817 and 2,347,186 respectively. The number dealt with at the District post offices was 1,308,328 in 1906-7, against 1,213,211 in 1903-4.

Mails were despatched by 516 vessels and received by 570, the mails despatched abroad being 87 more than in the preceding year, and those received 31 less. The reduction in the number received is attributed by the postmaster to the adoption by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company since the termination of their contract of a more circuitous route. Though the service provided by this Company between England and Jamaica is now of little use either for mails or passengers, their fortnightly service to and from New York, which is worked in connection with the Cunard Line, provides an alternative route to England to that furnished by the direct line (Elder Dempster & Co.). The Hamburg-American Line and the vessels of the United Fruit Company, some of which are under contract with the United States Government for the carriage of mails between Boston and Jamaica, afford further regular communication with the States.

Under the operation of a law passed in the preceding year the total expenditure for the ocean mail service chargeable to

the department amounted to only £2,067. The inland mail service which is carried partly by the Government Railway, and partly by road, cost £9,030, as against £8,722 in the preceding year. The carriage by road is in some cases undertaken by the Public Works Department and in others is subject to contract. As a means of travelling the mail coach cannot be specially recommended.

A daily service is established throughout the Island, but house to house delivery is at present in operation only in Kingston and Spanish Town.

Money orders were issued to the number of 8,301 and the value of £32,208—in both cases an advance on the preceding year. Foreign money orders were received to the number of 7,546 and to the value of £25,106. Both figures are more than double those for 1905-6, the large increase being due to the establishment of a money order system in June, 1906, between Jamaica and the Canal Zone. A new money order direct system with Canada was introduced on the 1st of January last. The Commission on British postal orders of the value of 2*s.* 6*d.* has been reduced from 1*d.* to ½*d.* The value of postal orders sold has risen from £32,096 in 1904-5 to £33,150 in 1906-7.

The parcels post business is also increasing, the parcels received numbering 25,170, against 22,319 in the preceding year The import duty paid on them was £4,090. The parcel despatched were 5,730, against 5,901 in 1905-6. The bulk of the business done through the parcels post is carried on with the Mother Country. The parcels received from the United Kingdom, however, which had been 79 per cent. of the whole in 1904-5, were only 72 per cent. in 1905-6, and 73 per cent. in 1906-7, while those received from the United States were 17 per cent. in 1904-5, 24 per cent. in 1905-6, and 22 per cent. in 1906-7. Of the parcels despatched the percentage sent to the United Kingdom has remained during the three years at 71 per cent.

At the end of the year there were 64 telegraph stations and seven telephone stations in operation under the postal system. In addition to these the railway telegraph service has generally been available to the public.

The total number of messages sent was 109,859, being 7,870 more than in the preceding year. All the telegraph offices have been overhauled and defective leading wires have been replaced during the year. The department continues to work in harmony with the local superintendents of the ocean cables, and during the year £2,398 was collected on behalf of the Direct Cable Company, and £1,042 for the West India and Panama Cable Company.

The profits made by the postal and telegraph departments as a whole have been stated above. It is not so easy to compare the revenue and expenditure of the telegraph service

taken separately, as the salaries and wages are for the most paid for the performance of a combination of duties. Charging the service, however, with fair proportion of salary and wages and including the maintenance of the wires which is borne by the Public Works Department, the Postmaster states the cost of the telegraph system approximately as follows:—

	£
Salaries, Head Office	1,042
Salaries, District Offices	3,432
Messengers	998
Maintenance of Lines	801
Rent (say)	700
Other Expenses	912
	£7,885

This total cost is therefore considerably in excess of the telegraph receipts which, as stated above, amounted last year to £6,614, and in the two preceding years to £5,983 and £4,792 respectively.

The Post Office Buildings suffered severely from the earthquake, and two clerks and three letter-carriers were killed by falling buildings. Though, however, the business of the department had to be mainly carried on for some time in an open yard, the continuity of the mail service was scarcely broken, and telegraphic communication was promptly restored with all parts of the Colony. Communication by telegraph with the outer world was in the first instance cut off, but the West India and Panama Company's cable was very quickly reconnected. On the other hand the Direct Company's cable was broken to fragments near the spot which appears to have been the centre of the seismic disturbance, and weeks elapsed before the necessary repairs could be effected.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure of the Works Department amounted in the year 1906-7 to £111,310, including £1,728 value of lumber imported and not used within the year. The details of expenditure were as follows:—

	£
Salaries, &c.	14,071
Main Roads and Bridges Maintenance...	62,444
Main Roads and Bridges, New Works...	345
Buildings and Telegraph (ordinary maintenance)	7,444
Buildings and Telegraph (earthquake repairs)	8,012
Clearing débris in Kingston streets ...	534

	£
Buildings—	
New Works	5,099
Falmouth Harbour	3,013
Telegraph Construction	106
Lighthouses Maintenance	1,306
Rio Cobre Irrigation	1,774
Spanish Town Water Works	458
Expenditure under Sundry Laws ...	586
Work done for other Departments and Bodies	6,111

The expenditure exceeded that of the preceding year by £10,746, of which £9,789 was directly occasioned by the earthquake. The cost of the department was 12·6 per cent. of its expenditure. The total damage to buildings under the care of the department caused by the earthquake is estimated by the Director of Public Works at nearly £60,000, of which £50,000 occurred in Kingston and St. Andrews, £4,000 in St. Catherine, and the balance in St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary. Against this damage of £60,000, £8,012 only was expended in repairs before the end of the year under review. The damage done to roads and bridges is estimated at £8,200, of which £2,000 was expended within the year. The effect on the main roads was, according to the report of the Director of Public Works, comparatively insignificant, and on bridges quite inappreciable. Damage to the roads was confined to the hill districts of St. Andrew and Portland and a small part of St. Mary and St. Catherine. In all cases it was due to local landslips caused by the earthquake, and not directly to the latter. With regard to buildings in Kingston, with the remarkable exception of the old Treasury building which was constructed of wood, all the Public Offices and the Supreme Court and the Resident Magistrate's and Police Court, were wholly or partially wrecked. Only Headquarters House, the Island Medical Office, and the Offices of the Public Works, Lands, Education, and Immigration Departments, in addition to the old Treasury, remained even partially safe for occupation. The masonry of Plumb Point Lighthouse was shattered and its iron pedestal broken, and the light apparatus thrown on its side. No light was exhibited for the first three nights, but it was temporarily restored on the fourth. The lamp was, however, again disabled by subsequent shocks and was temporarily replaced by lamps of inferior power until the 17th of February, when the tower had, with the assistance of the engineering staff of H.M.S. "Indefatigable" been permanently repaired.

The clearing of the streets of débris was commenced the day after the earthquake, the officers of the Public Works Department being assisted by those of other Departments and private gentlemen who volunteered their

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services for the purpose. On the arrival of H.M.S. "Indefatigable" the gangs already organised were reinforced by a large force of marines, and in the course of two weeks the work was sufficiently advanced to be handed over to the Mayor and Council. Temporary arrangements for the accommodation of the Public Offices were put in hand on the 15th of January, accommodation being provided not only for Government Departments but also for the Government's bankers, the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The total length of main roads at the close of the year was 1,944 miles. The average cost of maintenance was £28 14*s.* per mile or £2 12*s.* more than in the preceding year. The cost varied from £46 11*s.* per mile in St. Mary to £16 1*s.* in Manchester. The continuous rain which prevailed in the southern parishes from May to October was a source of considerable expense, and in many districts, especially in Vere, the increased traffic of bananas necessitated greater attention to the roads than in previous years. No new works of any importance were undertaken under the head "Roads and Bridges," the whole of such expenditure amounting to only £345. The length of the telegraph lines in working maintained by the department remained at 695 miles, but a new line from Christiana to Cave Valley was commenced.

The total expenditure on the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works was £1,774, and its earnings £9,458. The area irrigated was 12,000 acres, the acreage in bananas being 300 more than in the preceding year. Under the head of "Public Buildings" no new works of importance were undertaken. A new operating theatre at the Public Hospital was approaching completion when it was wrecked by the earthquake. A new ward was added to the Lionel Town Hospital to meet the demand caused by the increased introduction of coolies into Vere, and the hospital at Port Antonio was also enlarged.

The Falmouth Harbour Works have been, it is hoped, finally and satisfactorily completed. Steamers of large size can now enter and leave the harbour with safety at all hours of the day and night.

Reference has been made above to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works, and it will be convenient here to mention the only other similar undertaking of any importance in the Colony, namely, the Vere Irrigation Canal, although the latter is under Government control only to a limited extent, the management being in the hands of Commissioners chiefly representing the interests of the consumers of water. The Vere Commissioners are still struggling with difficulties incidental to construction, but their works have already largely promoted the extension of cultivation in the district which they serve.

RAILWAY.

The total earnings of the railway for the year under review amounted to £150,013 (actual receipts £148,421, against £134,233 in 1905-6). The expenditure was £79,046, against £78,718. The net earnings for the past five years have been:—

	£
1902-3	53,618*
1903-4	33,740
1904-5	24,306
1905-6	55,504
1906-7	70,966

The year has been a very successful one for the railway, but it must not be forgotten that, while the net earnings were nearly £71,000, the interest paid on the railway debt, which is not charged to the railway, amounted to £85,000. The results shown are largely due to great economy in management and, it may be added, to the postponement of all special work and improvements that have not been considered absolutely necessary.

In 1905-6 £1,686 was expended on additional rolling stock, and £2,250 was provided on the estimates for 1906-7: £393 only was expended. Similarly for additional and special works, on which £2,601 was expended in 1905-6, and for which £3,148 was voted, only £680 was expended. On the other hand before the close of the year £1,835 had been spent on repairs necessitated by the earthquake. Though the head railway station was badly damaged and the workshops wrecked and much damage was done to rolling stock the permanent way was fortunately uninjured. The service was practically uninterrupted, a fact on which the Colony is to be congratulated, as it enabled stores to be poured into Kingston from the parishes, and provided the means of escape for large numbers of houseless people.

It may be noted that in the months of February and March while the number of first-class passengers carried was 4,558 less than in the preceding year, the third-class passengers were 14,600 more. This result is attributed on the one hand to movements of the population brought about by the earthquake and on the other to the sudden interruption of the tourist trade.

The total length of the railway line, exclusive of sidings, remains at 184 miles.

Apart from the Government Railway the United Fruit Company owns a private line, eight miles long, for the conveyance of fruit from the interior of St. Thomas to Port Morant, and the Vere Estates Company has recently constructed thirteen miles of line in the south of Clarendon.

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* Excluding £9,489 written off to Loan Account.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

The total area of Crown Land at the end of the year was 202,750 acres. Two hundred and fifty-seven acres were alienated in the year in forty-eight grants, of which none comprised 100 acres. The average price per acre realized was £1 4*s*. These figures are exclusive of twenty-two town lots sold for a total of £964.

CLIMATE.

The average rainfall at 129 stations for the year 1906 was 86·71 inches. It varied from 13·23 in May to 2·06 in December. The highest average was in the N.E. district, viz.: 109·69: the lowest in the N. district, 56·25. The mean temperature at Negril Point Lighthouse, thirty-three feet above sea level, was 76·1 Fahr. at 7 a.m. and 82·2 at 3 p.m. The maximum was 92·9 on the 19th of September and the minimum 63·9 on the 6th of April. It must be borne in mind however that the mountainous nature of the Island causes a great variety of temperature in different districts. The uplands of St. Ann's enjoy a climate very different from that of the Liguanea Plain, while houses in the Blue Mountains are provided with fireplaces, and on the Blue Mountain Peak hoar frost is not unknown.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Returns furnish the following statistics:—

Estimated population on the 31st March, 1907	830,261
Births, 1906-7	31,547
Deaths, 1906-7	21,723
Marriages, 1906-7	5,507

The birth-rate was 38·1 per thousand, the death-rate 26·2 per thousand, and the marriage-rate 6·6 per thousand.

The marriage-rate was extraordinarily high. In the preceding year it had been 3·8 per thousand, and the average for nine years had been 4·2. This remarkable increase is mainly due to the number of marriages which took place after the 14th January. Of the total number 1,228 were registered in February, and more than half in the March quarter. 43·5 per cent. of the parties married signed the register by mark. 65·2 per cent. of the births registered were illegitimate—the same percentage of illegitimacy as in the preceding year. The death-rate which was, as stated above, 26·2 for the whole Colony, as against 21·9 for 1905-6, rose in Kingston from 28·0 in the former year to 36·9 in 1906-7 and in St. Andrew from 29·1 to 37·2.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Any retrospect of the past year is apt to stop short at the 14th of January. In the first part of this report I have shown that prior to that date the outlook of the Colony was very encouraging; and I venture to express the hope that in the future it will be realized that the rude and terrible check which Jamaica has received has had only a very temporary effect on its material progress. The appalling incidence however of the calamity on the lives and fortunes of individuals will cause the year in which it occurred to be known henceforth as the Earthquake Year, and I need offer no excuse for confining my concluding remarks to certain observations on the experience of earthquakes which Jamaica has had in the past.

These phenomena are not new to the Island, but disastrous earthquakes are fortunately few and far between. The first of which we have any account was felt by Dr. Hans Sloane at Spanish Town on the 19th February, 1688, when at about 8 a.m. three light shocks occurred, lasting about one minute altogether, and sounds were also heard. In the introduction to his "Natural History of Jamaica," Volume I., he writes:

"Earthquakes, as they are too in Hispaniola, where they have formerly thrown down the town of Santo Domingo, so they are too common here also: the inhabitants expect one every year and some of them think they follow their great rains." The following observations are instructive: "The Spaniards who inhabited this Island and those neighbouring built their houses very low, and they consisted only of ground rooms, their walls being made of posts which are as much buried underground as they stood above, on purpose to avoid the danger which attended the manner of building from earthquakes. I have seen in the mountains afar off bare spots which the inhabitants told me were the effects of earthquakes throwing down part of the hills, which continued bare and steep."

It is also noteworthy that referring to Port Royal, Sir Hans Sloane writes:

"This point which was called Point Cagway, where Port Royal stood, was never built upon by Spaniards while they remained possessors of the Island, for two reasons, as I was informed.* The first was the frequency of earthquakes, which when considerable would certainly overturn it."

Long, one of the historians of Jamaica, giving a detailed account of the memorable earthquake of the 7th of June, 1692, which destroyed Port Royal and did great damage over the rest of the Island, writes:

* The other cause was the fear of being "washed off" by hurricanes from the South.

"It left not a house standing at Passage Fort, only one at Liguanea, destroyed most of the planters' habitations in the country, and all in St. Jago de la Vega, except what were built by Spaniards."

The preamble to the Act entitled "An Act for establishing a Perpetual Anniversary Fast on the Seventh June" passed by the Assembly of Jamaica in 1693, refers to the historic calamity of 1692 as "a most terrible and dreadful earthquake, which not only laid waste Our Estates and places of habitation in general, but also destroyed many hundreds of people."

After this there appears to have been no considerable shock for about 80 years, but on September 3rd, 1771, a severe one occurred at Kingston and Port Royal, which Admiral Lord Rodney mentions in the following passage:

"Since my letter of the 14th inst. (Sept.) giving Their Lordships an account of the violent earthquake which happened the day before, which has been attended with frequent shocks till within these days, and in the opinion of the inhabitants done more damage than any since the great one in 1692, particularly in the town of Port Royal and Kingston, in the former of which there is not a single house that has not been damaged, I find His Majesty's Dockyard has suffered considerably."

"There have," he continues, "been nine shocks since the first, but as each has appeared weaker I hope we shall experience no more of them."

While various shocks are recorded in the succeeding 40 years, and among them some noted by Lady Nugent in 1802 as causing a good deal of alarm, the next considerable disturbance appears to have taken place in 1812. On November 11th in that year, as the Jamaica Magazine records, "about ten minutes before six in the morning, there was a great earthquake which was felt all over the Island, but chiefly at the eastern end. Three shocks succeeded each other rapidly, there were tremblings, concussions, durations, and sounds. Great damage was done to the houses in Kingston. At Annotto Bay the anchorage ground sank. The "Experiment" lost her anchors and ninety fathoms of cable, which were swallowed up. There had been a slight shock previously at 2.30 a.m. that morning."

In the introduction to Volume II. of the Jamaica Meteorological Observation by Mr. Maxwell Hall, from which these particulars have been taken, there are also to be found notes of similar disturbances in the other Islands of the Greater Antilles, of which some were also felt in greater or less intensity in Jamaica.

In June, 1766, a violent shock did great damage at Santiago de Cuba; it was felt in Jamaica, but, as Long states, "it threw down no buildings here."

The following is an extract from Southey's Chronological History of the West Indies, Volume II.:

"Upon the 3rd of June, 1770, about a quarter past seven in the evening, four violent shocks of earthquake were felt at Cape Nicola Mole, in St. Domingo: the most severe lasted two minutes and a half, accompanied with a noise much like an echo from the hills after the firing of cannon. The town did not receive any damage, but the city of Port au Prince was entirely destroyed; not one house was left standing, and about 500 persons were buried in the ruins. Petit Goave and Leogane were also destroyed. The plains of Leogane, Port au Prince, and Petit Goave suffered considerably, all the sugar works were destroyed, and La Croix de Bouquet, a small town, with the greatest part of its inhabitants, was swallowed up. The earthquake extended thirty-five leagues, and the sea rose a league and a half up into the Island."

This appears to have been felt in Jamaica as "a very smart shock which continued near the space of one minute. It was most violent at Kingston, where it threw down several kitchen chimneys, &c."

On the 7th May, 1842, a shock was felt at Cape Haytian in Haiti, where it is said to have destroyed the town and caused the death of 3,000 people. It was also felt in Jamaica, but no particular damage seems to have been recorded.

Seismic disturbances similar to those noted in Cuba and Haiti seem to have occurred from time to time in the more easterly members of the same chain of Islands, and disastrous earthquakes in Porto Rico, St. Thomas, and Antigua are on record.

For purposes of reference, Mr. Maxwell Hall, the Government Meteorologist for Jamaica, has adopted the following scale:—

I. Light shock.
II. Well-marked shock.
III. Shock sufficient to make houses rock.
IV. Shock sufficient to crack walls of houses.
V. Shock sufficient to throw down a few houses.
VI. Shock sufficient to throw down almost all houses.

In the terms of this nomenclature he has indicated on a map the intensity with which the shock of the 14th of January was felt in different parts of Jamaica.

From Kingston and its neighbourhood the shock, which there of course was No. VI. on the scale, diminished, until at the extreme east end, and for a large part of the west end, it was felt only as a No. III. shock. It thus resembled that of 1812 in that it was felt chiefly at the eastern end of the Island.

The epicentre or place immediately above the focus is placed by Mr. Hall a few miles to the south-east of Plumb Point Lighthouse, and he thinks that there was probably another focus near Buff Bay about 20 miles north of Kingston.

Mr. Hall gives three lists of earthquakes in Jamaica:

(*a*) From 1688 to 1880, which he states is very imperfect;
(*b*) From 1880 to the 14th January, 1907; and
(*c*) From January 14th to July 5th, 1907.

In the first period he includes—

one shock (1692) of Intensity VI.,
one shock (1771) of Intensity V., and
two shocks (1770 and 1812) of Intensity IV.

Except the shock of the 14th January last the second list includes none of Intensity VI. or greater force than No. III.

Among the shocks which have since occurred one only has been felt of force IV., and few of force III. By far the greatest number have been only slight shocks (No. I.).

After the calamity of last January an important truth began, as Mr. Hall observes, to dawn upon the community. The subject of earthquakes had been entirely overlooked in Jamaica, and the ruins of scores of modern brick villas afford proof enough of the fact. The lessons of history had been disregarded, and protracted immunity from serious disturbance had lulled to sleep the memory of recent generations. The liability to earthquakes is more widespread than is often realized by communities which have escaped damage for a century, but the realisation of this source of possible danger need cause no serious alarm, provided that buildings are constructed of the materials and on the principles which have stood the test of experience in the past.

H. CLARENCE BOURNE.

12th October, 1907.

APPENDIX.

JAMAICA.

A comparative table of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE, 1881–1907.

—	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–90. (½ year.)	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Revenue	460,390	486,015	467,069	498,019	466,283	487,381	568,033	570,643	403,729*	619,586	580,656	548,731	585,549
Expenditure	460,126	459,564	452,056	476,210	493,585	507,116	524,349	543,159	269,379	562,386	629,289	602,236	614,350
Surplus, or	264	26,451	15,013	21,809	—	—	43,684	27,484	*134,350**	57,200	—	—	—
Deficit	—	—	—	—	27,302	19,735	—	—	—	—	48,633	53,505	28,801
Loans issued	400,700	—	—	265,500	42,830	35,300	58,500	32,100	—	—	2,526	81,871	180,000
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

—	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.	1903–04.	1904–05.	1905–06.	1906–07.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Revenue	611,581	632,675	577,665	540,509	600,271	624,622	760,387	774,837	856,514	926,164†	751,562	865,696	886,911
Expenditure	605,108	613,506	650,024	627,423	620,701	593,927	763,902	751,700	788,847	822,876	824,816	831,611	827,386
Surplus, or	6,473	19,169	—	—	—	30,695	—	23,137	67,667	103,288†	—	44,085	59,524
Deficit	—	—	72,359	86,914	30,430	—	3,515	—	—	—	73,254	—	—
Loans issued	42,420	25,000	33,900	214,800	—	—	1,591,900	31,400	44,500	2,769	—	900	—
Debts liquidated over and above Sinking Funds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,709‡	—	—	24,567‡	29,187‡

* Includes £100,000 for sale of railway.
† Includes £100,394 uninvested balance Widows and Orphans' Fund.
‡ Included in expenditure.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1905–1906
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Northern Nigeria	1906–1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 578.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 541.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.

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No. 578.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 541.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
28th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1907, with the Commissioner's Report thereon for the same period.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.
FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

From the following statements it will be seen that the revenue for 1907, which was estimated at £7,715, actually amounted to £7,391, a difference of £324, mainly attributable to the reduction during the year in the statutory value of salt exported from 3½*d.* to 2*d.* per bushel. This was, however, an improvement of £582 upon the amount of revenue collected in the previous year.

The approved estimate of expenditure was £7,651, but the actual expenditure, owing to certain reductions in the establishment, amounted to only £7,119, a saving of £532. Altogether there was a surplus of £272, the first since 1902.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1903	£8,678	£8,910
1904	6,466	8,001
1905	6,243	7,279
1906	6,809	7,080
1907	7,391	7,119

Revenue.

Head.	1906	1907.
Import Duties	£3,516	£3,660
Royalty on Salt	1,523	1,832
Port Dues	549	684
Licences and Internal Revenue	290	227
Payments for Specific Services	112	177
Post Office	406	341
Revenue from Government Property	134	217
Interest	266	242
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	15	11
	£6,809	£7,391

Expenditure.

Head.	1906.	1907.
Pensions	£541	£658
Commissioner's Department	2,105	1,979
Judicial Department ...	536	539
Police and Prisons ...	677	679
Medical	611	585
Paupers	357	281
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination	35	18
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	415	428
Post Office	259	158
Lighthouse Department ...	235	248
Public Works Department	409	399
Public Works Recurrent...	264	444
Public Works Extraordinary	—	50
Cost of Remittances ...	15	32
	£7,080	£7,119

Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Cash—							
In Colonial Chest ...	861	0	11	Deposits	66	4	6
Crown Agents ...	22	1	3	Salt Pond Fund ...	248	15	5
New York Agent ...	55	10	9	Board of Education	278	3	2
Jamaica Treasury ...	278	19	7	Money Orders ...	392	14	8
Remittances maturing	102	8	0	Savings Bank ...	2,313	14	11
Import Bonds	86	9	9		3,299	12	8
Advances recoverable...	10	13	3				
Investment Funds—							
Government Fund ...	7,085	3	4				
" Savings Bank &c.	104	0	0				
Savings Bank Fund...	2,112	9	11				
Board of Education	165	10	6	Balance of Assets ...	7,580	14	7
	10,880	7	3		10,880	7	3

Public Debt.

There is no Public Debt, but surplus funds amounting to £7,085 invested in Colonial securities.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1907 were valued at £27,660 and the total exports at £23,817, compared with the average of £29,283 and £30,301, respectively, for the five years 1901-1905, and as against £27,572 and £24,940 in 1906. The exports of salt, in spite of the low prices obtained throughout the year, showed a welcome increase from £14,275 in 1906 to £16,557 during the year under review. The prolonged drought, although favourable to salt raking, was disastrous to the sisal crop, which fell in value from £5,602 to £3,107.

Year.	*Imports.* Value.	*Exports.* Value.
1903	£30,956	£31,878
1904	24,120	24,020
1905	28,230	23,898
1906	27,572	24,940
1907	27,660	23,817

Articles of Export.

	Value.
Conchs	£294
Turtle Shell	430
Sisal	3,107
Salt	16,557
Sponge	3,045
Miscellaneous	384

Shipping.

Comparative statement for the period 1903-1907:—

Year.	Total Tonnage.
1903	335,442
1904	275,132
1905	332,254
1906	357,960
1907	345,453

The following table gives a comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	167	16,259	26	43,719	193	59,978
United States	16	13,785	24	44,452	40	58,237
Others	72	1,904	34	53,215	106	55,119
Total 1907	255	31,948	84	141,386	339	173,334
Total 1906	228	26,617	93	151,667	321	178,284

LEGISLATION.

The following were the chief Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board:—

Salt Exporters Relief Ordinances, No. 4 and No. 6, to afford relief to the exporters of salt in the depressed condition of the industry.

Statute Law Revision Ordinance, No. 5, with a view to the preparation of an edition of the local laws.

Court of Appeal Ordinance, No. 9, allowing appeals from the Supreme Court to the Appeal Court of Jamaica.

The Wild Birds Protection and Turtle and Sponge Ordinances, Nos. 11, 12, and 13, to establish close seasons for wild birds and turtles, and to protect, otherwise, the sponge and turtle industries.

EDUCATION.

During the year the Board of Education passed supplementary regulations by which no person may be appointed to the charge of a public school except he holds a certificate of efficiency from the Board, which may grant such certificates to teachers passing a satisfactory examination according to an approved schedule. So that hardship should not be inflicted on teachers already in charge of schools, certificates were awarded to those who had been in office for at least three years. In lieu of the system of appointing year by year a member of the Board or some qualified person to conduct the examination of the primary schools, the Commissioner was given the power to appoint an Inspector of Schools, who, subject to the direction of the Board, would have the supervision of all public and private schools, and hold an examination of each public school and of candidates for certificates of efficiency at least once a year. In accordance with this rule, Mr. H. H. Hutchings, who had for many years previously held the annual examination of the schools and had evinced warm interest in elementary education generally, was appointed first Inspector of Schools.

It is to be hoped that, by these regulations, the difficulty so often experienced of obtaining qualified teachers locally will be removed, and that the appointment of a permanent inspector will ensure more systematic and efficient work throughout the schools.

The average attendance in the salt settlements, all of which are compulsory districts under the Ordinance, was extremely satisfactory, but the severe drought had an appreciable effect

upon the regular and punctual attendance of the children throughout the Caicos Islands, notably at Kew. The total average attendance at the public schools of the Dependency was 547.

SAVINGS BANK, 1907.

	£	s.	d.
Amount of Deposits	1,067	11	6
Amount of Withdrawals	800	9	2
Total Amount at Credit of Depositors	2,264	14	5
Amount of Invested Funds ...	2,250	0	3
Revenue (Interest on Investments)	48	7	6
Expenditure (Interest to Depositors)	40	7	11

Number of Depositors—238.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Offences reported to the Police	204
Persons apprehended or summoned before the Magistrates	204

Number of Summary Convictions.

1. Offences against the person	34
2. Predial Larceny	13
3. Offences against property other than Predial Larceny	3
4. Other offences	107

Convictions in the Superior Court.

1. Offences against the person	1
2. Predial Larceny	—
3. Offences against property other than Predial Larceny	1
4. Other offences	—

Number of Persons Acquitted.

1. In the Superior Court	—
2. In the Inferior Courts	44

The Dependency is to be congratulated on a continued absence of serious crime. A slight increase in the number of convictions for larceny was probably due to the straitened circumstances of the people in consequence of the severe drought.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There is nothing to call for notice during the year, as no serious epidemic or outbreak of sickness was reported. The number of births and deaths was 238 and 122, being 45 and 23 per thousand of the population, respectively, while 26 marriages took place. The highest birth-rate was in the Caicos Islands, being 62 per thousand, while the lowest death-rate was at Salt Cay, being 18 per thousand.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

Although no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service exists, there is frequent, but irregular, steamship communication with the United Kingdom and other countries. The only line which has any pretence to fixed dates is the Imperial Direct West India Mail, the steamers of which touch at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica every other Wednesday, bringing mails and parcel post from Bristol. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient inducement offered to these steamers to call on their return voyage. The voyage from Avonmouth occupies about 12 days, and freight is brought out by the "Port Kingston" every six weeks, at the rate of 25*s.* a ton. A subsidized steamer of the Pickford and Black Line from Halifax, Nova Scotia, calls about once a month both on her way to and from Jamaica, and is the only means of steam communication from Jamaica. The subsidy paid is £120 a year.

Most of the mails to the United Kingdom are carried to New York by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call here on their voyage to and from San Domingo, at intervals of about 14 days each way.

The revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for the year 1906 were £341 and £158, respectively, made up of—

Receipts.

	£	£
Sales of Stamps	228	
Commission on Money Orders ...	41	
Commission on Postal Orders ...	4	
Other receipts	8	
	——	341

Expenditure.

Office expenses	18	
Conveyance of mails beyond the Colony	140	
	——	158
Net Revenue of Post Office ...		£183

The rates of postage are as follows:—

Letters to the United Kingdom, to all British Colonies generally, and to Egypt	1*d.* per ounce.
To Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Hayti, Peru, Persia, Russia	2½*d.* half ounce.
To other countries	2½*d.* per ounce.
For every additional ounce	1½*d.*
Post Cards	1*d.* each.
Parcels to the United Kingdom:—	
Under 3 lbs.	1*s.*
From 3 lbs. to 7 lbs.	2*s.*
From 7 lbs. to 11 lbs.	3*s.*
Parcels to Jamaica, per lb.	6*d.*
„ to Canada, per lb.	10*d.*
„ to Bermuda, per lb. ...	6*d.*
„ to the United States ...	6*d.*

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, is connected with Grand Turk. The company supplies a news bulletin daily in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made. The rates chargeable under the Cable Company's Ordinance, 1898, are as follows:—

	s.	*d.*	
To Jamaica	1	0	a word.
„ Bermuda	1	6	„
„ Halifax	2	0	„
„ United Kingdom ..	3	0	„

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following readings and statistics were from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station in Grand Turk, latitude 21° 21′ N., longitude 71° 7′ W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet.

The rainfall in 1907 measured 28·49 inches, compared with—

28·36	inches in	1906
41·97	,,	1905
43·79	,,	1904
36·63	,,	1903
27·75	,,	1902

The heaviest rain for any one day was 2·75 inches on the 9th November, while the wettest months were October, November, and January, with 7·21, 5·63, and 2·77 inches, respectively.

The coolest and hottest months were January and July, with mean readings of 74·2 and 83·8, respectively, while the mean temperature for the year was 79·2 and the mean pressure 30·044. The lowest temperature was registered on the 25th March at 61°, while the hottest point, 92°, was reached on the 23rd July.

Observations showed that the prevailing wind on the following number of days blew from:—

N.	10	days
N.E.	64	,,
E.	153	,,
S.E.	112	,,
S.	11	,,
S.W.	7	,,
W.	4	,,
N.W.	4	,,

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Alexis Wynns Harriott, Assistant Commissioner of Grand Turk, was transferred to the Assistant Commissionership of Salt Cay *vice* Dr. Hirst, promoted to the Commissionership of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Lindsay Lea Smith, Clerk to the Commissioner, was appointed Accountant and Clerk *vice* Mr. E. C. Harriott, promoted to a post in Jamaica.

Mr. Hugh Houston Hutchings was appointed Clerk to the Commissioner in place of Mr. L. L. Smith, promoted, and was later on appointed to the Assistant Commissionership

of Grand Turk *vice* Mr. A. W. Harriott, transferred to Salt Cay, in conjunction with his other duties.

Mr. Frederick Eugene Todd was appointed to perform the duties of Harbour Master in conjunction with his other work in the police force.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year, although the financial situation would not allow of any important public works being initiated, the survey of the Caicos Islands was actively pressed on. More was done within the twelve months in the matter of grants than had been accomplished in the previous ten years. An agreement was entered into with the Acting Colonial Surveyor, Mr. E. G. Reid, which will assure the completion of the survey of the Caicos Islands within a reasonable and definite period, and it will then be possible, besides allotting plots to the small owners and restricting indiscriminate squatting with its resultant evils, to offer large tracts of land suitable for the growth of sisals at prices such as will induce persons with capital to engage in and extend the cultivation.

GENERAL.

The year under review opened under circumstances of more than ordinary sadness, for a terrible catastrophe overwhelmed the principal town of Jamaica, causing immense loss of life and property. The people of the Dependency, which is so closely connected with Jamaica, responded generously to an appeal for assistance to their neighbours in their hour of sorrow and need, and an amount of more than £170 was collected and forwarded as an expression of sympathy with the sufferers.

Unlike its immediate forerunners, the year, too, commenced under conditions most propitious for salt raking, and these conditions continued so favourable that one of the largest crops known was gathered. Unfortunately, owing to the trade having been diverted through the inability to meet the supply during the preceding years of disastrous rains, there proved to be little or no demand for the chief product of these islands, and, as months passed, it was painfully apparent that exceptional measures were imperative to aid the owners of salt ponds to meet the worst crisis the Depen-

dency had ever experienced. At a meeting of the Legislative Board, held in June, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the unofficial members praying that, in view of the very depressed and uncertain state of the staple industry, the Government be prepared to make a substantial reduction in the statutory value of salt on which the amount of royalty was based. At a subsequent interview a few days later, the unofficial members agreed in recommending that the statutory value, as paid by Section 5 of the Salt Ponds Ordinance, be reduced from 3½*d.* to 2*d.* per bushel, and that the loss in revenue, estimated at £1,100, likely to be caused by the proposed reduction, be met by adding a surtax of ten per cent. to all duties on imports, at the same time pledging themselves if, at the end of the year, the surtax of ten per cent. proved insufficient, to support and vote for an addition of twenty per cent. to the existing import duties. These urgent representations, together with the confidential reports of the principal owners of salt ponds throughout the Dependency which, in the large majority of instances, supported the proposals of the unofficial members, were transmitted without delay to the Governor, who sanctioned the suggested reduction of the statutory value until the end of the year, without the imposition of additional import duties. As there was, unfortunately, but little improvement in the situation, the Estimates for 1908 were so framed as to give effect for another year to the recommendations of the unofficial members, and ordinances were passed, one containing the reduction of the statutory value, the other making provision to meet the loss in revenue caused by that reduction. By retrenchment in the cost of administration it was not found necessary to take advantage of the pledge of the unofficial members to increase the import duties by twenty per cent. The owners of the salt ponds did not benefit to the full amount of the reduction, but they were enabled thereby to offer their produce at a rate which enabled them to compete with, and regain part of the trade from, their formidable competitors of the Mediterranean. At the end of the year endeavours were made to bring about an agreement with the dealers in the United States to enable the producers to dispose of their salt at remunerative prices, but difficulties supervened and the matter unfortunately remained in abeyance.

Although the principal industry was in so depressed and unsatisfactory a condition, it is satisfactory to note that, despite a temporary set-back occasioned by prolonged drought, the prospects of sisal are encouraging, high and remunerative prices for carefully graded fibre having, as a rule, been obtained. Much of the future success of this cultivation will depend upon the production of a fibre of good and uniform quality and upon careful and honest grading. Efforts must be made to produce sisal in sufficient quantity and reliable

quality to justify a separate name for the fibre exported from the Bahamas and this Dependency to distinguish it from that produced in Yucatan. At present, the price of the fibre exported from these islands is, in spite of its superiority, governed largely by that obtained for inferior qualities made in Mexico. The agreement made during the year, which will assure the completion of the survey of the Caicos Islands within a reasonable and definite period, will render it possible to offer large tracts of lands at prices such as should induce persons to engage in and extend the cultivation. Its future development is one of great interest, for it may be said without exaggeration that this industry has, in a large measure, been the material and educational salvation of the Caicos Islands.

The sponge and turtle industries will, it is hoped, after a term of close seasons and beneficent protection, be once more placed on a basis which will assure regular employment and reasonable profits.

The clouds which for several years past have overhung the Dependency have in a measure lifted, but several years more of careful financial administration will be required before the future can be regarded as free from anxiety.

F. H. WATKINS,

Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
544	Barbados	1906–1907
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar...	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey (1904–5)
47	Do. do.	Do. (1905–6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 607.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 549.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1909.

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1909.

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AUG 25 1909
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No. 607.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1906–7, *see* No. 549.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
2nd June, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(*a*) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the year, under the heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year were as follows :—

Receipts.	Receipts, 1906–1907.			Receipts, 1907–1908.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	411,190	6	1	517,337	13	1
Port, Harbour, and Light-house Dues ...	7,458	6	10	7,213	10	0
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise Classified.	167,924	11	4	169,695	11	3
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Re-imbursements-in-aid, and Irrigation Receipts.	73,548	0	11	88,743	9	8
Post Office and Telegraphs	39,761	8	8	41,099	4	2
Railway	148,454	11	0	153,168	16	1
Rents	2,569	15	8	1,989	11	0
Interest	18,883	5	5	14,399	5	9
Miscellaneous Receipts	14,322	14	8	11,776	14	10
Total, exclusive of Land Sales	884,113	0	7	1,005,423	15	10
Land Sales	2,915	9	3	3,209	1	11
Transfer to General Revenue from Constabulary Pensions Fund by Law 8 of 1867.	200	0	0	13,303	19	10
Total	887,228	8	10	1,021,936	17	7

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Payments.	Payments, 1906–1907.			Actual Payments, 1907–1908.		
General Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges of Debt	213,716	15	10	182,675	3	4
Pensions	24,682	19	1	24,898	12	9
Governor and Staff...	6,147	8	8	6,284	4	10
Privy Council	6	7	6	14	8	9
Legislative Council...	456	2	11	447	13	11
Colonial Secretariat	4,405	14	9	4,348	6	8
Public Works Department	14,074	6	3	14,742	5	5
Parochial Roads and Works	1,678	6	8	1,593	4	10
Lands Department	2,414	16	9	2,357	0	4
Audit Office	4,067	16	6	3,954	8	4
Treasury Department	4,106	11	0	4,138	5	10
Government Savings Bank	2,428	12	11	2,100	4	11
Immigration...	7,431	3	9	1,410	10	2
Clerks Parochial Boards	600	0	0	600	0	0
Stamp Office...	879	9	0	759	2	7
Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs ...	38,117	1	0	36,985	5	1
Postal and Telegraph Service	30,675	12	9	32,832	2	7
Judicial	35,370	6	7	36,561	2	9
Ecclesiastical	1,131	5	4	1,157	10	0
Medical	57,188	10	8	54,839	17	5
Constabulary and Prisons	77,696	4	3	83,669	3	2
Reformatory	4,034	17	4	4,194	11	0
Industrial Schools	808	18	6	876	9	9
Education	56,994	19	2	58,150	17	11
Harbours and Pilotage	2,576	14	8	2,709	0	7
Military—Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence	11,869	3	11	8,852	17	10
Direct Cable Subsidy	1,250	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0
Record and Registrar-General's Office ...	4,148	14	11	4,259	5	6
Registration of Titles	922	3	2	1,513	7	5
Government Printing Office	7,180	8	7	7,776	5	1
Institute	885	5	2	917	3	5
Board of Supervision	—			14	12	0
Pensions, Widows and Orphans	5,431	15	6	6,210	11	2
Agricultural Services	9,766	7	6	9,942	11	10
Miscellaneous	6,698	2	6	31,485	0	1
Public Works and Buildings	87,919	6	4	} 117,696	8	4
Light-houses	1,306	11	11			
Railway	79,045	15	6	101,675	14	3
New Government Buildings	—			11,783	7	1
Transfer to Insurance Fund	—			50,000	0	0
Total	828,114	16	10	935,426	16	11

The total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years has been as shown below :—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1903–1904 ...	926,164 ...	822,876
1904–1905 ...	751,563 ...	824,816
1905–1906 ...	865,696 ...	821,612
1906–1907 ...	887,228 ...	828,115
1907–1908 ...	1,021,937 ...	935,427

The great increase of import duties in this year was due principally to the following causes :—

(1) The replacement of stocks in Kingston destroyed by the earthquake and fire of the 14th of January, 1907 (on which duty had already been paid).

(2) The circulation of money paid in wages for repairing earthquake damage in Kingston.

(3) The importation of an unusual quantity of foodstuffs for consumption by the labouring population on account of the failure of country provision crops owing to drought.

Cause (2) also augmented the yield of the excise duty on rum and the railway passenger receipts.

The receipts from Bankruptcy and Administration Commissions, Stamp Duties, and Title Registration Fees were also considerably augmented by the results of the earthquake. The increase in Postal Revenue must also, probably, be in part attributed to the same calamity.

The Revenue included an amount of £13,304, transferred from the Constabulary Pension Fund created under Law 8 of 1867 ; the liabilities of the Fund being made for the future chargeable against General Revenue. This amount has since been invested to repay the balance of a loan obtained from the Imperial Government in 1900 to pay expenses incurred when the railway was taken over by the Government.

The increase of £5,973 in the expenditure on constabulary and prisons was partly due to the enormous increase in the number of convictions for prædial larceny, which was specially rife owing to the drought and consequent scarcity of local foodstuffs above referred to.

The increase of £24,787 in miscellaneous expenditure was due principally to the payment of £23,000 in aid of the revenue of the city of Kingston, where no ordinary rates were levied during the year.

Earthquake damage accounted for the increase of £24,903 in the expenditure for the repair of public buildings.

£11,783 was disbursed on account of the purchase of a central site for the new public buildings in Kingston and £50,000 was set aside as the beginning of an insurance fund (to be increased to £100,000 by annual instalments of £10,000) to provide for the restoration of public property destroyed on any future occasion by hurricane, earthquake, fire, or any similar unforeseen calamity.

(*b*) No important changes in taxation were brought into force.

(*c*) In addition to the amount (£50,000) of the insurance fund mentioned above, there was available for general purposes a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £184,245 at the close of the year.

(*d*) The public debt of the Island amounted to £3,440,491 on the 31st of March, 1908. Provision for repayment is made by sinking funds, the accumulated amount of which on the same date amounted

to £450,830 15*s.* 8*d.*; guaranteed public loans for local and special purposes secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounted to £296,198, with sinking fund investments amounting to £45,048.

(*e*) The currency of the Island is British sterling, with no limit to the legal tender of silver.

(*f*) The total revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the other Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1903–4	30,245	27,841
1904–5	32,418	34,053
1905–6	30,684	29,220
1906–7	27,170	28,165
1907–8	30,775	30,858

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1903–4	28,386	26,491
1904–5	28,670	25,106
1905–6	30,218	25,597
1906–7	26,294	25,809
1907–8	28,251	25,273

Parochial Boards (15 *Parishes*).

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1903–4	98,649	111,822
1904–5	99,469	103,034
1905–6	105,168	97,038
1906–7	103,484	100,577
1907–8	105,433	106,891

(*g*) The debts of parochial boards to the Island Treasury for advances made for waterworks and markets amounted at the close of the year to £34,482.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The total values of Imports and Exports for the last five years are as follows :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1903–4	2,014,477	1,543,267
1904–5	1,682,356	1,436,725
1905–6	1,941,938	1,843,180
1906–7	2,261,469	1,992,007
1907–8	2,854,042	2,360,702

The chief articles of Imports were (Foodstuffs, &c.) :—

	1907–8. £		1906–7. £
Ale, beer and porter ...	48,905	...	30,551
Beef, wet, salted ...	22,933	...	18,787
Bread and biscuit ...	41,211	...	30,447
Butter and substitutes...	29,460	...	22,904
Coals	74,797	...	74,750
Corn	50,912	...	34,520
Fish, dried and salted...	115,177	...	116,783
Fish, pickled or smoked	59,310	...	67,084
Flour (wheaten) ...	248,435	...	158,435
Meal (other than wheaten)	45,614	...	17,627
Milk, condensed ...	35,860	...	26,429
Oils	53,637	...	59,446
Pork, wet, salted ...	24,889	...	22,017
Rice	66,988	...	44,679
Soap	43,186	...	32,659
Spirits	23,217	...	16,306
Tobacco (manufactured)	21,385	...	16,494
Wines	14,891	...	7,969
Pitch pine lumber ...	88,457	...	37,874

The large increases in the importations of bread, butter, corn, flour, meal and rice reflect the effects of the drought, but do not necessarily indicate exceptional stringency of resources. The increases in ale, beer and porter, beef and pork, soap, wines and spirits and tobacco, and the fact that the importation of salt fish was hardly diminished, show that more money was available for luxuries than in the preceding year. This may be accounted for partly by the fact that the exports were larger, partly by the large expenditure proceeding for the repair of earthquake damages. The increase in pitch pine lumber is the result of this demand for rebuilding.

The values of Imports received from different parts of the world were as follows :—

	£		Per cent.
United Kingdom	1,331,762	...	46·6
United States ...	1,261,762	...	44·2
Canada	162,172	...	5·7
Other Countries ...	98,574	...	3·5

These proportions differ remarkably little from those of the trade of 1898, which were as follows :—

	£		Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	760,271	...	47·2
United States ...	720,859	...	43·0
Canada	118,867	...	7·1
Other Countries ...	44,383	...	2·7

The increase in the trade from the United States of America has been slightly. but very slightly, faster in rate than that from the

United Kingdom, and it has been less in volume, the gross increases being :—

	£
United Kingdom	571,491
United States of America	540,907
Canada	43,305
Other Countries	45,191

The chief articles of Export show the following variations :—

	1907–8. £	1906–7. £
Annatto ...	6,926 ...	5,226
Beeswax ...	5,859 ...	4,346
Cocoa	151,903 ...	109,992
Coco-nuts ...	57,035 ...	44,256
Coffee	141,310 ...	88,469
Bananas ...	1,038,721 ...	880,531
Grape-fruit ...	19,591 ...	12,613
Oranges ...	77,105 ...	70,951
Ginger	46,043 ...	39,621
Hides	10,460 ...	10,108
Honey	17,496 ...	9,739
Lime juice ...	4,840 ...	3,777
Pimento ...	70,233 ...	78,897
Rum	174,956 ...	134,114
Sugar	109,775 ...	118,544
Cigars	33,456 ...	24,815
Fustic and bitter-wood.	12,305 ...	14,113
Logwood ...	72,709 ...	73,427
Logwood extract	106,863 ...	84,920

These figures show a healthy improvement in the harvests of the planting community as compared with the previous year.

The distribution of the Exports was as follows :—

	1907–8. Per cent.	1906–7. Per cent.
To United Kingdom ...	21·4 ...	21·6
„ United States ...	59·0 ...	57·2
„ Canada	5·3 ...	7·5
„ Other Countries ...	14·3 ...	13·7

The improvements in the fruit and coco-nut trade augmented the proportion of exports to the United States.

The following table shows the relative importance of the principal staples and "minor" products.

	1907–8. Per cent.	1906–7. Per cent.
Sugar	5·0 ...	6·3
Rum	8·0 ...	7·1
Coffee	6·4 ...	4·7
Dyewoods...	3·6 ...	4·4
Fruit	53·9 ...	53·7
Pimento	3·1 ...	4·2
Minor products (including cocoa).	20·0 ...	19·6

The following comparison between the exports of 40 years ago and those of 1907–8 is interesting.

	1868	1908
	£	£
Sugar	551,406	109,775
Rum	206,173	174,955
Coffee	168,998	141,310
Dyewoods...	92,747	80,960
Fruit	3,042	1,193,784
Pimento	29,256	70,233
Minor products (including cocoa).	46,709	443,810
	1,098,331	2,214,827

The total increase of £1,116,496 is more than entirely accounted for by the increase of £1,190,042 in fruit. Sugar has fallen off by £441,631 (the 1908 crop was a short one), minor products have increased by £397,101, and the other staples show no very remarkable variation.

(B.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

Copper lodes in Clarendon were actively worked during the year as a preliminary to floating a company; and the most promising results have from time to time been announced to the public. The Ippi Ippa hat-making industry progresses.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The tables of exports printed in the foregoing section indicate the principal agricultural industries of the Island and their position during the year under review. The various public agencies for the improvement of agricultural efficiency continued their work during the year. These are :—

(*a*) The Board of Agriculture, which was established for the purpose of co-ordinating the various public agricultural agencies. At the close of the year provision was made for the establishment of a Department of Agriculture with a view to superseding this Board on the retirement of the Honourable W. Fawcett from the position of Director of Public Gardens and Plantations. That Department was abolished as a separate Department and transferred to the control of the Honourable H. H. Cousins, Island Agricultural Chemist, in the new position of Director of Agriculture.

(*b*) The Jamaica Agricultural Society, a popular organisation having many subordinate branches throughout the Island.

(*c*) The Department of Public Gardens and Plantations (now abolished as above mentioned).

(*d*) The Island and Agricultural Chemist's Department.

(*e*) The Committee in control of sugar experiments.

(*f*) The Education Department.

The activities of these several Departments and bodies have hitherto somewhat overlapped and interlaced. Agricultural instructors have worked partly under the Board of Agriculture, partly under the Jamaica Agricultural Society. They have been actively engaged in instruction in various parishes of the Island and especially in connection with the competitions for prizes for the best cultivated holdings of various classes, which are offered in rotation in groups of parishes throughout the Island. It is the duty of the instructors to encourage and assist the peasantry to enter for these competitions, for which prizes are given by the Agricultural Society and to assist in the judging.

At Hope Gardens the instruction of agricultural students, apprentices, and industrial school boys has been carried on. Owing to the destruction of the Mico College by the earthquake only 22 elementary school teachers attended the annual course for agricultural instruction. A special instructor has been employed for the improvement of school gardens throughout the Island. He reports that it is evident that considerable work has been done in many of the schools by the native teachers. Taking into consideration the amount of teaching other than that given to the children in the school gardens, he considers the results remarkable. The time, however, devoted to this work is very much limited and might, with profit both to the children and to the country, be increased. The children show for the most part a very keen interest in the work and many have established small cottage gardens as a direct outcome of the work of the school garden. The instructor calls attention to the importance of treating the school garden as an example of method, order, and a thorough understanding of the laws of tillage, far more important than theoretical teaching of botanical science. He also insists on the need of greater provision for fencing and tools. As an example of the advantage that may result to the country in the matter of cottage gardens by means of this education, the instructor mentions the vegetable industry in the Port Royal Mountains which has sprung up of recent years principally as a direct outcome of the work of the teacher of the Mavis Bank School, who is also secretary of the local agricultural society. The industry is now worth thousands of pounds annually to the inhabitants of the mountains and affords means of livelihood in substitution for that which was formerly obtainable on the large coffee plantations.

(D) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

No considerable alienation of Crown Land was made during the year. The Surveyor General reports that he finds considerable difficulty in obtaining the payment of instalments of purchase money for crown lands sold to small settlers under a system of annual payments. Land suitable for banana cultivation continues to advance in value and is frequently worth as much as £30 an acre. There have from time to time been representations of a demand for more land for peasant settlement. This, however, appears to be for the most part a demand for new woodland or fallow land for cultivation in the primitive methods of cutting and burning. There is

plenty of land obtainable which would yield crops under proper cultivation such as it is one of the prime objects of the Agricultural Society to induce the peasantry to pursue.

(E) Shipping.

The total number of steamers reported with cargo during the year was 858, with tonnage 1,266,191, which is an increase over the previous year of 30 ships, with 109,504 tonnage. The number of steamers reported in ballast was 293 with tonnage 215,230, or 123 with 102,955 tonnage less than the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus there has been a decrease in steamers reporting to the extent of 93 in number, the tonnage, however, works out at an increase of 6,549. Steamers cleared with cargo are recorded as numbering 1,056, with tonnage 1,388,915. This is a decrease over the previous year of 65 ships, but tonnage again shows an increase of 37,731. Steamers clearing in ballast numbered 83 with tonnage 81,780, or a decrease of 31 ships when compared with the figures of the previous year. The tonnage in this case also shows a decrease of 36,086. Taking the total steamers cleared there has been a decrease of 96 in number, but an increase of 1,645 in tonnage.

Sailing vessels reported show a decrease of 34 with tonnage 12,593. The figures being :—

1906–7	231	44,415 tonnage.
1907–8	197	31,822 „
	34	12,593

Sailing vessels cleared show a decrease in number of 11, but an increase in tonnage of 2,267. Taking steamers and sailing vessels together there has been a decrease in the number reporting of 127 with 6,044 tonnage, and in the number clearing a decrease of 107 with tonnage 3,912.

The decrease in steamers reporting works out as under :—

British.

1906–7	312	506,683 tonnage.
1907–8	307	502,788 „
	5	3,895 decrease.

Foreign.

1906–7	932	968,189 tonnage.
1907–8	844	978,643 „
	88	10,454 decrease.

Out of the total number of steamers reporting 307, or 26·7 per cent. were British, and 844, or 73·3 per cent. foreign. Compared with the previous year there has been a gain of 1·7 per cent. by the British carriers. The figures are as under:

	1906–7		1907–8	
British	312	25 per cent.	307	26·7 per cent.
Foreign	932	75 „	844	73·3 „

A retrospect for forty years at ten year rests gives the following:—

—	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1868	579	167,749	528	157,184
1878	836	374,393	838	363,513
1888	991	563,902	952	520,755
1898	1,060	780,861	1,055	780,083
1908	1,348	1,513,243	1,348	1,511,101

Cleared.

Comparative Statement showing number and tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation *cleared* at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1906–1907 and 1907–1908.

Nationality of Vessels.	1906–1907.						1907–1908.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	174	13,152	308	496,706	482	509,858	175	21,724	305	502,800	480	524,524
American	15	8,212	99	125,032	114	133,244	15	4,040	102	135,143	117	139,183
German	—	—	288	494,413	288	494,413	1	256	285	553,117	286	553,373
Norwegian	11	7,298	462	309,116	473	316,414	8	6,588	382	242,394	390	248,982
Italian	6	4,031	—	—	6	4,031	3	2,676	1	1,869	4	4,545
Dutch	1	412	—	—	1	412	—	—	1	434	1	434
Cuban	—	—	61	34,005	61	34,005	—	—	51	29,490	51	29,490
Swedish	5	2,747	—	—	5	2,747	3	2,517	—	—	3	2,517
State of Panama ...	—	—	14	7,264	14	7,264	—	—	12	5,448	12	5,448
Russian	1	625	—	—	1	625	2	1,392	—	—	2	1,392
Danish	1	912	3	2,514	4	3,426	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican	6	750	—	—	6	750	—	—	—	—	—	—
French	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,213	—	—	2	1,213
Total	220	38,139	1,235	1,469,050	1,455	1,507,189	209	40,406	1,139	1,470,695	1,348	1,511,101

Entered.

Comparative Statement showing number and tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation *entered* at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1906–1907 and 1907–1908.

Nationality of Vessels.	1906–1907.						1907–1908.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	182	15,974	312	506,683	494	522,657	165	16,295	307	502,778	472	519,073
American	14	7,075	101	134,127	115	141,202	17	4,868	103	136,478	120	141,346
German	—	—	287	486,400	287	486,400	2	512	284	550,871	286	551,383
Norwegian	11	7,605	467	302,552	478	310,157	7	5,730	391	253,053	298	258,783
Italian	7	5,072	—	—	7	5,072	1	687	1	1,869	2	2,556
Dutch	1	412	—	—	1	412	—	—	1	434	1	434
Cuban	—	—	60	35,332	60	35,332	—	—	52	30,490	52	30,490
Swedish	6	4,598	—	—	6	4,598	3	2,517	—	—	3	2,517
State of Panama ...	—	—	14	7,264	14	7,264	—	—	12	5,448	12	5,448
Russian	3	2,017	—	—	3	2,017	—	—	—	—	—	—
French	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,213	—	—	2	1,213
Danish	1	912	3	2,514	4	3,426	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican	6	750	—	—	6	750	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	231	44,415	1,244	1,474,872	1,475	1,519,287	197	31,822	1,151	1,481,421	1,348	1,513,243

Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica for the five years ended 31st March, 1908.

Ships Entered.			Ships Cleared.		
Year.	Number.	Tonnage.	Year.	Number.	Tonnage.
1903-1904...	1,080	1,047,103	1903-1904...	1,083	1,047,796
1904-1905...	1,135	1,220,189	1904-1905...	1,135	1,220,533
1905-1906...	1,353	1,397,611	1905-1906...	1,354	1,393,837
1906-1907...	1,475	1,519,287	1906-1907...	1,455	1,507,189
1907-1908...	1,348	1,513,243	1907-1908...	1,348	1,511,101

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-six laws were passed in the Session of 1907, the most important of which were the following:—

Laws 13 and 23, amending the Kingston Building Law of 1883, providing regulations for better building in the city to diminish the risk of destruction by future earthquakes, and to enable the Governor to establish a new Building Authority.

Law 14, the Kingston Tax Collection Law, which remitted all direct taxes on property for 15 months from the 1st January, 1907, and enabled the Governor to make good to the Mayor and Council out of General Revenue the resulting deficiency of city revenue. This Law also brought the City of Kingston under the operation of the Parish Rates Law and Property Tax Law of 1903, changing the basis of taxation from the assessed annual value to the assessed capital value, and bringing Kingston in line with the rest of the Parishes. This Law also extended to Kingston the exemption of all public property, whether owned by the Government or by the Parochial Board, from taxation instituted by the Taxation Laws of 1903.

Laws 15 and 18, the Public Buildings Laws, enabling the Government to acquire lands in the centre of the burnt area of the city of Kingston for the purpose of erecting new Public Buildings.

Law 20, the Assistance Committee Law, providing for the establishment and duties of a Committee to administer the Imperial Grant of £150 000 made in aid of the sufferers from the earthquake, and the other charitable subscriptions contributed for that purpose.

Laws 22 and 23, the Earthquake Loan (Imperial) Law, and the Earthquake Loans Administration Law, enabling the Colonial Government to borrow from the Imperial Government sums not exceeding in all £800,000 for the purpose of repairing damage caused by the earthquake and to provide for proper administration

of such loans. Moneys borrowed for this purpose from the Imperial Government were to be lent at 3½ per cent., and would be repayable by annuities of principal and interest combined at the following rates :—

	£	s.	d.	
For 7 years	16	7	1	per cent. per annum.
„ 10 „	12	0	5¾	„ „
„ 12 „	10	6	11½	„ „
„ 15 „	8	13	7¾	„ „
„ 20 „	7	0	8¾	„ „

A Loan Board was established by the Earthquake Loans Administration Law empowered to make advances on real property repayable by annuities based on the above scale, but including provision for cost of administration, for cost of remittance, and for a guarantee to cover possible losses. Such loans were secured in the first place by the real property mortgaged, next upon the parochial rates of the Parish within which they were made, and finally upon General Revenue of the Island.

Before the 31st March, 1908, five Laws were assented to and passed in the Session of that year, Nos. 1 and 3 empowering the acquisition of further lands for the Public Buildings, No. 2 further amending the Building Law, and Nos. 5 and 6 removing certain anomalies in the Parish Rates Law, 1903, and the Property Tax Law, 1903.

IV.—EDUCATION.

In his report for the year the Superintending Inspector of Schools gives the following statistics :—

	1907–8.	1906–7.
Schools on annual grant list at end of financial year	696	687
Average number of Scholars on Books for year from quarter ended October 31st, 1906	88,862	86,090
Average attendance for year ended October 31st, 1906	53,691	54,822
Percentage on average attendance of number on books	60·55	63·68
Total payments to elementary schools and Teachers	£46,314	£45,047

He adds the following observations :—

"It will be seen that the average attendance for the year under review, taken from the monthly average returns, is very much lower than it was for the year before. The year opened well. The only Parish where the attendance suffered appreciably from the direct effects of the earthquake was Kingston, and in Kingston, as I observed in my last Report, the managers of all the schools showed the most commendable public spirit in setting at once to work to replace the ruined buildings, and meantime to maintain the continued efficient

working of the schools. The buildings that were first restored were those under Roman Catholic managers, but all denominations were alike in getting their schools at once to work in booths, temporary buildings, and what not, so that the Kingston attendance recovered with extraordinary rapidity from the temporary set back caused by the disaster. In the rest of the Island there was, with few exceptions, not even a temporary falling off in attendance, and had we had our usual seasons there can be little doubt that the attendance for the Island generally for the financial year 1907-8 would, in spite of the earthquake, if the difference in age limit be taken into account, have approached what it was in the record years following the abolition of fees in 1892. But again, as in 1880 and 1903, our sanguine anticipations were destined to disappointment. A long continued drought, the effects of which were first felt in the Parishes of Manchester and St. Elizabeth, but which ultimately involved more or less every part of the Island, caused widespread scarcity and distress, and the attendance at the schools, always responsive to such influences, dropped in the Parishes chiefly concerned to something like two-thirds of its normal figure. Even the averages for the year 1st November, 1906, to 31st October, 1907, upon which the grants for the financial year 1908-9 have been calculated, fell off in central parishes to such an extent that the Legislature passed a Vote of £1,800 for special Distress Grants, to enable the schools in these parishes to receive payments based upon higher averages than would otherwise have in most cases obtained, and the subsequent continuance of the drought and consequent poor attendance makes it certain that next spring the same difficulty will have to be met, possibly in an intensified form.

"It is gratifying to be able to record that for the most part the teachers have made very praiseworthy and, to a great extent, successful efforts to strive against the adverse influences they have had to meet. In spite of all difficulties the schools maintained on the whole a high level of efficiency, the slight falling off in the number of first class schools being offset by a considerably greater increase in the number of second class, and a diminution in the number of the third. Owing to this fact, coupled with the special provision referred to in the previous paragraph, there will be a slight increase on the whole in grants in aid to schools for the year 1908-9, coupled with a lower average attendance."

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

The Public General Hospital at Kingston was considerably damaged by the earthquake, and the work of the institution, on which there was more than usual pressure, was carried on under some difficulty and inconvenience. The most noticeable feature in the reports on the Public General Hospitals in the country parishes is the great pressure on the hospitals in the districts in which

Indian immigrants are employed, for the accommodation of coolies suffering from malarial fever. This increased pressure calls for the serious attention of the Government and remedial measures are being considered on the lines :—

(1) of removing hospitals from malarial places ;

(2) of abating malaria in the districts and on the estates whence patients are sent to the hospitals.

(B.) Reformatories.

The numbers of boys and girls in the reformatories at Stony Hill increased during the year from 299 to 345, and the accommodation for the girls reformatory having become quite insufficient, steps are being taken to provide other quarters for the girls. The boys did a considerable amount of valuable work for the institution and for the public.

(C.) Savings Bank.

The report of the manager of the Government Savings Bank shows liabilities to depositors on the 31st March, 1906, of £402,925, on account of which securities to the amount of £395,783 were held, the balance of £7,142 being cash at call in the Treasury. There was an increase in the balances of Government accounts without which the depositors' balances would have been decreased by £13,541. This is accounted for by extensive withdrawals in Kingston for building purposes, and it is noted that the drought in Manchester appears to have affected deposits in that parish.

East Indian immigrants have to their credit £15,007 distributed among 950 separate accounts. This is an increase in the number of depositors and in amount as compared with last year.

The net profit of the savings bank to the Government after paying all expenses, interest, and losses on sale of investment, was £2,309.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The Inspector-General reports that there were in custody in the prisons on the 31st of March, 1908, 1662 prisoners together with 33 prisoners in the local lock-ups, this number being an increase of 595 over that of prisoners in custody on the 31st March, 1907.

The committals to prisons and lock-ups during the year were 6,460. During the previous year there were 4,891 showing an increase of 1,569 in the number of committals to prison as compared with the previous year. As compared, however, with the year 1905-6, there was a decrease of 1,144 in committals.

The re-convictions during 1907-8 amounted to 1,515. Of these 667 were second convictions, 269 third, and 579 fourth and upwards.

There were 124 deaths as compared with 46 in the previous year. This heavy mortality formed the subject of special enquiry, and reports from the prison surgeons. The cause was not attributable to any defect in the sanitary conditions of the prisons, which are reported as quite satisfactory. A great number of prisoners are admitted in very poor physical condition. Of those who died 62 were in feeble health when admitted.

There were no executions of capital punishment during the year.

The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary in the year was £14,516, that for St. Catherine's District Prison £6,705, making a total of £21,221. The cash earnings of the two prisons were £5,268, leaving a net cost of £15,953 or £11 12*s.* 2*d.* per prisoner per annum.

The total estimated value of the labour yielding no return in cash was £10,676. The value of the crops reaped on the St. Catherine Prison Farm was £1,490 10*s.*

A great deal of the damage done by the earthquake to the buildings of the General Penitentiary has been repaired by the prisoners during the year.

Discipline has been maintained in the prisons notwithstanding the abnormal number of inmates, and the mark system is stated to continue to work satisfactorily.

In reporting on the criminal statistics for the year the Attorney-General observes that the outstanding feature of the returns is the great increase in the number of cases of praedial larceny and of offences against property. Praedial larceny cases increased from 1,082 in the previous year to 2,547 and offences against property from 1,938 to 2,530. The Attorney-General thinks these increases are due to the great drought in the year following, at a comparatively short period, the earthquake of January 1907. He points out that the number of those offences does not exceed that for the year 1904-5, following the cyclone in 1903. There is a slight decrease in the number of offences against the person and a very satisfactory decrease in the cases of serious crime tried in the Circuit Courts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1908, was 835,800.

The number of marriages registered during the year was 6,251, being 7·4 per thousand of the estimated population.

Births registered were 29,210, 14,816 males and 14,394 females. The birth-rate was 35 per thousand of the estimated population, the lowest since 1886-7; the illegitimate births 18,042, 61·7 per cent. of births, the lowest percentage since 1896-7.

Deaths registered 23,672, 28·3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is the highest death-rate recorded during the 30 years of registration. That of the preceding year was 26·2 per thousand. 6,535, or 27·6 per cent. of the total number of deaths were of children under one year of age, and 10,135 or 44·5 per cent. of children under five years. Among these the death-rate of legitimate children was 16·33 per cent. and of illegitimate 26·11 per cent.

Illegitimate percentage is thus shown to contain, as compared with legitimate, a very considerable tincture of manslaughter.

(B.) Public Health.

The year was less healthy than the average. There was a great deal of sickness after the earthquake ; a troublesome form of sore throat with fever and diarrhœa appeared to be diffused by the dust of the fallen city, and there were throughout the year more than the usual persistent number of sporadic cases of enteric or typhoid fever. There was a considerable prevalence of malarial fever among the Indian immigrants in Portland, St. Mary, and St. Thomas, and the hospitals were much overcrowded.

(C.) Sanitation.

The duties of local sanitary authorities continued to be administered by the several parochial boards throughout the Island.

(D.) Climate.

The rainfall was below the average and the greater part of the Island suffered more or less severely from drought throughout the year.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The Postmaster-General furnishes the following figures comparing the postal revenues for 1907–8 with those of the previous year.

—	1907–08.	1906–07.	1905–06.
	£	£	£
Postages	32,465	31,384	29,594
Commission on Money Orders ...	638	531	441
Local Commission on British Postal Orders.	176	125	98
Commission on Local Postal Orders	734	682	690
Miscellaneous	764	639	614
Telegraphs	6,489	6,614	5,983
Total	41,266	39,975	37,420

These statistics show an increase of £1,291 over the revenue of the previous year distributed under all heads of receipt except telegraphs, in which there has been a falling off of £125, attributed to the continued drought and its effect on the banana business.

The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £33,472, but in this there is not included any charge against the post office for the fortnightly conveyance of mails and parcels to and from the United Kingdom by the direct line of steamers, which receives a subsidy of £20,000 per annum from general revenue.

The estimate of mail matter handled shows 3,386,300 items outwards, and 3,726,957 inwards at the Kingston post office, and at district post offices a total of 1,523,746. This is an increase of 699,365 items over the estimate for the previous year. Correspondence was unquestionably stimulated by the results of the earthquake of January, 1907.

The postmaster expresses his appreciation of the continued good services rendered by the clerks of the head office at Kingston and at the out stations during the period of disorganization into which the post office was thrown after the earthquake of January, 1907. The post office is still housed in inconvenient temporary quarters and carries on its work under considerable difficulties.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

I find nothing of any importance to report under this head.

X.—GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The most outstanding feature of the year's history must be considered to have been the work done in Kingston and its neighbourhood in reparation of the effects of the earthquake. In addition to large expenditure from the public Treasury in the restoration of Government buildings and from private resources in replacing houses and shops, there was expended by the Committees established to administer the amounts subscribed through the Lord Mayor of London's Fund and other channels (together with the sum of £150,000 contributed by the Imperial Government), a total amount of about £224,535 up to the 31st March. Of this amount £154,020 was expended in rebuilding houses, and residue in providing for the maintenance of those who had lost their supporters or other means of subsistence, or in enabling losers to make a fresh start in business. In addition to this fund there was expended in the Island out of the public loan guaranteed by the Imperial Parliament sums amounting to £92,625 advanced on mortgage. This amount was all advanced

from the local Treasury and no loan had, up to the close of the year, been obtained from the Imperial Government to cover these advances.

The Island suffered from drought during the year, but, as the returns of exports show, was not on the whole unprosperous. Emigration to Colon and Costa Rica continued active. 10,880 persons left the Island to seek employment in Central America, and 7,957 returned. These emigrants remit or bring back with them a considerable amount of money, some of which they invest in land and houses in Jamaica.

The planting of bananas continues to be the most attractive investment for capital and labour, and it is somewhat unfortunate that the economic prosperity of the Island should be coming to depend so predominately upon this remunerative but risky crop. At the same time it is clear that the planting of more permanent crops such as cocoa and coconuts is increasing more rapidly than ever, and in a few years time the export of cocoa may assume that position of importance in our exports which the suitability of parts of the Island for this staple have long indicated as its due. The orange does not appear to be progressive.

Owing to the depression of price in some of the former staples of production the social condition of the people in a few districts is deteriorating. On the other hand, in the districts suitable for bananas, cocoa and other products which hold their own, material wealth and prosperity are unquestionably on the advance, and it is satisfactory to be able to report a considerable increase in the investment of capital in machinery for sugar production, and in the cultivation of the sugar cane. The prospects of this industry are improving. On the whole it may be said that in the year 1907–8 the city of Kingston, suffering from the shattering effects of the earthquake, and the island generally, suffering from special difficulties of climate, held their own very satisfactorily, and placed and kept themselves in a position to reap the advantage of the more favourable conditions that have followed.

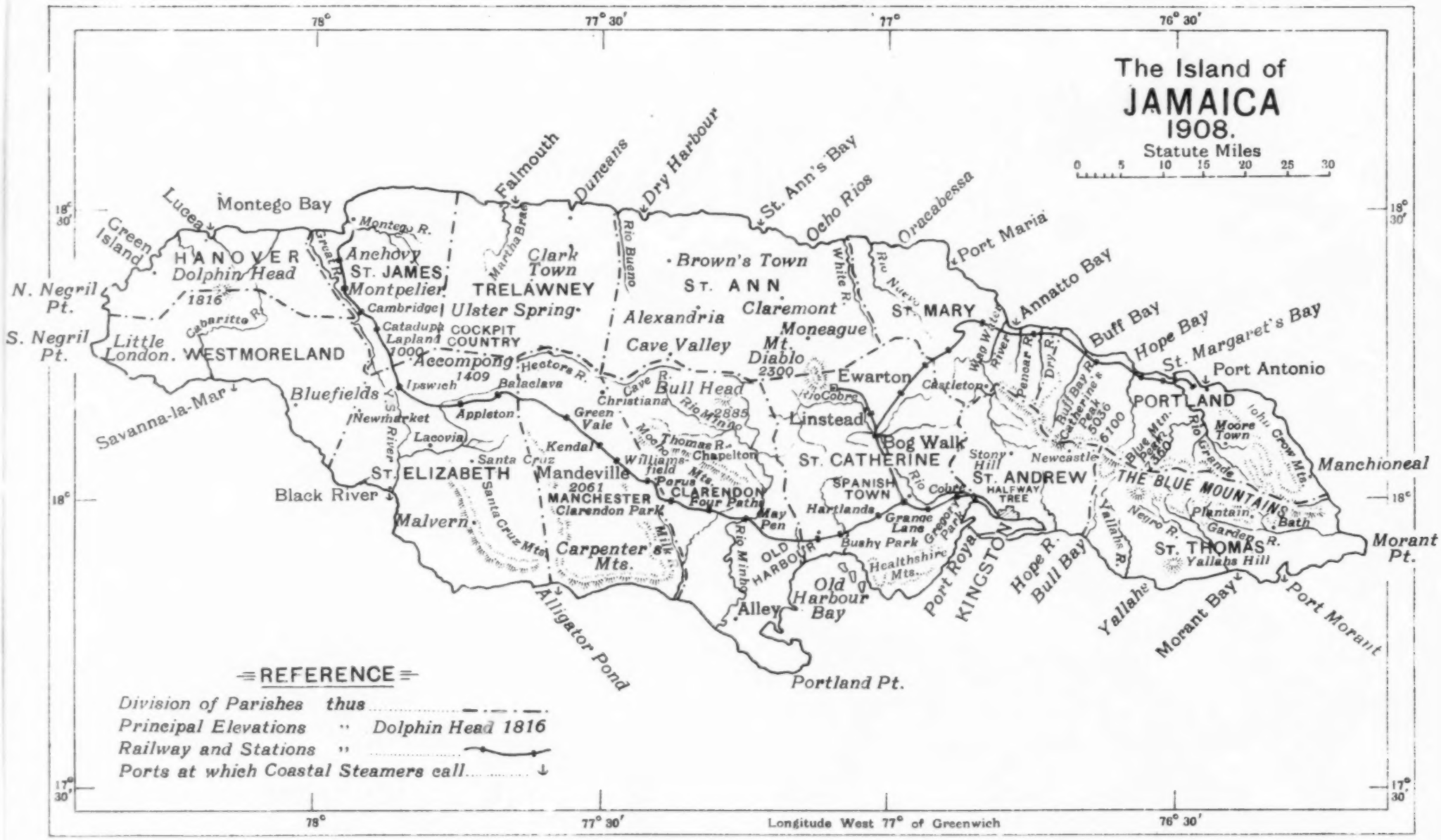
A sketch map of the island is annexed to this report.

I have &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
573	Gold Coast	1907
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements...	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	1907–1908
599	Falkland Islands	1908
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	1908
606	Seychelles	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 612.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 578.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1909.

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No. 612.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 578.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
5th August, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1908, together with the Acting Commissioner's Report thereon.

2. It will be seen that Mr. Slader has on this occasion furnished a sketch map of the Dependency as suggested in your Circular Despatch of the 30th April, 1908.

I have, &c.,

P. C. CORK,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(14264—2.) Wt. 26122—322 1125. 9/09. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1908

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1908 amounted to the sum of £7,404, while the expenditure was £11,430.

Of this amount the sum of £4,000 was earmarked for Hurricane Relief, and set aside from the invested funds of these Islands; this leaves the expenditure at £7,430, being £16 in excess of the revenue for the year.

The hurricane of September last was undoubtedly the cause of the deficit, as for a time it quite dislocated trade. The exporting of salt ceased, while the import duties fell off considerably, only food-stuffs, which are nearly all free under the Tariff Ordinance, continuing to come in.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1904	6,466 ...	8,001
1905	6,243 ...	7,279
1906	6,809 ...	7,080
1907	7,391 ...	7,119
1908	7,404 ...	11,430*

Revenue.

	1907.	1908.
	£	£
Import Duties	3,660	3,731
Royalty on Salt	1,832	1,542
Port Dues	684	812
Licences and Internal Revenue	227	262
Payments for Specific Services	177	165
Post Office	341	432
Revenue from Government Property	217	185
Interest	242	267
Miscellaneous	11	8
	£7,391	£7,404

* £4,000 of which was taken from the Reserve Fund for hurricane relief.

Expenditure.

Head.	1907.	1908.
	£	£
Pensions	658	418
Commissioner's Department ...	1,979	1,952
Judicial Department	539	511
Police and Prisons	679	713
Medical	585	565
Paupers	281	267
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination ...	18	19
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	428	792
Post Office	158	185
Lighthouses	248	248
Public Works Department ...	399	453
Public Works Recurrent ...	444	429
Public Works Extraordinary ...	50	248
Cost of Remittances	32	9
Hurricane Relief	—	4,000
	£7,119	£11,430

Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	£	Liabilities.	£
Cash—		Due Crown Agents	130
In Colonial Chest	688	Miscellaneous Deposits ...	153
Jamaica Treasury	819	Salt Pond Fund	303
Advances recoverable... ...	62	Board of Education... ...	246
Bonds (Import)	57	Money Orders	228
Investments—		Savings Bank	2,264
Government Funds ...	5,900	Hurricane Relief Fund ...	3,189
Savings Bank Funds ...	2,267		
Board of Education ...	170		6,513
Remittances maturing ...	104	Balance of Assets	3,554
	10,067		10,067

There is no Public Debt, but there are surplus funds amounting to £5,900 invested in Colonial securities.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The value of the imports during the year 1908 amounted to £24,426, while the exports were £24,798, which shows a decrease of £3,234 of imports as compared with last year, and an increase of £981 in the exports for the same period.

The salt exported amounted to 1,749,526 bushels, which was a fairly good crop when it is remembered that the hurricane in

September effectually prevented any more salt being raked for the year: the price, however, was very low, being only 4½ cents per bushel, a figure at which it was kept until December, 1908. The value of the salt exported in 1907 was £16,557, being £812 more than the value of the crop in the year under review.

The sisal crop was not so good as in preceding years, due in a measure to the hurricane. The amount exported was £1,664, as against £3,107 in 1907, and £5,602 in 1906.

The value of the total imports and exports is:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1904	24,120 ...	24,020
1905	28,230 ...	23,898
1906	27,572 ...	24,940
1907	27,660 ...	23,817
1908	24,426 ...	24,798

Articles of Export.

	Value in— 1907.	1908.
	£	£
Conchs	294 ...	706
Turtle Shell ...	430 ...	—
Sisal	3,107 ...	1,664
Salt	16,557 ...	19,439
Sponges	3,045 ...	1,095
Miscellaneous ...	384 ...	1,874

Shipping.

The total tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared during the years 1904 to 1908 is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Total Tonnage.
1904	275,132
1905	332,254
1906	357,960
1907	345,453
1908	410,195

Comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1907 and 1908:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	166	16,014	39	62,787	205	78,801
United States	29	22,332	26	50,748	55	73,080
Others	62	16,892	25	50,026	87	52,210
Total 1908	267	55,238	90	163,561	347	204,091
Total 1907	255	31,948	84	141,386	339	173,334

LEGISLATION.

The only Ordinances passed during the year were:—

1. An Ordinance imposing a duty on all living Sisal plants exported from the Dependency.
2. An Ordinance declaring the Acts and Ordinances comprised in the recently-printed volume entitled "The Laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands" to be the only Acts and Ordinances in force and operation in the Dependency.

Law 46 of 1908 passed by the Jamaica Legislature gave a right of appeal from the Supreme Court of these Islands to the Appeal Court of Jamaica in both Civil and Criminal proceedings.

EDUCATION.

There are eleven elementary schools in these Islands, three at Grand Turk, two at Salt Cay, and the other six in the Caicos. Seven of these are Government Schools, and are supported from a grant of £600 per annum made for education.

The total number of children being educated is 915, of whom 476 are boys and 439 girls. The schools are inspected annually by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, the Government Inspector. The teachers are all natives, and do excellent work; they are provided with houses, and are paid salaries ranging from £40 to £96 per annum.

The following table will show the respective schools, and the average attendance of the pupils:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Grand Turk ...	97	111	208
* Do.	30	49	79
Salt Cay	37	19	56
* Do.	13	9	22
Cockburn Harbour, Caicos	70	39	109
* Do. do.	2	23	25
Kew, Caicos ...	27	20	47
Blue Hills, Caicos	24	19	43
Lorimers, Caicos	34	26	60
Bottle Creek, Caicos	39	36	75
Totals	373	351	724

* Private schools.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Savings Bank.

	£
Deposits during year	774
Amount of withdrawals	832
Total amount at credit of Depositors	2,206
Amount of Invested Funds	2,309
Interest on Investments	59
Interest credited to Depositors ...	43

Number of Depositors, 257

Rate of Interest paid to Depositors, 2 per cent.

Public Library.

The Public Library, which stands on the embankment overlooking the Harbour, is certainly the most appreciated institution in these Islands. It was built in 1887 from private subscriptions and a Government grant. There is a small annual subscription and members may borrow three English or American magazines or papers every afternoon. The Library contains about 5,238 books for the use of the members.

In this community where there are so few amusements for the inhabitants the Library is regarded as a very great boon.

The annual Government grant-in-aid is £50.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The Police Force consists of a total strength of one officer and 22 men.

—	1906.	1907.	1908.
Offences reported to police	160	207	202
Number of persons apprehended	160	204	202
Number of persons convicted	134	157	160
Convictions in Magistrates' Court :—			
1. Offences against the Person	27	34	24
2. Prædial Larceny	1	13	6
3. Offences against Property	13	3	23
4. Other Offences	93	107	107
Convictions in the Superior Court :—			
1. Offences against the Person	2	1	0
2. Prædial Larceny	0	0	0
3. Offences against Property	0	1	0
4. Other offences	0	0	3
Number of Persons acquitted :—			
1. In the Superior Court	—	—	—
2. In the Inferior Court	24	44	40

There is practically no serious crime in the Dependency.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1908, amounted to 5,287, distributed as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Grand Turk	720 ...	1,031
Salt Cay	223 ...	230
South Caicos	323 ...	379
Other Caicos	1,142 ...	1,239
	2,408	2,879

Of this population 342 are white, and the remainder coloured and black.

There were 164 births, 159 deaths, and 26 marriages, during the year. The highest birth-rate was 38·1 per thousand in the Caicos, and the lowest 21·1 per thousand at Grand Turk.

The general health during the year was excellent, and there were no epidemics of a serious nature.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

There is no internal postal, telegraphic, or telephonic communication in the Islands, but there is a fairly good steamship service between Grand Turk, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Steamers call here fortnightly on their way to Jamaica, and the Clyde Line steamers from New York call on their way to San Domingo every ten days, while the Pickford and Black steamship "Boston" calls once a month from Halifax, and on her return trip from Jamaica. For this latter service a subsidy of £120 per annum is paid.

Latterly there has also been a "Dominican Line" calling on their voyages between New York and San Domingo.

Letters posted to London *viâ* America are frequently answered within 28 days.

The following amounts are the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office:—

Receipts.	1907.	1908.
Sale of stamps	£228 ...	£376
Commission on money orders ...	41 ...	35
Commission on postal orders ...	4 ...	11
Other receipts	8 ...	10
	£281	£432

Payments.	1907.	1908.
Office expenses	£18 ...	£27
Conveyance of mails	140 ...	158
	£158	£185

RATES OF POSTAGE.

The British Empire	1*d.*
The United States of America	2½*d.*
Other places abroad	2½*d.*
Postcards	1*d.*

The Direct West India Cable Company is connected with Grand Turk. The subsidy paid them by this Government is £120 per annum, and they supply us with a daily bulletin of the news.

The following are the cable rates:—

	Per word.	
To Jamaica	1*s.*	0*d.*
,, Bermuda	1	6
,, Halifax	2	0
,, United Kingdom	3	0

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following is the rainfall:—

	inches
1904	43·79
1905	41·97
1906	28·36
1907	28·49
1908	41·37

The wettest month was November, when there was 6 inches and 57 parts of rain measured, while the driest month was April, with 37 parts. The heaviest rainfall was 3 inches and 10 parts, on the 22nd May.

The coolest and hottest months were February and August, the mean temperature 74·2° F. and 84·3° F. respectively.

The mean temperature for the year ...	79·6° F.
The mean pressure	30·036 ins.
The lowest temperature	63° F. on 17 Feb.
The highest	100·5° F. on 30 Oct.

The prevailing winds during the year:—

—	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
N.	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	11
N.E. ...	9	8	6	5	2	1	1	2	3	4	15	11	67
N.W. ...	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	7
S.	2	1	—	5	5	2	1	1	—	3	—	—	20
S.E. ...	8	3	4	8	12	15	10	11	8	4	5	2	90
S.W. ...	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	8
E.	10	12	18	12	10	11	17	17	17	13	8	10	155
W.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
													361
Calm ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	5

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Hugh Houston Hutchings, the Clerk to the Commissioner, was appointed Assistant Commissioner at Grand Turk. The duties of Clerk to the Commissioner were merged in his new appointment, and the clerkship abolished.

Miss Jessie Rigby was appointed typist.

Mr. Daniel Bascome Hinson, the Boarding and Revenue Officer at Cockburn Harbour, was appointed to the Gold Coast Colony.

Mr. William Alfred Durham was appointed Boarding and Revenue Office at Cockburn Harbour, *vice* Mr. Hinson, promoted.

His Honour G. P. St. Aubyn went on three months' leave, and during his absence His Honour F. H. Watkins acted as Judge of the Supreme Court.

In December last His Honour G. P. St. Aubyn was promoted to Jamaica as Resident Magistrate for St. James and Trelawney.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The only public work of importance carried out during the year was the completion of the survey of the North Caicos, by Mr. E. G. Reid, the Acting Colonial Surveyor.

This island, the most important of the Caicos Group, contains 39 square miles, of which 6,110 acres were disposed of to small settlers before the coming into operation of the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896. Two thousand four hundred and fifty acres have been sold under the provisions of that Ordinance. There are about 1,000 acres of salt ponds, and 6,500 acres fit and available for cultivation, while the remaining portion of the Crown Lands is pine barren and rocks unfit for use.

The chief settlement is Kew, containing 450 inhabitants and 79 acres, situated in the West Centre. There are three villages, viz., Bottle Creek, Sandy Point, and Whitby on the North Coast.

GENERAL.

Seldom in the history of these islands has a year passed under conditions less immediately favourable to the staple industry than obtained in 1908.

In June, 1906, an Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Board reducing the statutory value of salt, on which a royalty of 10 per cent. is paid to the Government on shipment, from 3½*d.* to 2*d.* per bushel. This was done with a view to assisting the salt owners, who had very nearly been ousted from the American market in consequence of their inability to supply the demand during two years of rains. The purchasers had obtained supplies from Sicily to meet their requirements, and it was in order to allow our own people to recapture the American trade that it was necessary to reduce the royalty and enable them to sell cheaper. Fortunately the weather was favourable to salt-raking, and a crop of 1.749,000 bushels was gathered, which permitted the price of salt to be kept down to 4½ cents per bushel during the whole year, the lowest figure ever reached.

The shipments of salt were large and frequent, the demands were amply met, and the result aimed at by the Legislature in recapturing the American market achieved. The success, however, was dearly bought, as the great majority of the salt-pond owners, through the effects of years of adversity, were not in a position to stand the strain, and so were reduced to the greatest straits.

The loss in revenue to the Dependency from the decrease in the royalty on salt for the period amounted to £1,000, but this was almost entirely met—

(1st.) by £500 collected from an increased tariff, and

(2nd.) by economy in administration.

These conditions of affairs were put an end to by an intervention of Providence, for on the 10th and 11th September, 1908, a most violent hurricane broke over these islands, laying waste about 1,000,000 bushels of salt, and wrecking most of the houses of the peasantry, to say nothing of the destruction to the shipping, sisal cultivation, and sponge industry of the Dependency. The situation is most aptly described by His Honour F. H. Watkins in his address to the Legislative Board in November last, as follows:—

"The effects of the hurricane, though fortunately less in "magnitude than those of some of its predecessors, were more "severely felt by all classes of the community, who were, under "the circumstances, without the necessary means to make good "their losses without assistance. As soon as practicable, relief "committees were formed to deal with the situation, and to "administer such funds as might become available to rebuild "and repair houses destroyed or damaged in the hurricane, and "to afford relief in deserving cases of distress. The Governor "of Jamaica arrived in H.M.S. Scylla on the 23rd September, "and after consultation with the honourable members of this "Board and others representing the general interests of the De-"pendency, His Excellency permitted £3,500 to £4,000 to be "drawn from the reserve fund,* £3,000 to £3,500 of which was

* This was for repairing and cleaning the salt ponds, and does not represent the loss in salt.

"to be expended in aiding the salt-pond owners to recommence "their work at once in order that profitable employment could "be provided by them at as early a date as possible. So far as "can be ascertained from the reports of the committees in each "settlement, which reports have been carefully revised by a "sub-committee specially appointed for that purpose, the loss* "(exclusive of wastage by the rain) sustained by the salt indus-"try amounts to £2,500, while the sum required to rebuild and "repair the houses of the labouring population and to help some "in the Caicos Islands to replace their boats will be at least "£3,000. In addition to the grant from the reserve funds, the "people of Jamaica and others interested in the Dependency "have come forward promptly and sent timely and generous aid "for those in need, but those private subscriptions would, with-"out the amount given from the reserve fund, have proved quite "inadequate to meet the exigencies of the situation."

The hurricane was most severely felt in Salt Cay. That island, which is seven miles south of Grand Turk, is only now just beginning to make salt again; the sea broke over the low-lying lands on the east side of the island and flooded the salt ponds, making them into one large lake, and bringing in so much seaweed and rubbish, that the whole of the water and brine had to be emptied by the canals into the harbour.

The amount voted for the relief of the salt industry was used exclusively for cleaning and repairing the salt-ponds, and the work during its progress was supervised by experts in salt-making. Coming just at this crisis the relief to the salt-pond owners was of the utmost benefit, more especially to those who had, in the previous years of struggle for a bare existence, not been able to keep their ponds up to an efficient state of culture. The employment of the labourers and the consequent circulation of money at a time when it was so much needed acted like a tonic in stimulating the masses to an effort, and the loss of salt and brine was soon forgotten in restoring order out of chaos.

Many old inhabitants say that not for forty years have the salt-ponds as a whole been in better condition than when this work was carried out, and even pessimists were forced to predict a beneficial result.

The year under review, which had been such a trying and disastrous one, saw the occurrence of the most important events for these islands that had taken place for a long period:

(1st.) The recapturing of the American market for the sale of Turks Islands' salt, and

(2nd.) The thorough renovating of the salt-ponds.

The Ordinance which temporarily reduced the royalty on salt exported lapsed at the end of the year. The price was raised to 6 cents per bushel, and with favourable weather the outlook for 1909 is decidedly encouraging.

The cultivation of sisal in the Caicos, which is the second industry of importance to the Dependency, has been steadily pro-

* Injury to the salt-ponds.

gressing, and each year sees new lands taken up for the purpose. The small amount of fibre exported was principally due to the low prices prevailing which was not a sufficient inducement for some of the companies to ship. The damage to the plants by the hurricane was trifling, while the rains which accompanied this visitation were most beneficial.

The sponge industry received a decided set back in consequence of the number of boats destroyed, which prevents those engaged in this pursuit from carrying on their sponging. The young sponges growing near the shore and in shallow water were totally destroyed by the violence of the breakers.

In concluding, I would state that the popular feeling is that it is a very fortunate thing for these islands that during this period of adversity and misfortune they had so able a Commissioner as Mr. Watkins proved to be. What would otherwise probably have been a crushing catastrophe, the results of which might have taken years to efface, has been skilfully averted, and the foundation for a prosperous future has been laid in a remarkably short time.

Immediately after the hurricane the Commissioner's plan of action began, his indefatigable exertions and personal influence with the masses aroused them to united effort, and by tact in the grouping of his working committees, the work of relief not only removed the feeling of despair which had laid hold on the people, but established in them greater confidence in the future.

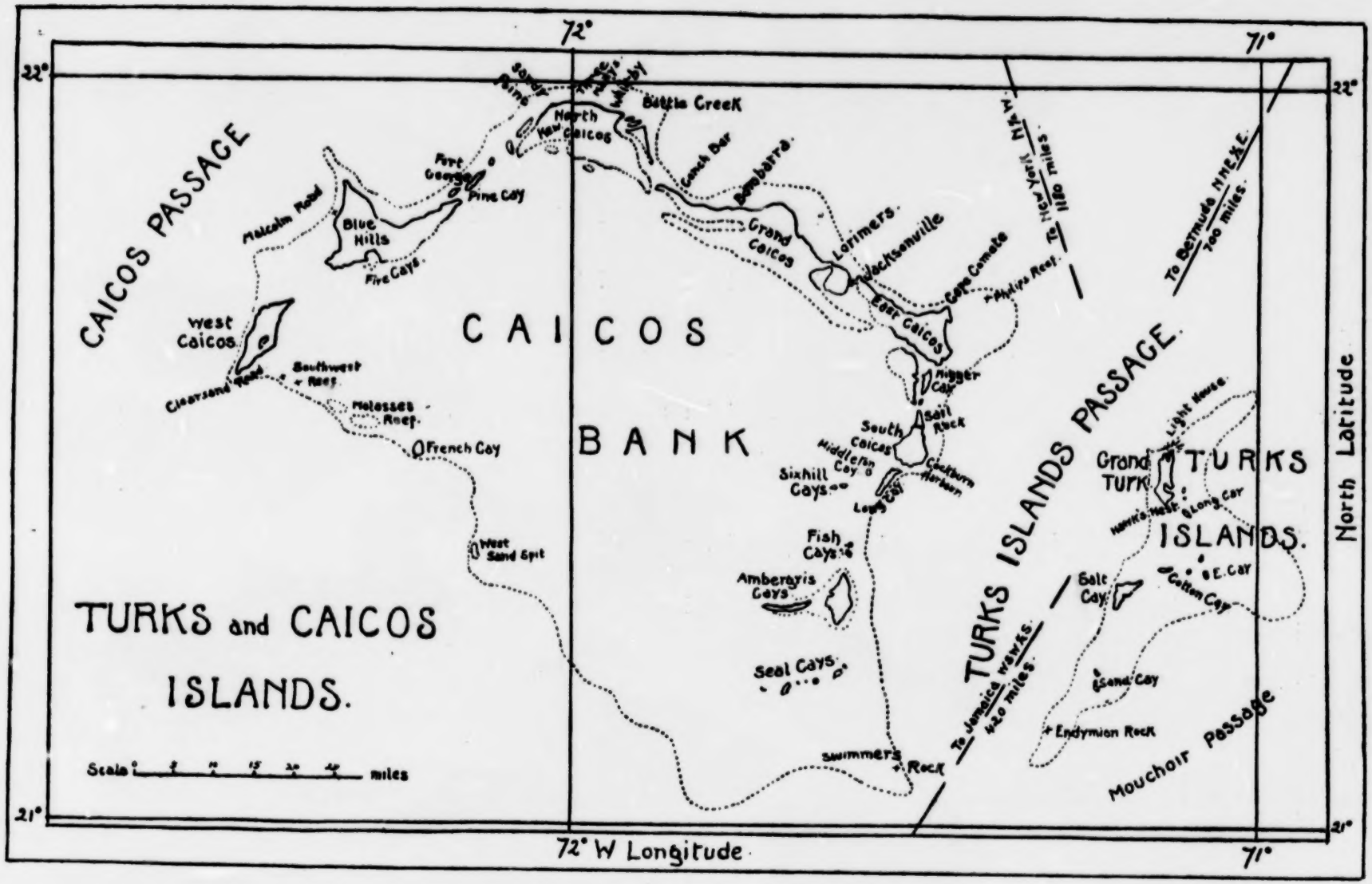
It may be of interest to state that these islands have been visited by hurricanes at periods of about every twenty years. The detailed records of the damages done by hurricanes in the past do not go beyond 1866, but in those records there is enough to show that the hurricane of 1837 must have been a most disastrous one.

The following is a list of the recorded hurricanes, showing the loss of life and damage to property, occasioned by them:—

Year.	Lives Lost.	Damages to Houses and Shipping.	Damages to Salt Industry.	Other Damages.
		£	£	£
1837	No records.			
1866	63	79,600	12,000	2,373
1888	21	5,604	5,000	780
1908	22	6,000	9,000	2,000

A most useful and important work was accomplished during the year in the revision and indexing of the laws of the Dependency by His Honour G. P. St. Aubyn, Judge of the Turks and Caicos Islands. They have been excellently printed and bound into one volume by Messrs. Waterlow and Son, of London.

C. H. Yorke Slader,
Acting Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.


72°
71°
22°
21°
CAICOS PASSAGE
CAICOS
BANK
TURKS ISLANDS PASSAGE
TURKS
ISLANDS.
TURKS and CAICOS
ISLANDS.
Mouchoir Passage
North Latitude
72° W Longitude
Battle Creek
North New Caicos
Fort George
Pine Cay
Blue Hills
Fire Cays
Malcolm Road
West Caicos
Clearsand Reef
Southwest Reef
Molasses Reef
French Cay
West Sand Spit
Grand Caicos
Larimers
Jacksonville
East Caicos
Cape Comete
Phillips Reef
Bibber Cay
Sail Rock
South Caicos
Middleton Cay
Sixhill Cays
Cockburn Harbour
Long Cay
Fish Cays
Ambergris Cays
Seal Cays
Swimmers Rock
To Jamaica W.N.W. 420 miles
To Bermuda N.N.E.½E. 700 miles
Grand Turk
Light House
Hawks Nest
Long Cay
Salt Cay
E. Cay
Cotton Cay
Sand Cay
Endymion Rock
Scale miles

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
578	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	1907
579	St. Lucia ...	"
580	Fiji ...	"
581	Mauritius ...	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria ...	"
584	Imperial Institute ...	1906–1907
585	Barbados ...	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate ...	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone ...	1907
589	British Guiana ...	1907–1908
590	Grenada ...	1907
591	Leeward Islands ...	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate ...	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria ...	"
595	Basutoland ...	"
596	Swaziland ...	"
597	St. Helena ...	1908
598	Gibraltar ...	"
599	Falkland Islands ...	"
600	Uganda ...	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute ...	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
603	Ashanti ...	"
604	Ceylon ...	"
605	Weihaiwei ...	"
606	Seychelles ...	"
607	Jamaica ...	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia ...	1908
610	Malta ...	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone ...	1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa ...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland ...	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony ...	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands ...	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda ...	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies ...	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 626.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1908-9.

(For Report for 1907-8, *see* No. 607.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1909.

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1909.

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No. 626.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1907–8, *see* No. 607.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
21st October, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1909.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the Heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:—

REVENUE.

Heads.	Receipts, 1907-8. £	s.	d.	Receipts, 1908-9. £	s.	d.
Customs	517,337	13	1	451,972	18	0
Port, Harbour, and lighthouse Dues	7,213	10	0	7,406	18	5
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	169,695	11	3	166,234	14	10
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid, and Irrigation Receipts ...	88,743	9	8	90,969	17	5
Post Office and Telegraphs	41,099	4	2	40,695	0	1
Railway	153,168	16	1	144,181	2	4
Rents	1,989	11	0	1,701	4	11
Interest	14,399	5	9	17,140	13	9
Miscellaneous Receipts	11,776	14	10	11,218	19	8
	1,005,423	15	10	931,521	9	5

(14751—2.) Wt 26122—322. 1125. 12/09. D & S.

REVENUE—*continued.*

Heads.	Receipts, 1907-8. £	s.	d.	Receipts, 1908-9. £	s.	d.
Land Sales	3,209	1	11	2,229	1	5
Transfer to General Revenues from Constabulary Pension Fund by Law 8/67 ...	13,303	19	10			
	1,021,936	17	7	933,750	10	10

EXPENDITURE.

Heads.	Payments, 1907-8. £	s.	d.	Payments, 1908-9. £	s.	d.
Charges of Debt... ...	182,675	3	4	183,087	7	6
Pensions	24,898	12	9¼	26,436	6	6
Governor and Staff ...	6,284	4	10	6,247	13	11
Privy Council	14	8	9	20	6	6
Legislative Council ...	447	13	11	516	8	6
Colonial Secretariat ...	4,348	6	8	4,362	17	0
Public Works Department	14,742	5	5	15,214	17	2
Parochial Roads and Works	1,593	4	10	1,645	16	8
Lands Department ...	2,357	0	4	2,468	15	7
Audit Office	3,954	8	4	4,083	19	6
Treasury Department ...	4,138	5	10½	4,063	17	1
Government Savings Bank	2,100	4	11	2,106	10	4
Immigration	1,410	10	2¾	1,089	17	4
Clerks Parochial Boards	600	0	0	600	0	0
Stamp Office	759	2	7	769	17	6
Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs	36,985	5	0¾	37,135	16	0
Postal and Telegraph Service	32,832	2	6¼	33,381	13	7
Judicial	36,561	2	9¼	35,972	12	8
Ecclesiastical	1,157	10	0	1,205	14	2
Medical	54,839	17	4¾	56,403	16	5
Constabulary and Prisons	83,669	3	1½	86,795	17	4
Reformatory	4,194	11	0	4,672	8	7
Industrial Schools ...	876	9	9	849	19	5
Education	58,150	17	11½	67,977	0	11
Harbours and Pilotage...	2,709	0	7	3,683	19	6
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence ...	8,852	17	10	7,705	10	9
Direct Cable Subsidy ...	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Heads.	Payments, 1907-8. £	s.	d.	Payments, 1908-9. £	s.	d.
Record and Registrar-General's Office ...	4,259	5	6	4,031	6	7
Registration of Titles ...	1,513	7	5	1,536	1	5
Government Printing Office	7,776	5	1	7,960	5	2
Institute	917	3	5	733	5	11
Board of Supervision ...	14	12	0	9	16	10
Pensions, Widows and Orphans'	6,210	11	2	7,190	18	9
Agricultural Services ...	9,942	11	10	9,655	12	11
Miscellaneous	31,485	0	1	27,702	12	4
Public Works and Buildings, Lighthouses ...	117,696	8	4	142,116	12	5
New Government Buildings	11,783	7	1	—		
Railway	101,675	14	2½	100,659	13	2
Transfer to Insurance Fund	50,000	0	0	—		
	935,426	16	11	911,095	5	10

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1904-5	751,563	824,816
1905-6	865,696	821,612
1906-7	887,228	828,115
1907-8	1,021,937	935,427
1908-9	933,751	911,095

The revenue for 1908-9 was £6,298 in excess of the estimate, but £88,186 less than that of the previous year. The receipts in 1907-8 had been abnormally swelled by Customs duties on goods imported to replace stocks destroyed by the Earthquake and fire of the 14th January, 1907, and the subsequent activity in building operations, and by the transfer to general revenue of the amount of £13,304 from the Constabulary Pension Fund. The principal decreases were due to the fall which had been anticipated in Customs revenue of £65,365, and to an unexpected shrinkage in railway receipts of nearly £9,000, attributable to the prolonged drought. The expenditure is shown as £24,332 less than that of the previous year, but as an amount of £50,000 was included in the figures of 1907-8, which was an investment in the Insurance Fund, the real expenditure during 1908-9 was in fact, £25,668 in excess of that of 1907-8. The principal items making up this increase are Public Works and Buildings, including new Government buildings, £12,637, increased grants for

Education, £9,827; Constabulary and Prisons, £3,127; Medical, £1,564; Pensions, £1,538. Under other heads there were various small increases or decreases contributing to the net result stated above. The total expenditure was £83,591 less than the approved estimates; the greater part of the difference being due to the postponement of expenditure on the new public buildings, King's House, the new railway station and workshops, and other public works in restoration of earthquake damage. So that, whereas a deficit of £67,234 was budgeted for, there was instead an apparent surplus; but this surplus was only owing to the deferring of expenditure to which the Government was pledged, and which was provided for afresh in the estimates for 1909-10.

No important changes in taxation were brought into force.

In addition to the amount of £50,000 at credit of the Insurance Fund there was available for general purposes a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £206,901 at the close of the year. Of this a further amount of £50,000 was appropriated to make up the Insurance Fund to £100,000.

The Public Debt of the island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,769,844 on 31st March, 1909, and the Sinking Funds to £547,306, leaving a net liability of £3,222,578. Included in the above are guaranteed public loans for local and special purposes secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounting to £294,019, the sinking funds in respect of which amount to £48,321.

The currency of the island is British sterling, with no limit to the tender of silver.

The total revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, the Kingston General Commissioners, and all the Parochial Boards taken together for the last five years are shown in the following comparative statements:—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1904-5	32,418	34,053
1905-6	30,684	29,220
1906-7	27,170	28,165
1907-8	30,775	30,858
1908-9	32,197	30,010

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1904-5	28,670	25,106
1905-6	30,218	25,597
1906-7	26,294	25,809
1907-8	28,251	25,273
1908-9	30,545	26,223

Parochial Boards (15 *Parishes*).

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1904-5	99,469	103,034
1905-6	105,168	97,038
1906-7	103,484	100,577
1907-8	105,433	106,891
1908-9	109,051	110,645

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for waterworks and markets amounted, at the close of the year, to £31,591.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1904-5	1,682,356	1,436,725
1905-6	1,941,938	1,843,180
1906-7	2,261,469	1,992,007
1907-8	2,854,042	2,360,702
1908-9	2,420,335	2,268,254

The chief articles of import were (foodstuffs, &c.):—

	Value.	
	1908-9.	1907-8.
	£	£
Ale, beer, and porter	40,292	48,905
Beef, wet salted	20,975	22,933
Bread and biscuit	38,899	41,211
Butter and substitutes	30,227	29,460
Coal	47,826	74,797
Corn	47,082	501,912
Fish, dried and salted	115,439	115,177
Fish, pickled or smoked	59,468	59,310
Flour (wheaten)	245,697	248,435
Meal (other than wheaten) ...	37,610	45,614
Milk, condensed	36,455	35,860
Oils	55,949	53,637
Pork—wet salted	28,086	24,889
Rice	50,615	66,988
Soap	28,097	43,186
Spirits	15,949	23,217
Tobacco (manufactured)	21,853	21,385
Wines	13,720	14,891
Pitch pine lumber	83,222	88,457

A high price for corn has prevailed during the year, causing oats to be used more largely, and thus diminishing the amount of corn imported. The importation of pork shows a steady increase, pointing to a falling off in the home supply. The increase in importation of naphtha is accounted for by the number of automobiles now being used in the island. The values of imports received from different parts of the world were as follows:—

	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom	1,003,239	41·5
United States	1,131,521	46·9
Canada	173,810	7·2
Other countries	111,764	4·4

The chief articles of export show the following variations:—

Values.	1908-9. £	1907-8. £
Annatto	10,308	6,926
Beeswax	5,134	5,859
Cocoa	90,914	151,903
Cocoanuts	44,523	57,038
Coffee	116,166	141,310
Bananas	1,044,820	1,038,721
Grape fruit	13,366	19,591
Oranges	38,474	77,105
Ginger	43,581	46,043
Hides	8,678	10,460
Honey	14,323	17,496
Lime juice	4,753	4,840
Pimento	143,623	70,233
Rum	186,803	174,955
Sugar	77,047	109,775
Cigars	29,981	33,456
Fustic and bitterwood	6,680	12,305
Logwood	46,401	72,709
Logwood, extract	114,460	106,863

The distribution of the exports was as follows:—

	1908-9. Per cent.	1907-8. Per cent.
United Kingdom	21·5	21·4
United States	57·8	59
Canada	4·3	5·3
Other countries	16·4	14·3

The following table shows the relative importance of the principal staples and minor products:—

	1908-9. Per cent.	1907-8. Per cent.
Sugar	3·6	5·0
Rum	8·9	8·0
Coffee	5·5	6·4
Dyewoods	2·4	3·6
Fruit	54·9	53·9
Pimento	6·8	3·1
Minor products, including cocoa	17·9	20·0

The following comparison between the exports of 40 years ago and those of 1908-9 is interesting:—

	1869.	1909.
	£	£
Sugar	443,078	77,047
Rum	157,359	186,803
Coffee	120,246	116,166
Dyewoods	256,034	51,693
Fruit	3,124	1,142,765
Pimento	33,915	143,623
Minor products	38,806	367,614
	1,052,562	2,085,711

This comparison indicates the leading features of the considerable modification which has taken place in the agricultural industries of the island during this period. The products of the sugar-cane, coffee, and dyewoods were, at the commencement of this period, the principal articles of export. Beet sugar, Brazilian coffee, and aniline dyes caused so great a depreciation of prices that the Colony had to seek for other commodities to replace them, and tried bananas, oranges, lemons, limes, grape fruit, pineapples, mangoes, cocoa, tobacco, cassava, and various minor products, painfully and by slow degrees readjusting its industrial life. In the process some wealthy districts have become depressed, and some poor districts prosperous, but as a result the production of fruit (principally bananas), cocoa, and minor products has enabled the Colony to double its exports. Sugar planters have, however, kept that industry alive, and, since the modification of bounties on beet sugar and the successful results in improving the sugar-cane, have made efforts which are now showing some promise to regain for it something of its former importance. On the whole, the agricultural outlook is favourable, and the advancing development of banana cultivation in new districts of the island tends to diffuse the risk involved in the increasing dependence of the island on that precarious crop. The Collector-General in his report observes that "a lingering suspicion of depression, a symptom that follows the recovery of trade after a period of protracted drought, has characterised the trading of the year, so that while there has been a tendency to expand establishments at centres there has also been a guard set against the danger of over-importing." This is for Jamaica a very healthy and desirable tone of mind.

Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

No marked development has taken place in the copper mines during the year. There is alleged to be a considerable amount of the metal, and indications of its presence are manifest in several places, though to what extent it is to be found in paying quantities has not yet been satisfactorily established.

The principal manufactures continue to be sugar, rum, and logwood dye, and a moderate number of hats are made, but in the absence of coal mines it is improbable that any considerable manufacturing industry would be established until the water power of the mountain streams is utilised to generate electrical energy.

There are no fisheries beyond those established to supply the local daily demand, and the Cayman Islands Turtle Fishery which contributes to the London market.

Agricultural Industries.

The tables of exports printed in the foregoing section indicate the principal agricultural industries of the island and their position during the year under review.

The new Department of Agriculture, which has taken over the duties of the Board of Agriculture, the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, the Island and Agricultural Chemists' Department, and the control of sugar experiments, came into being during the year, and the Agricultural Society continued its operations.

The Agricultural Department is designed to conduct the serious work of research, experiment, and the collection of exact statistics respecting tropical agriculture, and to supply seed and plants superior to those ordinarily obtainable, and introduce and acclimatise new economic plants, and the Agricultural Society, with its numerous branches, to perform the no less important function of popularising agriculture and acting as the link between the Department and the people, and of improving the breed of stock and poultry.

The Surveyor-General reports continued difficulty in recovering payment for lands sold to small proprietors on the instalment system. He writes: "Notwithstanding the re-sale of lots taken back from defaulting purchasers there are on hand some 364 lots covering 3,794 acres, or nearly 13 per cent. of the total area of 30,751 acres allotted to 3,331 lotholders, exclusive of the larger areas on which instalments are considerably in arrear, and in respect of which grace for payment has been taken by the defaulters." This is a discouraging element in the partially satisfactory results of the experiment of selling Crown lands to the peasantry on exceedingly easy terms. Taking into account the cost of roads, surveys, and staff charges during the period through which the instalments are payable, it is to be feared that the Treasury has made little, if any, direct pecuniary profit by these transactions.

Shipping.

The total number of steamers reporting with cargo was 817—tonnage 1,210,092—which is a decrease over the previous year of 41 with tonnage 56,099. The number of steamers reporting in ballast was 327, tonnage 233,625, which is an increase over the previous year of 34 with tonnage 18,395. One thousand and

eighty-one steamships cleared with cargo, an increase of 25, with tonnage 20,835. Sixty-seven steamships cleared in ballast, a decrease of 16, with tonnage 18,688. Taking the total steamers cleared, there is an increase of 9 steamers and an increase of 2,147 in tonnage.

Sailing vessels reported show an increase of 21 ships, with tonnage 7,185, the figures being:—

1907-8	197 ...	31,822
1908-9	219 ...	39,007
Increase	22 ...	7,185

Sailing vessels cleared show an increase in number of 15 with an increase in tonnage of 4,522.

Taking steamers and sailing vessels together there has been an increase in the number reporting of 15, with 30,519 tonnage, and in the number clearing an increase of 24, with tonnage 6,669.

The decrease in steamers reporting works out as under:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Kingston	—	49
Port Morant	4	—
Port Antonio	45	—
Port Maria	—	4
St. Ann's Bay	1	—
Falmouth	2	—
Montego Bay	—	3
Sav. la Mar	—	1
Black River	—	1
Milk River	—	1
	52	59
		52
Decrease	—	7

British.

1907-8...	307	502,788	tonnage.
1908-9...	317	527,360	,,
	10	24,572	increase.

Foreign.

1907-8...	844	978,643	
1908-9...	827	916,357	
	17	62,286	decrease.

But of the total number of steamers reporting 317 or 27·7 per cent. were British and 827 or 72·3 per cent. foreign. Compared with the previous years there has been a gain of 1 per cent. by the British carriers. The figures are as under:—

	1907-8.	1908-9.
British	307 or 26·7 per cent.	317 or 27·7 per cent.
Foreign	844 or 73·3 ,,	827 or 72·3 ,,

A retrospect for forty years at ten-year rests gives the following:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1869	743	223,956	750	216,828
1879	884	394,804	848	378,304
1889	917	538,297	945	536,592
1899	1,420	910,449	1,429	917,270
1909	1,363	1,482,724	1,372	1,517,770

Comparative Statement showing the Tonnage of Vessels *entered* and *cleared* at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica for the five years ended 31st March, 1909.

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1904–5	1,135	1,220,189	1,135	1,220,533
1905–6	1,353	1,397,611	1,354	1,393,837
1906–7	1,475	1,519,287	1,455	1,507,189
1907–8	1,348	1,513,243	1,348	1,511,101
1908–9	1,363	1,482,724	1,372	1,517,770

Entered.

Comparative Statement showing number and tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation *entered* at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1907–1908 and 1908–1909.

Nationality of Vessels.	1908–1909.						1907–1908					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	174	17,053	317	527,360	491	534,413	165	16,295	307	502,778	472	519,073
American	21	4,872	90	115,509	111	120,381	17	4,868	103	136,478	120	141,346
German	2	1,265	220	469,292	222	470,557	2	512	284	530,871	286	551,383
Norwegian	9	6,643	460	298,744	469	305,387	7	5,730	391	253,053	398	258,783
Italian	5	4,761	—	—	5	4,761	1	689	1	1,869	2	2,556
Dutch	1	98	—	—	1	98	—	—	1	434	1	434
Swedish	1	1,270	—	—	1	1,270	3	2,517	—	—	3	2,517
Russian	1	950	—	—	1	950	—	—	—	—	—	—
French	2	1,098	—	—	2	1,098	2	1,213	—	—	2	1,213
Danish	2	250	—	—	2	250	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austrian	1	740	—	—	1	740	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuban	—	—	53	30,262	53	30,262	—	—	52	30,490	52	30,490
Dominican	—	—	1	217	1	217	—	—	—	—	—	—
State of Panama ...	—	—	2	908	2	908	—	—	12	5,448	12	5,448
Total	219	39,000	1,143	1,442,292	1,362	1,471,292	197	31,822	1,151	1,481,421	1,348	1,513,243

Cleared.

Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation *cleared* at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1907–1908 and 1908–1909.

Nationality of Vessels.	1907–1908.						1908–1909.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	175	21,724	305	502,800	480	524,524	173	18,398	316	528,086	489	546,484
American	15	4,040	102	135,143	117	139,183	25	7,622	88	113,746	113	121,368
German	1	256	285	553,117	286	553,373	2	1,265	224	473,058	226	474,323
Norwegian	8	6,588	382	242,394	390	248,982	11	8,469	464	325,981	475	334,450
Italian	3	2,676	1	1,869	4	4,545	5	4,761	—	—	5	4,761
Dutch	—	—	1	434	1	434	1	98	—	—	1	98
Cuban	—	—	51	29,490	51	29,490	—	—	52	29,421	52	29,421
Swedish	3	2,517	—	—	3	2,517	1	1,270	—	—	1	1,270
State of Panama ...	—	—	12	5,448	12	5,448	—	—	2	908	2	908
Russian	2	1,392	—	—	2	1,392	1	954	—	—	1	954
Danish	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	250	—	—	2	250
Dominican	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	217	1	217
French	2	1,213	—	—	2	1,213	2	1,098	—	—	2	1,098
Austrian	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	143	—	—	1	743
Total	209	40,416	1,139	1,470,695	1,348	1,511,101	224	44,928	1,147	1,471,416	1,421	1,516,365

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fifty-eight Laws were passed in the Session of 1908, of which five were passed and assented to before the 1st of April. The more important were:—

Law 7. To amend and consolidate the laws imposing licences upon trades and businesses.

Law 21. In aid of the Sanitary Laws, giving powers to local boards of health for the protection of local water supplies.

Law 22. To provide for the notification of the disease of yaws.

Law 23. To empower Parochial Boards of Manchester to employ surplus road funds for the construction of water works.

Law 25. Adulteration of food and drugs.

Law 27. Merchandise Marks Law Amendment Law.

Law 28. Parochial Boards Building Law, enabling parochial boards to make by-laws regulating the alteration, erection, or repair of buildings within the limits of any town.

Law 30. Amending the Public Health Law, 1867, enabling local boards of health to provide for the isolation of persons suffering from infectious diseases, and to make provision against the diffusion of infection.

Law 32. Insurance Fund Law, providing for the creation of a fund of £100,000 to be devoted to making good extraordinary public expenditure incurred by loss sustained by the Government through the occurrence of any earthquake, hurricane, drought, fire, or other public calamity. (The full amount contemplated by this Law has now been provided and set aside out of surplus revenue.)

Law 40. Vere Irrigation Law, 1897, Amendment Law, regulating the constitution of the Vere Irrigation Commission and its proceedings, and empowering the Commissioners to extend their sources of supply, and to raise money for the purpose in debentures.

Law 45. The Constabulary Gratuity Law, allowing refund of contributions to the pension fund, with interest, to be made to any constable retiring owing to ill-health before earning a pension.

Law 46. Regulating appeals from the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Supreme Court of Jamaica.

Law 49. The Medical Law, consolidating and amending the laws as to the registration of medical practitioners.

Law 51. Post Office Law, a consolidating and amending law.

Law 52. Registration of Voters' Law, consolidating and amending.

Law 53. Prevention of Corruption Law, restraining secret commissions.

Law 56. Sale of Poisons and Drugs Law, 1894, Amendment Law.

Law 58. Fire-arms Definition Law, defining as fire-arms certain weapons discharged without fire.

Before the expiration of the financial year, Law 1 of 1909, the Contagious Diseases of Animals Law, was passed, which was called for by an outbreak of infectious disease among cattle and horse-kind. Three other Laws were passed before the 1st of April, 1909, including No. 4, a Law in aid of the laws relating to the Prædial Larceny, enabling persons found in possession of agricultural produce under suspicious circumstances to be arrested and compelled to give account of their possession of those articles.

IV.—EDUCATION.

In his report for the year the Superintending Inspector of Schools gives the following statistics:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books for Year ended 31st October, 1908.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st October, 1908.	Percentage on Average Attendance of number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
					£
1908–9 ...	690	85,167	53,386	62·69	48,699
1907–8 ...	690	88,862	53,691	60·55	46,314

In addition to the increased grant of £2,385, shown above, special building grants, necessitated by the destruction of school buildings by the earthquake, were made to elementary schools of £2,287, to the Jamaica College £2,500, and to Wolmers School £2,500.

The total expenditure out of general revenues in aid of primary and secondary education, including scholarships and training colleges, during the year was £67,827, or an increase over 1907-8 of £9,632.

The standard of teaching in the primary schools appears to be gradually improving, and much greater attention is being given to elementary science, agricultural teaching, and manual training, than formerly

From the Jamaica College and endowed schools, the former governed by the Jamaica Schools Commission, and the latter under schemes framed by that body, pupils gained a Rhodes' Scholarship and a £60 Scholarship, and 102 passed the Cambridge Local Examination, 22 of this number in honours.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

At the Public Hospital in Kingston 10,764 patients were treated; 3,729 as in-patients, and 7,035 as out-patients. There were 596 admissions to the Lying-in Hospital, 1,269 cases treated in the Lunatic Asylum, 19,464 in the Public General Hospitals, and 115 in the Leper Asylum. In addition, the District Medical Officers treat free of charge all inmates of the Parochial Almshouses, and all registered paupers; the number of out-patients during this year being 31,492, while 5,332 yaws cases were treated, and 21,662 successful vaccinations performed at Government expense.

The repair of earthquake damages at the Public Hospital has been undertaken and certain improvements effected, and a decision arrived at to utilise a bequest of £2,049 15*s.* 3*d.* from the late Miss Rietti for the construction of a new ward to be known as the "Rietti Ward."

All the other hospitals of the island have been maintained in fair order.

The number of boys and girls in the reformatories at Stony Hill increased during the year from 345 to 369. In addition to three hours' school work each day, the boys were employed in agriculture and trades, while the girls performed laundry, needlework, cooking, and general household work.

The report of the Manager of the Government Savings Bank shows liabilities to depositors, on the 31st March, 1909, of £390,390, on account of which securities to the amount of £373,871 were held, the balance of £16,519 being cash at call in the Treasury. The ordinary accounts have decreased by £38,625, and the balances of Government accounts increased by £26,090. The Manager states that large sums were withdrawn for better investment and building purposes as well as for business transactions, and that the long drought which prevailed has no doubt contributed to the withdrawals, but that the number of accounts has increased, and that accounts of £5 and under have gone up by 4,508 during the past four years from 25,971 to 30,479.

As the Bank of Nova Scotia operates a Savings Bank Department and pays 3 per cent. interest on deposits, it has probably captured some of the business formerly falling to the Government Savings Bank, which only gives 2½ per cent. The poorest investors, however, still cling to the latter.

East Indian immigrants have to their credit £16,301, the number of accounts having increased by 207, and the amount at deposit by £1,294.

The net profit of the Savings Bank to the Government, after paying all expenses, interest, and losses on Colonial Securities redeemed, was £5,063.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The Inspector-General reports that there were in custody in the prisons on the 31st March, 1909, 1,394 prisoners, also 24 prisoners in the local lock-ups, making a total of 1,418, or 277 less than on the same date in 1908.

The committals to prisons and lock-ups during 1908-9 were 6,370, or 90 less than in the previous year. Of these 639 were admitted in feeble health.

The re-convictions numbered 1,829, of which 676 were second convictions, 397 third, and 756 fourth or more. There was an increase of 414 re-convictions over those of the previous year.

The daily average number of inmates of the General Penitentiary and the St. Catherine District Prison was 1,519 for 1908-9, as compared with 1,374 for 1907-8.

There were 108 deaths, as against 124 in 1907-8.

There were no executions of capital punishment.

The gross expenditure of the General Penitentiary was £15,904 7*s.* 7*d.*, and of the St. Catherine District Prison, £6,545 8*s.* 8*d.*, a total of £22,449 16*s.* 3*d.*

The cash earnings of the penitentiary were £3,294 19*s.* 7*d.*, and of the district prison £1,764 2*s.* 1*d.*, equal to £5,059 1*s.* 8*d.*, reducing the cost to £17,390 14*s.* 7*d.*, or £11 8*s.* 11½*d.* per prisoner, but washing was done for the public and lying-in hospitals amounting to £564 1*s.* 7*d.*, and stone broken for the Public Works Department to the value of £638 11*s.* 7*d.*, equal to £1,102 13*s.* 2*d.*, which were not paid for. Articles of the value of £1,068 9*s.* 9*d.* were manufactured in the General Penitentiary and used for prison purposes, and produce of the value of £627 11*s.* 3*d.* from the prison farm was consumed in the St. Catherine District Prison.

The total estimated value of labour yielding no return in money was £10,170 14*s.*

The St. Catherine Prison Farm yielded crops valued at £1,564 5*s.* 7*d.*

The principal features connected with crime in Jamaica are, that offences of a serious nature are comparatively few in number, and that the diminution in the number of cases of such crimes tried in the Supreme Court, which I noted last year, continues, but the lesser offences of theft of various descriptions, of common assault, and disorderly conduct, monopolize the time of the Courts. Drunkenness is almost inappreciable, only 20 charges for this offence having been made during the year. The smaller irregularities seem so far to be persistent and ineradicable, in spite of the efforts of the minister of religion, the schoolmaster, and the magistrate. The rise and fall in the number of cases of prædial larceny is largely indicative of the history of the weather: if provisions fall short, the countryman "takes" from his neighbour (for he does not term it stealing, unless it happens to himself), and if he has money in his pocket he makes up his mind to beat his enemy and pay for it, apparently feeling a sense of gratification at paying a fine for such an indulgence.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated population of the Island, 31st March, 1909, 848,656 (males 413,899, females 434,757).

Emigrated during the year	18,329
Immigrated	17,496
Including labourers emigrating mostly to Colon, Cuba, and Costa Rica	10,967
Labourers returning	10,506

Marriages.	1908–9.	1907–8.	1906–7	1905–6.
Number	3,116	6,251	5,507	3,116
Rate per 1,000 of population.	4·1	7·4	6·6	3·8

The sudden freshet of marriages let loose by the earthquake (following after two years of very low matrimonial water) has now evidently exhausted itself, and the Island rate has reverted to the average of the five years preceding that spiritual quickening.

Births registered: 31,785 against 29,210 the previous year, males 16,162, females 15,623. Birth-rate: 37·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population against 35·0 in the previous year. Illegitimate births: 60·59 per cent. of the total, the lowest rate since 1892-3; showing, perhaps, the influence of the earthquake-marriages. The average percentage of illegitimate births during the last 10 years, including 1908-9, is 63·5.

Deaths registered: 18,928, 9,511 males and 9,417 females. Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 22·4, a remarkable drop from the 28·3 of 1907-8, and the 26·2 of 1906-7, and a slight improvement on the average rate (22·6) of the previous five years.

Kingston has the highest estimated death-rate among the parishes of the Island, 33·3 per 1,000; St. Anns the lowest, 16·0 per 1,000; and Manchester, 16·2 per 1,000. I am disposed, however, to be somewhat suspicious of the estimates of population upon which these rates are based, and I doubt whether full account has been taken of the influx into Kingston since the earthquake.

Presuming that only 75 per cent. of the deaths recorded in Kingston was medically certified and that 9·9 of those certified were ascribed to "ill-defined" causes, I observe that 18·9 per cent. of those certified were imputed to diarrhœa, enteric fever, enteritis, dysentery, or gastro-enteritis; 9·9 to phthisis; 2·2 to tuberculosis, other than tuberculous phthisis; and 4·4 to pneumonia; 4·5 to malarial fever; and 3·7 to fever undistinguished; that is to say, 43·6, out of 90·1 identified, as due to communicable diseases amenable to abatement by sanitary measures. I am glad to say that the high rate of mortality from such diseases which has been noticeable in Kingston since the earthquake has aroused

public opinion to a lively sense of the importance of sanitation, and that the health authorities, not only in Kingston but throughout the Island, may be expected to give more careful and effectual attention to this subject than they have been in the habit of doing.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1908-9 with those of previous years:—

—	1908–9.	1907–8.	1906–7.
	£	£	£
Postages	32,505	32,465	31,384
Commission on money orders ...	459	638	531
Local commission on British postal orders.	195	176	125
Commission on local postal orders...	742	734	682
Miscellaneous	673	764	639
Telegraphs	6,221	6,489	6,614
Total	40,795	41,266	39,975

These statistics show a falling off of £471 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to decreases in telegraph, money order, and miscellaneous receipts, partly counterbalanced by small increases on the other items.

The expenditure of the year by the Department amounted to £34,232, but in this there is not included any charge against the Post Office for the fortnightly conveyance of mails and parcels to and from the United Kingdom by the Direct Line steamers of the Elder Dempster Company, which receives a subsidy of £20,000 per annum from general revenue.

The estimate of mail matter handled shows 3,839,582 items outwards, and 4,579,495 inwards at the Kingston Post Office, and at the district post offices a total of 1,560,372. This is an increase of 1,342,446 items over the estimate for the previous year.

There has been a very large growth of postal business during the last decade, the receipts for postages having increased by 50¼ per cent. from £21,438 to £32,210, while telegraph business remained practically stationary, the increase being less than 2 per cent.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works of the Colony are controlled by three classes of authorities. The Railway Department and the Public Works Department are under the control of the Governor, the Parochial Boards, 15 in number, are elected under a 10*s*. franchise, and the Kingston General Commissioners are a nominated body entrusted with the control of the water, gas, markets, slaughter house, and the sewerage installation of Kingston, and the improvement and laying out of streets, subject to the general approval of the Governor.

There are 185⅝ miles of railway, the property of the Government; 1,967 miles and 20¼ chains of main or arterial roads maintained out of general revenues; and 4,376 miles of parochial roads kept up by the elected boards of the different parishes with occasional assistance from the Government.

The average cost per mile of maintenance of the main roads was £32 4*s*. 11*d*., or £5 6*s*. 2*d*. more than in the previous year. Special repairs to bridges, protective works, repairs to culverts, &c., increased the total cost per mile to £34 12*s*. 3*d*. New works on deviations, improving gradients, widening or constructing roads, and building bridges, &c., amounted to £17,222.

The expenditure on maintenance of public buildings was £11,989, of telegraph lines £935, and on new works £42,942, largely due to repairs of earthquake damages or the replacement of buildings destroyed.

The Rio Cobre irrigation works and the subsidiary Spanish Town waterworks were maintained in good order. The water supplied for irrigation amounted to 15,160 cubic yards per hour, of which 13,010 cubic yards was utilised in the cultivation of 9,760 acres of bananas, and the balance for sugar canes, oranges, pasture land, &c.

The length of telegraph lines in operation was 715 miles, including railway telegraphs used for general purposes.

The various lighthouses were also kept in order.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Work of the Assistance Committee.

In my general observations on the Blue Book for 1907-8, I referred to the work done in Kingston and its neighbourhood in repair of the effects of the earthquake. During the year 1908-9, the work of the Assistance Committee—the body entrusted with the administration of the Imperial Grant of £150,000 and other charitable contributions in aid of the sufferers by the earthquake—was practically completed. I have before me the report of the Committee up to the 31st July, 1909, showing that out of the total of £241,002 5*s*. 4*d*. received by them they had at that date disbursed all but £1,496 1*s*. 9*d*.

This expenditure is summarised as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
(*a*) Cash relief and alimentary allowances..	7,962	11	7
(*b*) Restoration of houses	161,094	9	9
(*c*) Grants and annuities to widows and orphans (and artificial limbs) ...	37,392	7	8
(*d*) Grants and loans to tradesmen	28,412	15	3
(*e*) Costs of administration	4,643	14	4
and there was outstanding a balance of... ... (due for loans and other advances).	282	1	4

Arrangements have been made for the administration of the remainder of the funds by a small committee in accordance with the purposes for which they were subscribed.

The Earthquake Loan Board.

The balance sheet, at the 31st March, 1909, of the Loan Board appointed to administer the purposes of the Earthquake Loan Laws, in furtherance of which the Imperial Government undertook to make loans to the Colonial Government, showed that up to that date the Board had received £237,033 13*s.* 6*d.* This amount was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Borrowed from Imperial Treasury... ...	50,000	0	0
Invested from General Revenue Account of the Colonial Government...	14,747	10	9
Invested out of the funds of the Assistance Committee for the provision of annuities to widows and orphans	34,064	12	0
Advanced from Island Treasury	123,146	6	8
Received in repayment of loans	7,759	3	3
Received in payment of interest	4,941	17	3½
Miscellaneous receipts	2,374	3	6

	£	s.	d.
The Board had advanced in loans	229,492	0	0
Paid in interest	3,372	17	3
Paid in annuities	2,468	15	4
Administration expenses	1,700	0	11

In addition to loans made, further loans to the amount of £9,698 had been approved.

There were no arrears on account of loans—all annuities and interest due from borrowers having been paid. It had been necessary only in one case to realise the security held by the Board, which was done without any loss.

The sum of £352 15*s.* 2*d.*, in the Reserve Guarantee Fund, and the profits of the Board's operations to date, amounting to £392 1*s.* 8*d.*, were available against any future losses which might occur.

Shortly after the close of the financial year, a resolution was passed in the Legislative Council to determine the receipt of

applications for loans after the 30th September, 1909. It was considered that the recovery of fire insurance by those whose property had been burned, and the generally improved aspect of the island's trade had brought about a considerable alteration of the conditions under which the Legislature had consented to guarantee loans, and that, a great part of the purpose of the Loan Laws having been attained, justification for continuing the extraordinary provision made for the financing of building operations in Kingston was no longer presumable. It will be observed that only £50,000 had been borrowed within the year from the Imperial Government. Since the close of the year another amount of £100,000 has been borrowed. It is uncertain how much it may ultimately be found necessary so to borrow, to refund advances temporarily made from the Island Treasury, but it would at present appear that the total amount should probably not exceed £200,000.

Recent Financial Vicissitudes and Present Situation.

The vicissitudes of the Government's financial position during the last five years have been sufficiently remarkable to invite special commentary. In August, 1903, this island suffered enormous loss from a cyclone, which was followed by droughts, and the exports of the years 1903-4 and 1904-5 fell much below the average; their value being lowest in the latter year. Concurrently, in 1904-5 there was a serious deficiency in the revenue, which fell short of the Estimate by £56,069, whilst at the same time the damage wrought by the cyclone had to be repaired and some expenditure was being incurred on relief works. The result was an excess of expenditure over revenue in that year of £73,253, and a net deficit, or excess of liabilities over assets, in the Colony's balance sheet, of £5,462 at the close of the year.

In the session of 1905 special taxation was imposed to bring up the revenue to sufficient for the estimated expenditure. The revenue for 1905-6, estimated at £819,524, yielded £841,093 (not including £24,602 recovered from the Colonial Bank), and exceeded the expenditure by £44,084, leaving a surplus balance of £38,622 to the Government's credit.

The revenue for 1906-7 was estimated at £802,159, and the expenditure at £801,231, but the receipts actually amounted to £887,228, whilst the expenditure (including that for special calls arising out of the earthquake of January, 1907) was £828,115, leaving a surplus on the year's finance of £59,113, and a surplus balance of £97,735 to the credit of the Government at the close of the year.

The estimates for 1907-8 were framed (before I assumed this Government) during a period of much present stress and uncertainty as to the future, immediately after the Kingston Earthquake; they forecast a revenue of £832,622 and an expenditure of £923,070—the excess of estimated expenditure over revenue to be met from surplus funds or "by loan or subsequent budgets."

This forecast appeared to anticipate a reduction of the Colony's surplus balance (if no loan were raised in aid of revenue) from £97,735 to £7,277, whilst it left a considerable amount still to be provided for the works of restoration and new buildings necessitated by the earthquake. The estimates of revenue proved very far indeed below the mark, the amount received, without any increase in the rates of taxation, being no less than £1,007,634 (omitting a sum of £13,303 transferred from the Constabulary Reward Fund), whilst the expenditure (omitting £50,000 transferred to the new Insurance Fund) was £885,426. The surplus balance of assets over liabilities at the close of the year 1907-8 thus came to stand at £184,245, after carrying £50,000 to a reserve fund. This large surplus, which it would have been hardly defensible or indeed possible for the Government deliberately to budget for, is thus seen to be more than accounted for by the underestimating of revenue receipts in three successive years, viz:—

		£
1905-6	under estimate	21,569
1906-7	,, ,,	55,892
1907-8	,, ,,	175,012
		252,473

The estimates for the year under report proved much more reliable. The accuracy of the estimates of tax-revenue is so remarkable that I give the figures below:—

	Estimate. £	Actual. £
Customs	450,000	451,973
Port, Harbour Dues	7,200	7,407
Excise	166,331	166,235
Fees, Stamps, and Reimbursements-in-Aid, and Irrigation receipts	87,797	90,970
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	38,500	40,695
Railway	153,020	144,181
Rents	2,418	1,701
Interest	10,350	17,140
Miscellaneous	9,336	11,218
Land Sales	2,500	2,229
Total revenue	927,452	933,750

The estimates of the year did not forecast any surplus of revenue over expenditure, but the contrary, and although there was an actual excess of £22,655 in the receipts over disbursements, this was due to the non-expenditure of money voted for works and not spent during the year, but standing over to be met in the year now current. Nor was any surplus expected in the budget of this year (1909-10), whilst the possibility of an

excess of revenue over estimate has already been in some degree discounted by remissions of taxation.

The unforeseen excesses of revenue over estimate in the three years 1905-8, therefore, have, entirely without premeditation on the part of the Government, placed it in a position to set aside £100,000 as an insurance fund, to purchase sites in Kingston for the new public buildings at a cost of £27,500, to appropriate £58,000 for the first block of public buildings and the rebuilding of King's House, £27,500 for new rum warehouses, and £20,000 for new railway workshops, and, after providing out of the excesses of normal revenue over expenditure for practically the whole of the repairs of earthquake damage to other public buildings, for large grants-in-aid of the finances of the city of Kingston, and for a considerable expenditure on new roads, to forecast, on the estimates of the current year, an unappropriated closing balance of surplus of upwards of £83,000. If this forecast is realised (and so far there appears every prospect of its being so) the Colony will be able to provide for the second block of the new public buildings and carry forward a working balance of some £50,000 to next year, the finance of which it should be possible to deal with on a clean sheet, freed from the embarrassments of the extraordinary calls of the recent period imposed by the results of the earthquake.

Distressed Districts.

The shortage of rainfall which has prevailed during several years past continued, especially in certain districts, throughout the course of the year under review. Its effects were most severely felt in the south and south-eastern parts of St. Elizabeth and in the southern district of Manchester. In my last year's report I mentioned that owing to the depression of price in some former staples of production the social condition of the people in a few districts was deteriorating. This observation especially applies to the districts I have just mentioned, which formerly depended chiefly on coffee.

Coffee has ceased to pay as an estate cultivation at this altitude, and, consequently, offers now no employment at wages for the labouring classes. The peasants' coffee has deteriorated through the exhaustion of the soil and through the neglect induced by the fall in price. The exportation of common oranges has resulted in losses during recent years, and South Manchester being far from the railway or from any fruit-shipping port there is now little effective demand for the fruit. The population, accordingly, has come to depend almost entirely on food crops raised on a shallow soil overlying limestone rock, which, although very fertile under normal rains, has yielded very little return recently to the inefficient cultivation of the peasantry, and on the produce of their pimento trees, which need no cultivation and can resist severe drought. At the same time a very large proportion of the able-bodied and younger men have left these unpromising districts and the majority of the population now resident there consists of women and children, many of them without

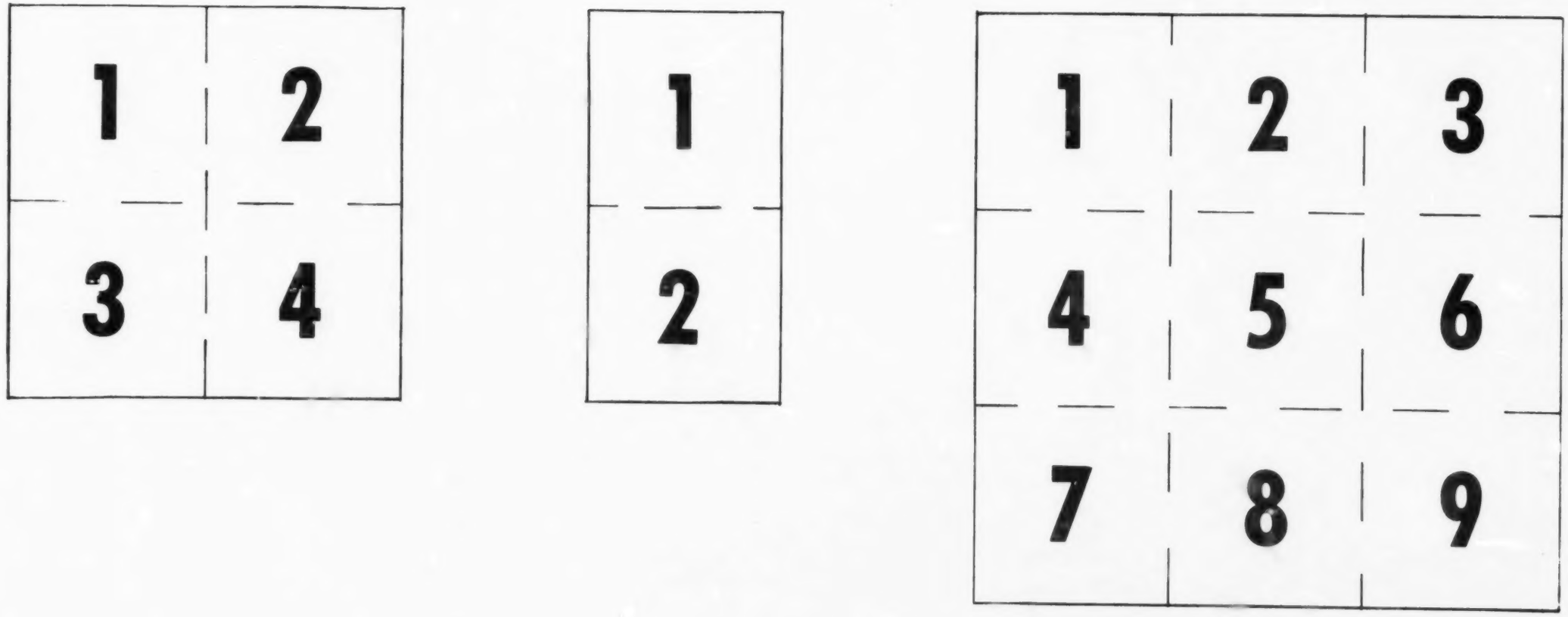
acknowledged parents. Under these circumstances, distress during the dry season of last year became acute and demanded special attention. I referred to the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society for a report and recommendations, and, subsequently, on the motion of the Member of the Council for Manchester, I appointed a Commission of Enquiry under the Chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture to report on the same matters. The effect of their report was to indicate that the districts affected, especially South Manchester, could not be relied upon continuously to support their present population in comfortable circumstances. Although a great deal more could be done to maintain the fertility of the soil by proper cultivation and stocking (examples of this being conspicuous amidst the generally low level of agricultural effort), and food supplies should not fail in favourable seasons, it was clear that these districts must always suffer severely in times of drought, and that no very remunerative marketable crop could be produced in them. The only money-yielding crops would be coffee, oranges, pimento (a very treacherous bearer), and cassava. It had been represented that more land was required by the peasantry, but it was shown by the evidence before the Commission that what was really desired was not more land for permanent occupation, but access to new land for the purpose of cutting down and burning the woodland growth thereon, reaping one set of crops, and leaving the land exhausted in the old wasteful method, which has been principally responsible for the impoverishment of the lands already occupied. These lands not being capable of maintaining a large population in stable prosperity, it appeared impolitic to encourage renewed settlement of population in the district.

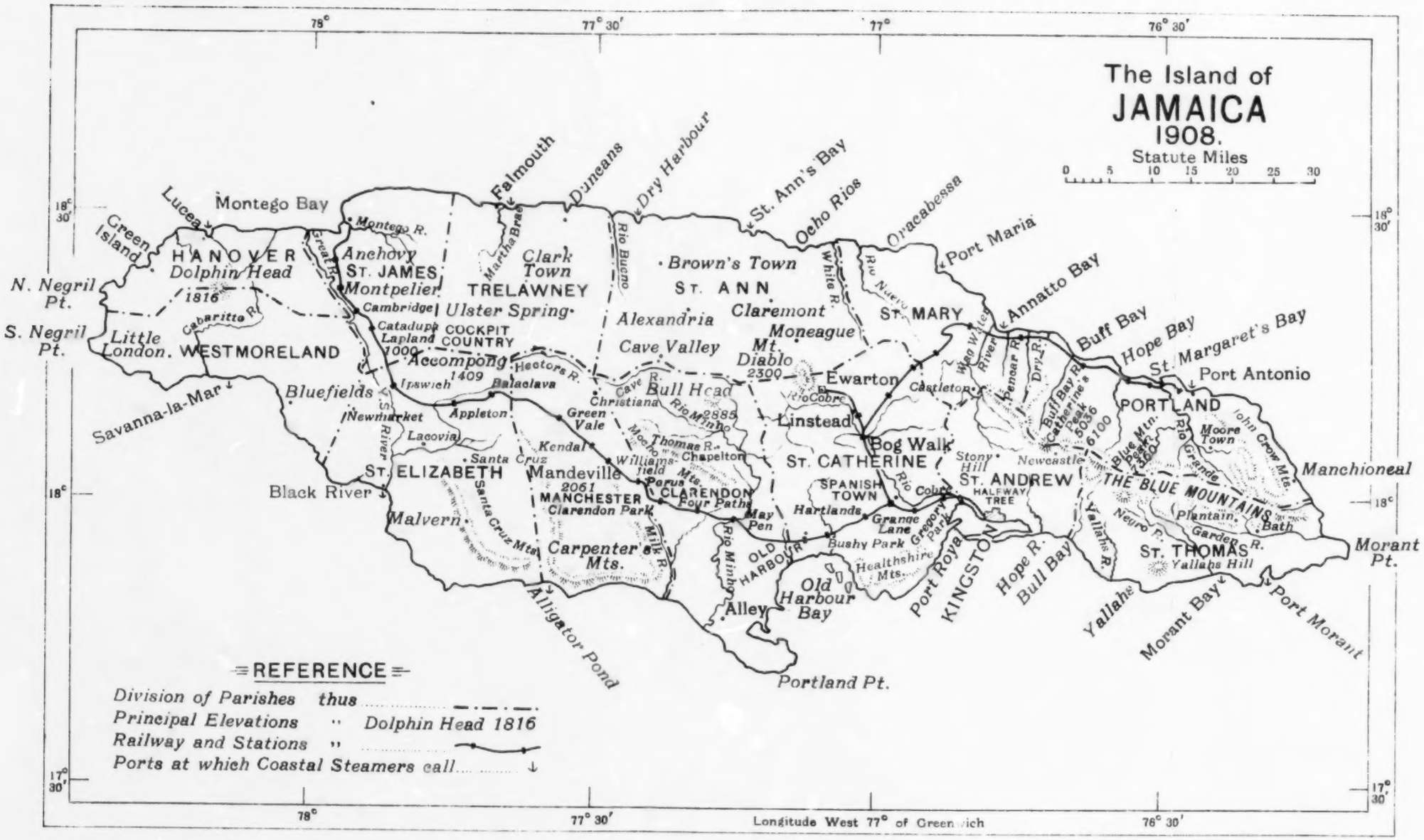
It seems much preferable that, as has been happening to some extent, there should be permanent migration to, and settlement in, more fertile parts of the island. The only possible local palliatives, which do not indeed promise to be complete and effectual remedies, of a very difficult position of affairs seem to lie in improved methods of cultivation and in the finding of a market for cassava and citrus products.

These districts are, however, exceedingly healthy, and have a delightful climate, and the people are naturally much attached to their homes. Many of those who migrate to Central America or other parts of the island return from time to time to their dependents and relation or send them money, but many of those whose bread-winners have gone away remain helpless at home and fall into permanent destitution. It is this residuum which constitutes the main difficulty of the situation.

Labour is, even in favourable seasons, more productive in other parts of the island, and in unfavourable seasons these districts are recurrently famine-stricken. At the time at which I write I have recently visited them, and I find that the distress has largely passed away, rains having fallen and provisions being now forthcoming in increasing abundance. But this betterment can hardly be relied upon. There is a tendency to relapse into apathy, an apathy which is largely characteristic of the district, because of

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909.

the inferior and enfeebled condition of so large a proportion of its inhabitants. At the same time special effort is being made by the Agricultural Society, who have appointed a special instructor to improve the average of cultivation. If his labours are effectual it is to be hoped there will be less distress on the next occurrence of drought, but it is impossible to expect that distress will not recur. This situation has repeated itself again and again within memory, and I fear there is no royal road to a remedy for it. Much of the poverty of the district is due to ignorance and to constitutional weakness and apathy, created in part by starvation, but largely due to the effects of venereal disease, which is exceedingly prevalent in the district. Its prevalence is no doubt aggravated by the migratory character and irregular habits of the male population, and by the entire absence of restraint over young people growing up without established family life.

Save for the difficulties of this particular district, I am glad to be able to report that the general population of the island enjoyed a moderately prosperous year, that conditions improved towards its close, and have continued to improve up to the date of this report.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland Protectorate	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland Protectorate	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate...	" " 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture and Viticulture.
62	Uganda Protectorate	Cotton Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 646.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 612.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1910.

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No. 646.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 612.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
24th June, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1909, together with the Commissioner's report thereon.

2. I also furnish a copy of a letter from the Commissioner transmitting a map of the Islands for inclusion in the report.

I have, &c.,
SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1909.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the year 1909 amounted to £7,748, while the expenditure was £7,454, there being thus a surplus of £294. As an amount of £800 for hurricane relief was included in the expenditure, there was really an excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure of £1,094, due in a large measure to the sales of the new issue of postage stamps, for the revenue from the latter was £1,458 as against £432 in 1908. Owing to the short crop of salt after the hurricane of the previous year, the import duties and port dues fell off £533 and £260, respectively.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1905	6,243	7,279
1906	6,809	7,080
1907	7,391	7,119
1908	7,404	11,430
1909	7,748	7,454

Including £4,000 in 1908 and £800 in 1909 for hurricane relief.

Revenue.

	1908. £	1909. £
Import Duties	3,731	3,198
Royalty on Salt	1,542	1,816
Port Dues	812	552
Licences and Internal Revenue	262	227
Payments for Specific Services	165	125
Post Office	432	1,458
Revenue from Government Property ...	185	160
Interest	267	202
Miscellaneous	8	10
	£7,404	£7,748

Expenditure.

	1908. £	1909. £
Pensions	418	245
Commissioner's Department	1,952	1,836
Judicial Department	511	453
Police and Prisons Department	713	698
Medical Department	565	545
Paupers	267	283
Carried forward	£4,426	£4,060

	1908. £	1909. £
Brought forward	4,426	4,060
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination	19	17
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	801	447
Post Office	185	371
Lighthouses	248	266
Public Works Department	453	595
Public Works Recurrent	429	275
Public Works Extraordinary	248	2
	£7,430	£6,654
Hurricane Relief	4,000	800
	£11,430	£7,454

Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.

	£
Cash—	
In Colonial Chest	268
Crown Agents	151
New York Agents	146
Advances Recoverable	374
Bonds (Import)	96
Bills Maturing	392
Investments—	
Government Funds	4,900
Savings Bank	100
Board of Education	174
Turks Islands Savings Bank Funds	2,225
	£8,826

Liabilities.

	£
Miscellaneous Deposits	846
Salt Pond Maintenance and Improvement Fund	258
Board of Education Fund	213
Directors of Currency	1
Jamaica Money Orders	26
Turks Islands Savings Bank	2,465
Hurricane Relief Fund	1,007
Jamaica Treasury	161
	£4,977
Balance of Assets	3,849
	£8,826

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports and exports during the year were valued at £25,262 and £18,936 (the lowest on record since 1879) as against £24,426 and £24,798 in 1908, respectively. The exports in salt, in spite of better prices being obtained, fell from £19,439 to £15,732, the short crop being due to the disastrous hurricane of the previous year, which also, in an appreciable degree, affected the shipments of sisal.

The value of the imports and exports during the past five years has been:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1905	28,230	23,898
1906	27,572	24,940
1907	27,660	23,817
1908	24,426	24,798
1909	25,262	18,936

During 1909 the trade was with the following countries:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
United Kingdom ...	4,799	545
British Colonies	5,215	1,865
Foreign Countries ...	15,248	16,526
	£25,262	£18,936

Articles of Exports.

	Value in— 1908.	1909.
Conchs	706	510
Sisal	1,664	608
Salt	19,439	15,732
Sponges	1,095	953
Miscellaneous	1,894	1,133
	£24,798	£18,936

Shipping.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the period 1905 to 1909 was:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1905	332,254
1906	357,960
1907	345,453
1908	410,195
1909	433,340

Comparative statement of shipping cleared for the years 1908 and 1909:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	131	9,042	14	46,438	145	55,480
United States	16	12,978	57	115,454	73	128,432
Others	73	2,044	41	30,894	114	32,938
Totals 1908	220	24,064	112	192,786	332	216,850
Totals 1909	267	55,238	90	163,561	347	204,091

COUNCILS.

Mr. H. H. Hutchings and Dr. T. R. Robertson were appointed official members of the Legislative Board on 18th March and on 29th April, 1909, respectively.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Commissioner, Mr. F. H. Watkins, was absent from the Dependency from the 17th March to the 13th October, during which period Mr. C. H. Yorke Slader performed the duties of that office, and also acted as Judge from the 19th January to the 14th October.

Mr. Watkins acted as Judge from the 1st to the 18th January, and from the 15th October to the 31st December, while Mr. Hutchings acted as Auditor from the 17th March to the end of the year.

Dr. T. R. Robertson was appointed Government Medical Officer of Grand Turk *vice* Dr. A. E. Ireland, transferred to Fiji, and Dr. T. A. Dowse was made District Commissioner and Medical Officer of the Caicos Islands in place of Dr. Robertson.

Mr. A. W. Harriott, Assistant Commissioner of Salt Cay, obtained three months' vacation leave from 28th May to 28th August, and his duties were performed by Mr. E. C. Harriott, of the Jamaica Civil Service.

LEGISLATION.

Besides the usual supply ordinances those of importance were:—

No. 4, the Young Criminal Punishment Ordinance.

No. 5, amending the ordinances regulating the sale of spirits.

No. 7, continuing the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, 1907.

EDUCATION.

The schools were examined, as usual, by the Inspector of Schools, Mr. H. H. Hutchings, and the results were, considering the impoverished condition of many of the labouring population, satisfactory, while the attendance at the salt settlements, where the provisions of the Ordinance enforcing compulsion are in force, was excellent. The average number on the roll in the different islands was:—

Grand Turk	307
Salt Cay	83
Cockburn Harbour	166
Kew	98
Blue Hills	86
Lorimers	97
Bottle Creek	102
	939

SAVINGS BANK.

	£
Deposits during year	922
Amount of withdrawals	779
Total amount at credit of depositors	2,392
Amount of invested funds	2,269
Interest credited to depositors	44
Interest on investments	59

Number of depositors, 261.

Rate of interest paid to depositors, 2 per cent.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

There is no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service. There is frequent but irregular steamship communication. The only line with regular dates of arrival is the Imperial Direct West India Mail, the steamers of which call at Grand Turk,

on their way to Jamaica, every other week, bringing mails and parcels post from Avonmouth. The subsidised steamer "Boston," from Halifax, Nova Scotia, calls about once a month, both on her way to and on her return from Jamaica, and is the only means of direct steam communication from Jamaica. Most of the mails to the United Kingdom are carried, viâ New York, by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call here on the voyage to and from San Domingo at intervals of 14 days each way, but much more frequently during the sugar crop.

The following amounts are the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office:—

Receipts.	1908. £	1909. £
Sale of stamps	376	1,397
Commission on money orders	35	35
Commission on postal orders	11	9
Other receipts	10	17
	£432	£1,458

Payments.	1908. £	1909. £
Office expenses	27	232
Conveyance of mails	158	140
	£185	£372

The large increase in the receipts and payments is due to the issue of new stamps, bearing the King's head.

The line of the Direct West India Cable Company, between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, is connected with Grand Turk. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The Police Force consists of a total strength of one officer and 22 men.

Offences reported to police	178
Number of persons brought before the magistrate	168
Summary convictions—	
Offences against property with violence to the person	—
Other offences against property	5
Other offences against the person	12
Other offences	101
Convictions in the Superior Court	Nil
Number of persons acquitted—	
In the Superior Court	—
In the Inferior Court	50

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 209 births or 39 per thousand, and 103 deaths or 19 per thousand. The estimated population was:—

Grand Turk	1,751
Salt Cay	453
Cockburn Harbour	702
Caicos Islands	1,381
	5,287

of whom 342 were white.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The readings and statistics given below were chiefly from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, lat. 21° 21′ N., long. 71° 7′ W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet. The rainfall is taken at the principal islands, and has been during the last five years at Grand Turk:—

	Inches.
1905	41·97
1906	28·36
1907	28·49
1908	41·37
1909	39·97

The average rainfall throughout the Dependency for the year was 44·00 inches. The wettest month was November, during which 13·88 inches were recorded, as much as 25·22 inches being measured at Cockburn Harbour, where 8·48 inches fell on the 2nd November.

The coolest and hottest months were December and July, the mean temperature being 73·8° and 83·8°, respectively.

The mean temperature for the year	78·5°
Mean pressure	30·040
Lowest temperature, on the 25th December ...	58°
Highest temperature, on the 17th August ...	91·5°

The prevailing winds during the year were:—

	Days.
N.	22
N.E.	61
E.	146
S.E.	92
S.	21
S.W.	8
W.	4
N.W.	7
Calm	4
	365

GENERAL.

Despite the damage to the salt ponds by the disastrous hurricane of the preceding year and the certainty of a short crop in consequence of the loss of pickle, the year under review opened with fair auspices for the Dependency and the staple industry in particular. Most of the houses damaged or destroyed had been restored, and the weather conditions, on the whole, were favourable for raking. An understanding for the sale of salt at 6 cents a bushel entered into with the dealers in the United States, the principal market being thus practically regained with remunerative prices, the salt pond in a better condition than for years past, and the probability of a reduction in the duty on salt imported into the United States, were circumstances which justified sanguine hopes for the future. Unfortunately, the dealers delayed in taking the quantity of salt expected, and it was certain that, contrary to the understanding, certain of them had succumbed to the temptation of offers of cheaper salt from the Mediterranean and other sources. To culminate their misfortunes, these islands were visited in November by unprecedented rainfalls, which, though sparing life and houses, wrought more destruction to the ponds than the hurricane of 1908. The rainfall in November was 13·88 inches throughout the Dependency, 16·16 inches in Grand Turk, 17·83 inches in Salt Cay, and 25·22 inches at Cockburn Harbour. This new disaster added considerably to the already heavy sum of burdens borne by those engaged in the salt industry, and made once more the prospect gloomy and fraught with apprehensions, for raking in any quantity was rendered impossible before May, 1910, at the earliest. As the shipments in consequence of the small quantity on hand could give in that way but little employment, the Government was faced for several months with the problem of providing food and work for many of the labouring population in the salt settlements. As relief in the form of repairs to roads and of other public works had been found to unsettle and demoralise those employed, measures were taken to provide more productive employment which, while giving food to the labourers, would at the same time aid the owners, most of whom had been reduced to serious pecuniary straits by a succession of misfortunes during recent years, to repair the ravages of the storm. An unexpended balance of £800 from the Hurricane Fund was devoted to this relief and allotted as follows:—

Grand Turk	300
Cockburn Harbour	300
Salt Cay	150
Special cases	50
	£800

on condition that the amounts were given solely for manual work, were expended before the end of April, and were paid through the public treasury strictly in accordance with the financial regu-

lations of the colonial service governing the payments of labourers employed on public works.

Toward the end of the year a memorial was addressed to His Majesty by the large majority of salt pond owners, representing the necessity for the abolition of the royalty on salt exported, so as to reduce locally the cost of production and enable those concerned to compete on favourable terms with their commercial rivals, and praying for a Royal Commission to be appointed to inquire into the condition and prospects of the salt industry.

The survey of the Caicos Islands, which will be completed this year, has enabled the Government to enter into negotiation for the sales and leases of important tracts of land for the development of sisal and other industries. Chief among these is the grant of an option to the Pita Company of West Caicos for the lease and ultimate purchase of all available Crown lands in Blue Hills and North Caicos. The terms of the option were that the Company should lease from the Crown such lands as they thought suitable for sisal for a term of 6 years, with an optional renewal for 10 years at the yearly rental of 4*d*. an acre. If, at the end of the six years or at any time thereafter during the lease, at least one-half of the cultivable lands were planted in sisal, the Company would acquire in fee simple, without further payment, all lands held in leasehold; in other words, the rental might continue for 10 years after the 6 years until the conditions as to planting were fulfilled. The Company was to pay the cost of the whole of the survey of Blue Hills, and a proportionate part of the whole cost of the survey of North Caicos to the lands they leased. A deposit of £1,000 was to be made as security of a *bonâ fide* intention to bring the lands under cultivation within a reasonable time and for the expenses of the survey. In November, Pita, Limited, was merged into a new company registered as the Colonial Fibre Planting and Trading Company, Limited, with a capital of £100,000.

Another enterprise was established by the Caicos Development Company which leased Chalk Sound at the south-west of Blue Hills for raising and canning turtles, lobsters, and other shell-fish.

The small settlers in the Caicos Islands are gradually acquiring grants for their lands, and it is to be hoped that, in a short time, the long vexed land question will be finally and satisfactorily solved.

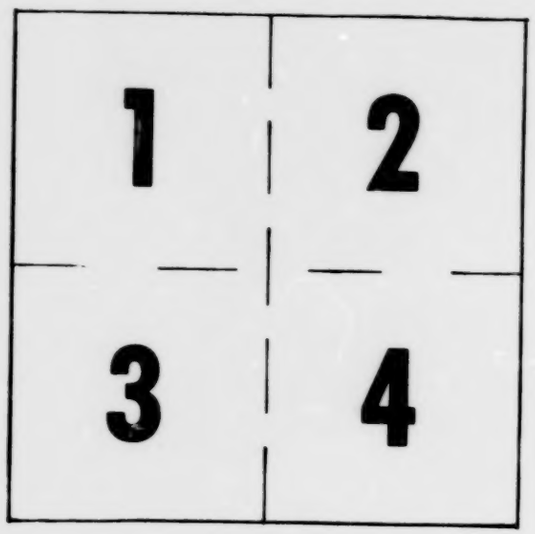
The immediate prospects of the Dependency are clouded with the impossibility of having much more than half an average crop in the coming year. Some time must inevitably elapse before the staple industry can recover from the disaster of several years, and the owners, embarrassed by debt, are unable to find the capital necessary to accelerate a return to prosperity. The crucial questions, too, remain, how long the present prices can be assured and how long the dealers in the United States will be disposed to give preference to the salt of these islands if the producers in the Mediterranean and other West Indies are able and willing to supply salt at prices below the minimum cost of production possible in this Dependency. The United

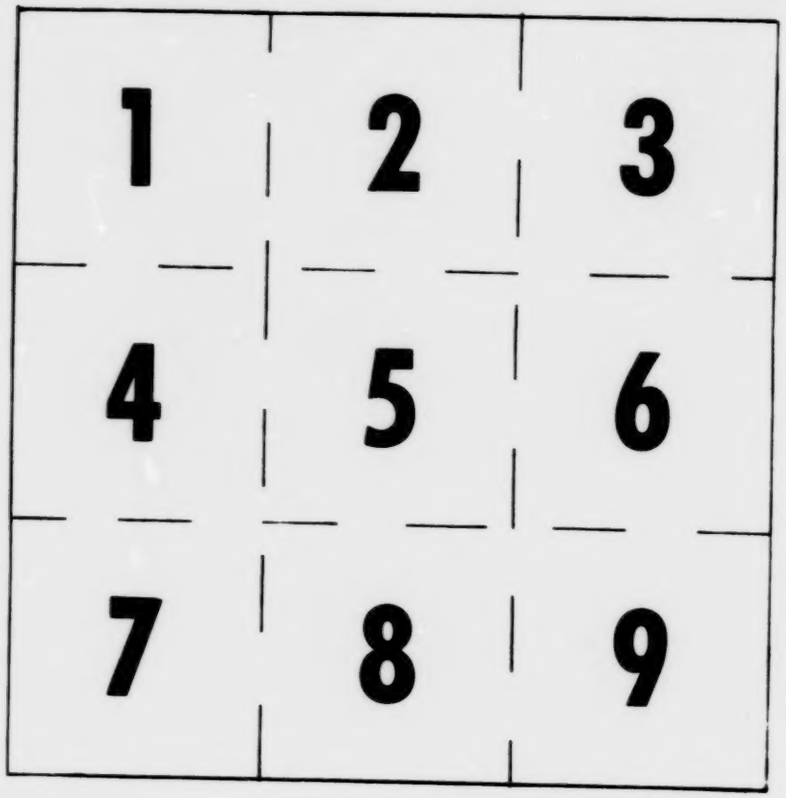
States, moreover, provide, at present, not only 96 per cent. of salt consumed by their population, but export a quantity equal to two-thirds of the salt produced in these islands. The demand for salt in the principal market is limited, and the industry has to meet a competition growing keener and keener year by year. Much, however, may be done, by means of private co-operation, to meet this competition, to reduce the local cost of production, and to extricate the salt industry from its serious condition.

I have, &c.,

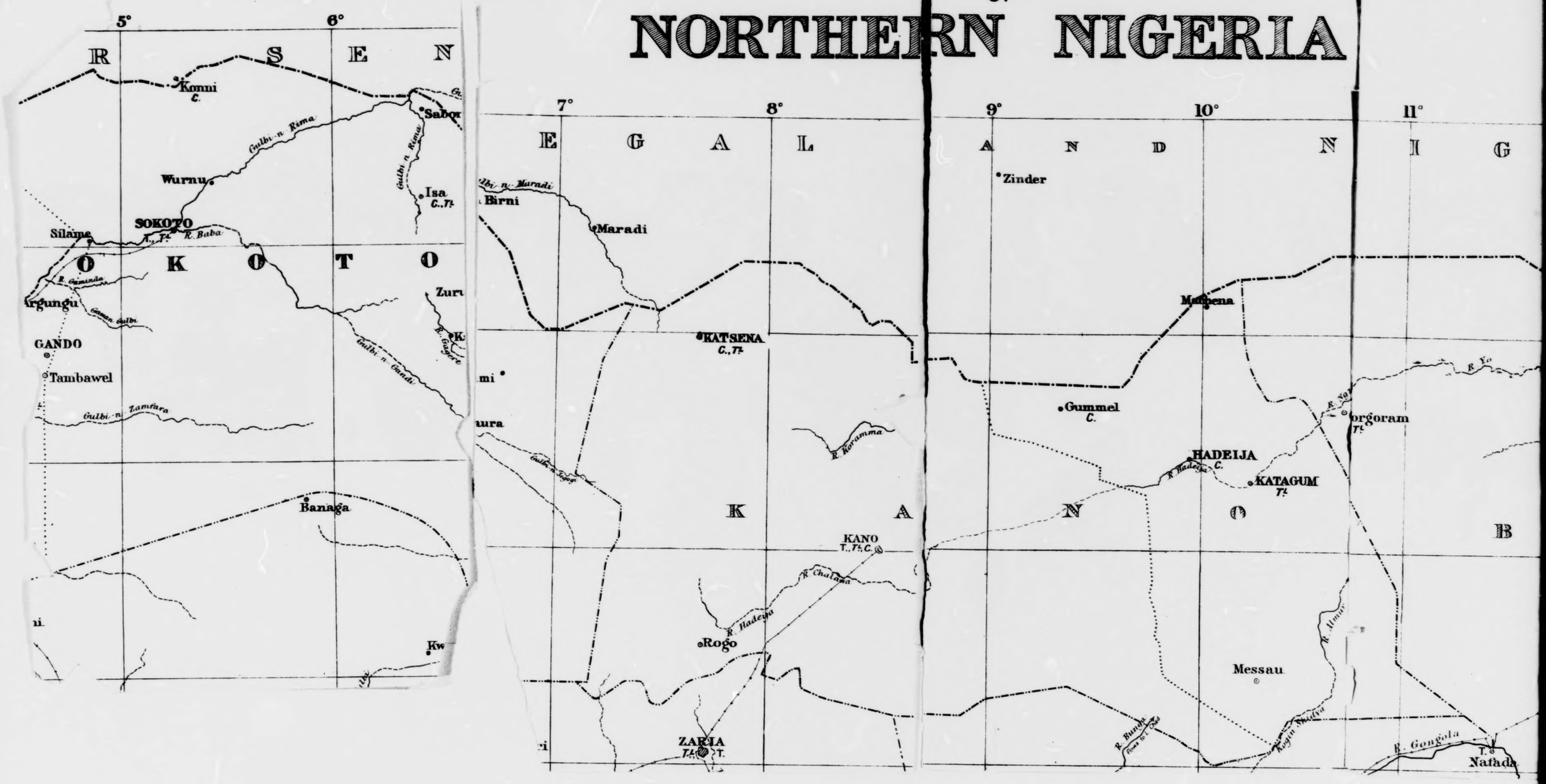
F. H. WATKINS,
Commissioner.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.

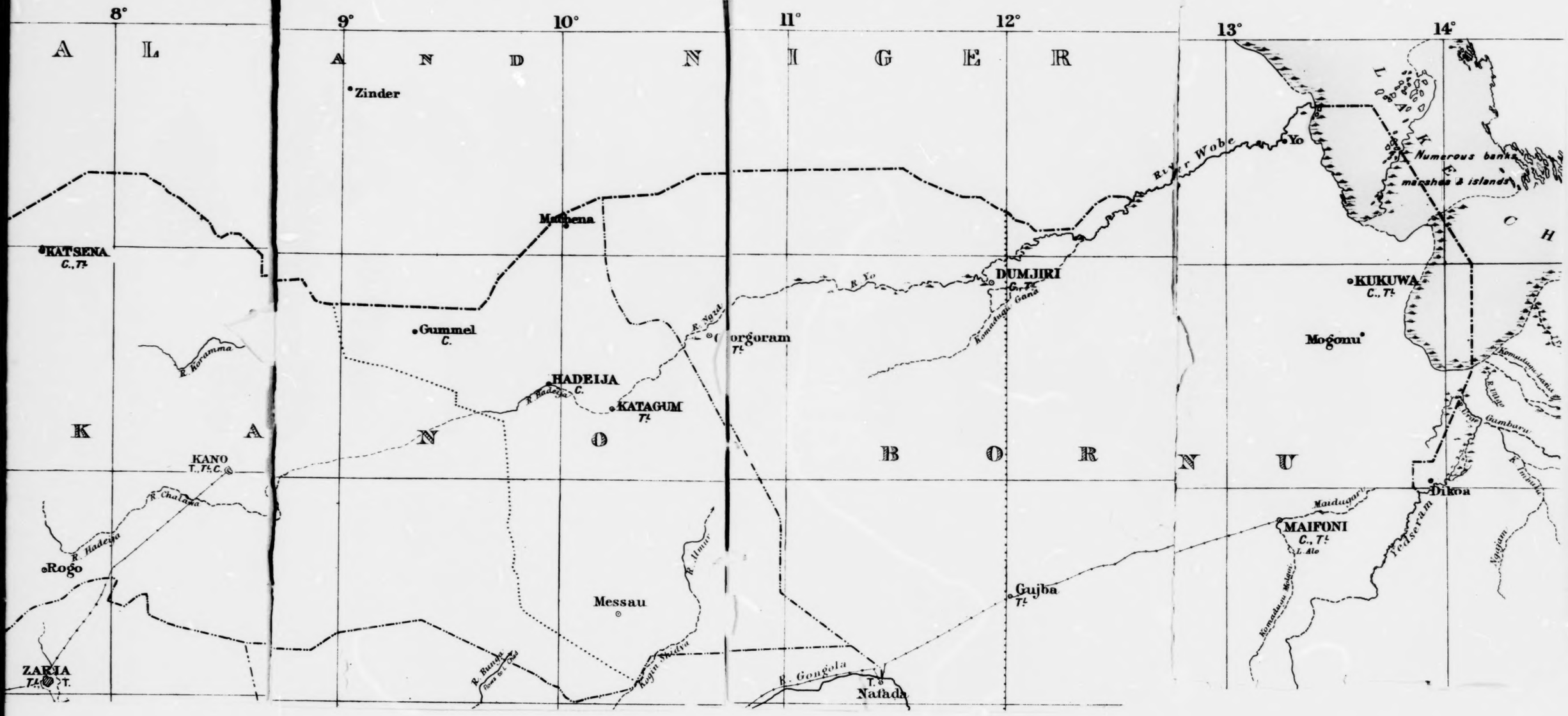


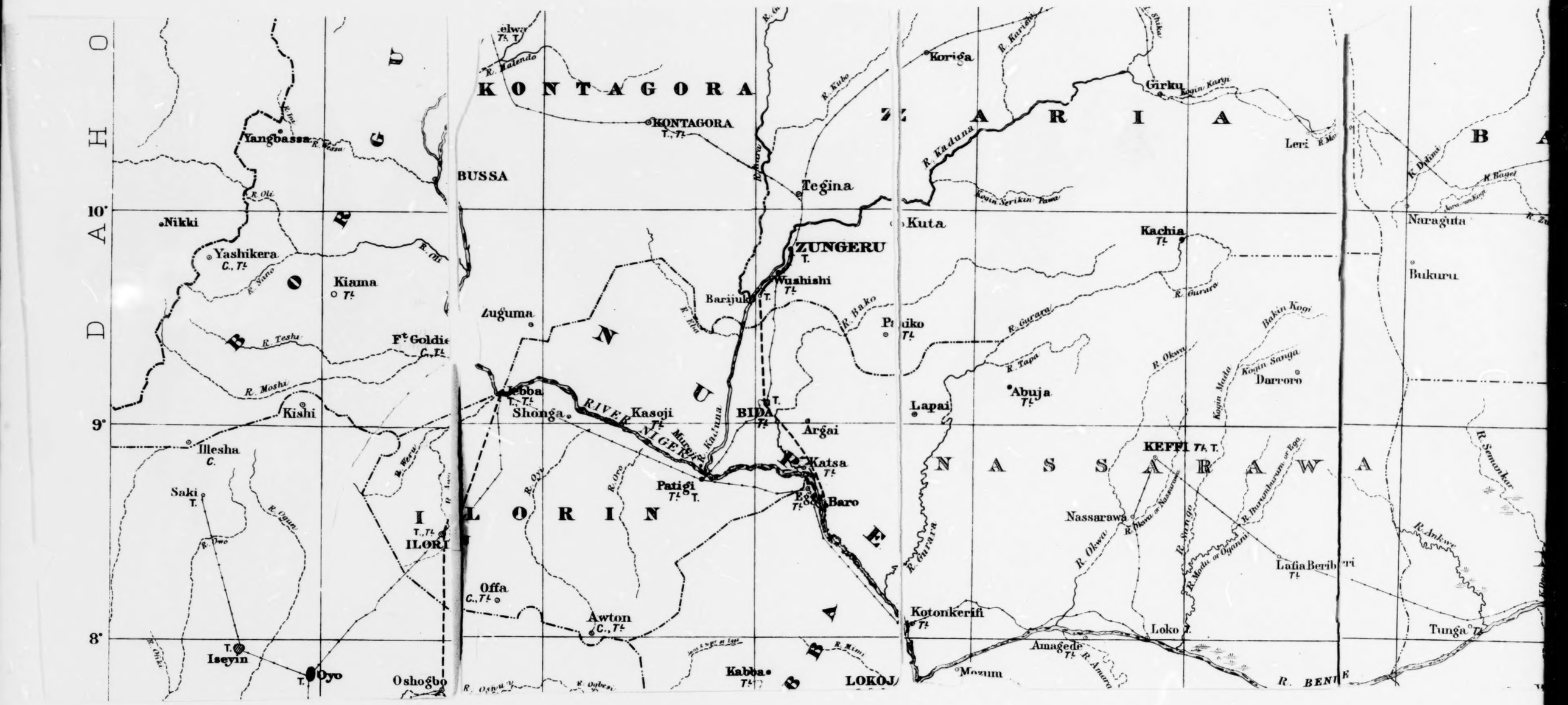


OUTLINE MAP OF NORTHERN NIGERIA



OUTLINE MAP OF NORTHERN NIGERIA




DAHOMEY
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ZARIA
BUSSA
KONTAGORA
Yangbassa
Nikki
Yashikera
Kiama
Zuguma
Ft. Goldie
Kishi
Illesha
Saki
ILORIN
Iseyin
Oyo
Oshogbo
Offa
Awton
Jebba
Shonga
Kasoji
RIVER NIGER
Patigi
Tegina
ZUNGERU
Wushishi
Barijuko
BIDA
Argai
Katsa
Baro
Koriga
Girku
Leri
Kuta
Kachia
Pauiko
Lapai
Abuja
KEFFI
Nassarawa
Lafia Beriberi
Kotonkerifi
Amagede
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Naraguta
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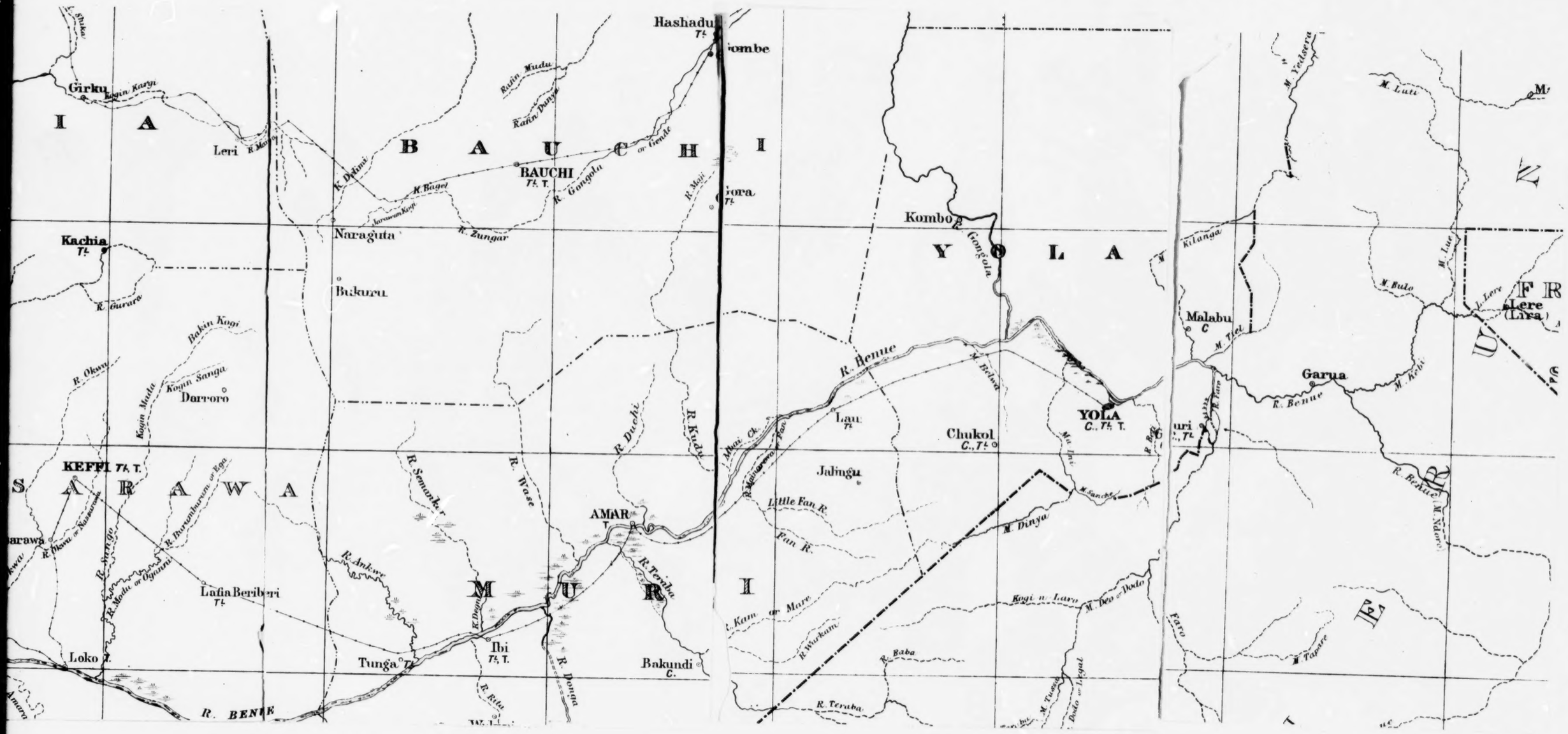
Girku
Kogin Karyi
Leri
R. Mada
I A
B A U C H I
Hashadu
Ramin Mudu
Ramin Dunya
R. Gangola or Gende
BAUCHI
R. Mali
Gora
R. Dalmi
R. Bagel
Naraguta
R. Zungar
Kachia
Bukuru
R. Gurara
Bakin Kogi
R. Okwa
Kogin Sanga
Darroro
Kogin Mada
R. Duchi
R. Kudi
R. Semarker
R. Wase
KEFFI
S A R A W A
R. Okwa or Nasarawa
R. Burumburum or Roga
R. Mada or Ogoni
R. Andewe
Lafia Beriberi
AMAR
R. Teraba
M U R
I
R. Dogon
Ibi
Tunga
R. Donga
Bakundi
Loko
R. Rita
R. BENUE
Kombo
Gongola
Y O L A
Kilanga
M. Yedzera
M. Luti
M. Luc
M. Budo
Malabu
M. Tiel
Garua
M. Kebi
R. Benue
R. Benue
Lau
Chukol
YOLA
Jalingu
Little Fan R.
Fan R.
M. Dinya
M. Sanche
Kam or Mare
R. Warkam
Kogi n. Laro
M. Deo or Dodo
R. Baba
R. Teraba
M. Tuweg
Dodo or Ingal
Faro
M. Tapere
R. Benue (M. Ndare)
Lere (Lira)
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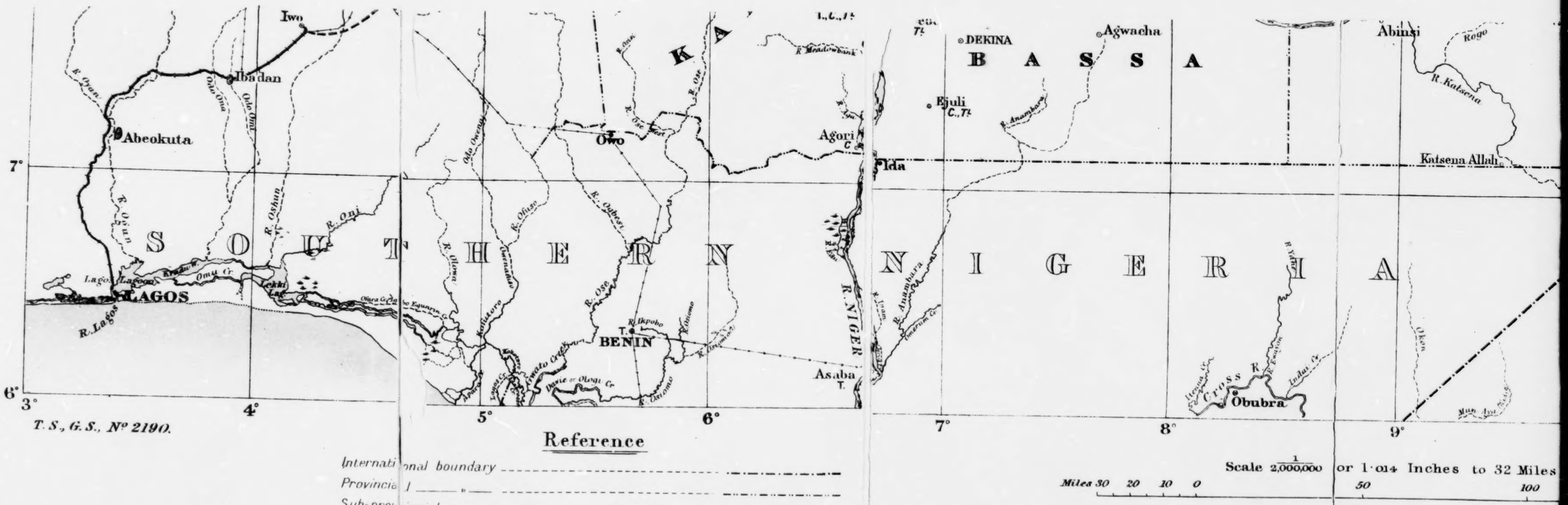


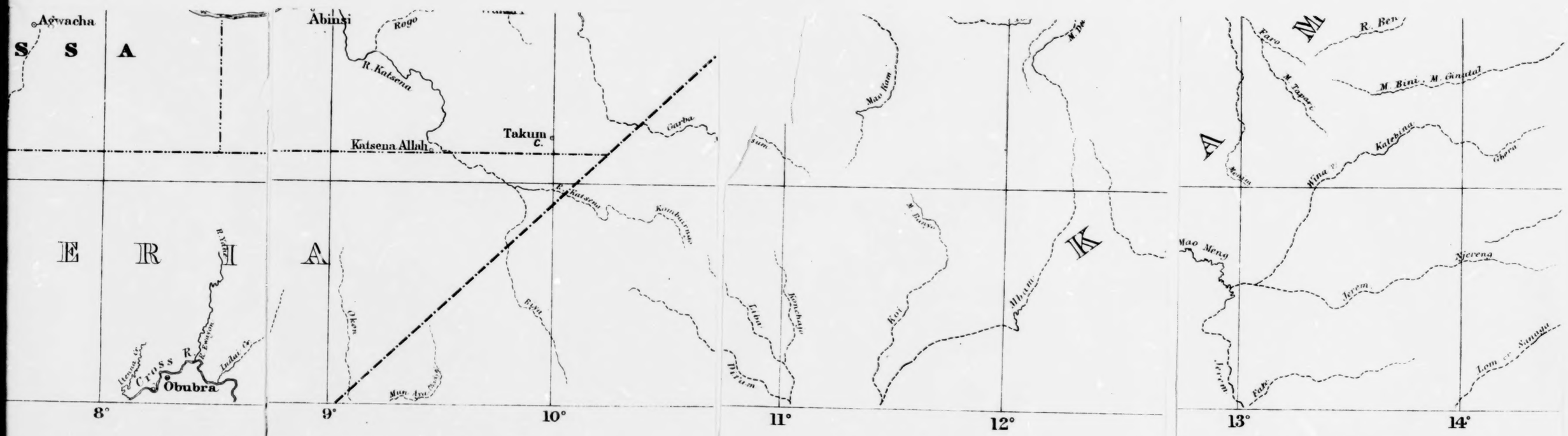
T. S., G. S., Nº 2190.

Reference

International boundary
Provincial " "
Sub-provincial " "
Customs Station — C.
Toll Station — Tl.
Telegraph line
" Office — T.
Railway
Projected Railway

Scale $\frac{1}{2,000,000}$ or 1·014 Inches to 32 Miles

Miles 30 20 10 0 50 100



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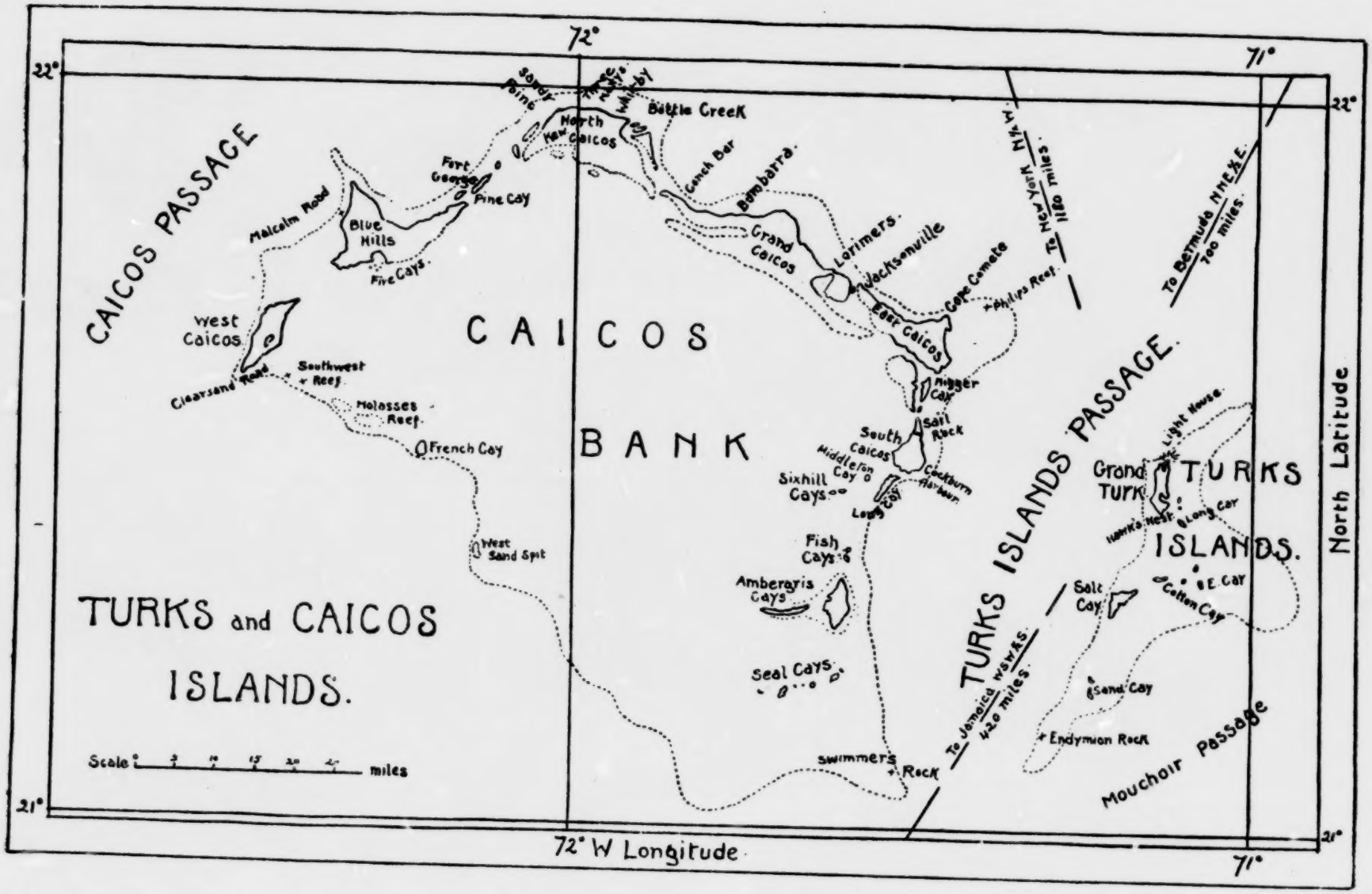
TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS.
CAICOS PASSAGE
CAICOS BANK
TURKS ISLANDS PASSAGE
TURKS ISLANDS.
Mouchoir Passage
North Latitude
72° W Longitude
72°
71°
22°
21°
Sandy Point
Battle Creek
North New Caicos
Conch Bar
Bambarra
Grand Caicos
Larimers
Jacksonville
Cape Comete
Philips Reef
East Caicos
Nigger Cay
Salt Rock
South Caicos
Middleton Cay
Sixhill Cays
Cockburn Harbour
Long Cay
Fish Cays
Amberaris Cays
Seal Cays
Swimmers Rock
West Sand Spit
French Cay
Molasses Reef
Southwest Reef
Clearsand Road
West Caicos
Malcolm Road
Blue Hills
Five Cays
Fort George
Pine Cay
To New York N.W.½N. 1180 miles.
To Bermuda N.N.E.½E. 700 miles.
To Jamaica W.S.W.½S. 420 miles.
Light House
Grand Turk
Hawk's Nest
Long Cay
Salt Cay
Cotton Cay
E. Cay
Sand Cay
Endymion Rock
Scale miles

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	1908
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji...	"
619	Nyasaland Protectorate	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras...	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Falkland Islands	"
645	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 662.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 626.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1910.

LONDON:
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DARLING AND SON, LIMITED, BACON STREET, E.
1911.

[Cd. 4964—36.] *Price* 3½*d.*

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No. 662.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1908–9, *see* No. 626.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
22nd October, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report to Your Lordship on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1910.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the Heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:—

REVENUE.

Heads.	Receipts, 1908-9. £	s.	d.	Receipts, 1909-10. £	s.	d.
Customs	451,972	18	0	465,080	18	6
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	7,406	18	5	8,107	6	6
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	166,234	14	10	180,938	3	1
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid, and Irrigation Receipts ...	90,969	17	5	94,519	0	10
Post Office and Telegraphs	40,695	0	1	42,262	3	3
Railway	144,181	2	4	163,847	2	1
Rents	1,701	4	11	2,212	11	5
Interest	17,140	13	9	18,413	12	10
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	11,218	19	8	15,228	17	1
Land Sales	2,229	1	5	2,366	16	7
	933,750	10	10	992,976	12	2

EXPENDITURE.

Heads.	Payments, 1908-9. £	s.	d.	Payments, 1909-10. £	s.	d.
Charges of Debt ...	183,087	7	6	187,959	13	0
Pensions	26,436	6	6	29,534	17	0¼
Governor and Staff ...	6,247	13	11	6,206	18	5
Privy Council	20	6	6	24	14	0
Legislative Council ...	516	8	6	521	0	6
Colonial Secretariat ...	4,362	17	0	4,714	16	1½
Public Works Department	15,214	17	2	14,975	6	5
Parochial Roads and Works	1,645	16	8	1,716	17	6
Lands Department ...	2,468	15	7	2,467	2	9
Audit Office	4,083	19	6	4,059	9	6
Treasury Department ...	4,063	17	1	3,756	19	7
Government Savings Bank	2,106	10	4	1,963	4	3
Immigration	1,089	17	4	3,809	2	4¾
Clerks Parochial Boards	600	0	0	600	0	0
Stamp Office	769	17	6	737	0	2
Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs	37,135	16	0	37,157	19	6
Postal and Telegraph Service	33,381	13	7	36,038	10	3
Judicial	35,972	12	8	35,199	8	4
Ecclesiastical	1,205	14	2	1,208	14	8
Medical	56,403	16	5	58,317	2	5¾
Constabulary and Prisons	86,795	17	4	87,776	16	0
Reformatory	4,672	8	7	5,100	15	1
Industrial Schools ...	849	19	5	899	6	8
Education	67,977	0	11	62,178	7	10½
Harbours and Pilotage	3,683	19	6	2,931	16	9
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence ...	7,705	10	9	7,591	5	1½
Direct Cable Subsidy ...	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0
Record and Registrar-General's Office ...	4,031	6	7	5,387	4	1
Registration of Titles ...	1,536	1	5			
Government Printing Office	7,960	5	2	9,804	4	0
Institute	733	5	11	1,024	16	10
Board of Supervision ...	9	16	10	19	0	2
Pensions, Widows and Orphans'	7,190	18	9	8,308	1	10
Agricultural Services ...	9,655	12	11	12,569	6	6
Miscellaneous	27,702	12	4	19,453	8	2
Public Works and Buildings, Lighthouses ...	142,116	12	5	147,668	12	10

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Heads.	Payments, 1908-9. £ s. d.	Payments, 1909-10. £ s. d.
New Government Buildings	—	50,548 8 10½
Railway	100,659 13 2	110,564 4 11½
Transfer to Insurance Fund	—	50,000 0 0
	911,095 5 10	1,033,794 12 7¼

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1904-5	751,563	824,816
1905-6	865,696	821,612
1906-7	887,228	828,115
1907-8	1,021,937	935,427
1908-9	933,751	911,095
1909-10	992,976	1,033,794

3. The revenue for 1909-10 exceeded the estimate by £92,420, and the revenue of the previous year by £59,225. Omitting certain items, namely, £9,250 received from fire insurance on the destruction of the railway pier, £2,050 received as a bequest for charitable purposes and employed in enlarging the hospital, and £3,518 received from the Earthquake Loan Board to be applied to payment of the interest and Sinking Fund on the Imperial Earthquake Loan—there was an increase in normal revenue of about £44,407 over the total of the preceding year. The sources principally contributing to this increase were:—Customs duties, which added £13,108; Port and Harbour dues, £700; Excise duties on rum, £11,908; on tobacco, £1,445 (more than counterbalanced, however, by a decrease in receipts from Customs duties on imported tobacco); Property Tax, £1,191; Administrator-General's fees, £1,487; Post Office, £1,017; Telegraphs, £550; Railway, £10,416; Rents, £635; Interest, £1,598; Miscellaneous Receipts, £2,698; showing a general improvement in the business and consuming power of the community.

The duties on kerosene oil were reduced at the beginning of the financial year, with the effect of sacrificing about £5,265 of revenue. Stamp duties had also been reduced at an estimated loss to the revenue of £3,000.

4. The expenditure was £1,033,794, exceeding that of the previous year by £122,699, or, deducting the three special items corresponding to those mentioned in the last paragraph under the total of revenue, by £107,881.

The principal contributions to this increase were under Pensions, £3,098; Widows and Orphans' Pensions, £1,117; Immigration, £1,719; Post Office and Telegraphs, £2,656; Medical,

£1,913; Agricultural services, £2,913; Government Printing Office, £1,843; Maintenance of Main Roads and Bridges, £24,865; New Works on Main Roads, £1,847; New Works on Public Buildings, £29,235; Rio Cobre Canal, £2,997; Spanish Town Water Works, £927. Transferred to Insurance Fund, £50,000.

5. The increases for the maintenance of roads and bridges and the Rio Cobre Canal were due to special expenditure entailed by the heavy rains in November, 1909. The total expenditure entailed by these, so far as it fell into the accounts of the year, is estimated at £24,028 for main roads and bridges, £2,911 for Rio Cobre Canal, and £4,620 for the Government Railway, £31,561 in all, besides £1,825 granted to Parochial Boards and in relief.

Fuller particulars will be given in surveying the work of the Public Works Department for the year.

6. Miscellaneous expenditure, although less than in 1908-9, exceeded the estimate for the year by £6,734, owing to unforeseen expenditure having to be provided for, of which the following are the principal items:—

	£	s.	d.
Contribution to City of Kingston in lieu of rates on Government property (voted after passing of Estimates)	1,875	0	0
Written off for depreciation of value of investments held on account of Miscellaneous Deposits	1,585	12	5
Flood Grants to Parishes for relief of sufferers and repairs to roads	1,825	0	0
Cost of increased remittances	600	0	0

7. The Government closed the year with a surplus of assets over liabilities on general revenue account amounting to £166,082 16*s.* 6*d.*, having also £100,000 invested out of surplus balances as an insurance fund to provide for the repair of damage to Government property by hurricane, fire, or earthquake. The repairs of the damages wrought by the floods of November, 1909, were provided for out of current revenue without having recourse to this fund.

£80,367 1*s.* 1*d.* stood as advanced on the 31st of March, 1910, to the Earthquake Loan Board in anticipation of further borrowing, if necessary, from the Imperial Government in addition to the loans amounting to £150,000 which have been already obtained. At the same date, the Island Government had remittances amounting to £50,000 in transit to the Crown Agents, and cash balances of £45,029 to its credit in the Bank of Nova Scotia.

8. The Public Debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,850,697 on the 31st of March, 1910. This included £148,231 due to the Imperial Government for Earthquake Loans, directly secured by advances on properties. The accumulated Sinking Funds on the same date amounted to £600,332, leaving a nett liability of £3,250,365. Included in the Debt were guaranteed Public Loans for local purposes secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounting

to £291,595, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £51,817.

9. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements:—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1905-6	30,684	29,220
1906-7	27,170	28,165
1907-8	30,775	30,858
1908-9	32,197	30,010
1909-10	32,513	35,739

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1905-6	30,218	25,597
1906-7	26,294	25,809
1907-8	28,251	25,273
1908-9	30,545	26,223
1909-10	31,957	30,707

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1905-6	105,168	97,038
1906-7	103,484	100,577
1907-8	105,433	106,891
1908-9	106,231	107,838
1909-10	111,586	117,461

The excess of expenditure over revenue by Parochial Boards in the year 1909-10 is largely owing to expenditure on water supplies in anticipation of loans.

10. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £32,935.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A. Imports and Exports.

11. The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1905-6	1,941,938	1,843,180
1906-7	2,261,[illegible]69	1,992,007
1907-8	2,854,042	2,360,702
1908-9	2,420,335	2,268,254
1909	2,561,674	2,628,307

In order to comply with the request of the Imperial Government that uniformity of period may be maintained in the statistics of the trade of the Empire, the figures given on the last line are those for the calendar year 1909. Those given for previous years are for the financial and statistical year of the Island Government, viz., from 1st April to 31st March. The figures for 1909 thus include one quarter's trade already included in the total for 1908-9. I add the approximate totals of imports and exports for the six months ended 30th June, 1910.

	£
Imports	1,376,986
Exports	1,307,789

12. The Collector-General reports that the trading of the year exhibited a tone of confidence, which has been the result of fairly good seasons and good marketing. Generally, reports indicate a year of fair economic progress. A notable feature in the year's transactions is the excess in the value of the exports over that of the imports.

This is due to two factors—

(1) the recovery of the Island's production from the effects of the cyclone of 1903, and ensuing droughts;

(2) the falling off of special importations for restoration of earthquake damage. An excess of exports is the normal condition owing to the amount of remittances to be made on public and private loans invested in the Island.

13. The principal articles of import were:—

	Value.	
	1909.	1908-9.
	£	£
Ale, beer, and porter	41,932	40,292
Beef, wet salted	20,301	20,975
Bread and biscuit	31,038	38,899
Butter and substitutes	31,875	30,227
Coal	50,866	47,826
Corn	45,141	47,082
Fish, dried and salted	124,463	115,439
Fish, pickled or smoked	59,304	59,468
Flour (wheaten)	243,664	245,697
Meal (other than wheaten) ...	28,000	37,610
Milk, condensed	34,429	36,455
Oils	60,676	55,949
Pork, wet salted	29,059	28,086
Rice	57,852	50,615
Soap	39,233	28,097
Spirits	16,116	15,949
Tobacco (manufactured)	17,619	21,853
Wines	12,590	13,720
Pitch pine lumber	72,099	83,222

The decreases of imports of bread and biscuit, flour, and meal mark the passing of the drought which prevailed in some parts

of the Island in the year preceding; and the fluctuations in what may be termed luxuries (in distinction from actual necessities) furnish an index of the degree of prosperity enjoyed during the year. This is especially so in the case of the *ad valorem* collections recorded under non-enumerated merchandise (not shown in the above list).

The following items which may be classed as luxuries show increased payments of import duty:—Ale, beer, and porter, £1,614; butter and substitutes, £546; cheese, £124; fish, dried and salted, £4,096 (apparently preferred to herrings, which show a decrease); fish, alewives, £111; mackerels, pickled, £327; ham, £48; spirits, £1,238; tea, £309; leaf tobacco, £95; wines, £544; non-enumerated merchandise, £21,923. Matches show an increase of £570 due to a falling off in the local manufacture. The growing number of motor-cars in use in the Island explains the increase of £233 recorded under naphtha (gasolene), and an increase of £1,919 in rice is possibly due to recent increased importations of East Indian labourers.

14. It appears an absurdity, and is strongly significant of the backward condition of the elementary arts of agriculture prevailing among the 155,000 landed proprietors of the Island, that in a country having no manufacturing population and admirably adapted to the maintenance of cattle, goats, pigs, and other stock, whether on large or small holdings, and to the production of oil-bearing trees and plants, condensed milk to the value of £38,429, butter and substitutes to the value of £31,875, and culinary oils to the value of £19,104 should appear among the imports of the year. The labours of the Agricultural Society and its branches make some headway, but very slowly, in educating the peasantry to remedy this waste of resources. Meanwhile the infant death-rate, for lack of milk, is excessive. Similar comment might be made with regard to the importations of corn and cornmeal. Dealing with other decreases than those already referred to—oils, although imported in increased quantities (1,118,311 gallons, value £60,676, against 1,055,014 gallons, value £55,950, in the preceding year), show a falling off of £5,265 in duty collected, owing to the reduction from 7½*d.* to 4*d.* a gallon of the import duty on petroleum and its products effected by Law 41 of 1909. Cigarettes show a decrease of £4,108, accounted for by increase of the local manufacture; and pork, wet salted, a decrease of £1,735, the high price having curtailed consumption. A decrease of £1,454 in the collections on imported lumber and shingles indicates that fewer wooden or wooden-roofed buildings were being constructed. This may be accounted for by the completion of restorations following the earthquake.

15. The values of the imports received from the different parts of the world were as follows:—

	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom	1,126,453	43·8
United States	1,151,573	44·8
Canada	174,587	6·8
Other Countries	116,736	4·6

It will be noted that in the last decade the imports from Canada have increased by about 50 per cent., but are hardly greater than they were thirty years ago.

16. The total imports into the Colony for the past fifty years, at intervals of ten years, have been as follows:—

1869. Year ended 31st December, 1869.	1879. Year ended 30th September, 1880.	1889. Year ended 30th September. —	1899. Year ended 31st March, 1900.	1909. Year ended 31st December, 1909.
£ 1,224,413	£ 1,475,197	£ 1,597,600	£ 1,844,332	£ 2,569,349

Divided between the countries from which supplies were obtained, the figures work out as under:—

—	1869. Year ended 31st December, 1869.	1879. Year ended 30th September, 1880.	1889. Year ended 30th September. —	1899. Year ended 31st March, 1900.	1909. Year ended 31st December, 1909.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom.	775,087 63·3%	777,628 62·7%	884,444 55·5%	873,296 47·3%	1,126,453 43·8%
United States.	266,983 21·8%	474,116 32·1%	544,530 34%	800,527 43·4%	1,151,573 44·8%
Canada ...	133,989 10·9%	171,801 11·6%	144,353 9%	118,003 6·4%	174,587 6·8%
Other Countries.	48,354 5%	51,652 3·6%	24,273 1·7%	52,506 2·9%	116,736 4·6%
Total ...	1,224,413	1,475,197	1,597,600	1,844,332	2,569,349

17. The chief articles of export show the following variations:—

	Values. 1909. £	1908-9. £
Annatto	10,291	10,308
Beeswax	5,539	5,134
Cocoa	110,049	90,914
Cocoanuts	54,941	44,523
Coffee	127,121	116,166
Bananas	1,403,830	1,044,820
Grape fruit	16,145	13,366
Oranges	31,953	38,474
Ginger	36,710	43,581
Hides	13,182	8,678
Honey	19,281	14,323
Lime juice	3,931	4,753
Pimento	68,352	143,623

	Values. 1909. £	1908-9. £
Rum	234,151	186,803
Sugar	118,733	77,047
Cigars	357,884	263,850
Fustic and bitterwood	7,771	6,680
Logwood	52,159	46,401
Logwood, extract	113,254	114,460

18. The total value of the exports shows an increase of £360,053 (more than 15 per cent.) as compared with the previous year. The principal increases are in cocoa, £19,134; cocoanuts, £10,418; coffee, £10,955; bananas, £359,010; rum, £47,348; and sugar, £41,686.

The fruit industry of the Colony continues to develop, and the increases under sugar and rum indicate that these old staples are recovering some of their lost ground. There has been much activity in the rum trade during the year. Light and Harbour Dues show an increase of £723 as a result of the continued increase in the fruit trade. The excessive predominance of the banana amongst the staple exports is a feature of insecurity in the Island's economy.

19. The distribution of the exports was as follows:—

	1909. Per cent.	1908-9. Per cent.
United Kingdom	21·2	21·5
United States	61·5	57·8
Canada	4·7	4·3
Other Countries	12·6	16·4

20. The total exports from the Colony for the past fifty years, at ten year intervals, have been as follows:—

1869. Year ended 31st December 1869.	1879. Year ended 30th September 1880.	1889. Year ended 30th September. —	1899. Year ended 31st March 1900.	1909. Year ended 31st December 1909.
£ 1,162,768	£ 1,512,978	£ 1,614,824	£ 1,868,079	£ 2,628,307

21. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal staples and minor products:—

	1909. Per cent.	1908-9. Per cent.
Sugar	4·7	3·6
Rum	9·4	8·9
Coffee	5·1	5·5
Dyewoods	2·3	2·4
Fruit	59·9	54·9
Pimento	2·7	6·8
Cocoa	4·4	4·3
Minor products	11·5	13·6

and the following is a comparison between the exports of 1869 and those of 1909:—

	1869.	1909.
	£	£
Sugar	443,078	118,733
Rum	157,359	234,151
Coffee	120,246	127,120
Dyewoods	256,034	57,098
Fruit	3,124	1,508,033
Pimento	33,915	68,351
Cocoa	714	110,048
Minor products	38,806	291,884
	1,052,562	2,515,418

The total increase on the exports of fifty years ago is £1,465,780; the increase in the export of fruit £1,504,909.

Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

22. A new central sugar factory was equipped in Westmoreland by the Belleisle Estates Company. The two other large central factories (Amity Hall and Morelands) recently established in Vere had a successful and satisfactory season, and have justified the energy and perseverance with which their proprietors contended against drought, failure of irrigation, and other misfortunes at the period of their inception. The logwood extract factory at Lacovia in St. Elizabeth has enlarged its operations, and is investing further capital on the improvement of its machinery. The similar factory at Spanish Town was also active in production during the year.

Agricultural Industries.

23. The tables given above indicate the principal exporting agricultural industries of the Colony and their relative position during the year. For the native provision supply the seasons were moderately favourable.

It is observable that the production of exportable crops is tending to supersede that of local root foods, the increase of cultivated lands in 1909-10 during four years having been:—in cane, 1,294 acres or 4·4 per cent.; cocoanuts, 3,895 acres or 36·7 per cent.; bananas, 7,920 acres or 12·9 per cent.; cocoa, 3,206 acres or 39·0 per cent.; and minor items, 1,201 acres or 35·5 per cent.; while the falling off of cultivation in ground provisions is returned as 4,592 acres or 4·2 per cent.; and in coffee, 1,314 acres or 5 per cent. The increase in cane cultivation is not very marked; that in bananas, cocoanuts, and cocoa is apparent in those parishes in which these plants flourish, St. Mary perhaps being the chief contributor in the case of cocoa and bananas, although even St. Elizabeth and Manchester are giving attention to the latter culture; St. Elizabeth returning 254 acres, and Manchester 307. Decrease of coffee cultivation is most marked in Manchester and St. Mary; St. Elizabeth and Clarendon are chief contributors to the decrease in acreage of ground provisions.

The returns of lands in cultivation, which are rendered voluntarily and are not checked, cannot in my opinion be regarded as exact or exhaustive, especially in regard to ground provisions and other peasants' crops; but their variations from year to year may be taken as a fairly reliable indication of the tendencies of agricultural development.

24. The following table groups the land statistics of the Colony under four main headings, and these are set out with the total acreage in each case, as compared with the average acreage of the preceding four years, viz.:—

	1909-10.	Average four years.
Tilled lands	295,623	284,013
Guinea grass	137,663	135,640
Commons	497,352	467,667
Wood and ruinate	1,236,192	1,241,776
	2,130,830	2,093,096

On total acreage there has been a gain of 37,734 acres; on tilled land a gain of 11,610 acres; on guinea grass a gain of 2,023 acres; on commons a gain of 29,685 acres; and on ruinate a loss of 5,584 acres. The transfer from ruinate to one of the heads indicating beneficial occupation, the increase in tilled and pastoral land, and the appreciation of land values that is known to have taken place within the last few years, all point to agricultural progress of a much more marked character than that which characterized the last decade of the nineteenth century, and the import and export returns as well as the revenue receipts confirm the conclusion that the rate of progress in the decennium just past was in many respects much more rapid than it was in that immediately preceding. The surveying of lands on changing hands and the operation of the Registration of Titles Laws have borne a part in the correction of missing acreage.

25. This Government in the year 1903 established a system of valuation of real property. The following statement sets out the number and the classification according to value of the separate properties upon which the general and parochial direct taxes are assessed, those the subject of temporary relief, and those in arrear, in comparison with the figures of 1908-9:—

	1909-10. Number.	1908-9. Number.
Properties valued at £20	57,601	54,215
Properties valued at £30	5,788	5,639
Properties valued at £40	53,489	52,699
Properties valued at over £40 ...	28,266	27,151
Occupiers relieved	1,206	1,255
Properties in arrear	8,701	9,492
	155,051	150,451

There is apparent a satisfactory increase in the numbers of properties contributing, and an equally satisfactory decrease in

the number of those the occupiers of which have been relieved or which remain in arrear.

The small holdings (£40 value and under) amounted to more than 126,000 in number.

26. Reporting on the sale of Crown Lands in small holdings the Surveyor-General writes as follows:—

"Two hundred and fifty purchasers who bought 2,644 acres of land under the Rules for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers have completed payment of instalments of their purchase money and been given titles for the lands purchased. There were also 42 other purchasers who got titles for land for which they paid cash. No fresh lands have been cut up for sale on payment by instalments. To date, of the total of 30,751 acres of land sold on credit, only about 6,000 acres have been paid for in full by some 600 purchasers, while 9,000 acres have either been taken back for failure to pay instalments or are chronically in arrear. It would be advisable to proceed very slowly and cautiously in the matter of instalment sales, seeing that of the acreage now out on credit, about 25 per cent. is now in arrear or taken back. The total amount of purchase-money received during the year from cash and instalment purchasers amounts to £2,415 5*s*. 4*d*."

27. The following were the most important features of the work of the Department of Agriculture for the year:—

(*a*) *Public Gardens.*

At Hope, 150 acres of ruinate lands were cleaned and planted with guinea grass for the use of stock in connexion with the new Farm School there established. There were increasing demands from the public for the supply of economic and ornamental plants.

The gardens at Castleton now serve as a centre for the distribution of cocoa plants free to small settlers under the guidance of the local agricultural instructor. Over 13,000 cocoa plants were distributed in this way during the year, despite unfavourable seasons for planting.

At Bath, a beginning was made to utilise the old garden as a centre for the distribution of cocoa plants while the garden is being restored and maintained as an object of interest to visitors.

The Hill Gardens are now maintained on the rent received for the residence without any special grant for maintenance from general revenue.

(*b*) *Staple Crops.*

Sugar Cane.—The first issue was made to estates of selected seedlings raised in Jamaica that gave great promise at Hope of affording a high tonnage of canes combined with juice of good average quality. The issue of selected yeasts to Estates distilleries resulted in some striking results in the increased output of common, clean rums from a more efficient alcoholic fermentation, while the assistance of the fermentation chemist enabled an estate that formerly made a valuable rum to recover its standard of quality. The sugar planters strongly supported the continuation of the Experiment Station, founded in 1904 on the basis of the Imperial grant in aid of the sugar industry, as a

permanent branch of the work of the department, and this proposal was accepted by the Legislative Council.

Mangoes.—Efforts are being made to bud a large number of common trees with the Bombay variety, for which there is now a large demand from the public. It is expected that this fruit will eventually prove to be a valuable export crop.

Rubber.—The first reports of the large issue of plants of *Hevea brasiliensis* (Para rubber) to the public in 1906 are uniformly disappointing, and the Director of Agriculture gives his opinion that this rubber tree is not suitable for general planting in Jamaica, while the relative cost of labour in this Colony as compared with such countries as Java he regards as a disadvantage in the commercial production of Para rubber in Jamaica, which demands the serious attention of planters.

The results of tapping Castilloa rubber trees in various parts of the Island indicate that under favourable conditions trees of this variety will after ten years' growth yield 1 lb. of rubber per tree per annum, while trees of 14 to 20 years are capable of yielding 2 (two) lbs. of rubber and over per annum.

(c) *Agricultural Education.*

The operations of the agricultural instructors have been extended during the year, and a complete system of local agricultural instruction for the whole Island was provided for on the votes for the coming year.

Special work has been devoted to the eradication of disease among the cocoa cultivation in St. Mary.

Seeds and plants were distributed under the direction of the Department to the distressed cultivators in the Port Royal Mountains after the floods of November.

A Government farm school was opened at Hope Estate in January, 1910, with a full complement of 26 students, and a stock farm associated with the school was started with a few selected animals at a cost of about £500.

A profit of £327 15*s.* 8*d.* has been made on the first year's operations, of which £246 15s. was spent on buying more cows and horses. The English thoroughbred stallion "Water Jacket" was in great demand, and 31 mares were received for service.

The usual special courses at Hope Gardens for elementary school teachers and distillers were held during the year, while agricultural instruction was also given to the training colleges for elementary school teachers, male and female, as usual.

SHIPPING.

28. There was much activity in shipping during the year. The increase in the number of ships reporting during the year stands at 99 ships, with tonnage 71,673. Divided between those reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast the figures are:—

Reported with cargo	46	tonnage 34,967
Reported in ballast	53	tonnage 36,706
	99	71,673

The clearances show an increase of 88 ships with tonnage 57,040. Divided between vessels cleared with cargo and vessels cleared in ballast the figures are:—

Cleared with cargo	67	tonnage	17,489
Cleared with ballast	21	tonnage	39,551
	88		57,040

Distinguishing sailing vessels from steamers, there has been a decrease of 15 vessels (with tonnage 5,509) reporting, and a decrease of 18 (with tonnage 4,956) clearing.

The steamers reporting show an increase of 114 with tonnage 77,182. The clearances show an increase of 106 with tonnage 61,996.

The number of steamers reporting with cargo are 59 (with tonnage 36,223) in excess of the previous year. Those reported in ballast are 55 (with tonnage 40,959) in excess of the previous year.

Steamers cleared with cargo stand at 82 (with tonnage 22,848) in excess of the previous year, while the clearances in ballast exceed the previous year by 24 (with tonnage 39,148).

To summarize, 1,462 vessels with tonnage 1,554,396 reported during the year, against 1,363 with tonnage 1,482,724 in the previous year, showing a total increase of 99 vessels with tonnage 71,673:—1,460 vessels with tonnage 1,574,810 cleared as against 1,372 with tonnage 1,517,770 in the previous year, showing an increase of 88 vessels with tonnage 57,040.

29. The arrivals of steam vessels at the ports were as under:—

—	12 months ended 31st March, 1909.		12 months ended 31st December, 1909.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Kingston ...	395	800,674	395	803,472	—	2,798	—	—
Morant Bay ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Port Morant ...	60	50,007	68	59,880	8	9,873	—	—
Port Antonio ...	589	472,423	689	520,355	100	47,932	—	—
Annotto Bay ...	—	—	4	2,454	4	2,454	—	—
Port Maria ...	70	43,445	68	48,331	—	4,886	2	—
St. Ann's Bay ...	1	2,129	1	602	—	—	—	1,527
Dry Harbour ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falmouth ...	2	1,234	3	5,293	1	3,059	—	—
Montego Bay ...	25	70,851	26	76,219	1	5,368	—	—
Lucea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sav-la-Mar ...	2	1,954	3	3,569	1	1,615	—	—
Black River ...	—	—	1	724	1	724	—	—
Milk River ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	116	78,709	2	1,527

An analysis of the increase works out at:—

—	12 months ended 31st December, 1909.		12 months ended 31st March, 1909.		Increase.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British ...	347	564,563	317	527,360	30	37,203
Foreign ...	911	956,336	827	916,357	84	39,979

These divided between steamships with British registers and steamships with foreign registers stand as follows:—

	12 months ended 31st Dec., 1909.	12 months ended 31st March, 1909.
British	347 or 27·6 per cent.	317 or 27·7 per cent.
Foreign	911 or 72·4 per cent.	827 or 72·3 per cent.
	1,258	1,144

30. Tracing the shipping transactions of the Colony through a period of 40 years, and taking the period at ten year intervals, the figures are as under:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1869	743	223,956	750	216,828
1880	844	398,636	836	398,310
1890	917	538,297	945	536,592
1900	1,187	897,061	1,180	896,450
1909	1,462	1,554,397	1,460	1,574,810

31. Comparative statement showing the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at ports in the Colony of Jamaica for the five years ended 31st March, 1910:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1905–6	1,353	1,397,611	1,354	1,393,837
1906–7	1,475	1,519,287	1,455	1,507,189
1907–8	1,348	1,513,243	1,348	1,511,101
1908–9	1,363	1,482,724	1,372	1,517,779
1909–10	1,462	1,554,397	1,460	1,574,810

Entered.

32. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation entered at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1908–1909 and 1909.

Nationality of Vessels.	1908–1909.						1909.					
	Sailing vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	174	17,053	317	527,360	491	534,413	172	17,640	347	564,563	519	582,203
American	21	4,872	90	115,509	111	120,381	11	2,581	73	91,920	84	94,501
German...	2	1,265	220	469,292	222	470,557	—	—	226	473,642	226	473,642
Norwegian	9	6,643	460	298,744	469	305,387	12	8,502	551	363,320	563	371,822
Italian	5	4,761	—	—	5	4,761	3	2,222	—	—	3	2,222
Dutch	1	98	—	—	1	98	1	98	—	—	1	98
Swedish	1	1,270	—	—	1	1,270	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian	1	950	—	—	1	950	2	2,286	—	—	2	2,286
French	2	1,098	—	—	2	1,098	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	2	250	—	—	2	250	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austrian	1	740	—	—	1	740	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuban	—	—	53	30,262	53	30,262	—	—	54	24,276	54	24,276
Dominican	—	—	1	217	1	217	—	—	—	—	—	—
State of Panama ...	—	—	2	908	2	908	1	80	7	3,178	8	3,258
Haytian	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	89	—	—	2	89
Total ...	219	39,000	1,143	1,442,292	1,362	1,471,292	204	33,498	1,258	1,520,899	1,462	1,554,397

Cleared.

33. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation cleared at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1908–1909 and 1909.

Nationality of Vessels.	1908–1909.						1909.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	173	18,398	316	528,086	489	546,484	164	17,177	344	562,515	508	579,692
American	25	7,622	88	113,746	113	121,368	14	3,663	77	94,610	91	98,273
German...	2	1,265	224	473,058	256	474,323	1	1,009	225	475,456	226	476,465
Norwegian	11	8,469	464	325,981	475	334,450	13	9,093	547	375,190	560	384,283
Italian	5	4,761	—	—	5	4,761	5	4,733	—	—	5	4,733
Dutch	1	98	—	—	1	98	1	98	—	—	1	98
Cuban	—	—	52	29,421	52	29,421	—	—	53	23,435	53	23,435
Swedish	1	1,270	—	—	1	1,270	—	—	—	—	—	—
State of Panama ...	—	—	2	908	2	908	1	80	8	3,632	9	3,712
Russian...	1	954	—	—	1	954	3	3,259	—	—	3	3,259
Danish	2	250	—	—	2	250	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican	—	—	1	217	1	217	—	—	—	—	—	—
French	2	1,098	—	—	2	1,098	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austrian	1	743	—	—	1	743	1	743	—	—	1	743
Haytian	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	117	—	—	3	117
Total	224	44,928	1,147	1,471,416	1,421	1,516,365	206	39,972	1,254	1,534,838	1,460	1,574,810

III.—LEGISLATION.

34. Forty-two Laws were passed in the Session of 1909, of which four were passed and assented to before the 1st of April. The more important were:—

Law 1. To enable Contagious Diseases amongst animals already in the Island to be dealt with.

Laws 2 and 41. Amending the Tariff Law.

Law 2 exempts from duty (1) cement conforming to a standard approved by the Governor in Privy Council; (2) steel bars, &c., specially manufactured for reinforcing concrete in building work; (3) wrought iron and steel work specially manufactured for framed buildings; and (4) artificial limbs, &c., for the relief of bodily disablement.

Law 41 reduces the duty on "oils, petroleum, and its products" from 7*d*. to 4*d*. a gallon.

Law 3. Amends the Institute of Jamaica Law by placing the Institute under more popular control.

Law 4. This law makes an important amendment in the laws relating to prædial larceny. It empowers the police or other persons specially authorised to arrest persons found in possession of certain articles of agricultural produce under such circumstances as cause reasonable suspicion that such article has been stolen or has been received knowing the same to have been stolen, and to take such person before a Justice of the Peace or Clerk of the Courts. If such Justice of the Peace or Clerk of the Courts after enquiry is of opinion that there is reasonable ground for suspicion and that such suspected person does not give a satisfactory account of his possession of such article, he may commit such person for trial by the Resident Magistrate. On the trial before a Resident Magistrate the burden of proving that the suspected person became honestly possessed of any such article is placed upon such suspected person.

Law 9. Supersedes the Board of Agriculture and transfers its rights and powers under the Law to provide for the establishment and maintenance of the Sugar Experiment Station to a Committee of Management of the Sugar Experiment Station, consisting of such number of persons not exceeding five as may be nominated by the Government.

Law 12. Further regulates appeals from the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Supreme Court of Jamaica.

Law 13. Extends the Jamaica Rum Protection Law, 1904, for five years.

Law 14. Provides that sentences of death shall not be pronounced or recorded against a child or young person.

Law 15. Extends the provision for the protection of animals in Jamaica.

Law 18. Is a law in aid of the Public Health Law, 1867, empowering Local Boards of Health to require the provision of a sufficient latrine in the case of a house without it.

Law 21. Grants power to the Direct West India Cable Company to establish a wireless telegraphic installation for communication between ships and the shore in Jamaica.

Law 23. Transfers the control of the working of the Registration Law, 1881, and the Marriage Law, 1897, in so far as the Cayman Islands are concerned from the Registrar-General of Jamaica to the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands.

Law 24. Is a law to prevent the embarkation of persons showing symptoms of plague or cholera.

Law 26. Allows the name of the father of the child of a single woman to be entered by the Registrar under the Registration Laws in certain circumstances.

Law 27. Is entitled the Probation of Offenders Law, and is on the lines of the similar Act of the United Kingdom.

Law 28. Deals with Amendments to the Registration of Voters Law.

Law 32. Is "The Earthquake Annuities Law," whereby the payment to certain widows, orphans, and other necessitous persons deprived of support by the Earthquake of the 14th of January, 1907, is transferred from the Government to the Loan Board created by the Earthquake Loans Administration Law.

The amount required for this payment, which has been transferred by the Assistance Committee to the Government, is in turn transferred to the Loan Board under this Law.

Law 34. Provides for the legitimation of any child born before the marriage of his parents, whose parents have intermarried or shall hereafter intermarry, if at the time of the birth of such child there existed no legal impediment to the intermarriage of the parents.

Law 35. Provides for the detention of offenders in institutions other than prisons (*i.e.*, in "Prison Farms" or other Institutions analogous to the Borstal Institution).

Laws 36 and 42. Provide for the duties of the Resident Magistrate for the Parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, in so far as such duties relate to civil jurisdiction, being discharged by a Judge to be known in future as the Judge of the Kingston Court, and the latter Law makes the necessary amendment in the Judicature Law of 1879, enacting that the full Court of the Supreme Court shall be constituted of the two Judges of the Court and the Judge of the Kingston Court, and that the Judge of the Kingston Court shall while sitting in the full Court have all rights and powers, and not otherwise, of the Judge of the Supreme Court.

Law 38. Provides for the reduction of Stamp duties. The duties on conveyances and leases are reduced by one-half, and other reductions are made under mortgages, policies, and bills of lading. This Law extends from the 18th of July, 1909, to the 30th of June, 1910.

Law 39. Makes certain amendments in the Quarantine Law of 1893, by which, generally, additional powers are granted to the Quarantine Board.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

35. The Superintending Inspector of Schools furnishes the following statistics:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books for Year ended 31st October, 1909.	Average attendance for year ended 31st October, 1909.	Percentage on Average attendance of number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
					£
1909–10 ...	693	89,902	57,849	64·34	48,340
1908–09 ...	690	85,470	54,555	62·32	48,699

36. Last year's report showed a considerable decrease in the number of scholars on the books owing to drought and other causes of poverty which had prevailed in the Island. The percentage of the number on the books in average attendance had, however, improved from 60·55 to 62·32. This year, there has been something more than a complete recovery: the number on the books exceeds by 1,040 the number of two years ago, and by 4,432 the number of last year; the average attendance exceeds by 4,158 the total of two years ago and by 4,588 the total of last year, and the percentage of average attendance is further improved to 64·34. The average attendance is the highest in the last 10 years. The number of first-class schools increased from 177 to 192, a number which has never been exceeded except in the one year, 1901.

37. The increase in the attendance shown by the monthly returns has necessitated the addition of £3,700 to the provision for grants for elementary schools during the current year. Notwithstanding the reduction in attendance which the floods of November, 1909, entailed, principally in the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary, the monthly returns of the schools since October, 1909, indicate a further advance, the continuance of which will involve a further substantial addition to the Estimates for next year apart from the cost of any improvements or changes in the rates of payments to teachers which may be found practical.

38. A new Government school was built during the year at Chetolah Park on the outskirts of Kingston.

39. The number of school gardens recognised by the Department and receiving a grant increased during the year from 339 to 361 and the amount expended in grants on account of such gardens from £414 10*s*. 6*d*. to £519 5*s*. 7*d*.

40. The teaching of advanced manual training has been continued at the centres at which it has previously been held and a new centre was opened at Brown's Town. There is a decrease in the amounts of grants for this study, which is not satisfactory.

41. The Montego Bay Government Secondary School has fairly maintained its numbers and the efficiency of its work. Provision was voted by the Legislative Council in the recent session for the transfer of this school to a more suitable locality and for the erection of new buildings.

42. During the course of the year, Mr. Thomas Capper, who had for over 29 years occupied the position of Superintending Inspector of Schools retired from the public service. Mr. Capper had rendered signal assistance to the cause of education in Jamaica, and had maintained and advanced the efficiency of his Department in periods of great difficulty owing to financial stress, in the course of which the natural and necessary advance of elementary education in the Island was more than once seriously imperilled by the economies which it was deemed necessary for the Government to adopt. Mr. Capper has been succeeded as Superintending Inspector of Schools by Mr. Rowland Williams, for many years an Inspector of the Department.

43. The enforcement of compulsory school attendance in certain towns which had been approved was unavoidably deferred pending legislation for the creation of local school boards and their investment with necessary authority.

44. The Board of Education has for a long time past had under consideration the question of altering the system of assessing school grants and improving the position of teachers. A scheme was adopted late in the year and has subsequently been approved by the Legislative Council making better provision for the payment of deserving teachers and for the staffing of schools. The Legislature in its last session also approved of an increase in the appliance grant from 3*d*. per unit of average attendance to 6*d*., also a special appliance grant for the current year to bring into line some specially needy schools which the ordinary appliance grant will not suffice to bring up to a proper standard, especially in regard to school furniture and fittings.

Provision has also been made—

(*a*) for removing some difficulties which arise in the staffing of schools when the attendance suddenly increases so that the staff provided on the previous year's average is unable to deal with it effectively; also,

(*b*) for schools which have failed, and need something more than the reduced grant which the code allows them to enable them to remove the causes of failure (generally inefficient teaching) and recover themselves, and

(*c*) for some schools, especially in backward districts, which the opportunity of employing a good teacher may reclaim and which cannot possibly secure such a teacher without temporary supplement to the grant they earn.

45. Provision has also been made for the establishing of a technical school in Kingston, where more advanced work than that of the present manual training school can be undertaken, for the training of youths before and after they leave school, in

handicrafts and, particularly at the outset, in woodwork, affording similar opportunities for adults also in evening classes.

It is contemplated that this will establish the nucleus of a continuation school in which other departments may be gradually developed, such as classes for the instruction of girls in laundry and cookery and domestic work.

46. The old Mico premises having now been vacated by the financial departments, the infant school, which affords opportunity for the attendance of teachers in kindergarten work, is about to be resuscitated.

47. Arrangements have been made for amending the regulations for the £10 scholarships, which have been found ineffective, their amount being insufficient to meet the needs of those who have to board in towns and have no other resources, and their short duration (two years) being insufficient to provide for more than a beginning with secondary education or apprenticeship.

It is proposed to reduce the number of these scholarships from 28 to 16 and to increase the annual value of each from £10 to £17 10*s*., and to provide for the extension of a certain proportion of these scholarships from two to four years in meritorious cases.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

48. The following particulars may be recorded with regard to the operations of certain institutions:—

(*a*) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Indoor patients treated, 3,696; outdoor patients, including paupers, 6,749; prescriptions made up, 14,089; surgical operations, 1,329; minor surgical operations, 840; daily average number of beds, 188; total cost of maintenance, £2,950 8*s*. 4*d*.

The Edward Ward was repaired and a new rolled-iron ceiling installed.

The kitchen was screened with gauze-wire and rendered fly-proof.

New out-patient rooms, dispensary, stores, and laboratory were in course of completion.

The Rietti Ward for sick poor was completed.

An incinerator for waste material was erected, and other minor improvements carried out.

(*b*) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital.*

Number of patients admitted, 650; 8 pupil nurses admitted for training (7 passed and received certificates); average daily number of beds, 19; receipts, £361 1*s*. 9*d*.; expenditure, £1,256 2*s*. 5*d*.

(*c*) *Lunatic Asylum.*

Number of patients on 31st March, 1910, 1,081, an increase of 28 since beginning of year. Total number of patients under treatment during year, 1,317. Daily average resident, 1,081;

rate of recovery, 37·27 per cent.; admissions, 262; discharges, 97; deaths, 133; death-rate, 12·2 per cent. There was an outbreak of malarial fever after flood rains of October and November, in consequence of which a careful examination was made of the adjacent grounds and all necessary sanitary improvements carried out.

There were two suicides by hanging and one death from injuries inflicted by one patient on another.

The restoration of buildings destroyed by the earthquake was proceeded with and new quarters were provided for private patients.

(*d*) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1909		113
Admitted		13
		126
Discharged	1	
Absconded	6	
Died	16	
	—	23
On 31st March, 1910		103

The buildings and grounds were kept in good order.

The farm was in good cultivation and supplied the institution with vegetables.

The admissions were 50 per cent. below those of the previous year.

The death-rate was the average.

The average longevity of leper life, according to the experience of the institution, works out at 30 years for anæsthetic and 10 years for tubercular cases.

49. The accounts of the Government Savings Bank for the year disclose that in the country parishes as a whole (Kingston not being included) there has been a slight increase in the amounts of deposits and a considerable decrease of withdrawals which, in the manager's opinion, are indications of the recovery from the effects of the drought of the previous year. The synopsis of deposits shows an increase of 788 accounts of £5 and under, as compared with the year preceding; but the net decrease in the bank's liabilities at the close of the year amounting to £26,593 would appear to indicate that the larger depositors are investing their money in profitable local undertakings which yield a better return than the 2½ per cent. interest allowed by the Government and also in the savings bank branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia where they receive interest at the rate of 3 per cent. Deposits have also been withdrawn for building purposes.

The balance sheet of the institution on the 31st March, 1910, shows a liability to depositors of £363,796, the full amount of which was covered by investments in British and Colonial securities at that date.

50. The Registrar of Titles to Land reports that the increase of work that took place during the two preceding years has been more than maintained during the past year.

A great impetus was given to the adoption of the system of title by registration, through the volume of conveyancing and mortgaging business that resulted from the earthquake of 1907, and the advantages of this system appear to have now become so generally recognised that it is being increasingly resorted to as occasions for the transfer of property arise.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

51. The judicial statistics for the year show for the most part a continued absence of serious crime. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 3,702, and to lock-ups for short terms 1,258, making a total of 4,960 as compared with 6,370 in the previous year, a diminution of 1,410, or about 22 per cent.

The re-convictions during the year amounted to 1,470, of which 474 were second convictions, 323 third, and 668 fourth and upwards—a large proportion of habitual offenders. During 1908-9 the re-convictions numbered 1,829.

52. The daily average of prisoners in custody in the penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 1,193 as compared with 1,519 during the previous year. There were 39 deaths in the prisons as compared with 58 during 1908-9. There were two executions of capital punishment for murder, one of a Creole who murdered a young woman out of jealousy, the other of an Indian immigrant.

53. I have from time to time made close enquiry into the particulars of the offences for which any prisoners are serving long terms, with a view to remitting sentences when this might appear advisable. With the exception of the following:—

	Cases.
Arson	1
Murder (commuted)	1
,, (infanticide)	5
Wounding, with intent to murder or to do grievous bodily harm	4
Burglary	5
Cattle stealing and receiving	1

there are practically no prisoners in custody with sentences of 5 years or more, except habitual criminals of apparently irredeemable character and incorrigibly bad prison conduct.

54. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £15,722 and for the St. Catherine District Prison £6,275, total £22,047. The gross earnings in cash of the General Penitentiary were £3,899 and of the St. Catherine District Prison £938. The yield of the St. Catherine District Prison farm was impaired during the year by the heavy rains of

November, 1909, being valued only at £1,077 as compared with £1,564 the previous year.

55. There was a considerable diminution of the number of cases of prædial larceny dealt with, owing to the improved economic conditions generally prevailing throughout the Island, but the November storms markedly checked the improvement that was taking place. The convictions for this class of offence were 1,303 as compared with 2,510 in the previous year, and 2,542 in the year preceding.

56. The number of convictions for offences against property other than prædial larceny was 1,282 as compared with 1,886. The total number of persons punished in the Resident Magistrates' Courts by fines, imprisonment, or otherwise was 5,514 against 8,038 in the previous year, including 276 persons dealt with under the probation of First Offenders Law, 1889. The summary convictions in petty sessions (mostly for offences entirely trivial) were 12,419 against 12,637. Offences of this order do not decrease in number as prosperity increases, but rather show a contrary tendency.

POLICE.

57. The constabulary force was 19 units below strength at the close of the year. At the close of the year 1906-7 it was 58 units below strength. The deficiency has been in steady course of reparation during the last three years, and the recent efforts to improve the conditions of service in the force have now resulted in bringing it almost completely up to the proper strength. 172 men were enlisted during the course of the year, 85 sub-officers and men were discharged, 36 dismissed, 31 resigned, and 13 died.

58. The records of the operations of the constabulary show a continual and increased activity on the part of the force in maintaining law and order. Special and effectual attention has been paid to the enforcing of the law against cruelty to animals, furious and careless driving, and the adulteration of food and drugs.

59. Considerable expenditure was incurred during the year on the improvement of constabulary stations, and the Government continues to pursue this policy in the interests of the health, efficiency, and contentment of the men. The police band, initiated in 1897, has increased in numbers and musical skill and obtains frequent engagements to play on public occasions.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

60. Estimated population of the Island, 31st March, 1910, 862,422 (males 421,056, females 441,366).

These figures are arrived at by adding the recorded increase and deducting the recorded decrease of population since the enumeration made in the census of 1891.

61. Emigrated during the year, 19,672. Immigrated during the year, 16,680.

The above figures include labourers leaving and arriving at the Port of Kingston as follows:—

Departures	13,579
Arrivals	7,998

These arrivals and departures were chiefly to and from Colon, Cuba, and Costa Rica.

62. *Marriages.*

Marriages.	1909–10.	1908–9.	1907–8.	1906–7.
Number	3,543	3,116	6,251	5,507
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	4·1	4·1	7·4	6·6

The marriage rate per 1,000 is the same as in the previous year, and is the average prevailing during the five years preceding the earthquake of 14th January, 1907. The abnormal rates of 1907-8 and 1906-7 were due (as stated in last year's report) to the emotional effects of that calamity.

63. The effect of the same incident on the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births would appear to be also waning, as the percentage of illegitimate births amounts this year to 62·00, against 60·59 in 1908-9, and is approaching the average rate of 63·5 which has prevailed during the past ten years. The total births registered numbered 32,402 (16,359 males and 16,043 females) against 31,785 in the previous year. Birth-rate 37·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population against 37·6 in the previous year.

64. Deaths registered: 18,636; 9,202 males and 9,434 females. Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 21·7, the lowest since 1902-3, when the rate was 19·8. In 1908-9 the rate was 22·4, and the average of the past ten years 23·3.

65. It is interesting to note that as shown by the following table the birth-rate of Jamaica is the highest of the Colonies named, while the death-rate is lower than that of Barbados, Trinidad, Antigua, and British Guiana:—

Colony.	Year.	Persons married.	Births.	Deaths.	Illegitimate Births.
		Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 1,000 of population.	Rate per 100 Births.
Bermuda	1907	—	33·7	18·7	1·84
Barbados	1908	9·9	36·5	29·0	56·7
St. Vincent ...	1908–09	7·79	33·80	18·34	56·58
Grenada	1909	—	34·76	18·82	51·4
Trinidad	1908–09	7·9	33·9	23·0	68·1
St. Lucia	1909	—	30·9	17·5	55·1
Antigua	1909	—	32·55	27·38	72·90
British Guiana ...	1908	—	27·3	30·8	59·2
Jamaica	1909–1.	8·2	37·8	21·7	62·0

66. Of the parishes, Kingston, 32·0 per 1,000, and St. Andrew, 29·0 per 1,000, ostensibly have the highest death-rates, while Manchester, 15·2, and St. Ann, 15·9 per 1,000, have the lowest. The Registrar-General states, however, that the rate is calculated on the population figures of the 1891 census plus the increase of births over deaths only, and it may therefore be confidently asserted that the rates of Kingston and St. Andrew are much lower than those reported, as no account has been taken of very considerable migration which continuously flows into these parishes from other parts of the Island. The ostensible death-rates in these two parishes have been steadily decreasing in the past few years, and St. Andrew has now reverted to the rate (29·1) prevailing in the year before the earthquake (1905-6). It is to be hoped that, in view of the increasing attention now being paid to sanitary conditions the ostensible death-rate in Kingston will also before long not only revert to, but improve on, the rate of 28·0 per 1,000 which was reported in 1905-6.

67. Infantile mortality was accountable for 8,152 deaths (43·7 per cent.) during the year. These figures represent deaths of children under 5 years of age, and of this number 5,657 (or 30·4 per cent. of the total deaths) were those of children under one year. This is 17·4 per cent. of the number of births recorded for the year.

68. The total number of deaths registered in the year was 18,636: causes of death are stated in 12,600 cases, about 67·6 per cent., 6,036 are returned as due to ill-defined or not specified causes, about 32·4 per cent. Thus in only about two out of three cases is any definite account received of the cause of death. There were medical certificates of the cause of death in 4,134 cases, and coroners' certificates in 219; total 4,353 out of 18,636, a little over 23·3 per cent. of the whole. In other cases the cause of death is stated on the authority of the registrar after such enquiries as he has thought it necessary to make. Whilst, however, more than three out of four of the deaths recorded are not medically certified, it is not necessary to infer that so large a proportion of these died without medical attendance. In a great number of cases a doctor is called in once or oftener during the illness but is not applied to for a certificate of the cause of death.

69. I subjoin a table showing the number of deaths in which the causes were defined or not defined in the several parishes, with the percentages of undefined cases:—

—	Causes specified.	Causes ill-defined or unspecified.	Total.	Percentage undefined.
Kingston and Port Royal.	1,399	374	1,773	21·1
Portland	787	254	1,041	24·4
St. Andrew	957	357	1,314	27·1
Hanover	577	238	815	29·2
St. Thomas	690	290	980	29·5
St. Ann	884	384	1,268	30·2
St. Catherine	1,556	721	2,277	31·7

—	Causes specified.	Causes ill-defined or unspecified.	Total.	Percentage undefined.
Westmoreland ...	906	437	1,343	32·5
St. James	554	286	840	34·3
St. Mary	951	500	1,451	34·4
Trelawny	488	297	785	37·8
St. Elizabeth	970	603	1,573	38·3
Clarendon	1,145	782	1,927	40·5
Manchester	736	513	1,249	41·0
Totals ...	12,600	6,036	18,636	Average 32·4

The percentages of deaths from causes unspecified range from 21·4 per cent. in Kingston to 41 per cent. in Manchester.

The variation of the figures is to some extent, though not obviously in all cases, explicable by the different character of the settlement of population in the several parishes.

These figures must be borne in mind in surveying the apparent prevalence of various diseases in different parishes.

70. The following table shows the relative prevalence of the causes of death most frequently recorded:—

Cause of Death as returned.	Kingston.	Other Parishes.	Total.	Case medically testified.
Infantile Diseases—				
Premature Birth, &c. ...	64	208	272	29
Teething, &c.	27	160	187	16
Convulsions	43	1,716	1,759	34
	134	2,084	2,218	
Malarial and Kindred Fevers—				
Malarial Fever	113	423	536	437
Malarial Poisoning	10	20	30	29
Fever (Undistinguished) ...	56	5	3,201	28
	179	448	3,767	
Enteric Fever	88	156	244	205
"Infective Enteritis"	6	4	10	10
Diarrhœa and Choleraic Diarrhœa	76	585	661	211
Dysentery	22	137	159	54
Enteritis and Gastro-Enteritis (not epidemic).	88	96	184	174
Phthisis	116	979	1,095	256
Tubercular Phthisis	47	90	137	137
Pneumonia	51	126	177	155
Bronchitis	32	178	210	56
Asthma	—	119	119	6
Bright's Disease	62	181	243	219
Venereal	22	130	152	138
Parasitic Disease	10	124	134	55
Ulcers	1	184	194	34

71. The highest number of deaths attributed to any one specified cause is 1,759, returned under "Convulsions," presumably almost entirely deaths of infants.

72. The list is headed by "Fever, *undistinguished*," 3,201 cases, and it will be observed that of these, only 56 are returned from Kingston. This indicates the much greater accuracy of the Kingston returns, compared with those from other parishes, a circumstance which was to be expected. With regard to the Kingston returns, it will be observed that as 691 of the deaths were of infants under nine years and 545 of infants under one year, the total number of 347 returned as from ill-defined or unspecified causes may probably be regarded as very largely accounted for by mortality of infants. The same commentary may also be applied, with somewhat less confidence, to the whole of the Island, the deaths of infants under nine years being 8,152 and of infants under one year of age 5,167, whereas the total number of deaths from unspecified causes was only 6,036.

73. "Fever, undistinguished," may probably be safely taken as for the most part malarial fever varying to typho-malarial or enteric affections. From malarial fever so defined, only 536 deaths were reported, and of these 113 are attributed to Kingston. The manifest excess of this proportion confirms the view that a great many of the deaths from "undefined fever" reported elsewhere were probably cases of malarial fever.

It may safely be assumed that the average of deaths from this cause was as high in the Island generally as in Kingston, which has less than one-fifteenth of the whole population. At this rate the deaths from malarial fever in the rest of the Island might be estimated at 1,700, or for the whole of the Island, including Kingston, not less than 1,800.

74. The next most important group is that of 1,232 deaths from phthisis and tubercular phthisis, of which 153 cases are returned from Kingston—a very high proportion, indicating the occupation of close and unsanitary dwellings in the city.

75. Enteric fever is credited with 244 deaths throughout the Island, of which 88 are recorded in Kingston. There can be no question that this fever is prevalent in Kingston in a higher proportion than in almost any other part of the Island, and that this is due, not to any defect in the water supply, but to the transmission of infection by flies and possibly, to a certain extent, by milk. The City Council, the Kingston General Commissioners, and the Government are co-operating in the endeavour to neutralise the conditions which foster this disease in Kingston. In addition to the returns of enteric fever, 10 deaths are reported from epidemic diarrhœa and 661 from choleraic diarrhœa and 159 from dysentery. I should suspect that the distinction between many of these cases and those formally returned as enteric fever was not very reliable, so far as the country returns are concerned.

76. 184 deaths (88 in Kingston) are reported as due to enteritis and to gastro-enteritis not epidemic.

77. Deaths from pneumonia are reported as 177, of which 51 were in Kingston: from bronchitis 110 of which 32 were in Kingston: from Bright's disease 243, of which 62 were in Kingston. The other predominant causes of death are venereal

disease 152, parasitism 134, probably very much understated as parasitic infection and anæmia are frequently associated with deaths reported as fever, chronic rheumatism 139, asthma 119.

78. Some inference as to the prevalence of malarial fever in the Island may be gathered from the following figures:—

There were admitted into the Public General Hospitals of the Island outside of Kingston during the year 968 cases returned as malarial fever, 4,971 returned as intermittent fever (which is the same thing) and 393 returned as remittent fever; total 6,332, (out of a grand total of 19,577 admissions).

There were 48 deaths from these three varieties of malarial fever, that is to say 1 in 132 cases. In the Registrar-General's returns 113 deaths in Kingston are attributed to malarial fever and, as I have pointed out, it may be inferred that there were at least 1,800 deaths from the same cause, in the whole Island, and I should not think this an excessive estimate. If the ratio of deaths to cases is as low outside the hospitals as in the cases which come into hospital (and as a rule Creoles do not go into hospital for malaria), it would be presumable that there had been about 237,600 several cases of malarial affection throughout the Island in the course of the year.

This estimate would probably be excessive, as the majority of hospital fever cases are those of coolies who suffer more frequently from fever, before they are acclimatised, than Creoles: but in any case the number of deaths reported indicates an enormous prevalence of this debilitating but not generally fatal disease. The Island community is not as yet by any means sufficiently awake to the importance of co-operating with the efforts which the Government is now making through the Malarial Commission and the Parochial Boards to abate this very manageable evil.

79. The hospital returns also indicate a considerable prevalence of rheumatism, 898 cases having been treated in the hospitals with, however, only one death. 228 cases of pneumonia are reported, 129 cases of enteric fever were admitted to hospital with 32 deaths, 1,463 cases of other diseases of the digestive system with 60 deaths, 2,242 cases of skin diseases with 4 deaths, 1,274 cases of local injuries with 16 deaths, 665 venereal cases. 932 persons were returned as admitted to hospital suffering from "no disease."

80. The Superintending Medical Officer reports 22,786 cases of successful vaccination in the year, 653 unsuccessful; 461 vaccinated did not report. The Medical Reports represent that whilst the infant population is vaccinated with a fair degree of thoroughness, re-vaccination is practically unknown and the adult population almost entirely unprotected by vaccination. The Superintending Medical Officer urges that steps should be taken to remedy this by the enforcement of re-vaccination. This suggestion is beyond the scope of practical politics, and in view of the long immunity from small-pox in this Island, notwithstanding the alleged unprotectedness of the community, and of the steady abatement of the diseases in surrounding countries, the argument might appear to tend rather to suggest that we are spending a large amount of money in infant vaccination against small-

pox, which is practically thrown away and which might, with more immediate advantage to the health of our population, go towards the abatement of the causes of malarial and other fevers, including typhoid, which do in fact continually impose a heavy drain upon the strength and life of the population. I am inclined to think that if, for instance, the money now devoted to infant vaccination were steadily applied for a few years to the isolation and treatment of all cases of yaws and syphilis, the effect on the vitality of the population would be very much more valuable.

81. The disease known as "vomiting sickness," which breaks out in certain districts in the cold months of the year, continues to be a subject of regrettable perplexity to the medical profession.

620 deaths are attributed to what the Superintending Medical Officer calls "the combination of diseases known popularly as vomiting sickness," and he expresses the opinion that many of these cases may be, indeed undoubtedly are, due to ackee poisoning, cassava poisoning, worms, meningitis, bronchitis, gastritis, and other more familiar diseases, but there is little doubt that beyond these, there remains an unexplained residue which needs investigation.

82. The reports of the District Medical Officers vary in fulness, and are not all compiled from the same point of view, but the extent to which particular diseases are mentioned in them may be taken as a pretty fair indication of their prevalence and of the importance attached to them by the medical officers. Thirty-nine reports were received, in 32 of which reference is made to Malarial Fever as more or less prevalent, in 14 to Yaws, in 13 to Enteric, in 12 to Venereal diseases, and in 10 to Vomiting Sickness. I think these five diseases (all of which can be prevented or abated by hygienic precautions) may fairly be taken as those which are most troublesome in this community although there is an immense amount of constitutional derangement owing to indigestion, and a considerable prevalence of phthisis and pneumonia.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

83. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1909-10 with those of previous years:—

—	1909-10.	1908-09.	1907-08.
	£	£	£
Postages	33,362	32,505	32,465
Commission on money orders ...	425	459	638
Local commission on British postal orders.	212	195	176
Commission on local postal orders ...	777	742	734
Miscellaneous	865	673	764
Telegraphs	6,769	6,221	6,489
Total	42,410	40,795	41,266

These statistics show an increase of £1,615 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases of £857 and £549 in postage and telegraph collections and of £245 on commissions on postal orders (British and local respectively) and on miscellaneous. The only decrease has been a small one of £35 on commissions on money orders.

84. The expenditure of the year by the Department amounted to £36,964, as against £34,232 in 1908-9, an increase of £2,732, due to continued expansion in the work of the Department, an improvement in the pay of some subordinate officers and improved facilities afforded the public, among which may be mentioned the opening during the year of four new District Post Offices and the erection in Kingston and the suburban area of five collecting boxes. House to house delivery in that area is now made by carriers on bicycles.

85. The progress of the Department is illustrated by the following figures:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
1899–1900	26,926	37,571	10,645	—
1909–1910	42,409	36,964	—	5,445

In the decennial interval the system of Imperial penny letter postage has been extended to the Colony and numerous District Post Offices have been established, &c.

The great increase in mail matter now handled, has led to an increase in revenue which enables the Department to be worked at a gain instead of a loss.

86. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were:—

—	At General Post Office.		
	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
Outwards	3,386,299	3,839,542	4,458,220
Inwards	3,726,957	4,579,495	5,707,807
Total	7,113,256	8,419,037	10,166,027
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	1,523,746	1,550,372	2,054,066
Grand Total ...	8,637,002	9,969,409	12,220,093
Telegrams sent and received ...	109,115	103,471	112,515

87. The Postmaster for Jamaica estimates the expenditure on telegraphs, which is no longer shown separately from that on

Post Offices, as verging on £8,000, while the receipts from telegrams sent amounted to £6,769 in the year under review, so that the gain in revenue over expenditure in 1909-10 of £5,445 previously mentioned was made notwithstanding a loss of about £1,200 on the telegraph branch of the Department. In my report for 1908-9 I referred to the very large growth of postal business during the decade as illustrated by increase in receipts for postages from £21,438 to £32,210 or by a percentage of 50¼, whilst the percentage increase in telegraph business had been less than 2 per cent.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

88. The year under review was one of considerable activity for the Public Works Department, the total expenditure by which was £173,544 5*s.* 6*d.*, made up as follows:—

ESTABLISHMENT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries and other charges ...				14,975	6	5
Works under Public Works Votes and Loan Laws:						
Part 1. Main Roads and Bridges Maintenance ...	92,920	10	0			
Part 2. Main Roads and Bridges —New Works ...	15,023	15	11			
				107,944	5	11
Part 3. Public Buildings and Telegraph Maintenance				9,977	14	11
Part 4. Public Buildings—New Works	21,596	2	7			
Part 4. Public Buildings under Law 6 of 1893, 40 of 1894, 27 of 1897 and 9 of 1904 ...	2,307	18	8			
Part 4. Construction or extension of telegraph and telephone lines	542	19	7			
				24,447	0	10
Part 5. Lighthouses				1,304	7	6
Part 6. Rio Cobre Irrigation Works Maintenance				4,880	0	5
Part 7. Spanish Town Water Works				1,370	7	10
Part 7. Works executed for Public Departments, Parochial Boards, &c.				8,645	1	8
				£173,544	5	6

The cost of the Department was equal to 8·6 per cent. of the total expenditure controlled by it.

The Director of Public Works points out that in the year 1900-1 the cost of the staff was equal to 16 per cent. of the total expenditure, and in 1905-6 13·8 per cent., and observes that although the reduction in the proportions of cost may appear gratifying, it was in some degree obtained by severe stress on the staff of the Department, and may not of necessity tend to increase efficiency. He is of opinion that much of the work detailed above could not get the attention it should have had owing to the shortness of staff. It is reasonable to point out, however, that in the years 1900-1 expenditure on public works had been reduced to a minimum owing to the depressed financial state of the Island and that in 1905-6 the greatest possible economy was again being observed on account of the failure of revenue following the hurricane of 1903.

89. On the other hand, the period since the earthquake of 1907 has been marked by an enormous amount of re-constructive work in public buildings, whilst the improved state of the finances has enabled the Government to spend more freely on new main roads and on overtaking arrears of necessary new buildings and repairs which had been postponed year after year during the period of depression. The expenditure of these latter years therefore may be regarded as above the normal.

90. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £41 18*s*. (including £11 15*s*. due to special cost of repairing flood damages). The average cost including special work of improvement was £45 8*s*. 2*d*. per mile.

91. The total expenditure included £24,028 for the restoration of flood damages caused by the extraordinary rains of November, 1909, and the local floods of March, 1910. In addition to this special expenditure, the sum of £7,483 has been provided in the estimates of the current year for further works of repair and protection. It may be of interest to record the following extracts from reports made by the Director of Public Works upon the effects of this exceptional rainfall:—

"The greater part of the Island suffered considerable damage to main roads and bridges. The parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth suffered the least. Extensive damages occurred in St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary, also in Clarendon and St. Catherine. The damages to roads and bridges have been estimated at about three times as great as the floods occasioned in June, 1904, which cost £7,432 to restore damages. In St. Andrew alone the damages in November, 1909, amounted to £6,853. The rainfall at Silver Hill, near Newcastle, from 6th to 11th November was 135 inches. At Radnor, under the Blue Mountain Peak, the rain-gauge registered for the month 125·88 (but overflowed). At Farm Hill Pen in the same neighbourhood from 1st to 16th, 120·87 inches.

"By the end of the financial year the greater portion of the damage was restored. The remaining works of permanently restoring approaches to several bridges had to be deferred together with extensive river protective works which are now proceeding."

Kingston and St. Andrew.

"The road from Kingston to Spanish Town was rendered impassable for wheel traffic for four days owing to the flooding of the Bumper Hall Gully, causing a scour of nine feet in depth: this necessitated the erection of a concrete bridge 30 feet wide.

"The Sandy Gully on the Constant Spring Road deposited large quantities of sand and debris upon the road between the 4th and 5th mile posts; at the same time the road surface and water tables were much scoured out.

"For about a week the Windward Road was impassable, principally owing to the flooding of the river and gullies. Every step was taken to quickly restore the damaged parts.

"The Junction Road from Stony Hill was blocked by landslips for several days; retaining walls were carried away. The foot-bridge at Constant Spring near to the 6th mile was destroyed.

"Upon the Gordon Town Road the retaining wall opposite the Waterworks Dam was destroyed, and the road rendered impassable for four days, besides large landslips blocking the road at "Stand Up Hill"; and at the gully near Clarke's stables considerable damage occurred.

"The Newcastle Road was obstructed by numerous extensive landslips, making traffic impossible.

"The new mountain road to Mavis Bank was so badly damaged that, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made, it could not be rendered passable for traffic for four months.

"The bridges did not suffer to any great extent.

St. Thomas.

"The roads generally suffered from the effects of flood rains taking place in August, September, and November, particularly those sections of the Central and Western portions of the parish. The Yallahs River encroached considerably on the Morant Bay Road near Albion. The Johnson River broke through the embankment below the Dam at Red Hill destroying the main road, besides scouring out the Western approach of the Bamboo Pool Bridge. Fordings of rivers badly injured.

"The Plantain Garden River overflowed with consequent damages to the adjoining road and also at the town of Bath.

"The bed of the Yallahs River, at Ramble, was silted up and raised 16 feet so as to be within 18 inches of the underside of the bridge cross girders. The approach to this bridge on the Cedar Valley end was carried away.

"At Seaforth, the Johnson River encroached so as to wash away the stone dam and groin, and destroyed the road thence to York.

"The stone groin at Morant, built some years ago, was washed away by the Johnson River.

"The Negro River encroached on the road at several places between Serge Island and Cedar Valley; numerous landslips occurred.

"The bridges across the Negro River at Sherwood Forest and Brook Lodge were carried away, and that over the White River damaged and buried by the filling up of the river bed.

"The Easington, Morant, and Stanton Roads suffered considerably also from these flood rains.

"Immediate steps were taken to put traffic through.

"On many roads large culverts were substituted, walls built, widening done, groins provided, wooden foot bridges renewed."

Portland.

"The roads of this parish were kept in good order until the occurrence of the November floods, by which those sections west of St. Margaret's Bay were much damaged. The necessary repairs were promptly taken in hand, but before the work of restoration was complete, towards the end of March, further destructive rains fell, so that at the end of the financial year the condition of the roads was not as would be desired.

"These floods also altered the courses of the Swift, Spanish, Buff Bay, and White Rivers, rendering necessary much protective and training work. A portion of the Swift River Road near to the bridge was widened."

St. Mary.

"The roads were kept in good order until November 11th when the floods occurred. Numerous landslips and severe scour of surface of the hill roads resulted.

"Heavy seas damaged a portion of the sea wall along the section of Port Maria to Oracabessa. Unfortunately at the close of the year (in March) the parish was visited by another flood which occasioned further damage.

"Beyond the injury to the north-east wing wall of the Llanrumney Bridge the bridges in the parish did not suffer damage."

Clarendon.

"Most of the roads of this parish suffered considerably from the effects of the November floods, chiefly landslips and scour. At the eastern approach of the Hermitage Bridge, a small breach some 60 feet long occurred. A 12 feet filling was made so as to serve the purpose of a roadway. The protective works above the bridge were for the most part destroyed and the state of the bridge and approaches would be precarious were a similar flood to recur."

St. Catherine.

"The roads throughout this parish were all in good condition up to November 6th, when the floods did immense damage. The northern approach of the Rio Cobre bridge near Spanish Town was scoured out. On the Bog Walk Road the river rose to 22 feet above ordinary water level and 16 feet above the level of the Flat Bridge. This section was severely scoured and a portion of the roadway washed away. Heavy falls of rock occurred in one instance and a mass of 2,000 tons completely blocked the road, necessitating a deviation of the road temporarily and necessitating the building of a long retaining wall. Both approaches to

Harkers Hall and Devil's River Bridges were washed away, necessitating the building of retaining walls. At the close of the year the condition of the roads was for the most part indifferent."

92. The sum of £15,023 was spent on new works on main roads and bridges. These have consisted principally of improvements in the grades of existing roads by deviation, but some of them have been sections of new main roads or improvements to existing roads with a view to extending them and making new main road connections.

Such have been the works done in improving the road leading from Kingston to Mount Charles on the borders of St. Andrew and St. Mary Parishes, with a view to establishing a connection with a main road recently constructed from Richmond Station in St. Mary towards Rock River. Provision has been made on the Estimates of the current year for further improvements on this road between Kingston and Mount Charles and for the construction of a section in St. Mary's Parish from the direction of Richmond Station. When completed, this road, which passes altogether through fertile and settled lands, will give the shortest line of transit between Kingston and the important railway centre of Richmond. Similarly, £3,916 was spent on a new main road starting from an existing main road two miles from Catadupa Station, connecting that road with the station (a fine bridge being made over the Great River) and passing on into the mountains into a fertile district at an elevation of about 2,500 feet, whence it can easily be extended to join the interior main road in Trelawny. Hitherto there has been no access to Catadupa Station except by bridle roads or very rough and steep cart tracks. A road similarly improving access to Cambridge Station was completed during the year.

93. A considerable amount of the work that is now being done and that has still to be done on main roads consists of improving the roads that were made at the charge of Loan Funds about 20 years ago, and which then followed in some instances the lines of old parochial road with very bad grades. The work was done rapidly, the encouragement of new cultivation to take the place of sugar being urgent at the time. The original expenditure has so far well served its purpose in developing settlement and planting, but the roads in many cases can only be brought to their fullest possible utility by improvements of the character now being carried out. The present rule of the Government in laying out new main roads is to limit the grades to a maximum of 1 in 16, and as a rule not to exceed 1 in 20, over which the rapid haulage so necessary to the banana trade can be effected.

Such roads necessarily cost more to construct in the first instance, but the road policy of former Administrations has so far effected its aim of encouraging cultivation and traffic, that the Island can now afford to carry out the construction of main roads under less urgent pressure of economic necessity, although the slower policy of construction, and the determination to make these improvements out of revenue and not by means of borrowing money, naturally causes some impatience in districts not yet sufficiently served by roads.

94. A considerable amount of work arising out of destruction caused by the earthquake was completed during the year. At the lunatic asylum the work of rebuilding the female ranges, including accommodation for paying patients, medical officers' quarters, clerk's offices, store rooms, dispensary, bathrooms, &c., was nearly completed.

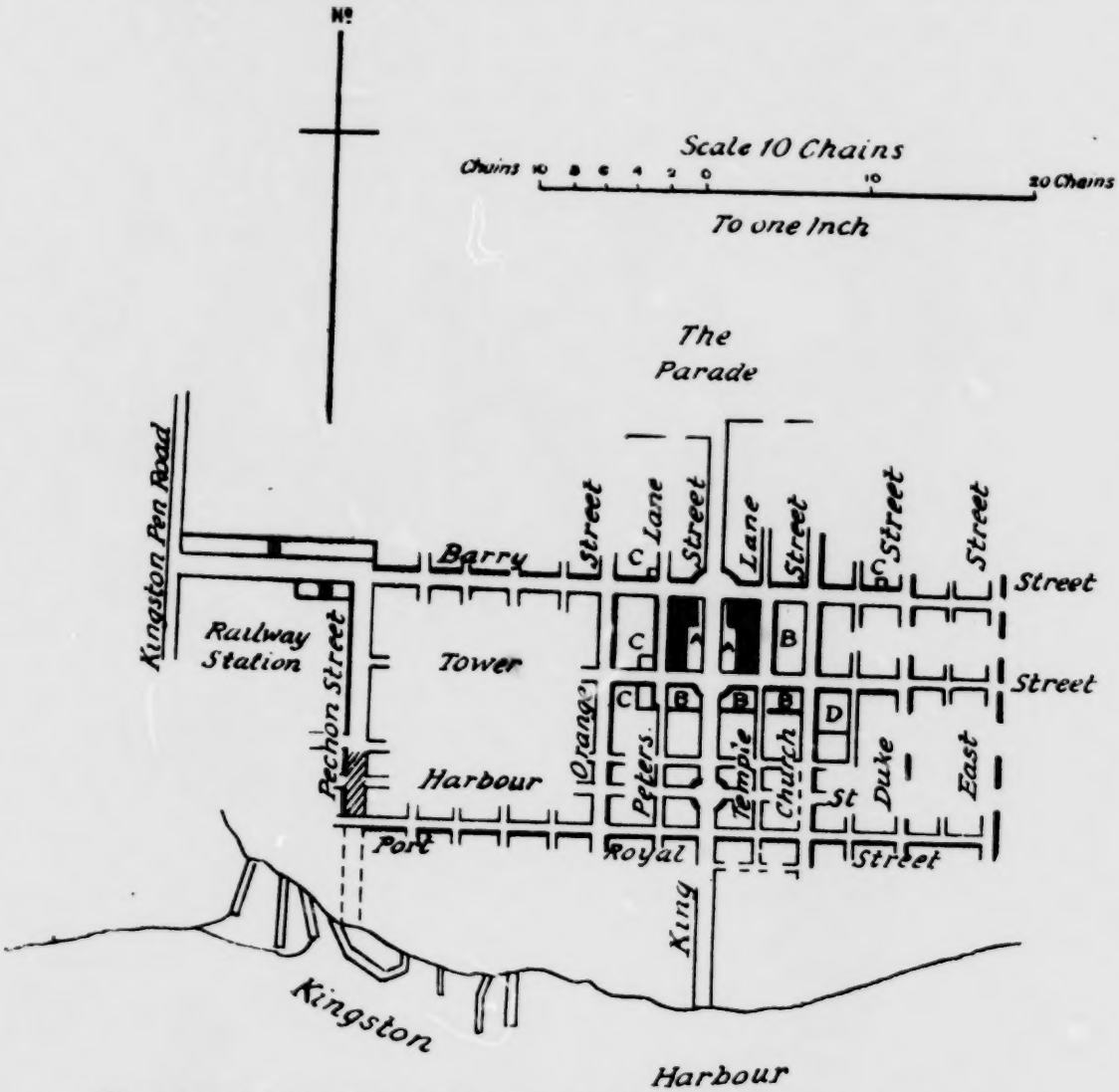
95. At the public hospital all the old buildings at the north-west corner were removed and an entirely new block of two stories erected for the out-patients' department and general offices. A new ward for females, named the Rietti Ward, was nearly completed, the cost having been provided for by a legacy of £2,000 bequeathed by Miss Ann Rietti. Extensive repairs and improvements were carried out in other parts of the hospital premises. The restoration of the Government Printing Office was completed. The work of restoration on the General Penitentiary was proceeded with, leaving but little earthquake damage outstanding. The preparation of a site for the new female prison was completed and a sea wall built. The new Government Rum Stores were completed by the erection of the third warehouse. The total floor area of these stores is about 100,000 square feet, and they are capable of accommodating 4,500 puncheons, exclusive of the space assigned for vats and offices. A new Court House was erected at Stony Hill with accommodation on the lower floor for the police. The old Police Station and Court House, formerly part of the old military barracks, was thus vacated and applied for use as a Girls' Reformatory. The girls, who had hitherto been housed in an enclosure within the adjoining Boys' Reformatory, were removed from this undesirable place of confinement. The erection of new buildings at Sutton Street (Kingston) Police Station was completed and increased accommodation made for cells, kitchens, patrol wagons, and a recreation room. The reconstruction and sanitary improvement of the Police Station at Port Antonio was completed. The reef at the entrance to the harbour of the same port was partially blasted away and the depth of the water was thereby increased from 16 feet to 30 feet. The construction of a reservoir and other improvements of Port Antonio Water Works were completed or continued during the year. A concrete dam, 45 feet high, estimated to impound ten million gallons of water, was built and an additional 6-inch main laid down. Improvements were made on the Spanish Town Water Works by the erection of a high service tower and two hydraulic rams.

96. The Department put forth exceptional efforts to restore communication by road, post, and telegraph after the floods of November, 1909, and succeeded in a creditably short time in removing obstructions to traffic.

Lighthouses.

97. The lighthouses were maintained in a good state of repair and the services efficiently carried out. At Plumb Point general repairs and painting were done. The new incandescent oil vapour lamps (recently installed) continued to give satisfaction.

PLAN (referred to in paragraph 100) showing lines of town improvement in the City of Kingston, and position of new Public Buildings and Gardens.



Plan of part of the City of Kingston showing the improvements that have been effected.

Barry Street widened to 50 feet and reconstructed from Kingston Pen Road to Duke Street, and planted with trees.

Tower Street widened to 50 feet and reconstructed from Orange Street to Duke Stre-t, and planted with trees.

Peters Lane widened to 50 feet and reconstructed from Barry Street to Tower Street, and planted with trees.

Port Royal Street reconstructed to original width of 40 feet for its entire length.

Pechon Street continued to join Port Royal Street, and reconstructed (to be extended to the wharves on the sea front, and planted with trees).

AA Public buildings erected and in course of erection.

BBBB Gardens that have been laid out.

CCCC Surplus lands for sale.

D Site for City Council and Kingston General Commissioners Offices.

(1) Pechon Street, Orange Street, Church Street, Duke Street, and East Street improved by the removal of encroachments on side walks.

(2) Lines of improved streets shown by heavy margin.

(3) Corners of junction of King Street and Harbour Street enlarged by rounding off.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works.

98. The canals and works were maintained in good order until at the time and after the November floods when the large 36-inch iron syphon at "Jones Dam" was washed out and partly destroyed and the retaining wall at the head works was carried away by the flood in the Rio Cobre resulting in the cutting of the main canal. To restore these damages entailed a large expenditure.

Of the total expenditure £2,911 12*s.* 1*d.*, was due to flood damages expended during that year. The expenditure upon ordinary maintenance was £1,968 8*s.* 4*d.*

The earnings for the year amounted to £9,931 7*s.* 1*d.*, and the collections £9,893 8*s.* 3*d.* The earnings were £359 4*s.* 5*d.* less than the preceding year and the collections £254 19*s.* 2*d.* less than the previous year. The falling off of revenue for the year is due to rebates allowed on charges to consumers in the area north and east of the Rio Cobre River which were cut off on account of the damage to syphon across the river by the floods until February 12th, 1910.

The Rio Cobre rose to an abnormal height—the greatest depth recorded over the dam being 12 feet 9 inches, which is the highest on record, with an estimated discharge of 8¼ million cubic yards per hour.

99. The first block of the new Public Buildings was completed about the end of the year and has since then been opened for public business.

100. From the time (1870) when the seat of Government was transferred from Spanish Town to Kingston, the various Government Departments except the printing office have been housed at haphazard in such domestic mercantile and disused military or municipal buildings as were from time to time found available in various parts of the city. After the earthquake and fire of January, 1907, which destroyed so large a portion of Kingston, the Government acquired a rectangular area extending on both sides of King Street, which is the main thoroughfare of the city, from north to south connecting Harbour Street—which was up to that time the principal business thoroughfare—with the Parade Gardens or Central Park of Kingston. A plan is annexed showing how this area is situated. It will be observed that two blocks of Public Buildings have been provided for, one on each side of King Street, enclosing between them a space laid out with gardens and trees. The western of these two blocks is that which has been completed. It accommodates the Post and Telegraph Offices, the Treasury and Savings Bank, the Collector-General's Offices, the Stamp Office, the Offices of the Collector of Taxes for Kingston, and of the Earthquake Loan Board and the Customs Office, and on the uppermost floor the Audit Office. In short, all the financial offices of the Government and their accounting and controlling staffs are provided for in this building. Since the end of the year, the financial departments have entered upon their new quarters, but the Post Office has not yet been transferred to them, on account of delay in procuring the necessary furniture. New furniture and fittings have been made for the

offices of a very solid character of native hard-wood. Unfortunately the difficulty of procuring seasoned wood and of finding skilled workmen to make the furniture has caused considerable delay in the completion of this equipment.

101. The eastern block of Public Buildings will be devoted for the most part to Judicial departments. It will contain the Supreme Court and all the necessary offices connected with the transaction of business in that Court, the Law Library, the Attorney-General's Offices, the Administrator-General's Offices, and the Registry of Titles to Land. The Kingston Court and its offices will also be housed there. The upper floor will be occupied by the Inspector-General of Constabulary and Prisons, the Surveyor-General's and Land Offices, and the Education Department and Board of Education Offices.

Tenders have been invited for the construction of this block, the eastern façade of which will overlook an open space of ornamental garden extending to Church Street. The streets around and adjacent to the area allotted to the public buildings have been widened and improved. Part of Barry Street, which runs east to west on the northern side, has been widened from Duke Street (in which Headquarters House, with the Colonial Secretary's Office and the Legislative Council Chamber, as well as the offices of most of the legal practitioners are situated) up to the railway station, and has been planted with trees on both sides. Tower Street on the south of the Public Buildings Square has been widened and planted with trees from Duke Street to Orange Street, which is the next most important thoroughfare to King Street running from south to north. Peters Lane, which was a narrow thoroughfare on the western side, has similarly been widened and will be planted with trees. On the southern side of Tower Street a wide strip of ground was acquired in order to give greater space about the public buildings, both for appearance sake and for protection from fire. This has been laid out as ornamental gardens. The Bank of Nova Scotia, which faces the southern end of the financial block, has also laid out a garden along its northern frontage, thus increasing the space devoted to ornamental effect. The façades of the buildings surrounding this square have been carefully controlled under the advice of the Government architects and the surveyor of the building authority.

At the northern end of the open space, where it is traversed by King Street, arcaded crescents have been built to round off the widened area. Photographs* of the public buildings showing part of these improvements are annexed. The new buildings are constructed of reinforced concrete throughout, with steel casements, and are exceedingly cool, airy, and convenient for the transaction of business. They were designed by Messrs. Nicholson and Corlett, Architects, and built by Messrs. W. Cowlin and Sons of Bristol.

102. The rebuilding of King's House was also completed within a few weeks of the close of the year under report. The work was designed by the same architects and carried out by the same contractors. Photographs* of several aspects of the building are annexed.

* Not reproduced.

103. A very considerable amount of new substantial building is now visible in the streets of Kingston. Some of the buildings are architecturally admirable; many of them, having been designed without competent architectural advice, are somewhat unfortunate in appearance, but, for the most part, the effect is an immense improvement on the Kingston of the pre-earthquake period. Gaps in Harbour Street and King Street are suitably and rapidly being filled up, and I believe that in a few years' time, the city will be able to claim to be the best laid out and, architecturally, the most attractive town in the British West Indies. I may mention that, in addition to the widening of the streets immediately around the public buildings, Port Royal Street, the principal business thoroughfare along the water-side, has also been widened since the earthquake and improved access from the railway has been given to the wharves used by the majority of the principal passenger lines by the extension of Pechon Street into Harbour and Port Royal Streets. It is proposed still further to improve this access by removing the ruined buildings hitherto occupied by the Customs Department, so as to give a better approach from Port Royal Street to the wharves.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

104. The year was, on the whole, one of prosperity and progress for the Island, notwithstanding that some districts suffered from drought and others from the exceptional storm of November, 1909. The effects of drought were most felt in those localities which habitually suffer from that cause, viz., the district of Vere towards the end of the sugar crop, the Pedro district of St. Elizabeth (where the winter corn crop was lost) and the southern district of the parish of Manchester, on the circumstances of which I reported fully last year. I regret to say that, owing to recurrence of drought this year, the people of that district have been unable to respond satisfactorily to the efforts made to assist them to improve their cultivation, and pauperism continues to prevail.

105. The damage done by the November storm to bananas, cocoa, yams, and in a smaller degree to other less important crops, was considerable, and seriously affected the export of bananas and cocoa. The generally excellent weather of the succeeding period has, however, now completely re-established the condition of plantations and provision grounds through the Island. At the date at which I write it would appear that the prospects of a good crop for the coming season are assured in all the districts of the Island in which the sugar-cane is cultivated for the production of sugar or rum. Unfortunately the disorganised state of the rum market may discount this advantage for those estates (considerably in the majority) which rely upon the production of Jamaica rum, and are not equipped with modern sugar-making machinery. I am glad to say that the tendency to equip sugar estates for this purpose has received encourage-

ment by the success of recent ventures in the equipment of factories, and bids fair to progress further.

106. The effects of the storm of November, 1909, which, whilst they were much exaggerated to the prejudice of the Island by alarmist telegrams at the time, were unquestionably violent and severe, but were met and combated with great cheerfulness, energy, and resolution by the classes affected by them, should serve as a reminder that the Island is much more largely dependent for its income and support upon one single very easily destructible crop, the banana, than is at all satisfactory. The encouraging experiences of sugar planters during the last ten years, and the improvement in the price of cocoanuts have accordingly been specially valuable in calling attention to the profits of those staples. The attraction of banana cultivation lies in the quick returns and high profits which it yields in successful years; but the periodical losses are considerable, and when the fields are blown down their yield is destroyed for a year. Tougher cultivations, such as cotton, and possibly rubber, will probably not be greatly extended until the profits of planting bananas have been reduced by the exhaustion of soils and the consequent increase of the cost of cultivation, and at the same time money has been saved for investment in more permanent and slower-yielding staples. The extension of the skilled cultivation of bananas (as distinguished from the small peasants' cultivation) still progresses: the United Fruit Company continues to lease or buy neglected properties and turn them into banana plantations; and I am glad to be able to report that similar operations with local capital, by syndicates and individuals, have also been witnessed during the year of report. These developments, when successful, are, however, I regret to say, not very frequently due to capital or personal ability introduced direct from Great Britain, although several opportunities have recently been offered to British investors to take shares in large undertakings for planting in this Island.

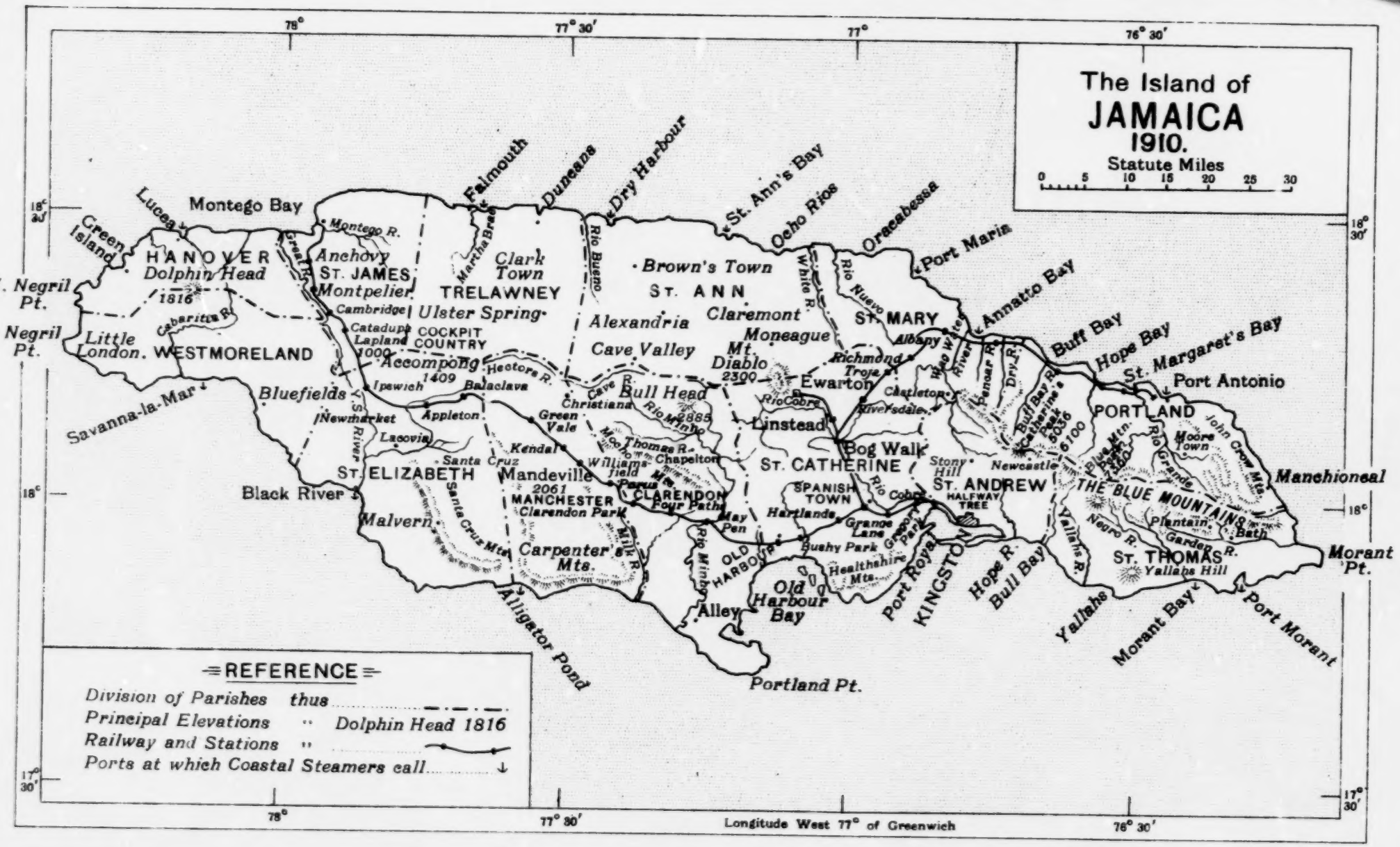
107. The enquiry is frequently made whether Jamaica offers a good field for the investment of British capital in planting enterprises, or for a livelihood to young men with a moderate patrimony. There can be no question that planting in Jamaica has been yielding large profits during recent years; but these profits have been earned by the application of high ability in the handling and financing of large enterprises, either by corporations, such as the United Fruit Company or by a few individuals in the Island, and of personal knowledge, ingenuity, and industry on the part of individual agriculturists in no inconsiderable numbers. The young men of the class with regard to whose prospects as immigrants enquiry is made have too frequently neither of these endowments, and both are indispensable to success. They may attain the latter, but they must serve a more than nominal apprenticeship before they can hope to make money in planting here. Nor, I regret to say, have the directors of certain British companies and syndicates that have taken in hand the planting or fruit dealing businesses in Jamaica shown that grasp of sound business methods and that apprecia-

tion of the conditions to be coped with which enables the United Fruit Company and others with American capital continually to extend their profitable interests in this Island, nor even, in some instances, a reasonable modicum of financial conscientiousness or prudence in their engagement. Such enterprises unjustly damage the good repute of the Island's resources which, to capable and straightforward enterprise, have yielded and continue to yield a substantial return.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast...	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.

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1911.

No. 681.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 646.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

July, 1911.

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No. 681.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 646.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
10th June, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your information, a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1910, together with two copies of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
P. C. CORK,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(20669—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 7/11. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1910.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the year 1910 amounted to £8,646, while the expenditure was £6,827, there being thus a surplus of £1,819, the largest on record with the exception of that in 1896. The excess of revenue over expenditure was due, in a great measure, to the continued demand for stamps of the new issue and to sales of Crown lands in the Caicos Islands. The royalty on salt and port dues were again below the estimates, being £1,716 and £494 as against £1,816 and £552 in 1909, which falling off was due to the damage done to the salt ponds in November, 1909. The expenditure under Public Works Department includes an amount of £631, mainly for the survey of the Caicos Islands, which is now practically completed.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1906	6,809	7,080
1907	7,391	7,119
1908	7,404	11,430
1909	7,748	7,454
1910	8,648	6,827

including £4,000 in 1908 and £800 in 1909 for hurricane relief.

Revenue.

	1909. £	1910. £
Import Duties	3,198	3,494
Royalty on Salt	1,816	1,716
Port Dues	552	494
Licences and Internal Revenue	227	187
Payments for Specific Services	125	166
Post Office	1,458	1,237
Revenue from Government Property ...	160	1,209
Interest	202	135
Miscellaneous	10	8
	£7,748	£8,646

Expenditure.

	1909. £	1910. £
Pensions	245	333
Commissioner's Department	1,836	1,858
Judicial Department	453	213
Forward	£2,534	£2,404

	1909. £	1910. £
Forward	2,534	2,404
Police and Prisons Department	698	764
Medical Department	545	584
Paupers	283	329
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination	17	22
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	447	447
Post Office Department	371	248
Lighthouses	266	238
Public Works Department	595	631
Public Works Recurrent	275	539
Public Works Extraordinary	2	—
	£6,654	£6,827
Hurricane Relief	800	—
	£7,454	£6,827

Assets stand at £8,994, and Liabilities at £3,326, showing a balance of Assets of £5,668. There is no Public Debt.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed in the Legislative Board:—

No. 1.—Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1909.
No. 2.—Appropriation Ordinance for 1911.
No. 3.—Customs Additional Tariff Ordinance.
No. 4.—Salt Producers Relief Ordinance.

The objects of the last two ordinances will be dealt with later under General Remarks.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 187 births, or 35 per thousand, and 87 deaths, or 16 per thousand.

The estimated population to the square mile was:—

	Population.	Per square mile.
Grand Turk	1,751	175
Salt Cay	453	113
Cockburn Harbour	702	87
Caicos Islands	2,381	16
	5,287	31

1,805 persons were employed in the salt industry, 433 in agriculture, and 125 in commerce.

EDUCATION.

In spite of the hard times, the average attendance in the three salt settlements, where the provisions for enforcing attendance are applied, was excellent, and the results of the annual examination were favourable. The average numbers on the roll in the dependency were:—

Grand Turk	309
Salt Cay	73
Cockburn Harbour	168
Kew	97
Blue Hills	97
Lorimers	103
Bottle Creek	111
	958

The population, according to the Census of 1901, was 5,287.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports and exports during the year were valued at £24,202 and £24,461, as against £25,262 and £18,936 in 1909 respectively. The exports in salt fell from £15,732 to £14,889, in spite of favourable prices, the small shipments being due to the disastrous floods in November, 1909, which did more damage to the industry than the hurricane of the preceding year. The exports of sisal rose from £608 to £7,351, while those of sponges increased from £953 to £1,316.

The value of the imports and exports during the past five years has been:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1906	27,572	24,940
1907	27,660	23,817
1908	24,426	24,798
1909	25,262	18,936
1910	24,202	24,461

During the year the trade was with the following countries:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
United Kingdom ...	422	422
British Colonies... ...	3,629	3,799
Foreign Countries ...	20,151	20,240
	£24,202	£24,461

Articles of Export.

	Value in:— 1909. £	1910. £
Conchs	510	559
Sisal	608	7,351
Salt	15,732	14,889
Sponges	953	1,316
Miscellaneous	1,133	346
	£18,936	£24,461

Shipping.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the period 1906 to 1910 was:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1906	357,960
1907	354,453
1908	410,195
1909	433,340
1910	385,763

Comparative statement of shipping cleared for the years 1909 and 1910:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	148	8,556	17	44,063	165	52,619
United States	4	3,639	39	58,876	43	62,565
Others	88	2,704	58	74,707	146	77,411
Totals, 1910	240	14,949	114	177,646	354	192,595
Totals, 1909	220	24,064	112	192,786	332	216,850

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The Police Force consists of 1 inspector, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 2 lance-corporals, 3 constables, 2 revenue constables, and 10 district constables, or 21 in all.

Offences reported to the police	182
Number of persons brought before the magistrates	182
Summary convictions:—	
Offences against property with violence to the person	—
Other offences against property	17
Other offences against the person	35
Other offences	84

Convictions in the Superior Court:—	
Other offences against the person	2
Other offences	2
Number of persons acquitted:—	
In the Superior Court	3
In the Inferior Courts	46

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The rainfall, taken at 9 stations scattered throughout the Dependency, recorded 23·40 inches, the wettest month being October, when 3·77 inches were registered, whereas only ·54 inch fell in May. For the following observations the Dependency is indebted to the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk. The rainfall recorded during the last five years has been:—

	Inches.
1906	28·36
1907	28·49
1908	41·37
1909	39·97
1910	26·73

and was in 1910 considerably below that of 1908 and 1909. The coolest and the hottest months were January and July, the mean being 68·7° and 82·4°, respectively.

Mean temperature for the year	78·2°
Mean pressure	30·072
Lowest temperature (9th March)	62°
Maximum temperature (18th August and 27th December)	91°

During January and February the recording thermometers were out of order, and accurate records were not obtainable.

The prevailing winds during the year were:—

	Days.
N.	19
N.E.	77
E.	141
S.E.	96
S.	10
S.W.	2
W.	4
N.W.	10
Calm	6

SAVINGS BANK.

	£
Deposits during the year	1,003
Withdrawals during the year	804
Total amount at credit of depositors	2,646

	£
Amount of invested funds	2,436
Interest credited to depositors	49
Interest on investments	65

Number of depositors, 281.

Rate of interest paid to depositors, 2 per cent.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

During the year, an internal service for the delivery of letters at the three principal settlements was established on a tentative scale, and an issue of ¼d. stamps was put in circulation for that purpose. Unfortunately, the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail ceased running early in 1911 at the termination of the contract, and the Dependency was deprived of direct communication with the mother country. The only steamer by which letters and parcels post can come through British possessions is now the "Boston," a Norwegian vessel which is subsidised for calling about once a month both on her way to and return from Jamaica, from Nova Scotia. Most of the mails to and from the United Kingdom have to be carried, viâ New York, by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call at Grand Turk on the voyage to and from San Domingo at intervals of 14 days each way.

The line of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica is connected with Grand Turk. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made.

GENERAL.

Early in May the sad and unexpected tidings of the demise of His Majesty King Edward VII. arrived, and unfeigned expressions of deep sorrow were manifested by all classes throughout the Dependency. Memorial services were held in all the churches on the 20th May. On the 12th May, His Majesty King George V. was proclaimed with such ceremony as was possible in the presence of a large gathering of loyal subjects.

As already stated, the rainfall in 1910 was lower than for any year since 1900, so that the weather conditions were extremely favourable for the production of salt, but raking, owing to the loss of brine in the floods of November, 1909, was impracticable before May. The months which are usually the most productive were therefore lost, and, as a considerable quantity of salt already raked had been destroyed by the heavy rains, the shipments throughout the year were light, being even less than those of the previous year, one of the most disastrous on record. The floods of 1909 had, in fact, proved the culmination of a succession of misfortunes to those engaged in the industry now reduced to hopeless pecuniary embarrassment from which it could not be extricated but by exceptional measures. Putting aside one or

two more fortunate than their neighbours, the salt pond owners were compelled to carry on operations by means of advances, and were only able to do this by the forbearance of commercial houses abroad.

The memorial addressed to the Crown, signed by working proprietors responsible for about four-fifths of the salt exported which was mentioned in my last annual report, was forwarded early in the year, praying that a Commission be appointed to inquire into the conditions and prospects of the salt industry, with a view to the immediate repeal of the royalty, in order that the impending commercial ruin and possible ultimate abandonment of the salt ponds might be averted. The memorialists affirmed that the United States which, in years past, had been largely dependent upon foreign salt for their supply, were now, owing to the development of the domestic salt industry, able to produce practically all that was required for their consumption, and that, in consequence of the keen competition of the other salt-producing sources, principally the Mediterranean and the Dutch West Indies, they had been compelled to dispose of their crops at prices below the cost of production. The proportion of the salt imported to the total consumption in the United States had, it was pointed out, fallen from 36·5 per cent. in 1880 to 4·3 per cent. in 1906, domestic salt thus providing 95·7 per cent., while Porto Rico was exporting, in increasing quantities, salt of excellent well-matured quality, which was admitted free into the United States market, before reaching which Turks Islands salt had to pay 6 cents a bushel import duty. Since 1873, the salt industry had contributed largely to the general revenue in the form of royalty and light dues, while other enterprises had escaped the direct burden of an export tax. The incidence of taxation on the produce of these Islands had, in fact, rested solely on the salt exported. With the market price at 3½*d.* a bushel, salt paid £10 on the value of every £100 worth of salt shipped; at 3*d.* a bushel, £11 13*s.* 4*d.*; at 2½*d.* a bushel, £14. In reply the signatories were informed that, although it was not considered anything would be gained by the appointment of a special commission and that the question of the total abolition of the royalty could not be entertained until every other measure of relief had been exhausted, the depressed circumstances of the salt industry were recognised to be of so grave a character that active efforts would be made to improve the condition by grants-in-aid, first, to the working proprietors to rescue them from their more immediate financial difficulties, and, secondly, to a fund to provide for the more economical working of the ponds, the prevention of wastage by exposure to the atmosphere of salt when raked, and the permanent improvement of the common property. The principles to be followed in the distribution of these grants were:—

(1.) That there be no addition to the financial burdens of the Dependency by the grants-in-aid causing an excess of expenditure over general revenue.

(2.) That the reserve funds be not touched to provide such assistance, but be held strictly to meet losses from hurricanes and emergencies arising from similar disasters.

(3.) That the assistance given be met chiefly by retrenchment in the cost of administration and that whatever additional taxation might be required be in a form calculated to be least burdensome to the community in general, and not derived from extra duties on essential articles of food consumed by the labouring population.

(4.) That the grants be given for the present or future relief of the industry and not for the liquidation of existing obligations, and be disbursed through the Treasury in accordance with the official financial regulations.

(5.) That the amounts for the immediate relief of the working proprietors be in the form of payments for manual work performed by labourers in or about the ponds.

(6.) That the grants be given for a certain number of years, so that the owners could have reasonable assurance of aid sufficiently prolonged for them to tide over their difficulties.

In accordance with the foregoing principles, two ordinances, the Salt Producers Relief Ordinance and the Customs Additional Tariff Ordinance, which will remain in force until the end of 1920, were passed by the Legislative Board in November.

Under the former ordinance a Board was appointed to administer a fund established for the improvement and development of the common property. The constitution of the Board is similar to that of the Legislative Board, the Governor having the power to decide the amounts of the grants to be placed on the annual Estimates. If, at any time, it appears that the ordinance is not achieving the objects proposed, it will be possible, by the suspension or material reduction of the grants, to hold its operation in practical abeyance.

So far as retrenchment can be effected consistently with the bare requirements of efficient government, the deficit likely to be occasioned by the proposed measures of relief will be met by rigid curtailment in the cost of administration. It was found possible in the estimates of expenditure for 1911 to make reductions, entailing no serious loss of efficiency, of about £1,400, which, as the amount of £1,800 was required for relief purposes, left £400 to be provided from other sources. After careful thought, it was decided to raise the necessary amount, £400, by increasing the specific duties on alcoholic liquors, tobacco, and oil, leaving untouched articles of everyday consumption. In comparison with the duties levied in other West India Islands from the articles on which the increase is to be gained, the duties are still light.

In December, the survey of Blue Hills, North Caicos, and Middle Caicos, under contract by Mr. E. G. Reid, was completed. The survey was commenced in the early part of 1908, and Mr. Reid spent nearly 19 months in the field, carrying out a lineal mileage of 324 miles, nearly the whole of which had to be cleared by labourers. Much difficulty was encountered by the necessity for re-opening lines of old patented lands in which few traces of natural or artificial features were obtainable. Where such features had been inserted in the old plans, they were found in almost every case to be incorrect or unreliable. Many of the small settlers and squatters laboured under the impression that,

inasmuch as the land belonged to the Crown, it would be allotted to them free of cost, and delayed the work by not putting in applications for their plots until the latest moment possible. The maps of the three islands prepared by Mr. Reid give the following areas:—

Middle Caicos.

	Acres.
Total area	25,379
Less lands privately owned and Crown lands in process of alienation	9,513
Remaining Crown land (11,191 acres in pine)	15,866

North Caicos.

	Acres.
Total area	24,953
Less lands privately owned and Crown lands in process of alienation	8,561
Remaining Crown land (940 acres in salt ponds)	16,392

Blue Hills.

	Acres.
Total area	22,594
Less lands privately owned and Crown lands in process of alienation	4,921
Remaining Crown land (1,189 acres salt pond and 8,540 acres leased)	17,673

	Acres.
Total area of three islands	72,926
Less privately owned and being alienated ...	22,995
Remaining Crown lands	49,931

In North Caicos all applications received were settled, so that there is no claim of any nature for lands as against the Crown, and all the several lots, including private lots, have been surveyed. In Blue Hills all the claims against the Crown have been settled, most of them having arisen through the Executor of the Stamers Estate having sold by mistake Government land to some small proprietors, which matter was satisfactorily arranged. An application dated the 14th January, 1910, for the sale of the remaining Crown lands was made by Mr. Reid, acting on behalf of the Government, for the purpose of ascertaining if there were any other outstanding claims, but, as no caveats were lodged within the period prescribed by law except by the purchasers from the Stamers Estate, whose claims, as has been stated, have been satisfied, no question can arise in the future. In Middle Caicos, also, all authentic claims have been settled. Some persons on this island, claiming lands by virtue of direct purchase

from the Bahamas or the local Government, were called upon by Mr. Reid to establish their claims, but no records being forthcoming and no caveats being lodged against their sale by the Government, the Crown lands are clearly defined.

Since the commencement of the working of the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896, 833 applications for land throughout the Dependency have been received, 543 for the purchase of unoccupied land and 290 for holdings. Of these applications, 343 were from North Caicos, of which 296 have been surveyed; 62 from Blue Hills, of which 50 have been surveyed; and 46 from Middle Caicos, of which 20 have been surveyed. The plots which have not been surveyed were in possession of applicants who either sent in their claims and applications too late or who withdrew them.

The expenditure under Mr. Reid's contract was:—

	£
1908	422
1909	591
1910	627
Total	£1,640

while during that period the receipts from the sale of Crown land were:—

	£
1908	140
1909	128
1910	1,182
Total	£1,450

Outstanding instalments of payments for small plots and five yearly payments of about £150 each for Crown lands at Blue Hills and North Caicos sold to the Colonial Fibre Planting and Trading Company will more than cover the difference between the receipts and expenditure arising from the cost of the recent survey. It will, I hope, soon be found practicable to replace the Crown Lands Ordinance by one authorising the registration by title of all lands in these Islands.

Although the export of sponges rose from £953 in 1909 to £1,316 in 1910, there are clear indications that, within a short time, a more or less definite depletion of the beds within the Dependency, as elsewhere where the fishery is prosecuted with success, will arise. The demand for sponges, especially for those used in arts and industries, is constantly increasing, and is exceeding the supply. Already substitutes, such as loofah and rubber, are being sold, but they cannot adequately replace sponges for domestic and other purposes. The depletion has been caused by the destructive methods of fishing and the gathering of immature sponges before attaining the size and age when they could give larval sponges for replenishing those taken. Legislative action will be imperative, if the local fisheries are not to be exhausted, to meet the following objects:—

(1.) The determination of the minimum size of the base of sponges allowed to be taken, sold, and exported.

(2.) The restriction or prohibition of certain instruments for gathering the sponges or scouring the bottom of the banks in places where the depth is less than a certain number of fathoms.

(3.) The establishment of close periods, not so much as to seasons as to areas already depleted, so as to allow the young sponges sufficient time to grow to a suitable size for sale and for propagation.

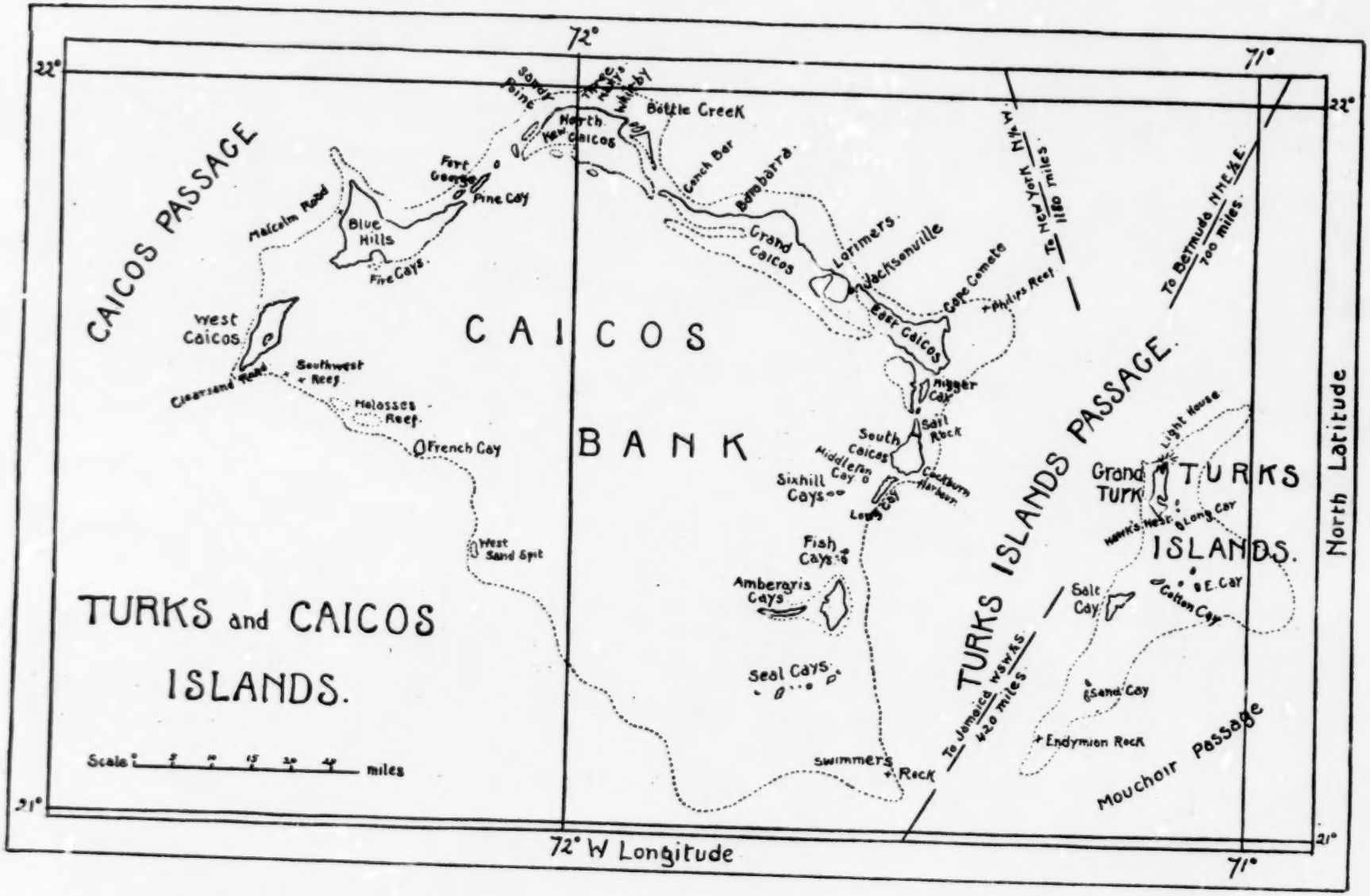
(4.) The encouragement of sponge culture by securing to those engaged in the industry the sole right, within certain well-defined restrictions, of certain areas for raising sponges by artificial means. Sponges may be artificially multiplied and improved by grafting, from the egg, and from cuttings. The first two methods require great skill and are impracticable for those generally engaged in the industry, but the growth of sponges from cuttings is a feasible method of cultivation, provided suitable methods of handling and attachment are adopted. Experiments with small cuttings of about 1 × 1 × 1½ inches, or about 120 cuttings from a 6-inch sponge show that, growing at the rate of 1 inch in a year, they would in 4 years give a size of 75 times that of the original sponge. It has, however, been fairly established that, for commercial purposes, equilateral cuttings of from 8 to 10 cubic inches, or about 1½ × 2½ × 3 inches, are the most suitable. These cuttings are raised on the sea bottom or on discs mounted so as to allow the salt water currents to have full play below the sponges. Discs, about 10 inches in diameter and 1¼ inch thick, perforated by two holes and made of a composition of 1 part cement to 3 to 4 parts of sand, with spindles, are the best form of attachment, and the cuttings are bound to the discs by short pieces of aluminium wire passed through the holes. It will be interesting to see how far scientific cultivation will be able to meet the ever-increasing demand.

The sisal plants are gradually recovering from the effects of the hurricane of 1908, the value of the fibre exported from the Dependency rising from £608 in 1909 to £7,351 in 1910. The present low price obtainable is a serious consideration, and financial success in fibre cultivation can only be obtained by the most rigid economy.

Although the Dependency has a substantial reserve fund to meet serious emergencies and has not suffered, in recent years, as many of the smaller sugar-growing West India Islands, to an extent to require Imperial assistance, the greatest caution in administration will have to be exercised until the staple industries have emerged from their uncertain and embarrassed condition.

F. H. Watkins,
Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

19th April, 1911.


TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS.
CAICOS PASSAGE
CAICOS BANK
TURKS ISLANDS PASSAGE
TURKS ISLANDS.
Mouchoir Passage
North Latitude
72° W Longitude
72°
71°
22°
21°
Sandy Point
Whitby
Battle Creek
North West Caicos
Fort George
Pine Cay
Blue Hills
Fine Cays
Malcolm Road
West Caicos
Southwest Reef
Clearsand Road
Molasses Reef
French Cay
West Sand Spit
Conch Bar
Bambarra
Grand Caicos
Larimers
Jacksonville
East Caicos
Cape Comete
Phillips Reef
Bigger Cay
Sail Rock
South Caicos
Middleton Cay
Sixhill Cays
Cockburn Harbour
Long Cay
Fish Cays
Ambergris Cays
Seal Cays
Swimmers Rock
To New York N.W. 1180 miles
To Bermuda N.N.E. 700 miles
To Jamaica W.S.W. 420 miles
Grand Turk
Light House
Hawks Nest
Long Cay
Salt Cay
E. Cay
Cotton Cay
Sand Cay
Endymion Rock
Scale miles

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong...	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements...	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	"
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

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69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 703.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909–10, *see* No. 662.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
January, 1912.

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Map.

No. 703.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 662.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
10th November, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the Heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:—

REVENUE.

Heads.	Receipts, 1910-11. £	s.	d.	Receipts, 1909-10. £	s.	d.
Customs	448,448	1	3	465,080	18	6
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	7,232	15	8	8,107	6	6
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	188,889	2	3¼	180,938	3	1
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid, and Irrigation Receipts ...	104,473	8	10¼	94,519	0	10
Post Office and Telegraphs	45,961	17	11¾	42,262	3	3
Railway	161,631	10	5½	163,847	2	1
Rents	2,113	3	0½	2,212	11	5
Interest	16,704	8	1¾	18,413	12	10
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	11,218	0	8¾	15,228	17	1
Land Sales	2,776	14	3¼	2,366	16	7
Face value of nickel coin imported	950	0	0	—		
	£990,399	2	8	£992,976	12	2

(22244—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 85. 1/12. D & S.

Expenditure.

Heads.	Payments, 1910-11. £	s.	d.	Payments, 1909-10. £	s.	d.
Charges of Debt ...	193,511	7	7	187,959	13	0
Pensions	30,791	7	9¼	29,534	17	0¼
Governor and Staff ...	6,521	18	4	6,206	18	5
Privy Council	45	3	0	24	14	0
Legislative Council ...	1,183	10	11	521	0	6
Colonial Secretariat ...	4,871	13	4	4,714	16	1½
Public Works Department	15,815	1	10½	14,975	6	5
Parochial Roads and Works	1,720	16	8	1,716	17	6
Lands Department ...	2,979	3	7	2,467	2	9
Audit Office	4,256	17	5½	4,059	9	6
Treasury Department ...	3,653	16	5½	3,756	19	7
Government Savings Bank	2,016	0	10½	1,963	4	3
Immigration	7,590	6	1¼	3,809	2	4¾
Clerks Parochial Boards	590	0	0	600	0	0
Stamp Office	813	12	10	737	0	2
Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs	37,826	17	11½	37,157	19	6
Postal and Telegraph Service	41,149	16	11	36,038	10	3
Judicial	35,584	13	6	35,199	8	4
Ecclesiastical	1,170	0	0	1,208	14	8
Medical	64,986	5	11¾	58,317	2	5¾
Constabulary and Prisons	90,896	15	8	87,776	16	0
Reformatory	5,421	4	6	5,100	15	1
Industrial Schools ...	1,732	15	10	899	6	8
Education	66,780	18	2	62,178	7	10½
Harbours and Pilotage	3,346	15	5½	2,931	16	9
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence ...	7,671	16	7	7,591	5	1½
Direct Cable Subsidy ...	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0
Record and Registrar-General's Office; Registration of Titles	5,522	3	3½	5,387	4	1
Government Printing Office	8,384	10	6	9,804	4	0
Institute	957	19	0	1,024	16	10
Board of Supervision ...	292	13	11	19	0	2
Pensions, Widows and Orphans'	7,741	5	10	8,308	1	10
Agricultural Services ...	12,001	10	4½	12,569	6	6
Miscellaneous	18,605	0	5	19,453	8	2
Public Works and Buildings, Lighthouses ...	161,132	0	1	147,668	12	10
New Government Buildings and King's House	14,423	16	6	50,548	8	10½

EXPENDITURE.—*continued.*

Heads.	Payments, 1910-11.	Payments, 1909-10.
Railway	104,003 7 3	110,564 4 11½
Transfer to Insurance Fund	—	50,000 0 0
Manufacture of nickel coin	311 4 11	—
	£987,304 9 5¼	£1,033,794 12 7¼

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1906-7	887,228	828,115
1907-8	1,021,937	935,427
1908-9	933,751	911,095
1909-10	992,976	1,033,794
1910-11	990,399	987,304

3. The revenue for 1910-11 exceeded the estimate by £29,081, but was less than the revenue of the previous year by £2,577. Compared with the receipts for 1909-10, decreases of revenue occurred under the following heads:—

Customs, £16,632; Port and Harbour Dues, £874; Railway, £2,216; Rents, £99; Interest, £1,709; Miscellaneous Receipts, £4,010; while there were increases under Rum Duties, £4,611; Tobacco Duty, £1,916; Property Tax, £1,039, Resident Magistrates and Petty Sessions Courts Fees, £990; Irrigation Receipts, £827; Post Office and Telegraph Revenue, £3,699; Land Sales, £410; and face value of Nickel Coin imported, £950.

4. The decrease in Customs duties is in part attributable to the fact that during the year condensed milk, galvanzied iron for roofing, galvanized iron wire for fencing, and artisans' tools were placed on the free list of the tariff law, while the duty on laundry soap was reduced from 5*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100 lbs.

5. The expenditure was £987,304, being less than that of the previous year by £46,490.

6. A comparison of the expenditure with that for 1909-10 shows decreases under Printing Office, £1,420; New Government Buildings and King's House, £41,112; Railway, £6,561; Rio Cobre Canal, £1,550; Spanish Town Water Works, £500; Transfer to Insurance Fund £50,000; Maintenance of Main Roads and Bridges, £2,264.

7. There were increases under Charges of Debt, £5,552 (balanced by reimbursements on Earthquake Loans); Pensions, £1,257; Immigration, £3,781; Post and Telegraph Offices, £5,110; Medical, £6,669; Constabulary and Prisons, £3,120; Education, £4,602; New Works on Main Roads, £18,665; Maintenance and restoration of Public Buildings, £4,036.

8. The Government closed the year with a surplus of assets over liabilities on general revenue account amounting to

£169,177 9*s.* 8*d.*, having also £100,000 invested out of surplus balances as an insurance fund to provide for the repair of damage to Government property by hurricane, fire, or earthquake.

9. £36,976 6*s.* 11*d.* stood as advanced on the 31st of March, 1911, to the Earthquake Loan Board in addition to the loans amounting to £200,000 which had been obtained from the Imperial Government. At the same date the Island Government had cash balances of £91,924 to its credit in the Bank of Nova Scotia and £16,000 in the London and Westminister Bank.

10. The Public Debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,909,593 on the 31st of March, 1911. This included £192,866 due to the Imperial Government for Earthquake Loans, directly secured by advances on properties. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £655,268, leaving a nett liability of £3,254,325. Included in the Debt were guaranteed Public Loans for local purposes secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounting to £321,225, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £55,808.

11. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements:—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1906-7	27,170	28,165
1907-8	30,775	30,858
1908-9	32,197	30,010
1909-10	32,513	35,739
1910-11	35,755	35,385

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1906-7	26,294	25,809
1907-8	28,251	25,273
1908-9	30,545	26,223
1909-10	31,957	30,707
1910-11	60,082	52,373

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1906-7	103,484	100,577
1907-8	105,433	106,891
1908-9	106,231	107,838
1909-10	111,586	117,461
1910-11	135,118	139,032

12. The excess of expenditure over revenue by Parochial Boards in the year 1910-11 is largely owing to expenditure on water supplies in anticipation of loans.

13. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £23,251.

14. Power has also been taken under the Parochial Loans Law, 30 of 1903, to borrow £28,887 for the construction or improvement of water-works, markets and streets, and drains, and of this amount £16,500 had been raised by the end of the financial year.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A. Imports and Exports.

15. The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1906-7	2,261,469	1,992,007
1907-8	2,854,042	2,360,702
1908-9	2,420,335	2,268,254
1909-10	2,561,674	2,628,307
1910	2,614,943	2,568,222

16. The Collector-General reports:—

"A noticeable feature in the trade history of the year was a halt after a very promising opening, and then a revival, but not on such strong lines. Various causes have been stated as the reasons for this. There were great expectations for a very busy year and large stocks were obtained to open with, but as the year advanced it was seen that the stocks were larger than the market required. Orders had therefore to be revised and modified. On reducing stock by clearance sales a revival became apparent, but cautious trading disappointed results when reckoned in the Customs accounts. There is no doubt that this is a reasonable explanation, but I suspect that the disturbance of contracts by the discontinuance of the Direct Line, the uncertainty of the coming Tariff, and the tourist trade not coming up to anticipations, have also been factors that have operated in keeping stocks low, the reflex of which was a shrinkage in the Customs collections for the last quarter."

17. The principal articles of import were:—

	Value.	
	1909.	1910.
	£	£
Ale, beer, and porter	41,932	39,240
Beef, wet salted	20,301	19,485
Bread and biscuit	31,038	33,965
Butter and substitutes	31,875	38,227
Coal	50,866	44,097
Corn	45,141	44,390

	Value. 1909.	1910.
	£	£
Fish, dried and salted	124,463	143,014
Fish, pickled or smoked	59,304	56,246
Flour (wheaten)	243,664	266,934
Meal (other than wheaten)	28,000	39,571
Milk, condensed	34,429	43,383
Oats	12,466	14,533
Oils	60,676	68,336
Pork, wet salted	29,059	18,493
Rice	57,852	75,937
Soap	39,233	29,377
Spirits	16,116	17,501
Tobacco (manufactured)	17,619	14,690
Wines	12,590	20,218
Pitch pine lumber	72,099	78,429
White pine lumber	11,833	14,138

18. The effect of the reductions in the Tariff brought about by Law 1 of 1910, and Law 16 of 1910, is commented on by the Collector-General thus:—

"A test applied to the items on which the rate of duty has been reduced shows that there is no doubt that consumers of the commodities are reaping considerable benefit from the concessions."

"The following exhibit shows this:—

—	Imports.				Duty.		
	5 years' average before reduction.	1910–1911.	Percentage increases of consumption.	Percentage of reduction in rate of duty.	5 years' average before reduction.	1910–1911.	Percentage decrease duty collected.
	galls.	galls.			£	£	
Kerosene Oil	796,844	978,840	22·8	46·7	24,610	16,314	33·7
Other Oils ...	219,257	221,803	1·1	44·5	7,009	5,476	21·8
Gasolene ...	8,393	49,380	488·3	55·6	237	823	289·1 (increase)
	lbs.	lbs.					
Soap ...	4,229,054	4,442,764	5·1	54·6	11,137	6,754	39·3

"It will thus be seen in the case of kerosene oil, the reduction of 46·7 per cent. in the rate of duty has influenced consumption in an increase of 22·8 per cent., while the decrease in duty collected is 33·7 per cent. Similarly other oils, on which there is a reduction of 44·5 per cent. in rate, show an increased consumption of 1·1 per cent., and a decrease of 21·8 per cent. in duty collected. Soap, on which the decreased rate is 54·6 per cent., shows an increase in consumption of 5·1 per cent. and a decrease in duty of 39·3 per cent. The large increases which gasolene shows in consumption and duty collected, despite a 45·4 per cent. reduction

in rate, are largely due to the greater number of automobiles now in use. In the case of condensed milk, the passing to the free list of the commodity has influenced the consumption by an increase of 10·2 per cent. over a five years' average. The abolition of duty on wire for fencing and galvanized iron for roofing has resulted in an increased importation of these items—the increase being as under:—

Wire	118·9 per cent.	over the four years' average.
Galvanized and roofing	89·1 per cent.	

"Artisans' tools not having hitherto been classified separately, comparison cannot be made."

19. The consumption of wheaten flour, bread, and biscuits, which increased greatly after the earthquake in 1907, and which showed a tendency in the intervening years to revert to a normal level, has again increased, and the present trend appears to be in the direction of ousting native-grown food by foreign importation. This is probably due, to a considerable extent at least, to the substitution of fruit and minor products in place of native foodstuffs in the cultivations of the peasantry.

20. The values of the imports received from the different parts of the world were as follows:—

	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom	1,112,535	42·6
United States	1,181,892	45·2
Canada	207,885	7·9
Other Countries	112,631	4·3

21. The total imports into the Colony for the past forty years, at intervals of ten years, have been as follows:—

	£
1870—year ended 31st December, 1870 ...	1,300,211
1880—year ended 30th September, 1880 ...	1,475,197
1891—year ended 31st March, 1891	2,190,745
1900—year ended 31st March, 1900	1,844,332
1910—year ended 31st December, 1910 ...	2,614,943

Divided between countries from which supplies were obtained, the figures work out as under:—

—	1870. Year ended 31st December, 1870.	1880. Year ended 30th September, 1880.	1891. Year ended 31st March, 1891.	1900. Year ended 31st March, 1900.	1910. Year ended 31st December, 1910.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom.	760,431 58·4%	777,627 52·6%	1,229,043 56·2%	873,296 47·3%	1,112,535 42·6%
U.S. of America.	266,559 20·5%	474,116 32·1%	743,261 33·9%	800,527 43·3%	1,181,892 45·2%
Canada ...	247,612 19·2%	171,801 11·7%	162,731 7·4%	118,003 6·6%	207,885 7·9%
Other Countries.	25,609 1·9%	51,653 3·6%	55,710 2·5%	52,506 2·8%	112,631 4·3%
	£1,300,211	1,475,197	2,190,745	1,844,332	2,614,943

22. The import trade has doubled itself since 1870. The growth of trade with different countries is indicated by an increase in imports from the United Kingdom of £352,104 or 46·3 per cent., from the United States £855,333 or 377 per cent., from other countries £87,022 or 339·7 per cent., while Canada has lost £39,727 or 16 per cent. The imports from the United States are for the first time slightly in excess of those from the United Kingdom.

23. The chief articles of export show the following variations:—

	Values.	
	1910.	1909.
	£	£
Annatto	6,306	10,291
Beeswax	3,709	5,539
Cocoa	63,017	110,049
Cocoanuts	78,710	54,941
Coffee	167,409	127,121
Bananas	1,141,710	1,403,830
Grape fruit	23,300	16,145
Oranges	52,902	31,953
Ginger	44,987	36,710
Hides	11,520	13,182
Honey	19,796	19,281
Lime juice	4,634	3,931
Pimento	73,660	68,352
Rum	134,659	234,151
Sugar	261,151	118,733
Cigars*	32,900	36,685
Fustic and bitterwood	15,682	7,771
Logwood	66,218	52,159
Logwood extract	163,600	113,254
Goat-skins	13,196	13,151

24. The total value of the exports shows a decrease of £60,085. The principal decreases are in—

	£
Annatto	3,935
Bananas	262,119
Rum	99,492
Cigars	3,784
Cocoa	47,031

Increases, however, occur in—

	£
Cocoanuts	23,769
Coffee	40,288
Grape fruit	7,155
Oranges	20,949
Ginger	8,276
Pimento	5,308
Sugar	142,417
Logwood	14,059
Fustic	61,910
Logwood extract	50,346

* By inadvertence the values of Cigars exported in 1909 and 1908–9 were incorrectly stated in the Report for 1909–10. The correct figures for 1909 are given above, and those for 1908–9 were £29,981.

25. The distribution of the exports was as follows:—

	1910. Per cent.	1909. Per cent.
United Kingdom	20·6	21·2
United States of America	54·1	61·5
Canada	8·4	4·7
Other Countries	16·9	12·6

26. The total exports from the Colony for the past fifty years at ten-year intervals, have been as follows:—

	£
1870—31st December, 1870	1,161,091
1880—30th September, 1880	1,512,978
1890—31st March, 1891	1,902,814
1900—31st March, 1900	1,868,079
1910—31st December, 1910	2,568,221

27. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal staples and minor products:—

—	1908-9.	1909.	1910.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sugar	3·6	4·7	10·8
Rum	8·9	9·4	5·6
Coffee	5·5	5·1	6·9
Dyewoods	2·4	2·3	3·2
Fruit	54·9	59·9	53·6
Cocoa	4·3	4·4	2·6
Pimento	6·8	2·7	3·1
Minor products	13·6	11·5	14·2

28. The following is a comparison between the exports of 1880 and those of 1910:—

	1880. £	1910. £
Sugar	497,824	261,150
	34·9%	10·8%
Rum	209,092	134,659
	14·6%	5·5%
Coffee	254,722	167,408
	17·9%	6·9%
Cocoa	—	63,017
	—	2·6%
Dyewoods	164,918	77,347
	11·5%	3·2%
Fruit	71,907	1,297,952
	5·1%	53·7%
Pimento	145,570	73,659
	10·2%	3·0%
Minor products	83,110	342,292
	5·8%	14·3%
	£1,427,143	£2,417,484

Total increase on the exports of 30 years ago is £990,341, and in that of fruit alone £1,226,045.

29. The acreage returned in 1910-11, grouped under the four principal headings of the return and compared with the average of four years, produces the following figures, viz.:—

	1910-11.	Average of four years.
Tilled lands	273,047	251,325
Guinea grass	142,794	138,634
Commons	510,956	480,718
Wood and ruinate	1,239,205	1,235,349
	2,166,002	2,106,026

30. There has been an increase in 1910-11 over the average, of 21,722 acres or 8 per cent. in the acreage of tilled lands; an increase of 4,160 acres or 3 per cent. in guinea grass; of 30,238 or 6 per cent. in commons; and an inconsiderable advance of 3,856 acres in wood and ruinate.

31. Tilled lands are in turn classified under principal agricultural products, and the comparative figures when so classified give these results:—

	1910-11.	Average of four years.
Canes	31,659	29,688
Coffee	24,706	25,910
Cocoanuts	16,102	11,663
Bananas	79,283	63,423
Ground provisions ...	85,534	107,246
Mixed cultivation ...	19,622	
Cocoa	11,451	9,476
Minor products	4,690	3,943
	273,047	251,349

32. There is an increase of 1,971 acres in cane cultivation fairly distributed over the cane-growing area; a trifling decrease in the aggregate of coffee cultivation totalling 1,104 acres, and very marked in Manchester and St. Catherine; an increase of 4,439 acres in cocoanuts noticeable in St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, Hanover, and St. Catherine; an increase of 15,860 in bananas contributed to by practically all the agricultural parishes, but most marked in Westmoreland, Clarendon, and St. Catherine; a decrease of 2,090 acres in ground provisions with which is included mixed cultivation; an increase of 1,975 acres in cocoa, and in minor products an advance of 747 acres.

33. The most noticeable feature in the foregoing figures is the extended area over which the banana has spread itself. While St. Mary, St. Catherine, and Portland are still the main sources of supply, there is a considerable acreage in each of the other parishes, the lowest being St. Elizabeth with 257 acres, but it is

known that even in that parish cultivation is to be attempted on a large scale in the very near future, and if it succeeds Black River will become a banana port of much importance, and the river will be used as a waterway for steam tugs and freight lighters to transport the fruit.

34. This Government in the year 1903 established a system of valuation of real property. The following statement sets out the number and the classification according to value of the separate properties upon which general and parochial direct taxes are assessed, those the subject of temporary relief, and those in arrear, in comparison with the figures of 1909-10.

	1910-11.	1909-10.
Properties valued at £20	60,641	57,601
Properties valued at £30	6,097	5,788
Properties valued at £40	54,208	53,489
Properties valued over £40... ...	29,257	28,266
Occupiers relieved	1,237	1,206
Properties in arrears	8,167	8,701
	159,607	155,051

35. The unit of valuation for taxation being £10 there has been an increase in the number of holdings paid on of 3,040 in those reckoned as of two units, of 209 in those of three units, of 719 in those of four units, and of 991 in those over that limit, and there is a decrease of 534 of those properties shown as having been in arrear at the end of the collecting year. The only debit in the statement is the increase in the number of occupiers temporarily relieved, and the increase in this was only by the small number of thirty-one. Holdings of and under £40 value numbered 120,946, and contributed £11,881 to the property tax, and those over that limit of value numbered 29,257 and contributed £22,922.

36. Reporting on the sale of Crown Lands in small holdings the Surveyor-General writes as follows:—

"Two hundred and twenty-six purchasers who bought 2,359 acres under the Rules for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers have completed payment of instalments of their purchase money and been given titles for their lands. There were also 53 other purchasers, who paid cash down for 346 acres. No fresh areas have been opened up for sale on payment by instalments. To date of the total of 31,141 acres sold partly on credit since 1896, about 9,000 acres have been paid for in full by some 900 purchasers. Ejectment proceedings have had to be issued against several defaulting purchasers, who after failing to pay their yearly instalments refused to give up the land. In all cases judgment was given for the Crown. Fifty of these ejectment cases were against purchasers at the savanna lands, St. Elizabeth, who had long been in arrear and had assumed a defiant attitude in spite of the consideration extended them. The result has been that since the judgment against them the 50 parties

have paid up the purchase money, with costs, of some 500 acres. I still recommend proceeding slowly and cautiously with sales as there are still a large number of purchasers chronically in arrear. The total amount of purchase money received during the year from cash and instalment purchasers amounts to £2,780 19*s*. 2½*d*."

Leases and Tenancies.

"Sixteen acres and 21 town lots have been leased to 31 persons for £110 a year, and 564 prædial tenancies have been made at rentals of from 12*s*. to 20*s*. per acre per annum. The total amout of rent received for the year amounts to £1,959 19*s*. 11*d*."

Forfeiture of Lands.

"Four hundred and forty-two acres of land have been forfeited, and interlocutory judgment obtained on 9,030 acres. Notification No. 34 covering 12,002 acres has been issued, and proceedings under this and Notification 33 are now pending in respect of the forfeiture of 15,125 acres."

Agriculture.

37. The farm school at Hope Estate, which was opened in January, 1910, completed its first year with a full complement of students. The demand for admission has been so great that arrangements for extending the accommodation by one-half have been made.

38. The stock farm, associated with the school, was operated on a business basis during the year by means of a working account at the Treasury. The stock was valued on the 31st December by two practical stock-breeders and favourably reported on. The balance sheet for the year shows a balance of assets £760 on a capital investment of £950. The Public Hospital and other Government institutions in Kingston are now supplied with milk from the farm at Hope.

39. The appointment of a veterinary surgeon has enabled a start to be made in the development of a branch devoted to the interests of the animal industry, while an officer is now available for service under the Diseases of Animals Law when outbreaks of diseases are notified in the Colony.

40. The results from the use on the large scale of the tick wash, introduced by the Department, have been very satisfactory, and it has now been demonstrated that the tick pest can be controlled in Jamaica by the systematic spraying of cattle with this preparation. The Paranaph compound is made at the laboratory and sold to the public at cost price.

41. The Sugar Experiment Station was operated during the year on the residue of the Imperial grant, a small surplus still remaining to the credit of the fund at the close of the year. The Imperial grant has thus enabled the station to be equipped with laboratories and an experimental distillery, and to provide for experimental plants on estates, while the operating expenses of

the station have been provided for a period of seven years. This work is now being carried on as a part of the operations of the Agricultural Department.

42. The first field results with seedling canes raised at the station indicated that some valuable new canes have been secured. The most promising of these were raised by natural cross-fertilisation of the White Transparent with some Barbados seedling canes in 1903.

43. The work of agricultural instruction was extended during the year by a considerable increase in the grant to the Jamaica Agricultural Society whereby four new instructors were provided. The results of this work are encouraging, and efforts are now being made to operate cocoa and rubber nurseries in certain favourable centres under the care of the local instructors.

44. The Prize Holding Scheme is taking a firm hold on the small settlers, and marked improvements in small holdings can be traced to the operation of this competition in several parishes.

45. Special legislation dealing with the importation of bees and the infectious diseases of plants have been effected to protect the honey industry from the risks of introduced diseases and to give powers for dealing with such dangerous infectious diseases of staple crops as the "bud-rot" disease of cocoanuts and the "Panama disease" of bananas, should the latter ever obtain a footing in the Island.

46. Considerable interest has been taken in the prospects of the rubber industry during the year. The Castilloa rubber, of which three distinct species have been established in the Island, has given the most promising results, and there are indications that on favourable soils in seasonable districts the Castilloa rubber tree is capable of giving good returns of rubber in Jamaica.

47. The erection of a large central sugar factory at Rose Hall, in St. James, has been started, and it is expected the work will shortly be completed. It will deal with the produce of nine sugar estates.

48. On three sugar estates in Westmoreland arrangements have been made to erect plants for boiling molasses sugar.

49. The logwood factory at Lacovia in St. Elizabeth has been acquired by the Trust controlling the West India Chemical Works at Spanish Town, and thus put an end to competition in the purchase of logwood.

50. A new plant of modern design for the manufacture of sugar has been erected at Holland Estate in St. Elizabeth.

SHIPPING.

51. On this subject I am required by instructions to report in somewhat extensive detail:

There was much activity in shipping during the year. The vessels reporting show a decrease in number, but an increase in tonnage. The figures are:—

1909.	1,462	ships	...	with tonnage	1,554,397
1910.	1,375	,,	...	,, ,,	1,916,460
decrease	87	,,	...	,, ,,	362,063 (increase.)

The clearances were:—

1909.	1,460	ships	...	with	tonnage	1,574,471
1910.	1,374	,,	...	,,	,,	1,907,471
decrease	86	,,	...	,,	,,	333,000 (increase.)

Distinguishing between ships reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast, the account appears as under:—

Reporting with Cargo.

1910.	1,080	ships	...	with	tonnage	1,696,595
1909.	1,044	,,	...	,,	,,	1,265,583
increase	36	,,	...	,,	,,	431,012

Reporting in Ballast.

1909.	418	ships	...	with	tonnage	288,814
1910.	295	,,	...	,,	,,	219,865
decrease	123	,,	...	,,	,,	68,949

Separating steamers from sailing vessels, the analysis shows that the arrivals of steamships were:—

1909.	1,258	ships	...	with	tonnage	1,520,899
1910.	1,201	,,	...	,,	,,	1,883,356
decrease	57	,,	...	,,	,,	362,457 (increase.)

The steamers arriving with cargo were, however, greater in number than in the previous year. The falling off is in the arrivals in ballast. The following exhibit shows the figures:—

Arriving with Cargo.

1910.	946	ships	...	with	tonnage	1,680,781
1909.	876	,,	...	,,	,,	1,246,315
increase	70	,,	...	,,	,,	434,466

Arriving in Ballast.

1909.	382	ships	...	with	tonnage	274,584
1910.	255	,,	...	,,	,,	202,575
decrease	127	,,	...	,,	,,	72,009

The steamers clearing were as under:—

1909.	1,254	ships	...	with	tonnage	1,534,838
1910.	1,207	,,	...	,,	,,	1,874,722
decrease	47	,,	...	,,	,,	339,884

Separating those clearing in ballast from those taking cargo, the figures are:—

Cleared with Cargo.

1909.	1,163	ships	...	with tonnage	1,432,598
1910.	1,153	,,	...	,, ,,	1,826,226
decrease	10	,,	...	,, ,,	393,628 (increase.)

Cleared in Ballast.

1909.	91	ships	...	with tonnage	102,240
1910.	54	,,	...	,, ,,	48,496
decrease	37	,,	...	,, ,,	53,744

52. The arrivals of steam vessels at the ports were as under:—

—	12 months ended 31st December, 1910.		12 months ended 31st December, 1909.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Kingston ...	516	1,243,475	395	803,472	121	440,003	—	—
Morant Bay ...	2	1,488	—	—	2	1,488	—	—
Port Morant ...	64	54,528	68	59,880	—	—	4	5,352
Port Antonio ...	522	450,232	689	520,355	—	—	167	70,123
Annotto Bay ...	—	—	4	2,454	—	—	4	2,454
Port Maria ...	54	40,788	68	48,331	—	—	14	7,543
St. Ann's Bay ...	1	602	1	602	—	—	—	—
Falmouth ...	1	634	3	5,293	—	—	2	4,659
Montego Bay ...	33	82,309	26	76,219	7	6,090	—	—
Sav-la-mar ...	2	2,321	3	3,569	—	—	1	1,245
Black River ...	5	5,360	1	724	4	4,636	—	—
Milk River ...	1	1,616	—	—	1	1,616	—	—
	—	—	—	—	135	453,833	192	91,376

53. An analysis of the figures shows:—

—	12 months ended 31st December, 1909.		12 months ended 31st December, 1910.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British ...	347	564,563	401	856,257	54	291,694	—	—
Foreign ...	911	956,336	800	1,027,099	—	70,763	111	—

54. Reckoned by number of ships, the gain for British ships is 15·5 per cent., while foreign ships show a falling off of 12·1 per cent. But if the tonnage is reckoned with, the result to be

divided is a gain, and not a loss, and the division is:—British ships, 51·8 per cent., foreign ships, 7·4 per cent.

55. Tracing the shipping transactions of the Colony through a period of 40 years, and taking the period at ten year rests, the figures are as under:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1869	743	223,956	750	216,828
1880	844	398,636	836	398,310
1890	917	538,297	945	536,592
1900	1,187	897,061	1,180	896,450
1910	1,374	1,916,460	1,374	1,907,471

56. Comparative statement showing the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at ports in the Colony of Jamaica for the five years ended 31st March, 1911:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1906–7	1,475	1,519,287	1,455	1,507,189
1907–8	1,348	1,513,243	1,348	1,511,101
1908–9	1,363	1,482,724	1,372	1,517,779
1909–10	1,462	1,554,397	1,460	1,574,810
1910	1,374	1,916,460	1,374	1,907,471

Entered.

57. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation entered at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1909 and 1910.

Nationality.	1910.						1909.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	143	14,963	401	856,257	544	871,220	172	17,640	347	564,563	519	582,203
American	15	4,848	76	99,152	91	104,000	11	2,581	73	91.920	84	94,501
German...	—	—	230	546,227	230	546,227	—	—	226	473,642	226	473,642
Norwegian	9	7,754	463	364,313	472	372,067	12	8,502	551	363,320	563	371,822
Italian	3	3,220	—	—	3	3,220	3	2,222	—	—	3	2,222
Dutch	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	98	—	—	1	98
Swedish	—	—	1	1,423	1	1,423	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian...	2	2,279	—	—	2	2,279	2	2,286	—	—	2	2,286
Spanish...	—	—	2	3,454	2	3,454	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuban	1	40	28	12,530	29	12,570	—	—	54	24,276	54	24,276
State of Panama ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	80	7	3,178	8	3,258
Haytian	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	89	—	—	2	89
Total ...	173	33,104	1,201	1,883,356	1,374	1,916,460	204	33,498	1,258	1,520,809	1,462	1,554,397

Cleared

58. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation cleared at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1909 and 1910.

Nationality.	1910.						1909.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	139	14.900	400	859,250	539	874,150	164	17,177	344	562,515	508	579,692
American	14	5,396	78	100,822	92	106,218	14	3,663	77	94,610	91	98,273
German...	—	—	232	549,437	232	549,437	1	1,009	225	475,456	226	476,465
Norwegian	9	8,321	466	347,036	475	355,357	13	9,093	547	375,190	560	384,283
Italian	2	1,813	—	—	2	1,813	5	4,733	—	—	5	4,733
Dutch	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	98	—	—	1	98
Cuban	1	40	27	12,285	28	12,325	—	—	53	23,435	53	23,435
Swedish	—	—	1	1,423	1	1,423	—	—	—	—	—	—
State of Panama ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	80	8	3,632	9	3,712
Russian...	2	2,279	—	—	2	2,279	3	3,259	—	—	3	3,259
Spanish...	—	—	3	4,469	3	4,469	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austrian	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	743	—	—	1	743
Haytian	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	117	—	—	3	117
Total ...	167	32,749	1,207	1,874,722	1,374	1,907,471	206	39,972	1,254	1,534,838	1,460	1,574,810

III.—LEGISLATION.

59. Thirty-eight Laws were passed in the Session of 1910-11. The following may be mentioned as the more important:—

Law 1 of 1911. A law to enable the Kingston General Commissioners to improve the water supply of the parishes of Kingston and Saint Andrew, by obtaining water from the Ferry River.

Law 2 of 1911. A law further to amend the laws relating to Elementary Education.

Law 3 of 1911. A law to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Valuation of Real Property.

Law 10 of 1911. A law to amend the law of Evidence.

Law 21 of 1911. A law to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Duties on Imports.

Law 35 of 1911. A law to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst plants.

Law 36 of 1911. A law further to amend Law 18 of 1877, entitled "The Customs Consolidation Law, 1877."

Law 37 of 1911. A law to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Trade Marks.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

60. The Director of Education furnishes the following statistics:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books for Year ended 31st October, 1909.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st October, 1909.	Percentage on Average Attendance of number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
					£
1910-11 ...	698	94,923	59,256	62·40	51,965
1909-10 ...	693	89,902	57,849	64·34	48,340

61. Very considerable increase is shown in the number of scholars on the books of the elementary schools, but the average attendance, while it fulfils the estimates based on the monthly Returns, does not show any corresponding improvement, and the percentage has fallen from 64·34 to 62·4. The only explanation I can offer is the floods of November 1909.

62. There is not much change shown in the efficiency of the schools as indicated by the classes at inspection; what little change there is is in the nature of improvement. The amendment in Art. 37 of the Code of 1911, under which provisionally registered teachers will no longer be able to assume charge of schools, except

temporarily, will no doubt in time help to reduce further the number of third class schools.

63. The number of school gardens recognised by the Department and receiving a grant, increased during the year from 361 to 377, and the amount expended in grants on account of such gardens, from £509 to £746.

64. Practical agricultural teaching has received considerable encouragement under the recent amendments to the Code. The Special grant for the work has been increased; better provision has been made for the supply of tools to small schools and for fencing, and a special grant of £150 made for improving the supply of tools.

65. The teaching of advanced manual training has been continued at the centres at which it was held last year. There is a slight increase in the amounts of grants for this study, which is a satisfactory improvement on last year, when the reverse was the case.

66. The Montego Bay Government Secondary School has fairly maintained its numbers, and the efficiency of its work.

67. The School has not yet been able to move into its new quarters, but the change will be effected shortly, and it is hoped that the improved facilities will then render this school a still more valuable addition to the means for secondary instruction in the Island.

68. Provision has been made for the addition of an Assistant Director to the office staff, and of three officers to the staff of Inspectors. These additions will relieve the pressure due to the greatly increased duties at the central office, and will make it possible for the Inspectors to assist and encourage the teachers of schools by regular visits of inspection and advice, in addition to the annual examinations, and such special visits as have hitherto been practicable. The number of schools in each Inspector's district will be reduced from about 100 to about 70.

69. A considerable event in the educational history of the Island during 1910-11, was the visit of Mr. H. H. Piggott, one of H.M. Inspectors of Secondary Schools under the English Board of Education, who made a tour of inspection of all the secondary schools under the control of the Jamaica Schools Commission. (It is clear that the time is ripe for some development, and in some cases some reorganization, in this branch of our educational work. Several difficulties have to be faced, in the consideration of which the experienced advice of Mr. Piggott will, I am sure, be of the greatest value to the Colony, which has been the first to take advantage of the offer of the Board of Education in England to make the service of its Inspectors available for such a purpose).

70. On the 1st of January, 1911, the regulations for compulsory education in Kingston District (including Port Royal and some adjoining portions of St. Andrew's), in Falmouth and Lucea, came into effect, and the School Boards in these places have energetically undertaken the carrying out of the scheme. It appears likely that the influx of children that will be brought into school in these places is less than many have apprehended. The average attendances in the districts affected by the com-

pulsory regulations for the month of March (after they had been three months in operation) as compared with the same month in the previous year were as follows:—

	March, 1910.	March, 1911.
Kingston	4,786	5,563
Falmouth	149	174
Lucea	187	225

71. The provision referred to in last year's Report for the establishment of a Technical Continuation School in Kingston, has resulted in the appointment of a Technical Instructor, who is about to commence his duties immediately in temporary quarters, while arrangements have been made to accommodate the school more permanently during the coming year.

72. The management of the Technical and Continuation School has been transferred from the Board of Education to the Department, assisted by an advisory committee of gentlemen with special interest and experience in its proposed work. The infant school when re-opened will be managed by the Kingston School Board.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

73. The following particulars may be recorded with regard to the operations of certain institutions:—

(*a.*) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Indoor patients treated, 3,376; outdoor patients, including paupers, 8,076; prescriptions made up, 17,438; surgical operations, 1,283; minor surgical operations, 490; daily average number of beds, 193; total cost of maintenance, £3,134 19*s.* 7*d.*

74. Provision has been made for the addition of 10 extra beds to the 220 already provided for the accommodation of constabulary patients.

75. The new out-patient rooms and dispensary, and the Rietti wards for the sick poor have been taken over and occupied.

76. A system has been started of feeding, at hospital expense, all unpaid probationer nurses resident in the Nurses' Home, so as to enable an increased number of suitable country girls to be trained who otherwise would not have the means to support themselves in Kingston during their probationary period.

(*b.*) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital.*

77. Number of patients admitted, 600; 8 pupil nurses admitted for training (7 passed and received certificates); average daily number of beds, 17; receipts, £321 1*s.* 9*d.*; expenditure, £1,300 3*s.*

(*c.*) *Lunatic Asylum.*

78. Number of patients on 31st March, 1911, 1,169; an increase of 88 since beginning of year. Total number of patients under

treatment during year, 1,409. Daily average resident, 1,137; rate of recovery, 44·14 per cent.; admissions, 324; discharges, 143; deaths, 91; death-rate, 8·03 per cent. No deaths were caused by malarial fever. This is attributable to the sanitary measures mentioned in last year's Report, also to the regular issue of five-grain doses of quinine three times a week during and after the rainy seasons, and to the steps taken to clear the surrounding grounds of redundant vegetation. Two wards were erected, and the dining hall was restored. Provision has been made for the erection of another ward to accommodate 100 inmates of the female division.

(*d.*) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1910		103
Admitted		24
		127
Discharged	3	
Absconded	4	
Died	16	
	—	23
On 31st March, 1911		104

79. The buildings and grounds were kept in good order.

The farm was in good cultivation, and supplied the institution with vegetables.

The death-rate was the average.

The average longevity of leper life of those who died during year works out at 17½ years for anæsthetic, and 12½ years for tubercular, cases.

(*e.*) *Government Savings Bank.*

80. There has been a further decline in the liability of the Government Savings Bank to its depositors on current account of £29,620 12*s.* 11¾*d.*, of which the decrease on ordinary accounts was £9,879 2*s.* 9¼*d.*, and on Government accounts £19,741 10*s.* 2½*d.* The decreases in 1909-10 were £12,168 11*s.* 0¾*d.* and £14,424 17*s.* 4½*d.* respectively, or a total of £26,593 8*s.* 4¾*d.* In these two years the liability of the bank to depositors has fallen off to the extent of £56,214, of which, however, only £22,048 was the property of ordinary depositors. The increased banking facilities obtainable in recent years have led to Government business being largely transacted with the Bank of Nova Scotia rather than with the Savings Bank. Although statistics are not available, it is believed that the same cause has operated with private individuals and that the Government Savings Bank's loss of business is due to its transfer to chartered banks giving higher rates of interest on deposits. The Savings Bank, however, still maintains its usefulness to the depositors of small sums, the number of accounts of £5 and under being 27,733.

81. The balance sheet of the institution on the 31st March, 1910, shows a liability to depositors of £363,796, the full amount

of which was covered by investments in British and Colonial securities at that date.

82. The report by the Registrar of Titles to Land shows the maintenance of a large, though fluctuating, volume of work, but calls for no special comment.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

83. The judicial statistics for the year show for the most part a continued absence of serious crime. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 4,013, and to lock-ups for short terms 1,764, making a total of 5,777, as compared with 4,960 in the previous year, an increase of 817, or about 16·5 per cent.

84. The re-convictions during the year amounted to 1,826, of which 728 were second convictions, 354 third, and 744 fourth and upwards—a large proportion of habitual offenders. During 1909-10 the re-convictions numbered 1,470.

85. The daily average of prisoners in custody in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 1,192, as compared with 1,193 during the previous year. There were 49 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 39 during 1909-10. There was one execution of capital punishment for murder.

86. Considering the institutions separately, 12 deaths occurred in the General Penitentiary, representing a rate of 18·49 per 1,000. This is the lowest rate of mortality recorded at this establishment since the year 1886-87, when it was 15·05. At the St. Catherine District Prison, 37 deaths occurred, representing a rate of 68·26 per 1,000. Of the 37 prisoners who died, 24 are reported as having been admitted in very poor health.

87. During the year 1910-11, 118 persons were bound over as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. There were 56 probationers from the previous year, making 174 persons under recognizances to report to the Probation Officer. From these probationers, 876 reports were received. The following table shows the increase in the number of probationers, and of reports received since the law referred to was passed (including the ten months of special arrangements made previously:—

Period ending	Convicted.	Under supervision.	Reports received.
31st March, 1909	131	131	461
31st March, 1910	88	132	593
31st March, 1911	118	174	876

Of the 174 probationers under supervision this year, only 9 were brought before the Court for indictable offences subsequent to first conviction. For default in respect of their reports, police assistance was sought to warn probationers in 22 cases, and subsequent proceedings were taken in 17 cases.

88. The several Resident Magistrates were invited to submit reports as to the action taken by them under Law 27 of 1909, "The Probation of Offenders Law," and Law 25 of 1904, "The Young Criminals Punishment Law," and as to the effect of the operation of these laws.

89. From the replies received it is learnt that, except in St. Thomas, both the laws are used to a considerable extent, and with results deemed satisfactory, the instances being few in which offenders dealt with under the laws are brought before a court a second time.

90. The replies also go to show that the appointment of a Probation Officer resident in Kingston has been justified, but it is not thought necessary as yet to appoint such officers for each of the parishes.

91. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £14,263, and for the St. Catherine District Prison, £6,847; total, £21,110. The gross earnings in cash of the General Penitentiary were £3,330, and of the St. Catherine District Prison, £1,241. The yield of the St. Catherine District Prison farm was valued at £1,254.

92. There is a somewhat remarkable proximity between the daily average number of lunatics in the asylum (1,137), and that of prisoners in the prisons (1,192).

Police.

93. The constabulary force was 36 units below strength at the close of the year, the average deficiency during the year being 28. At the close of 1909-10 it was 19 units below strength.

94. The conclusion arrived at to account for the shortage is that men of the stamp required are attracted elsewhere by better prospects of pay and advancement, notwithstanding all that has been done in recent years to popularize the police force.

198 men were enlisted during the year; 113 Sub-officers and men were discharged, 41 were dismissed, 29 resigned, and 3 died.

95. The records of the operations of the constabulary still continue to show increased activity on the part of the force for maintaining law and order.

96. During the year the headquarters and depôt of the force were inspected by General Sir Ian Hamilton, Inspector-General of the Oversea Forces, who expressed his satisfaction in respect of the general appearance of the officers and men, as well as the equipment, barracks, and internal economy.

97. A new police station was established in the Swift River district of the parish of Portland.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

98. The total population of the Island, as shown by the census taken on the 2nd April, 1911, and which for all practical purposes may be regarded as the population on the 31st March, 1911, was 831,383 (males, 397,439; females, 433,944).

99. As compared with the returns of the population according to the preceding census the figures are:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1911	397,439	433,944	831,383
1891	305,948	333,543	639,491
Increase	91,491	100,401	191,892

100. This is an increase of 30 per cent. over the figures of twenty years ago. The rate of increase for the period 1871 to 1891 was 26·3 per cent. The present increase has been contributed to by every parish except Port Royal. Some have contributed in a much greater proportion than others. This indicates that there has been a considerable movement of persons from some parishes to others. During the last twenty years the population of Saint Mary has increased 70 per cent., and that of Portland 53·7 per cent., while that of Trelawny has only increased 14·4 per cent.

101. Of the electoral divisions of the parishes the following show decreases:—(1) The South-Western Division of Kingston (formerly No. 3 Ward); (2) St. Joseph, Dallas and Metcalfe Division of Saint Andrew; (3) Falmouth Division of Trelawny; (4) Marley and Rose Hall Division of Saint James; and (5) the Goshen Division of St. Elizabeth. The decrease in the latter is accounted for by the transfer to the adjoining Division of Santa Cruz, to which they really belong, of certain districts included in the Goshen Division in 1881. These districts had a total population of 4,169 in 1891, and 5,149 at the taking of the present census.

102. Marriages:—

Marriages.	1910-11.	1909-10.	1908-9.	1907-8.	1906-7.
Number	3,340	3,543	3,116	6,251	5,507
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	4·0	4·3	4·1	7·4	6·6

The marriage rate per 1,000 continues to fall, and the percentage of illegitimate births amounts this year to 62·4 against 62·0 in 1909-1910. The total births registered numbered 31,918 (16,152 males and 15,766 females) against 32,402 in the previous year; birth-rate 38·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population against 39·7 in the previous year.

103. Deaths registered: 19,119; 9,601 males and 9,518 females; rate per 1,000 of estimated population 23·1. In 1909-1910 the rate was 22·8.

104. Of the parishes, Kingston 32·8 and St. Andrew 27·5, per 1,000 have the highest death-rates, while Manchester 13·0, St.

Ann 18·6, and St. Elizabeth 19·0, per 1,000 have the lowest. The Registrar-General states that the rate is calculated on the mean population for 1910-11, *i.e.*, the population on 30th September, 1910.

105. Infantile mortality was accountable for 8,871 deaths (46·3 per cent.) during the year. These figures represent deaths of children under five years of age, and of this number 7,743 (or 40·4 per cent. of the total deaths) were those of children under two years of age. This is 24·36 per cent. of the number of births recorded for the year.

106. The very high death-rate in Kingston and St. Andrew is principally attributable to this fact: 38·9 per cent. of the children born in Kingston and 35·5 per cent. of those born in St. Andrew died before they attained the age of five years, the great majority of the children who died being under two years.

107. I subjoin a table, similar to that given in last year's Report, showing the number of deaths in which the causes were defined or not defined in the several parishes, with the percentage of undefined cases:—

—	Causes specified.		Causes ill-defined or unspecified.		Total.		Percentage undefined.	
	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.
Kingston and Port Royal.	1,399	1,535	374	391	1,773	1,926	21·1	20·3
Portland	787	857	254	256	1,041	1,113	24·4	23·0
St. Andrew	957	1,057	357	393	1,314	1,450	27·1	27·1
Hanover	577	615	238	272	815	887	29·2	30·6
St. Thomas	690	696	290	269	980	965	29·5	27·8
St. Ann	884	860	384	443	1,268	1,303	30·2	34·0
St. Catherine ...	1,556	1,585	721	752	2,277	2,337	31·7	32·1
Westmoreland ...	906	978	437	500	1,343	1,478	32·5	33·8
St. James	554	620	286	291	840	911	34·3	31·9
St. Mary	951	1,073	500	498	1,451	1,571	34·4	31·7
Trelawny	488	531	297	290	785	821	37·8	35·3
St. Elizabeth ...	970	968	603	518	1,573	1,486	38·3	34·8
Clarendon	1,145	1,023	782	684	1,927	1,707	40·5	40·1
Manchester	736	685	513	479	1,249	1,164	41·0	41·1
Totals ...	12,600	13,083	6,036	6,036	18,636	19,119	32·4	31·6

108. The percentages of deaths from causes unspecified range from 20·3 per cent. in Kingston to 41·1 per cent. in Manchester.

The variation of the figures is, to some extent, though not obviously in all cases, explicable by the different character of the settlement of population in the several parishes.

These figures must be borne in mind in surveying the apparent prevalence of various diseases in different parishes.

109. The following table shows the relative prevalence of the causes of death most frequently recorded:—

Cause of Death as returned.	Kingston.		Other Parishes.		Total.		Cases medically testified.	
	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1909–10.	1910–11.
Infantile Diseases—								
Premature Birth, &c. ...	64	60	208	180	272	240	29	12
Teething, &c.	27	31	160	194	187	225	16	13
Convulsions	43	59	1,716	1,552	1,759	1,611	34	34
	134	150	2,084	1,926	2,218	2,076		
Malaria and Kindred Fevers—								
Malarial Fever	113	87	423	379	536	466	437	369
Malarial Poisoning... ...	10	11	20	45	30	56	29	53
Fever (undistinguished) ...	56	62	3,145	2,859	3,201	2,921	28	37
	179	160	3,588	3,283	3,767	3,443		
Enteric Fever	88	100	156	137	244	237	205	209
"Infective Enteritis"... ...	6	1	4	1	10	2	10	2
Diarrhœa and Choleraic Diarrhœa.	76	93	585	610	661	703	211	226
Dysentery	22	15	137	131	159	146	54	61
Enteritis and Gastro-Enteritis (not epidemic).	88	86	96	133	184	219	174	206
Phthisis (not otherwise defined)	116	150	979	989	1,095	1,139	256	359
Tubercular Phthisis	47	47	90	105	137	152	137	137
Pneumonia	51	46	126	145	177	191	155	165
Bronchitis	32	49	178	230	210	279	56	101
Asthma...	—	4	119	137	119	141	6	8
Bright's Disease	62	61	181	237	243	298	219	273
Venereal Disease	22	17	130	118	152	135	138	118
Parasitic Disease	10	11	124	107	134	118	55	57
Ulcers	1	—	184	173	194	173	34	40
Influenza	—	4	—	178	—	182	—	9
Whooping Cough	—	31	—	588	—	619	—	65

In my Report for last year I examined in some detail the significance of these returns as illustrated by the report of the medical officers.

Hospital Statistics.

110. The total number of patients treated in the hospitals of the island during the year was 26,338, of whom 7,542 or 28½ per cent. suffered from malarial fever. This is equal to 9 per 1,000 of the population. The bulk of the cases of malaria were treated in the under-mentioned institutions:—

Annotto Bay Public General Hospital	2,525
Port Antonio ,, ...	1,319
Lionel Town ,, ...	696
Sav-la-Mar ,, ...	634
Kingston Public Hospital	600

Port Maria Public General Hospital	...	...	494
Spanish Town ,,	...	...	423
Buff Bay ,,	...	...	309

The malaria rate commenced to rise in August and continued high for six months:—August, 668; September, 665; October, 809; November, 879; December, 945; January, 925—total, 4,891. This coincided with the period of high rainfall which commenced in July and lasted till January. During the remaining six months of the financial year the cases numbered:—April, 442; May, 342; June, 398; July, 483; February, 574; March, 412—total, 2,651.

111. The total number of deaths from malarial fever, malarial poisoning, and undistinguished fever was 3,443, or 324 less than in 1909-10. There seems, therefore, some ground for the belief that the measures taken for the abatement of malaria are beginning to take effect, and that if they are steadily maintained and filling and drainage works are undertaken from year to year, the mortality from this cause will rapidly decrease.

Yaws.

112. A vigorous campaign against yaws has been pursued as a result of the passing of Law 23 of 1910. The difficulties attendant on dealing with the matter are considerable, and different systems have been adopted in various West Indian islands. Much has been expected from a policy of compulsory segregation instituted in certain of the Colonies, but it has not been attended with such success as might have been attained had the circumstances been more favourable. The initial expense of building asylums and the recurring expenditure of maintenance of a large number of patients usually created so great a financial strain that in some cases the attempt had either to be abandoned or the stringency of the segregation laws relaxed. Many of the people believed that the disease was inevitable, and that it was better for the children to contract it when young so as to become immune in later life, and it is said that they were directly exposed to contagion with that object in view. The confinement in asylums was, moreover, so distasteful to those who had contracted the disease that they frequently hid themselves and were screened from the authorities by their friends.

113. The system now in force in Jamaica is that of affording outdoor treatment at the expense of the Government and employing rural constables to discover and to report cases occurring in their districts, to persuade them to present themselves for treatment, and to return to the doctor and continue doing so until cured. The reports received from the various district medical officers are, on the whole, very encouraging. In some districts there is a considerable decrease in the number of cases and a breaking down of the prejudice against medical treatment, and an increasing willingness to present themselves voluntarily.

The number of cases treated in 1910-1911 was 7,313, and in 1909-1910, 4,555.

114. The district medical officer at Port Antonio specially brings to notice the very satisfactory results obtained by him in the treatment of certain cases of yaws with the remedy known as "606."

115. Dr. Mosely used this remedy in four cases of several years' standing, and in each case the persons treated have to all outward appearances entirely recovered from the disease, and are now practically well. He recommends that the drug should be supplied to every hospital for the treatment of this disease, with a view to its being given a further trial.

Hook Worm Disease.

116. The surgeon of the General Penitentiary called attention to the large percentage of prisoners admitted into the institution who were suffering from this disease, and stated that as a result of examinations it was found that out of 71 persons admitted 51 or over 70 per cent. were found to harbour the worm.

117. Reports from several district medical officers go to show that the disease is much more prevalent than has generally been supposed, not only among the East Indians, but also among the native population, and that many cases which might be attributed to malaria will in future be found to be due to hook worm.

118. Fifty per cent. of the prisoners admitted into the St. Catherine District Prison are reported to harbour the worm.

Syphilis.

119. One of the points brought to notice by the Commission which was appointed to report on the distress in certain portions of the parishes of Manchester and St. Elizabeth in 1909 was that the prevalence of syphilis was a cause of much suffering and inefficiency, and a vote was taken to enable the disease to be dealt with in these districts. As a result 346 cases have been treated at Government expense.

Vomiting Sickness.

120. During the year it was decided to undertake an investigation into the causes of the mysterious malady locally known by the generic title of "Vomiting Sickness," which, as explained in my last year's Report, breaks out in certain districts in the cold season amongst the poorer classes, and, while maintaining a constancy of general characteristics, has hitherto displayed, when subjected to specific examination, a similitude to various forms of vegetable poisoning, to the effect of worms, meningitis, bronchitis, gastritis, and other more familiar diseases. Identified by one district medical officer as the result of poison, it has been speedily proved by another to be due to worms, and as quickly passed on by another as meningitis, and so on through the category. The Secretary of State, on being applied to, appointed, on the advice of the Tropical Diseases Research Committee, Captain Potter, R.A.M.C., to conduct the investigation. Captain Potter's report has not yet been received.

121. With the view also of tracing the means by which enteric fever is disseminated, a Committee has been appointed consisting of Dr. Macdonald, the Health Officer of Kingston, where the greatest number of cases in any one locality in the island occur, and Dr. Turton, of Stony Hill, St. Andrew.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

122. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1910-11 with those of previous years:—

—	1910-11.	1909-10.	1908-9.
	£	£	£
Postages	36,587	33,362	32,505
Commission on money orders ...	390	425	459
Local commission on British postal orders.	225	212	195
Commission on local postal orders ...	831	777	742
Miscellaneous	938	865	673
Telegraphs	6,942	6,769	6,221
Total	45,913	42,410	40,795

123. These statistics show an increase of £3,503 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases of £3,224 and £173 in postage and telegraph collections, and of £140 on commissions on postal orders (British and local respectively), and on miscellaneous. The only decrease has been a small one of £35 on commissions on money orders.

124. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £42,336 as against £36,964 in 1909-1910, an increase of £5,372 due to continued expansion in the work of the department, an improvement in the pay of some subordinate officers and improved facilities afforded the public, among which may be mentioned the opening during the year of three new district post offices and the erection in Kingston of one collecting box.

125. A large initial outlay for purchase of mules and vans was incurred by taking over the Northside and Windward mail contracts by the Public Works Department.

126. The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900-1901	26,927	24,227
1910-1911	45,913	42,336

127. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were:—

—	At General Post Office.		
	1910–11.	1909–10.	1908–9.
Outwards	4,508,686	4,458,220	3,839,542
Inwards	5,688,126	5,707,807	4,579,495
Total	10,196,812	10,166,027	8,419,037
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	1,494,537	2,054,066	1,550,372
Grand Total ...	11,691,349	12,220,093	9,969,409
Telegrams sent and received ...	134,626	112,515	103,471

128. The introduction of sixpenny inland telegrams on January 1st, 1911, has resulted in an increase in the number of telegrams sent during the first three months of 1911 as compared with the corresponding months of 1910. This increase in telegrams has been accompanied by decrease in receipts over the same period; this decrease, however, shows a tendency to diminish, and it is anticipated that statistics covering a longer test period will give better results in this respect.

129. During the year facilities were offered to the public of buying 5-grain doses of quinine for a farthing at all post offices. These facilities were taken full advantage of in every district of the Island.

130. The General Post and Telegraph Offices were transferred to the new public buildings.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

131. The year under review was one of considerable activity for the Public Works Department, the total expenditure by which was £189,436 3*s*. 1*d*., made up as follows:—

Establishment.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries and other charges ...				15,815	1	10
Works under Public Works Votes and Loan Laws:						
Part 1. Main Roads and Bridges —Maintenance ...	90,647	10	6			
Part 2. Main Roads and Bridges —New Works ...	33,698	17	9	124,346	8	3

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Part 3. Public Buildings and Telegraph — Maintenance				14,068	1	10
Part 4. Public Buildings—New Works	15,180	17	10			
Part 4. Public Buildings under Law 6 of 1893, 40 of 1894, 27 of 1897, and 9 of 1904 ...	56	6	11			
Part 4. Public Buildings, Kingston, and King's House, St. Andrew	4,048	15	2			
Part 4. Construction or extension of telegraph and telephone lines	492	18	8	19,778	18	7
Part 5. Lighthouses				1,[illegible]8	2	10
Part 6. Rio Cobre Irrigation Works — Maintenance				3,330	6	8
Part 7. Spanish Town Water Works				886	7	9
Part 7. Works executed for Public Departments, Parochial Boards, &c.				9,842	15	4
				£189,436	3	1

132. The cost of the department was equal to 8·3 per cent. of the total expenditure controlled by it.

133. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole island was £38 8*s*. 2*d*. (including £8 1*s*. due to special cost of repairing flood damages). The average cost, including special work of improvement, was £45 14*s*. 9*d*., including £2,841 15*s*. 6*d*. total expenditure on engines and wagons.

Main Roads Maintenance.

134. The Director of Public Works reports that on the whole the main roads throughout the island were maintained in fair order during the year. Some damage was done to the roads in certain parishes by abnormal rains, but these damages were more or less repaired by the end of the year.

135. The Director of Public Works also calls attention to the growing wear and tear of roads by the use of motor carriages for heavy traffic in St. Mary and Westmoreland, and by the general increase in the banana transport traffic.

New Works, Main Roads, and Bridges.

136. In addition to the building of bridges, culverts, and many other minor improvements, much important work was done on

new lines of communication, partly by taking up and improving sections of existing roads, main or parochial, where ill fitted for wheeled traffic, partly by deviations, and partly by making new lengths of road on the following lines:—

St. Andrew—

1. Between the Junction Road at the foot of Nolan's Hill and Mount Charles on the parish boundary, with a view to through communication with Richmond in St. Mary's, to join 10.
2. Between Stony Hill and St. Christopher's Church, with a view to extension to Above Rocks, and to join the main road from Pedro River to Bog Walk.

St. Thomas—

3. Yallahs Works to Easington, to facilitate motor traffic crossing the Yallahs River.
4. *Serge Island to Mount Vernon.*

Portland—

5. Windsor to Moore Town.
6. Ann's Delight to Berwick Spring, Spanish River.
7. Nonsuch to Islington: East end Interior Road.
8. Shrewsbury to Fruitful Vale and Chipps Hall.
9. Craigmill Road, White River.

St. Mary's—

10. Montrose to Plattfield, to join 1.
11. Newell Spring to New Ramble.
12. Sheep Pen Hill.

St. Ann's—

13. Claremont to Pedro.

St. James—

14. Catadupa—Brothers' Retreat.
15. Springfield Road.

Westmoreland—

16. Beaufort Hill Road.
17. Bethel Town—Duckett's Spring.
18. Springfield Road.
19. Galloway Hill.

St. Elizabeth—

20. Mountainside—Malvern.

Manchester—

21. Devon—Greenvale.

Clarendon—

22. Thompson Town—Smithville.

St. Catherine—

23. Point Hill Road.
24. Marlie and Bartons Hill.
25. Riversdale—Lucky Valley.

Repairs and Maintenance of Public Buildings.

137. The expenditure under this head included the following amounts spent in the restoration of earthquake damage:—

	£
Lunatic Asylum	302
Institute of Jamaica	2,709
Old Mico Buildings	1,488

There is now only a small amount of earthquake damage remaining to be repaired.

New Works, Public Buildings.

138. The buildings on the lands in Port Royal Street, Kingston, known as "Desnoes," and lately used as offices for the Collector-General and Customs, were remodelled and fitted up as offices for the Director and Kingston Superintendent of Public Works and the Protector of Immigrants.

The old Custom House was demolished and the site fenced.

One of the buildings formerly used as rum stores was remodelled and fitted up as a depôt for East Indian immigrants.

The old stamp office was altered, enlarged, and with additional buildings fitted up for use as the King's warehouse.

An additional dining-shed and a drying-shed were built at the Girls' Reformatory, Stony Hill.

A new range of cells was erected at the police station at Half-Way Tree.

A long range of stables was erected at Hope Gardens, and a stable and coach-house were built at the residence of the Director of Agriculture.

Improvements were made to the Public Works Office at Morant Bay and the several police stations and hospitals in St. Thomas.

The police stations at Port Antonio and St. Margaret's Bay were improved, and the station at Manchioneal was removed from the lower to the upper floor of the premises, the lower floor being converted into a court room.

The Government School at Fair Prospect was enlarged, and teachers' houses erected at Fair Prospect and Manchioneal.

The work on the improvement of the Port Antonio Harbour was continued during the year.

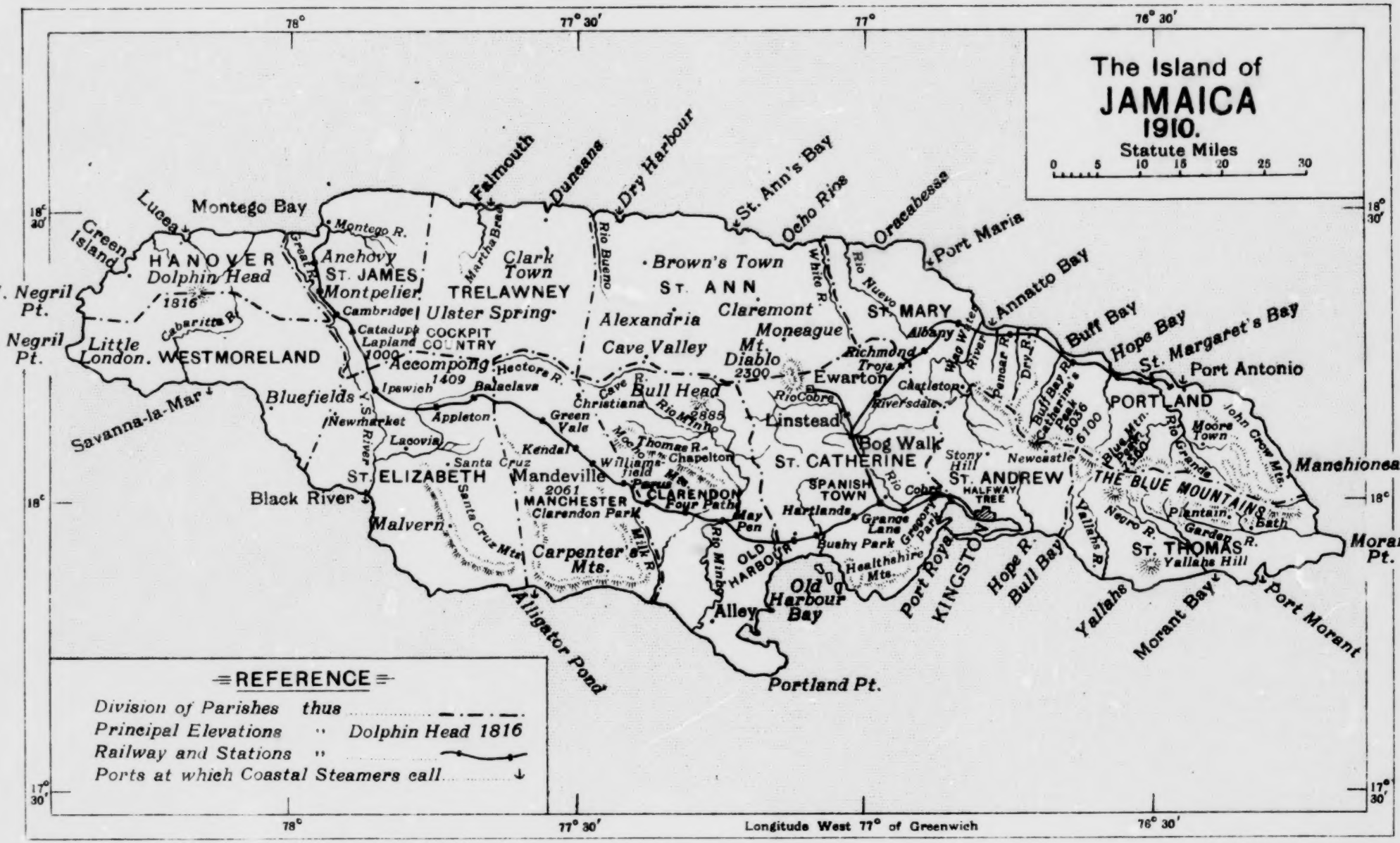
A new explosive magazine was erected at the Public Works Office at Richmond. A new building at the Annotto Bay police station and new stables at the stations at Port Maria and Lucky Hill were also erected.

Stables were added to the police stations at Cave Valley, Moneague, Claremont, and Alexandria, and a teachers' house and outbuildings erected at the Government School at Brown's Town.

New premises were acquired for the post office at Falmouth, and the necessary alterations, additions, and repairs were all but completed during the year.

The approved works for the improvement of the Falmouth water supply were completed.

Alterations, additions, and repairs were done to the new post office premises at Montego Bay, and the police stations at Montego Bay, Adelphi, and Spring Mount were improved. The necessary repairs to the existing buildings at Pleasant Hill, which were acquired for the Montego Bay Secondary School, were carried out,



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1911.

and a contract was entered into for the erection of the new school buildings.

Additions were made to the Public Works Office at Lucea, the police stations in the parish, and the hospital at Lucea.

A new office was erected for the Public Works Department at Newport.

The Public Works Offices at May Pen were enlarged by the erection of a pay office, the Chapelton Police Station was improved, and additions were made to the other stations in Clarendon, including the erection of a 4,000 gallon cement concrete tank at the Alley.

Improvements to the sewage discharge from the Spanish Town Hospital, and the St. Catherine District Prison were effected, and additions and improvements were made at the Post Office, Spanish Town, the Government school at Linstead, and Old Harbour Bay and school.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

139. The general tenor of the foregoing Report will have indicated, and the periodical Reports which I have received from the Revenue and Police Departments in each parish substantiate the opinion, that steady, if not rapid, progress was made during the year under review in the economic and social advancement of the Island community.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	"
691	Hong Kong...	"
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–11
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910–1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 726.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 681.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1912.

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No. 726.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 681.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
27 July, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1911, together with two copies of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(26014—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 9/12. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1911.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1911 amounted to £8,318, while the expenditure was £7,695, as against £8,648 and £6,827 in 1910, respectively. There was a surplus of £623. The expenditure included the grants under the Salt Producers Relief Ordinance, of which £1,767 were allotted for the year. Favourable weather conditions for salt-raking and the continued demand for the new issue of stamps contributed to keep up the revenue.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907	7,391	7,119
1908	7,404	11,430
1909	7,748	7,454
1910	8,648	6,827
1911	8,318	7,695

including £4,000 in 1908 and £800 in 1909 for hurricane relief.

Revenue.

	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Import Duties	3,494	3,477
Royalty on Salt	1,716	2,183
Port Dues	494	577
Licences and Internal Revenue...	187	234
Payments for Specific Services...	166	128
Post Office	1,237	935
Revenue from Government Property	1,209	448
Interest	135	228
Miscellaneous	8	107
	£8,648	£8,318

Expenditure.

	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Pensions	333	391
Commissioner's Department ...	1,858	1,868
Judicial Department	213	211
Police and Prisons Department...	764	571
Medical Department	584	582
Paupers	329	337
Education	600	600

	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Registration and Vaccination ...	22	33
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	447	533
Post Office Department ...	248	191
Lighthouses	238	235
Public Works Department ...	631	—
Public Works Recurrent ...	539	355
Salt Industry	—	1,767
	£6,827	£7,695

Assets stand at £9,678 and Liabilities at £3,388, showing a balance of Assets of £6,290. There is no Public Debt and there is a Reserve Fund of £5,229.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board:—

No. 1.—The Appropriation Ordinance, 1912.

No. 2.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1910.

No. 3.—The Court of Appeal Ordinance, 1911.

The last-named Ordinance repeals the Court of Appeal Ordinance, 1907, due provision being made under the Jamaica laws in 1908 and 1911 for regulating appeals from the Supreme Court of the Dependency to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 170 births, or 33 per thousand, and 94 deaths, or 16 per thousand.

The estimated population to the square mile was:—

	Population.	Per square mile.
Grand Turk	1,681	168
Salt Cay	398	99
Cockburn Harbour	817	102
The Caicos Islands—		
(*a*) East Caicos	150	9
(*b*) Middle Caicos... ...	717	18
(*c*) North Caicos	1,110	28
(*d*) Blue Hills	593	17
(*e*) West Caicos	141 (2,711)	12 (19)

The Census taken in the Dependency on the 2nd April showed that the population numbered 5,615 persons, of whom seven were foreigners on board vessels in harbour, making the total net population 5,608, and giving an increase of 328, or 5·8 per cent. over

the Census of 1901. Of the total population, 2,505 were men and 3,110 women, or 45 and 55 per cent., respectively: in other words, 9 males to 11 females. The white population decreased from 382 to 296, or 34 per cent., but the coloured and black inhabitants have risen from 1,378 and 3,590 to 1,627 and 3,702, respectively. The great decrease in the white population was caused by many being obliged to emigrate to seek employment in consequence of the succession of bad seasons and unremunerative prices for salt within the past decade, and by the gradual concentration of the ownership of the ponds in fewer hands. 1,464 persons were employed in agriculture, 594 in manufactures, and 116 in commerce.

EDUCATION.

The Census taken in April shows that of a population of 5,615 more than half can read and write, the total number being 2,821, as against 2,409 in 1901, an increase of 412. On the other hand, the number of those who can read only is 414, as against 706 in 1901. The compulsory sections of the Ordinance of 1901 have improved the numbers in the salt settlements—where the attendances compare favourably with those in rural districts in England—wonderfully during the past decade, and this has been accomplished with little or no friction, the parents recognising the advantages of the instruction given in the elementary schools.

The average number on the rolls was:—

Grand Turk	273
Salt Cay	71
Cockburn Harbour	178
Kew	88
Blue Hills...	101
Lorimers	96
Bottle Creek	124
Total	931

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports and exports during the year were valued at £24,722 and £23,703, as against £27,916 and £24,461 in 1910, respectively. The exports of salt rose from £14,889 to £19,503, and of sponges from £1,316 to £1,530, respectively, while those of sisal, chiefly owing to retention of stocks in consequence of low prices in the United States, fell from £7,351 to £1,225.

The value of the imports and exports during the past five years has been:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1907	27,660	23,817
1908	24,426	24,768
1909	25,262	18,936
1910	27,916	24,461
1911	24,722	23,703

During the year the trade was with the following countries:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	3,642	—
British Colonies ...	4,633	4,528
Foreign Countries ...	16,447	19,175
	£24,722	£23,703

Articles of Export.

	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Salt	14,889	19,503*
Sisal	7,351	1,225
Sponges	1,316	1,530
Conchs	559	743
Miscellaneous	346	702
	£24,461	£23,703

Shipping.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the period 1907 to 1911 was:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1907	354,453
1908	410,195
1909	433,340
1910	385,762
1911	388,112

Comparative statement of shipping cleared for the years 1910 and 1911.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	142	10,389	6	15,693	148	26,352
United States	10	7,279	36	62,958	46	70,237
Other	75	1,027	55	75,920	130	76,947
Totals, 1911	227	18,695	97	154,841	324	173,536
Totals, 1910	240	14,949	114	177,646	345	192,595

* Including £4,246 for fishery salt.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The Police Force consists of 1 inspector, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 2 lance-corporals, 3 constables, 2 revenue constables, and 10 district constables, or 21 in all.

Offences reported to the police	160
Number of persons brought before the magistrates...	154
Summary convictions:—	
Offence against property with violence to the person	—
Other offences against property	18
Other offences against the person	31
Other offences	78
Convictions in the Superior Court:—	
Other offences against property...	1
Other offences	5
Number of persons acquitted:—	
In the Superior Court	2
In the Inferior Courts	27

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year the average rainfall, as recorded at nine stations throughout the Dependency, was one of the lowest ever known, being only 22·91 inches. The wettest month was May, when 5·16 inches fell, whereas ·08 inch was registered in the following month, June.

The rainfall during the past five years has been:—

	Inches.
1907	28·49
1908	41·37
1909	39·97
1910	26·73
1911	22·91
Average annual rainfall for the period 1907-11	31·89

According to observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, the coolest and hottest months were February and August, the mean temperature for those months being 74·5° and 84·3°, respectively.

Mean temperature for the year	80·4°
Mean pressure for the year	30·060
Lowest temperature (11th March)	61°
Maximum temperature (25th August)	93·2°

The prevailing winds of the year were:—

	Days.
N.	12
N.E.	72
E.	141
S.E.	105

	Days.
S.	24
S.W.	4
W.	3
N.W.	2
Calm	2

SAVINGS BANK.

	£
Deposits during the year	1,286
Withdrawals	1,305
Total amount at credit of depositors... ...	2,670
Amount of invested funds	2,594
Revenue	59
Expenditure	47

Number of depositors 321

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

Early in the year the Imperial Direct West India Mail ceased running, whereby these islands were deprived of direct communication with the Mother Country. A steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black, which leaves Halifax for Jamaica every month, receives a small subsidy for calling at Grand Turk, both coming and returning. The Clyde Line from New York to San Domingo call every two weeks, both on the outward and on the return voyage. Cable communication with Bermuda and Jamaica has been established since 1898, the rates per word being:—To England, 3*s.*; to Jamaica, 1*s.*; to Halifax, 2*s.*; to Bermuda, 1*s.* 6*d.*; and to New York, 2*s.* 3*d.* Non-express messages are charged half rate.

GENERAL.

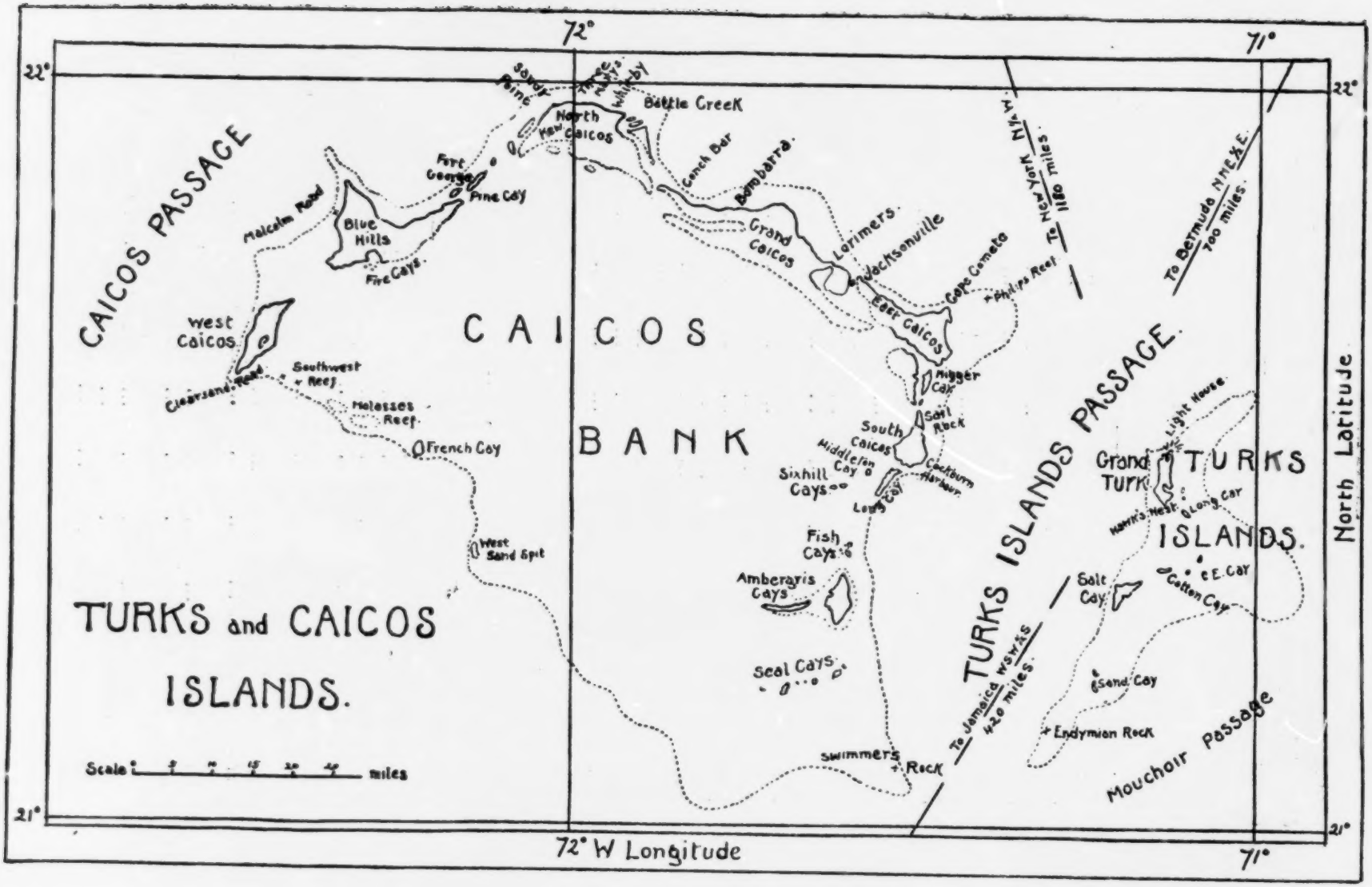
The weather conditions of the year were extremely favourable for the production of salt, the value of the exports of the staple product being £19,503, as against £14,889 in 1910. The year was also the first in which the provisions of the Salt Producers Relief Ordinance, 1910, came into operation, and the encouragement given by the grants caused the quality of the salt to be far in advance of that shipped in former years. At the first meeting of the Central Board it was agreed that, in order to prevent the grants under section 10 being frittered away or diverted from the purposes for which they were intended, they should be made, firstly, for maintaining the quality of salt by cleaning and repairing the common reservoirs; secondly, for increasing the quantity

of salt by the erection of salt houses; and, thirdly, for aiming at more economical production by reorganising the ponds, reducing the cost of boatage and cartage and combining interests. At Grand Turk grants were given for cleaning the main reservoirs and the erection of a windmill at Hawk's Nest. The cleaning of the common reservoir at Salt Cay and the raising and extending of the embankment were among the work undertaken in that island, while at Cockburn Harbour similar work, which had been deferred owing to the lack of funds in the past, was taken in hand.

Owing to the low prices obtainable for fibre, the condition of the sisal industry remained unfavourable throughout the year. When land is planted systematically and on a sufficiently extensive scale, and when impossible returns are not expected to meet over-capitalisation, I am confident that there is a future for fibre, which can be grown and shipped under more favourable conditions than anywhere else in the tropics.

The question of the gradual depletion of the sponges found in the banks of these islands is engaging the attention of the Government, and a special report will shortly be made on the industry. During the year a lease of Bell Sound, in South Caicos, was granted to one of the principal exporters of sponges for the purpose of experimenting in the artificial production of sponges. As yet, it is premature to say whether the cultivation can be maintained on a commercial basis, but the cuttings of sponges attached to flat stones have increased in size with remarkable rapidity, clearly proving there is no difficulty in raising sponges by these means. In all 10,236 cuttings were attached and planted, the loss, after the initial stages of inexperience, being less than 10 per cent.

In common with the other parts of the Empire, the King's Coronation was celebrated throughout the Dependency with every demonstration of loyalty possible by all classes.


72°
71°
22°
21°
CAICOS PASSAGE
CAICOS
BANK
TURKS and CAICOS
ISLANDS.
TURKS ISLANDS PASSAGE
TURKS
ISLANDS.
Mouchoir Passage
North Latitude
72° W Longitude
Sandy Point
Bottle Creek
North West Caicos
Fort George
Pine Cay
Malcolm Road
Blue Hills
Fire Cays
West Caicos
Clearsand Road
Southwest Reef
Molasses Reef
French Cay
West Sand Spit
Conch Bar
Bambarra
Grand Caicos
Larimers
Jacksonville
East Caicos
Cape Cometa
Phillips Reef
Nigger Cay
Salt Rock
South Caicos
Middleton Cay
Sixhill Cays
Cockburn Harbour
Long Cay
Fish Cays
Amberaris Cays
Seal Cays
Swimmers Rock
To New York 1100 miles N.W.½N.
To Bermuda 700 miles N.N.E.½E.
To Jamaica 420 miles W.S.W.½S.
Grand Turk
Light House
Hawk's Nest
Long Cay
Salt Cay
Cotton Cay
E.E. Cay
Sand Cay
Endymion Rock
Scale: miles

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
723	Hong Kong...	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
	Imperial Institute	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 739.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1911-12.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 703.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1912.

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Map.

No. 739.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1910–11, *see* No. 703.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
30th September, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the Heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:—

REVENUE.

Heads.	Receipts. 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Receipts. 1910-11. £	s.	d.
Customs	494,361	9	3	448,448	1	3
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	8,274	18	11	7,232	15	8
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	207,839	19	11	188,889	2	3¼
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid (*a*) and Irrigation Receipts ...	163,823	16	2½	104,473	8	10¼
Post Office and Telegraphs	48,725	14	6¼	45,961	17	11¾
Railway	190,006	2	5½	161,631	10	5½
Rents	2,670	13	3	2,113	3	0½
Interest	15,726	1	0	16,704	8	1¾
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	13,898	13	5¾	11,218	0	8¾
Land Sales (*b*)	15,686	18	3¼	2,776	14	3¼
Face value of nickel coin imported	—			950	0	0
	£1,161,014	7	3¼	£990,399	2	8

(*a*) Includes from Earthquake Loan Board for redemption of debt, £46,401 17*s.* 4*d.*

(*b*) Includes Sale of Constant Spring Hotel, £10,000. and sale of East Street Wharf, £3,500.

(26943—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 11/12. D & S.

EXPENDITURE.

Heads.	Payments. 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Payments. 1910-11. £	s.	d.
Charges of Debt... ...	245,534	13	9	193,511	7	7
Pensions	29,722	12	3½	30,791	7	9¼
Pensions, Widows' and Orphans'	8,112	18	7	7,741	5	10
Governor and Staff ...	6,202	14	4	6,521	18	4
Privy Council	83	10	8	45	3	0
Legislative Council ...	586	4	9	1,183	10	11
Colonial Secretariat ...	5,277	10	2½	4,871	13	4
Public Works Department	17,092	8	11	15,815	1	10½
Parochial Roads and Works	1,675	0	0	1,720	16	8
Lands Department ...	2,900	7	11	2,979	3	7
Railway	98,594	10	1	104,003	7	3
Audit Office	4,287	11	8	4,256	17	5½
Treasury Department ...	3,770	8	11	3,653	16	5½
Government Savings Bank	2,228	4	0	2,016	0	10½
Immigration	1,443	1	8¾	7,590	6	1¼
Clerks Parochial Boards	600	0	0	590	0	0
Stamp Office	833	18	10	813	12	10
Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs	39,254	18	1¼	37,826	17	11½
Postal and Telegraph Service	41,451	0	3¼	41,149	16	11
Construction of Railway Pier No. 3	357	9	0	—		
Part Redemption Earthquake Loan	46,401	17	4	—		
Judicial	36,546	13	10½	35,584	13	6
Ecclesiastical	1,104	7	1	1,170	0	0
Medical	68,932	13	7¼	64,986	5	11¾
Constabulary and Prisons	91,970	4	3¼	90,896	15	8
Reformatories	5,592	15	0	5,421	4	6
Industrial Schools ...	810	0	1	1,732	15	10
Education	82,329	2	5½	66,780	18	2
Harbours and Pilotage	2,879	9	11½	3,346	15	5½
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence ...	8,302	7	5	7,671	16	7
Direct Cable Subsidy ...	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	—			20,000	0	0
Railway to Chapelton	14,041	1	8½	—		
Record and Registrar-General's Office, Registrar of Titles	5,404	4	7½	5,522	3	3½
Census of Jamaica, 1911	6,623	13	3½	—		
Government Printing Office	10,449	7	8	8,384	10	6
Institute of Jamaica ...	1,362	8	0	957	19	0

EXPENDITURE—*cont.*

Heads.	Payments. 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Payments. 1910-11. £	s.	d.
Board of Supervision ...	421	9	4	292	13	11
Agricultural Services ...	15,223	10	10½	12,001	10	4½
Miscellaneous	22,259	0	9	18,605	0	5
Public Works and Buildings	203,632	2	2	174,187	13	9
Lighthouses	1,381	7	2	1,368	2	10
West India Improvement Company's Lands, Cost of Purchase	18,531	7	10	—		
Manufacture of Nickel Coin	—			311	4	11
Total for General Expenditure	£1,155,208	8	6¼	£987,304	9	5¼

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1907-8	1,021,937	935,427
1908-9	933,751	911,095
1909-10	992,976	1,033,794
1910-11	990,399	987,304
1911-12	1,161,014	1,155,208

3. The revenue exceeded the original estimate for the year by £171,653, and the receipts for the preceding year by £170,615. In the total there are, however, included sums of £46,401 received from the Earthquake Loan Board for redemption of debt, and £13,500 from special sales of Government property. For purposes of comparison, therefore, the total revenue might be reduced by £59,901 and regarded as £1,101,002, exceeding the estimate by £111,752.

4. The chief excesses in the receipts of 1911-12 over those of 1910-11 were as follows:—

Customs, £45,913; Port, Harbour and Light Dues, £1,042; Licences, Excise, &c., £18,950; Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements, &c. (exclusive of the £46,401 for redemption of Loan Board Debt), £12,948; Post Office and Telegraphs £2,764; Government Railway, £28,374; Miscellaneous, £2,837; Land Sales, £12,910 (Constant Spring Hotel, £10,000, and East Street Wharf, £3,500). There was a decrease of £978 under the head of Interest.

5. The expenditure was £78,656 in excess of the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates as voted, and £167,904 in excess of the expenditure of the preceding year.

6. This increase is more than accounted for by the following transactions:—

(1) An increase in the amount of the annuities payable on Imperial Earthquake Loans outstanding at the beginning of the year.

(2) A repayment of £46,401 to the Imperial Government during the year provided for by an increase of that amount in the advance from the Island Treasury to the Earthquake Loan Board.

(3) Special payments made out of General Revenue into Sinking Funds as follows:—

	£
(*a*) Price of Constant Spring Hotel paid into the Hotel Loan Sinking Fund	10,000
(*b*) Amortisation Fund, Imperial Loan for railway interest	11,262
(*c*) Amortisation Fund, Imperial Loan for railway equipment	23,998
Total special repayments of debt directly out of General Revenue	£45,260

7. The chief excesses in expenditure over that of the previous year were under the following Heads:—Debt Charges, £97,825; Public Works Department, £1,277; Excise and Inland Revenue Department, £1,428; Judicial, £982; Medical, £3,946; Constabulary and Prisons, £1,073; Education, £15,548; Government Printing Office, £2,065; Agricultural Services, £3,222; Miscellaneous, £3,653; Public Works (including new Government buildings), £29,815; and Clarendon Railway, £14,041. It is yet to be decided whether the expenditure under the last item should be finally left to stand as a charge against revenue or be refunded out of the proceeds of a loan.

8. The chief decreases in expenditure were:—Immigration, £6,147; Direct West India Steamship Subsidy, £20,000; and Railway, £5,409.

9. The surplus of assets over liabilities on general revenue account at the close of the year (in addition to the Insurance Fund of £100,000) was £174,983. To this amount may be added a sum of £12,937 which will be transferred to the credit of General Revenue account on the closing, in accordance with a settlement arranged during the year of the long unsettled accounts between the Government and the representatives of the interests of the promoters of the construction of the railway extension: the title to which interests has been for many years the subject of litigation in the United States.

The balance of assets will also be increased by the transfer to the credit of General Revenue account of a sum of £2,271, being the balance of the Prisons Pension Fund, which has been superseded by provision made by law this year for the direct payment of pensions to prison officers out of general revenue.

The total surplus of assets on 31st March, 1912, may thus be computed as having been about £190,191.

10. The Public Debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,871,305 on the 31st

March, 1912. This included £139,142 due to the Imperial Government for Earthquake Loans, directly secured by advances on properties. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £759,865, leaving a net liability of £3,111,440. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounting to £353,606, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £61,296.

11. No addition was made during the year to the Public Debt of the Island forming a charge on general revenue.

On the other hand, £46,401 was refunded to the Imperial Government to close the account of a loan of £50,000 obtained under the Earthquake Loan (Imperial) Law, 1907, and other special additions as stated above, amounting to £45,250, were made to sinking funds for other loans.

12. Provision of £32,940 has been made for further special amortisations of debt in the course of the present year, and another payment will be made to the Imperial Government out of surplus balances in July next to close the account of another £50,000 instalment of the Imperial Earthquake Loan. The total of these loans amounted to £200,000, of which amount one-half will thus shortly have been repaid in full, whilst part of the remainder has already been repaid by annuities. The amount oustanding on 31st March, 1912, was £139,141.

Should the financial position of the Government continue to improve as it has for some years past, it will probably be possible to repay the whole remainder of these loans within a short period.

The healthy condition of the credit of the Island Government is indicated by the fact that within the last 2½ years it has been able to borrow £67,000 on debentures at 3½ per cent. interest having currency of 20 and 30 years, at premiums averaging 1·48 per cent.

13. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements:—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907-8	30,775	30,858
1908-9	32,197	30,010
1909-10	32,513	35,739
1910-11	35,755	35,385
1911-12	46,565	45,846

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907-8	28,251	25,273
1908-9	30,545	26,223
1909-10	31,957	30,707
1910-11	60,082	52,373
1911-12	69,740	72,875

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907-8	105,433	106,891
1908-9	106,231	107,838
1909-10	111,586	117,461
1910-11	135,118	139,032
1911-12	123,179	124,059

14. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £19,943.

15. Power has also been taken under the Parochial Loans Law 20 of 1903, to borrow for the construction or improvements of water-works, markets and streets, and drains, and £26,500 had been raised in this manner by the end of the financial year.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A. Imports and Exports.

16. The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1907-8	2,854,042	2,360,702
1908-9	2,420,335	2,268,254
1909-10	2,561,674	2,628,307
1910-11	2,614,943	2,568,222
1911	2,865,553	2,948,067

17. The Collector-General reports as follows:—

"The year just closed recorded a high-water mark in the values of the Island's imports and exports. There were present many abnormal conditions influencing the year's business in one direction or the other, among which may be mentioned industrial unrest bearing on first cost as well as transport charges; the scarcity and high price of sugar caused by dry weather in Europe; the continued neglect abroad of Jamaica Rum and the exceptionally hot summer experienced both in Europe and America, which created demand for fruit on the one hand and enhanced the cost of dairy produce on the other. In the detailed examination of the year's returns the influence of these factors will be more or less apparent.

"Buoyancy has been a noticeable feature of the trade of the year, and the impression is that the general revival has elements of relative permanence in it. At the same time it must be remembered that the conditions of a small com-

munity dependent on limited industries, the principal of which is easily affected by drought—which prevails in the Island to a considerable extent—and by hurricane—from risk of which we are not free—are necessarily more or less artificial, and are liable to sudden changes and fluctuations. In these circumstances the conservative estimation that a comparison of results over a period of years affords is the only safe rule to be guided by. The figures for such a comparison will be found in the Import, Export, and Shipping statistics given for 50 years, at 10 year rests, later in this report."

18. The principal articles of import were:—

	Value.	
	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Ale, beer and porter	39,240	49,207
Beef, wet salted	19,485	19,473
Bread and biscuit	33,965	31,851
Butter and substitutes	38,227	41,768
Coal	44,097	49,453
Corn	44,390	46,989
Fish, dried and salted	143,014	150,746
Fish, pickled or smoked ...	56,246	75,087
Flour (wheaten)	266,934	255,207
Meal (other than wheaten) ...	39,571	35,318
Milk, condensed	43,383	53,193
Oats	14,533	12,453
Oils	68,336	70,681
Pork, wet salted	18,493	19,347
Rice	75,937	59,055
Soap	29,377	39,201
Spirits	17,501	17,906
Tobacco (manufactured) ...	14,690	10,366
Wines	20,218	17,679
Pitch pine lumber	78,429	94,698
White pine lumber	14,138	12,195
Textiles	532,937	638,331
Hardware and Manufactures of Metal	285,449	304,128
Boots and Shoes	84,104	90,792

19. As much difference of opinion exists as to the result of tariff reduction and as to the degree of benefit reaped by the consumer where the relief is not substantial, some holding that unless the unit of relief is divisible into the smaller measures used in retail trade, there must be failure to reach the consumer, while others maintain that competition may in this country, as in others, be relied on to secure to the actual consumer the fullest measure of what he is entitled to, the following analysis of the imports of those goods affected by Laws 1 and 16 of 1910 is submitted as being of interest.

—	Imports.				Duty.		
	5 years average before reduced duty.	1911–1912.	Percentage of reduction in rate of duty.	Percentage increased consumption.	5 years before reduction.	1911–1912.	Percentage decrease in import duty collections.
	galls.	galls.			£	£	
Kerosene Oil	1,086,180	796,844	46·7	36·3	24,610	18,103	26·4
Other Oils...	258,624	219,257	44·5	17·9	7,009	5,388	23·1
Gasolene ...	66,180	8,393	55·6	688·5	237	1,103	(increase) 365·3
	lbs.	lbs.					(decrease)
Soap ...	4,785,600	4,229,054	54·6	13·1	11,137	5,982	46·2

In the case of condensed milk, wire, and galvanized iron for roofing which have passed to the free list, the figures are as under:—

—	1911.	5 years average before the relief from duty.	Percentage of increase.
Condensed Milk, number of cases...	59,103	44,067	34·1
Wire, value	£9,734	£6,753	44·1
Galvanized iron for roofing, value	£20,665	£11,295	82·9

It is surprising that, notwithstanding, the increase in cost in the country of production, the increase in consumption of condensed milk is so marked.

The explanation appears to be that relief from duty has enabled the risk that a wider distribution entails to be taken—the increase in first cost being offset by the saving in duty.

20. The values of the imports received from the different parts of the world were as follows:—

	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom	1,291,923	45·1
United States	1,200,345	41·8
Canada	244,546	8·5
Other Countries	128,739	4·6

21. The totals of imports into the Colony for the past 50 years, at 10 year intervals, have been:—

	£
1871—year ended 30th September, 1871 ...	1,331,185
1881—year ended 30th September, 1881 ...	1,392,668
1891—year ended 31st March, 1891	2,190,745
1901—year ended 31st March, 1901	1,722,069
1911—year ended 31st December, 1911 ...	2,865,553

Divided between countries from which supplies were obtained, the figures work out as follows:—

—	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	777,206	646,052	1,229,043	814,639	1,291,923
	58·5%	46·4%	56·2%	47·3%	45·1%
United States ...	312,171	549,724	743,261	717,033	1,200,345
	23·4%	39·4%	33·9%	41·6%	41·8%
Canada	203,534	147,376	162,731	141,409	244,546
	15·2%	10·6%	7·4%	8·2%	8·5%
Other Countries ...	38,274	49,516	55,710	48,989	128,739
	2·9%	3·6%	2·5%	2·9%	4·6%
	1,331,185	1,392,668	2,190,745	1,722,069	2,865,553

22. The chief articles of export show the following variations:—

	Values.	
	1911.	1910.
	£	£
Annatto	5,530	6,306
Beeswax	3,762	3,709
Cocoa	101,448	63,017
Cocoanuts	98,687	78,710
Coffee	154,131	167,409
Bananas	1,456,581	1,141,710
Grape fruit	19,310	23,300
Oranges	46,985	52,902
Ginger	58,637	44,987
Hides	12,824	11,520
Honey	25,102	19,796
Lime juice	3,400	4,634
Pimento	83,252	73,660
Rum	85,916	134,659
Sugar	247,413	261,151
Cigars	35,923	32,900
Fustic and bitterwood ...	13,029	15,682
Logwood	99,108	66,218
Logwood extract	166,030	163,600
Goat skins	14,052	13,196

23. The total value of the exports shows an increase of £379,844.

The principal increases are in—

	£
Bananas	314,871
Cocoa	38,431
Cigars	3,023
Cocoanuts	19,977
Ginger	13,650
Pimento	9,592
Logwood	32,890
Honey	5,306

Decreases, however, occur in—

	£
Coffee	13,278
Grape fruit	3,490
Oranges	5,917
Rum	88,743
Sugar	13,738

24. Our sales were made as shown in the following summary. (British, foreign, and colonial manufactures imported into the Colony and subsequently exported, and coin and bullion, are included in the figures used in working out the ratios):—

—	1909.	1910.	1911.
United Kingdom	21·2	20·6	14·7
United States of America	61·5	54·1	61·9
Canada...	4·7	8·4	8·6
Other countries	12·6	16·9	14·8

Comparison between the last two years shows a loss of 5·9 per cent. for the United Kingdom, other countries 2·1 per cent.: the United States of America shows an increase of 7·8 per cent. and Canada of ·2 per cent.

25. The total exports from the Colony for the past fifty years, at ten year intervals, were as under. (These figures include British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufactures imported into the Colony and subsequently exported, also coin and bullion):—

	£
1871—year ending 30th September, 1871 ...	1,248,685
1881—year ending 30th September, 1881 ...	1,178,594
1891—year ending 31st March, 1891 ...	1,902,814
1901—year ending 31st March, 1901 ...	1,797,076
1911—year ending 31st December, 1911 ...	2,948,067

26. The following is a table in which the relative importance of our products is set out:—

—	1909.	1910.	1911.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sugar	4·7	10·8	8·9
Rum	9·3	5·5	3·1
Coffee	5·0	6·9	5·5
Cocoa	Included in Minor Products.	2·6	3·6
Dyewoods	2·3	3·2	3·9
Fruit	59·9	53·7	58·3
Pimento	2·7	3·0	3·1
Minor Products	16·1	14·3	13·5

27. The following shows the markets in which we made our sales. (The figures include British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufactures imported into the Colony and subsequently exported, also coin and bullion):—

—	1871. Year ending 31st March, 1871.	1881. Year ending 30th September, 1881.	1891. Year ending 31st March, 1891.	1901. Year ending 31st March, 1901.	1911. Year ending 31st December, 1911.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	1,029,833	783,204	614,912	338,976	434,165
	82·4%	66·5%	32·3%	18·8%	14·8%
United States ...	103,872	223,584	1,051,481	1,146,381	1,825,632
	8·4%	18·9%	55·3%	63·8%	62·0%
Canada	35,976	73,449	42,091	31,649	253,269
	2·9%	6·3%	2·2%	1·7%	8·4%
Other Countries ...	79,004	98,357	194,330	280,070	435,001
	6·3%	8·3%	10·2%	15·7%	14·8%

28. The following is a comparison between the exports of 1881 and those of 1911:—

	1881.	1911.
	£	£
Sugar	336,901	247,413
	30·5%	8·9%
Rum	174,406	85,916
	15·8%	3·1%
Coffee	231,383	154,131
	20·9%	5·5%
Cocoa	1,875	101,448
	·2%	3·7%
Dyewoods	136,376	107,277
	12·3%	3·9%
Fruit	44,089	1,624,245
	·4%	58·5%
Pimento	87,843	83,252
	8·0%	3·1%
Minor products	91,533	374,901
	8·3%	13·5%
	£1,104,406	£2,778,583

Total increase on the exports of 30 years ago is £1,674,177, and in that of fruit alone £1,580,156.

29. The acreage returned in 1911-1912 grouped under the four principal headings of the return, and set against an average of four years, exhibit the following:—

	1911-12. acres.	Average of 4 years. acres.
Tilled lands	280,286	255,734
Guinea grass	143,592	139,690
Commons	517,830	489,241
Wood and ruinate	1,230,001	1,227,513
	2,171,709	2,112,178

30. There has thus been an increase under each grouping: the actual figures being 24,552 acres in the case of tilled lands, 3,902 acres in the case of guinea grass, 28,589 acres in the case of commons, and 2,488 acres in the case of ruinate. As 56 per cent. of the alienated land is returned as being in wood and ruinate there would appear to be much room for further agricultural or pastoral development.

31. The tilled lands in turn are classified as far as possible under description of cultivation, and the figures for the past year taken out under crop, and compared with an average of four years give the following summary:—

	1911-12. acres.	Average of 4 years. acres.
Canes	34,766	30,308
Coffee	24,473	25,141
Cocoanuts	16,691	13,243
Bananas	82,435	67,573
Cocoa	13,355	10,192
Ground provisions	74,723	105,036
Mixed cultivation	30,167	
Minor items	3,676	4,279

32. Increase in cane acreage is apparent in St. Thomas, Trelawny, Westmoreland, and St. Catherine; the principal contributors to coffee decrease are Manchester and St. Catherine; increase in cocoanut acreage is fairly general, the great demand for this commodity acting as a good stimulus; the same may be said of the banana, which has now distributed itself over the whole Island, instead of being confined to the east end as was formerly the case. Cocoa holds its own, the cocoa-growing parishes of St. Catherine and St. Mary contributing the major portion of the increase. With ground provisions must be bracketed mixed cultivation, the latter representing the acreage returned by landlords as in the hands of their tenants at will. In the statement is also recorded the number of such tenants, which stands at 23,015. The last item in the summary shows a decrease in acreage of 603 acres.

33. The following abstract of the number of separate properties laid under contribution to general and parochial revenue during the year 1911-12, and the different descriptions set out and compared with the figures of the year preceding, show the following:—

	1911-12.	1910-11.
Properties valued at £20	62,911	60,641
Properties valued at £30	6,445	6,097
Properties valued at £40	55,286	54,208
Properties valued at over £40 ...	29,767	29,257
Occupiers relieved	1,136	1,237
Properties in arrear...	6,693	8,167
	162,238	159,607

34. There has thus been an increase of 2,270 in the smallest description of property paid on, of 348 in the number of £30 properties, of 1,078 in the number of £40 properties, and of 510 in the number of large properties, while the reliefs decreased by 101 and the arrearage by 1,474—altogether a very creditable record. Holdings of and under £40 each in value numbered 124,642, and contributed £12,200 to the property tax, while those over that fixed margin of value numbered 29,767, and contributed £23,335.

35. The Surveyor-General makes the following observations with regard to the sale of Crown Lands, &c., during the year:—

Sale of Land.

Two hundred and thirty-two purchasers who bought 2,223 acres under the Rules for the sale of Crown Land to small settlers have completed payment of instalments of their purchase money and been given titles for their lands. There were also 77 other purchasers who paid cash down for 557 acres. Fresh areas have been offered for sale for cash in St. James at "Brothers Retreat," on the new main road to Catadupa Railway Station, and at "New Battle" and "Jericho." No purchasers have, however, been forthcoming. To date, of the total of 31,000 acres that have been sold partly on credit since 1896, about 11,600 acres have been paid for in full and 3,500 acres taken back for failure to pay. £30,000 has been received to date on account of sales of lands. The total amount of purchase money received during the year from cash and instalment purchasers amounts to £2,220.

Leases and Tenancies.

Two thousand and eighty-six acres and 19 town lots have been leased to 34 persons for £178 a year, and 2,015 small prædial tenants have been taken on at rentals of from 12*s*. to 20*s*. per acre per annum. The total amount of rent received for the year amounts to £2,570 11*s*. 8*d*.

Forfeiture of Lands.

Six thousand five hundred and fifteen acres have been finally forfeited and fresh proceedings taken in respect of 5,626 acres. Proceedings are now pending in respect of 12,141 acres.

Escheatable Lands and Generally.

Two cases of escheat occurred during the year, the lands being subsequently offered for sale. Sites for various school houses, teachers' cottages, and other purposes have been arranged.

Retrospect.

Twenty years ago there were only about 70,000 acres of Crown Land in charge of 16 bailiffs, and the receipts of the Department under all heads were as low as £1,200 a year. Now there are 290,000 acres of Crown Land in charge of 122 baliffs and headmen, and the receipts of the Department are nearly £5,000 a year. This large area represents an asset to the Colony worth fully £400,000. It may be interesting to note that the rents collected from small prædial tenants have risen to £500 a quarter (£523 for quarter ended 31st December, 1911) and are likely to further largely increase.

Agriculture.

36. The farm school at Hope was enlarged so as to enable 12 more students, making 36 in all, to be accommodated. A large number of applications were received for the vacancies, and the institution is again full.

Accommodation for eight more boarders is now being provided.

37. The stock farm imported 41 head of selected dairy cattle from England, Canada, and the United States. As was inevitable, a good many losses were incurred, principally from tick-fever, but by the use of Trypan Blue many valuable animals were saved.

The calves dropped by the imported cows after landing made good the losses by death during the year.

38. A nucleus for the establishment of a herd of well-bred dairy cattle has now been secured, and the lands assigned for the use of the farm at Hope are rapidly being brought into a productive state. The experiment in making silage from guinea grass and guinea corn proved successful and indicated the value of ensilage as a source of fodder for times of scarcity.

39. Seven tons of the special insecticide "Paranaph" were issued by the Department to the public for the treatment of ticks on cattle.

40. Outbreaks of anthrax were dealt with in three parishes during the year. Fortunately, the disease was quickly got under control and the losses were not very serious.

41. The field experiments of sugar estates were continued and demonstrations given of the value of certain manures and of new seedling canes. The locally raised seedling canes, J. 71 and J. 72, have shown good promise under estate conditions.

42. The work of local agricultural instruction has now been so extended that a continuous service of resident instructors has been provided for the whole Island. This, in connection with the branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, is bringing

the peasant proprietary into touch with improved methods of agriculture and is a promising means of progress.

43. A good deal of anxiety as to diseases of the banana was occasioned towards the close of the year by the discovery of four specific diseases of this plant, one of them being the dreaded "Panama disease" which has caused serious losses to planters in Central America.

Prompt and energetic steps were taken to deal with these outbreaks, and the indications are favourable for the successful outcome of these measures. A microbiologist has been appointed to investigate these diseases, and valuable information has already been obtained as a result of his investigations.

44. Progress continues in the sugar industry, and much improvement in manufacture has now been secured by the introduction of modern machinery. The centralisation of contiguous estates is proving a successful means of increasing the output of sugar.

Jamaica rum shows signs of recovery, and the prices have improved somewhat from the low level of two years ago.

45. Cassava, castor-oil beans, Castilloa rubber, and Sea Island cotton received attention during the year, and efforts were made by progressive planters to test the commercial possibilities of these crops as grown in Jamaica.

46. In Kingston a factory was erected for the manufacture of biscuits and is now turning out crackers which are considered superior to those manufactured in the United States of America. A branch of the West India Oil Company also started operations in the city and erected large stores for the storage of oil.

47. New and improved machinery for the manufacture of sugar was installed at Serge Island Estate in St. Thomas.

48. A large plant for manufacturing banana figs is being installed at Freeman's Hall in Trelawny.

49. The central sugar factory at Rose Hall in St. James, to which reference was made in last year's report, was completed and is now in active operation. An enterprise for the manufacture of banana food was started in Montego Bay during the year, but so far its operations are confined to the manufacture of banana figs.

50. A company is reported to have been formed for the establishment of a central sugar factory at Phœnix in Hanover.

51. It is understood that further improvements in the sugar machinery on several estates in Westmoreland are contemplated.

52. A factory for the manufacture of aerated water in Mandeville is in course of erection.

53. During the year electric light was installed in the town of Linstead in St. Catherine.

SHIPPING.

54. The ships reporting show an increase in number and tonnage. The figures are:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

	1911.	1,508	ships with tonnage	2,158,647
	1910.	1,375	,, ,, ,,	1,916,460
Increase in ships		133	and in tonnage	242,187

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

The clearances were:—

	1911.	1,509	ships with tonnage	2,160,465
	1910.	1,374	,, ,, ,,	1,907,471
Increase in ships		135	and in tonnage	752,994

Distinguishing between ships (steamers and sailing vessels) reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast, the account appears as follows:—

Reporting with Cargo.

	1911.	1,144	ships with tonnage	1,824,363
	1910.	1,080	,, ,, ,,	1,696,595
Increase in ships		64	and in tonnage	127,768

Reporting in Ballast.

	1911.	364	ships with tonnage	334,284
	1910.	295	,, ,, ,,	219,865
Increase in ships		69	and in tonnage	114,419

Separating steamers from sailing vessels, the analysis shows that the arrivals of steamships were:—

	1911.	1,360	ships with tonnage	2,127,165
	1910.	1,201	,, ,, ,,	1,883,356
Increase in ships		159	and in tonnage	243,809

The following table shows the arrivals with cargo and the arrivals in ballast:—

Arriving with Cargo.

	1911.	1,028	ships with tonnage	1,808,481
	1910.	946	,, ,, ,,	1,680,781
Increase in ships		82	and in tonnage	127,700

Steamships Arriving in Ballast.

1911.	332	ships with tonnage	318,684
1910.	255	,, ,, ,,	202,575
Increase in ships	77	and in tonnage	116,109

The steamers clearing were as under:—

1911.	1,363	ships with tonnage	2,130,424
1910.	1,207	,, ,, ,,	1,874,722
Increase in ships	156	and in tonnage	255,702

Separating those clearing in ballast from those taking cargo the figures are:—

Cleared with Cargo.

1911.	1,313	ships with tonnage	2,046,305
1910.	1,153	,, ,, ,,	1,826,226
Increase in ships	160	and in tonnage	220,079

Cleared in Ballast.

1911.	50	ships in tonnage	84,119
1910.	54	,, ,, ,,	48,446
Decrease in ships	4	Increase in tonnage	35,673

55. The arrivals of steam vessels at the ports were as under:—

—	12 months ended 31st December, 1910.		12 months ended 31st December, 1911.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Kingston ...	516	1,243,475	567	1,390,003	51	146,528	—	—
Morant Bay ...	2	1,488	—	—	—	—	2	1,488
Port Morant ...	64	54,258	58	53,013	—	—	6	1,515
Port Antonio ...	522	450,232	631	556,241	109	106,009	—	—
Port Maria ...	54	40,788	60	37,474	6	—	—	3,314
St. Ann's Bay ...	1	602	1	602	—	—	—	—
Falmouth ...	1	634	—	—	—	—	1	634
Montego Bay ...	33	82,309	35	76,714	2	—	—	595
Sav-la-Mar ...	2	2,234	4	6,965	2	4,641	—	—
Black River ...	5	5,360	2	2,963	—	—	3	2,397
Milk River ...	1	1,616	—	—	—	—	1	1,616
Lucea	—	—	2	3,190	2	3,190	—	—
	—	—	—	—	172	260,368	13	16,559

Distinguishing British steamships from foreign steamships, the arrivals were:—

—	12 months ended 31st December, 1911.		12 months ended 31st December, 1910.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No	Tonnage.
British	439	947,450	401	856,257	38	91,193	—	—
Foreign ...	921	1,179,715	800	1,027,099	121	152,616	—	—

56. Tracing the shipping transactions of the Colony through a period of 50 years and taking the period at ten year rests, the figures are as follows:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1871	635	235,780	650	238,200
1881	755	396,711	759	397,625
1891	1,053	605,225	1,102	625,281
1901	1,037	872,006	1,030	870,218
1911	1,508	2,158,647	1,509	2,160,465

57. Comparative statement showing the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at ports in the Colony of Jamaica for the five years ended 31st December, 1911:—

Year.	Ships Entered.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1907–8	1,348	1,513,243	1,348	1,511,101
1908–9	1,363	1,482,724	1,372	1,517,779
1909–10	1,462	1,554,397	1,460	1,574,810
1910	1,374	1,916,460	1,374	1,907,471
1911	1,508	2,158,647	1,509	2,160,465

Entered.

58. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation Entered at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1910 and 1911.

Nationality.	1911.						1910.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	116	14,100	439	947,450	555	961,550	143	14,963	401	856,257	544	871,220
American	14	4,262	74	107,005	88	111,267	15	4,848	76	99,152	91	104,000
German...	—	—	250	598,639	250	598,639	—	—	230	546,227	230	546,227
Norwegian	7	5,216	591	468,997	598	474,213	9	7,754	463	364,313	472	372,067
Italian	2	1,552	—	—	2	1,552	3	3,220	—	—	3	3,220
Dutch	1	1,466	1	1,428	2	2,894	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	2	2,910	2	2,910	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,423	1	1,423
Russian...	4	3,789	—	—	4	3,789	2	2,279	—	—	2	2,279
Spanish...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3,454	2	3,454
French	1	547	—	—	1	547	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuban	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	28	12,530	29	12,570
State of Panama ...	1	82	1	454	2	536	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguayan	1	439	—	—	1	439	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haytian	—	—	2	282	2	282	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduranean	1	29	—	—	1	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	148	31,482	1,360	2,127,165	1,508	2,158,647	173	33,104	1,201	1,883,356	1,374	1,916,460

Cleared.

59. Comparative Statement showing Number and Tonnage of Sailing Vessels and Steamers of each Nation cleared at Ports in the Colony of Jamaica in the years 1910 and 1911.

Nationality.	1911.						1910.					
	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British and British Possessions.	114	13,200	438	951,233	552	964,433	139	14,900	400	859,250	539	874,150
American	14	4,076	76	109,675	90	113,751	14	5,396	78	100,822	92	106,218
German...	—	—	247	594,729	247	594,729	—	—	232	549,437	232	549,437
Norwegian	7	4,998	596	469,713	603	474,711	9	8,321	466	347,036	475	355,357
Italian	3	2,356	—	—	3	2,356	2	1,813	—	—	2	1,813
Dutch	1	1,466	1	1,428	2	2,894	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuban	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	27	12,285	28	12,325
Danish	—	—	2	2,910	2	2,910	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,423	1	1,423
State of Panama ...	1	82	1	454	2	536	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian...	3	2,848	—	—	3	2,848	2	2,279	—	—	2	2,279
French	1	547	—	—	1	547	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4,469	3	4,469
Honduranean	1	29	—	—	1	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguayan	1	439	—	—	1	439	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haytian	—	—	2	282	2	282	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	146	30,041	1,363	2,130,424	1,509	2,160,465	167	32,749	1,207	1,874,722	1,374	1,907.471

III.—LEGISLATION.

60. Of the 31 laws passed in the session of 1911-12, the following may be referred to as the more important:—

No. 1.—A law specially declaring the amounts of the Parish General Rates to be collected for the year 1912-13, which was rendered necessary as the result of a decision arrived at in the Legislative Council that Parochial Revenues Rate should be relieved of one-half of the annual charges for pauper lunatics confined in the General Lunatic Asylum, and that this half charge should be borne by general revenue.

No. 3.—To make provision for extending the Government railway from May Pen to Chapelton.

No. 6.—A law for the management of agricultural loan societies, providing for the regulation of such societies and for the advance to them of public funds to be used as part of their loan capital under certain conditions.

No. 10.—A law to amend the tariff, providing for the reduction of the import duty on goods charged with *ad valorem* duty from 16⅔ per cent. to 10 per cent.

No. 11.—A law prescribing that all citrus fruit sold by a measure to a licensed produce dealer shall be sold by the measure of the description and size named in the schedule.

No. 17.—A law to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease (amending previous law).

No. 22.—A law making provision for the regulation of the position of employees on the Jamaica Government railway, and for the grant of pensions and gratuities to such employees.

No. 23.—A shop assistants' law providing that retail selling clerks in Kingston and other outlying districts shall be engaged at work for only eight hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, for six hours (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) on Wednesdays, and ten hours (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on Saturdays. The law also provides for certain exceptions to these general provisions, requires proper sitting accommodation for female assistants, and enacts that no person under the age of 15 years shall be employed in a shop for a longer period than 42 hours in any week.

No. 24.—A law further amending the Health Laws of 1910. This law enacts that the powers and authority vested in the Local Boards of Health may, with the approval of the Governor, be exercised by the Director of Public Works in any particular case or class of cases, and lays down the procedure to be followed in such event.

No. 25.—A law enabling Parochial Boards, if they so choose, to grant retiring allowances to their officers.

No. 26.—A law further to amend the Towns' Nuisances Prevention Law of 1887, giving increased powers to Local Boards to deal with buildings or walls in a ruinous state, or lands within the limits of any town that has in it any unsightly ruins. This law will enable many unsightly places and ruins which still remain in Kingston as the results of the late earthquake, to be

satisfactorily dealt with and the foreshores of wharf premises to be properly embanked and walled.

No. 28.—" A law to provide for a yearly return by bankers of unclaimed securities and moneys, and to make certain unclaimed moneys general assets of the Island."

Under this law moneys which have remained in the possession of banks in the Island for 30 years without any claim having been successfully made thereto, will, one year after proper advertisement, without the establishment of proper claims, become part of the assets of the Island.

No. 29.—A law to authorise the transfer of young criminals under the age of 18 years from a prison to a prison farm or similar institution.

No. 31.—A consolidating law dealing with the notification of infective diseases.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

61. The Director of Education furnishes the following statistics:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books for Year ended 31st October, 1910.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st October, 1909.	Percentage on Average Attendance of number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers
					£
1911–12 ...	698	98,576	61,669	62·55	60,503
1910–11 ...	698	94,923	59,256	62·40	51,965

62. The last previous year showed an increase of 5,021 in the number of scholars names on the school registers: in the year under report there was a further increase of 3,653. The percentage of average attendance out of numbers on the register (62·55) is very slightly better than last year, but is still considerably below that of the preceding year (64·34). With regard to the efficiency of the work of the schools as measured in the inspection results, there is a gratifying increase in the number of first-class schools from 191 to 217. It is also satisfactory to note that the number of third-class schools has diminished by 20, and that of the " failures " by 7.

63. An important addition to the office staff was made during the year in the appointment of an Assistant Director. The vacancy of one Inspectorship caused by the promotion to this new office and the addition of three new Inspectorships to the staff made it necessary to select four new Inspectors. One of these vacancies was filled by the appointment of the Principal Teacher

of the Mico Practising School, this being the first instance of the appointment of an elementary school master to this position.

64. The addition to the staff of Inspectors made it possible to reduce the schools on each Inspector's list from about 100 to 70. No schools in full operation were left uninspected during the year, whilst new duties were undertaken in the form of inspection visits in addition to the annual examinations. These visits are intended to be made during the session of a school, and to enable the Inspector to observe and instruct the teachers in their ordinary work.

65. The appointment of a Supernumerary Inspector was sanctioned towards the close of the year, which it is hoped will mitigate the inconvenience which arises when Inspectors go on leave, and enable the department to secure more uniformity in the standard of the Inspectors' judgment, by rendering it possible to arrange from time to time to relieve an Inspector in one district to see something of the work of his colleagues in another.

The Director of Education draws attention to the very great recent increase in the work of his department, which has prevented him from doing much of the travelling which would help to solve many local difficulties and to keep Inspectors' methods and standards in line. The number of letters received by the department had increased from 28,547 in the previous twelve months to 34,294, and of letters, forms, and circulars despatched from 30,613 to 45,825.

66. Special attention was paid during the year to the inspection of training colleges and a full report furnished, dealing with all matters in regard to which improvements appear to be possible.

67. The total amount expended by the Accounting Officer of the department in 1911-12 was £78,300, as compared with £66,751 in 1910-11. The greater part of this increase was due to the augmentation of the total of grants to elementary schools and teachers from £51,965 to £60,503, of the cost of administration and inspection from £4,991 to £6,244, and to the provision of £607 for building and equipping a Government school in Kingston, and £1,454 for the Technical School in Kingston.

68. Apart from the special grant of £150 for tools, the total amount disbursed for school gardens was £1,217, as compared with £746 last year. The Agricultural Instructors of the Jamaica Agricultural Society devoted increased attention to the school gardens in their districts.

69. The appliance grant was increased from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per head for the scholars in attendance, and the special appliance grant, for which £500 was voted in 1910-11, was repeated and doubled in amount to £1,000. The same amount of £1,000 was again voted by the Legislative Council for the succeeding year, and the grant per unit of average attendance was further increased from 6*d.* to 8*d.* The beneficial effect of the special grant has been noted by all the Inspectors, but it is regrettable to find that, in spite of the guidance in giving and supplying every school with detailed drawings for suitable desks, benches, &c., the results of the local carpenters' efforts are often disappointing and discreditable.

70. The usual agricultural course for teachers was held at the Mico Training College; it was attended by 43 teachers: 33 men and 10 women. The latter attended a course of lectures on domestic economy.

71. The Technical and Continuation School in Kingston was brought into operation during the year. The establishment comprises the Manual Training School, the Technical Department for boys, the Continuation Department for boys and girls, with the Domestic Science Department for girls, evening classes on technical, commercial, and domestic subjects. The work of the school appears to have started with encouraging success. At the close of the year 360 boys were attending the Manual Training School, and 53 were taking the more advanced work of the Technical Department; 134 boys and 38 girls were attending the Continuation Department; 169 girls were attending the preliminary classes for the Domestic Science Department; and 38 the continuation classes; 20 scholars were attending evening technical classes; 16 the commercial classes; and 9 the domestic science classes. The work of the school was a good deal hindered by the building operations proceeding on the premises. Better accommodation will be provided when the Supreme Court moves out of the buildings of the old Mico College into the new block of Public Buildings now nearing completion.

72. Compulsory attendance was enforced as a new institution by the Kingston School Board during the year, and School Boards, with a view to the introduction of compulsion, were also established at Falmouth and Lucea. The effects of compulsion are shown in an increase of attendance in the compulsory areas. At Kingston (including Port Royal) the increase has been from 4,426 to 5,480; at Falmouth from 155 to 199; and at Lucea from 205 to 223.

73. In addition to the vote of £2,000 for building grants, the Legislative Council had appropriated £10,306 on the Estimates for the erection of new Government schools and teachers' houses. The Director of Education reports that some progress has been made with the erection of such schools and houses, but not so much as he had hoped for. The process of obtaining sites is tedious and also found to be very expensive.

74. Three new schools were completed and thirteen Government schools in Government buildings provided with excellent cottages for the principal teachers. Work is in progress in connection with new Government schools at seven other places, in one of which (Ewarton) the Custos of the Parish, the Hon. G. M. McGrath, has presented an admirable site.

Secondary Education.

75. During the year two laws came into operation affecting the control of Secondary Schools, by substituting the Jamaica Schools Commission for the Board of Education in the control of the Montego Bay Secondary School and all other Government schools to be formed in the future, and by raising the number of the members of the Commission from seven to nine. Good

progress is reported in the efficiency of most of the Secondary Schools during the course of the year. Provision was made for additional building at the Jamaica College, Munro, and Dickenson's School at Hampton, Wolmer's School, Titchfield School at Port Antonio, Montego Bay Secondary School. The last mentioned, as well as the Manning's School at Savanna-la-Mar, has recently been housed in completely new premises.

76. Mr. H. H. Pigott, M.A., one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, reported on the Secondary Education of the Island in the course of the year. Mr. Pigott's report which, with its criticisms and suggestions is on the whole favourable to most of the schools, affords us a useful account of the state of Secondary Education in Jamaica to-day, and gives wise and healthful advice as to the development of such education in the near future.

77. As a result of certain of his recommendations, provision has been made for the establishment of a scholarship available for girls, to enable them to continue their education at some university outside of Jamaica, and grants of the following amounts for building have been made to certain schools:—

	£	s.	d.
Wolmer's School	500	0	0
Montego Bay School	550	8	6
Manning's School	1,200	0	0
Jamaica College	500	0	0
Munro and Dickenson's School ...	1,000	0	0
Titchfield School	170	0	0

78. Other improvements in the provision for Secondary Education are under consideration.

79. New schemes providing for the re-organisation of some of the less developed schools, notably, Manchester Trust School, Beckford and Smith's School at Spanish Town, Rusea's School at Lucea are under consideration.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) Public Hospital, Kingston.

80. Indoor patients treated, 3,132; outdoor patients, including paupers, 6,668; prescriptions made up, 16,685; total surgical operations, 1,205; minor surgical operations, 389; daily average number of beds, 217; total cost of maintenance, £3,431 17*s.* 2*d.*

(*b*) Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital.

81. Number of patients admitted, 746; 8 pupil nurses admitted for training (one resigned, and 7 passed and received certificates); average daily number of beds (patients), 20; receipts, £392 11*s.* 6*d.*; expenditure, £1,355 5*s.* 4*d.*

(c) Lunatic Asylum.

82. Number of patients on 31st March, 1912, 1,195, an increase of 26 since beginning of year. Total number of patients under treatment during year, 1,439; daily average resident, 1,183; rate of recovery, 53·89 per cent.; admissions, 268; discharges, 150; deaths, 91; death-rate, 7·6 per cent.

With the exception of slight recrudescence of pellagra among the female inmates, the asylum is reported to have enjoyed the best of health with a marked absence of malarial fever and gastro-intestinal diseases.

The restoration of the buildings destroyed by the earthquake of 1907 was completed during the year, and an additional ward for the accommodation of 100 female inmates was built. This has entirely relieved the overcrowding from which the asylum suffered for many years.

(d) Lepers' Home.

83.

Patients on 31st March, 1911		104
Admitted		26
		130
Discharged	3	
Absconded	3	
Died	10	16
On 31st March, 1912		114

The buildings and grounds were kept in good order.

The death-rate was 7·7 per cent., the lowest for 22 years. The average longevity of leper life of those who died during the year works out at 19½ years for anæsthetic and 13½ years for tubercular cases.

(e) Government Savings Bank.

84. The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was further decreased during the year by £1,511 3*s.* 7½*d.*, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £1,846 9*s.* 3*d.*, while the Government accounts were increased by £335 5*s.* 7½*d.*, resulting in the net decrease above stated.

The net decreases in liability in the two previous years were £26,593 8*s.* 4¾*d.* and £29,620 12*s.* 11¾*d.*, respectively.

85. The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £112,085 15*s.* 4¾*d.*, an increase of £4,034 5*s.* 1¾*d.*, and the withdrawals to £113,932 4*s.* 7¾*d.*, a decrease of £3,998 8*s.* 4½*d.*, as compared with the previous year.

86. The balance sheet on 31st March, 1912, shows a liability to depositors of £332,664 12*s.* 1*d.*, the full amount of which was covered by investments in British and Colonial securities at that date.

87. The income and expenditure of the Savings Bank for the year may be summarised as below:—

Income.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Investments	11,588	5	8
Interest on Deposits	303	1	0
Refund by Imperial Government of Income Tax overpaid	1,057	13	1
Miscellaneous	17	3	9
	£12,966	3	6

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Interest on Deposits	7,891	14	9
Loss on Sale of Securities	1,954	13	6
Expenses of Management	2,228	2	6
Balance Profit to General Revenue ...	891	2	9
	£12,966	3	6

88. The number of pass books examined was 7,879, or 4,089 more than in the preceding year. A new and improved form of pass book was instituted, and on presentation of any book of the old type for a deposit or withdrawal a new book was issued. This involved special pressure of work on the staff. A new system of (loose leaf) ledgers was instituted at the end of the year and all accounts have since that date been posted into the new ledgers.

(*f*) Registration of Titles.

89. As was the case last year, the report by the Registrar of Titles to Land shows the maintenance of a large, though fluctuating volume of work, but calls for no special comment.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(Courts, Police, and Prisons.)

90. The judicial statistics show little variation from those of last year, and for the most part a continued absence of serious crime. The total number of convictions in the Circuit Courts was 104, as compared with 122; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts 6,639, as compared with 6,679; of summary convictions 20,900, as compared with 20,058. These figures, whilst they show some increase on those of the year 1909-10, are markedly less than those of the year 1908-9, when 8,038 persons were punished in the Resident Magistrates' Courts.

91. There was a tendency to increase in the proportion of convictions of offences against the person in all three divisions of the courts. Convictions for prædial larceny show a decrease from 1,547 last year to 1,382 in the year under report. The number of convictions for this offence in 1908-9 was 2,510.

92. There were 4 convictions for murder in the course of the year, and 5 for manslaughter, comparing with 3 in respect of each offence in the previous year. There were 677 convictions for cutting and wounding, compared with 595 in 1910-11 and 540 in 1909-10. Cutting and wounding cases are still on the increase, although a good many of the cases were not very serious, as 333 were discharged and acquitted.

93. The Inspector-General states that the increase in this crime is due principally to two causes, viz.:—

(*a*) to the fact that more money is in circulation recently, particularly in the banana growing parishes, which leads to more drinking of spirits and consequent disorder and crime;

(*b*) to the increased antagonism to constituted authority, especially in the towns and large villages, partly due to the presence everywhere of a large number of men who have returned from the Central American Republics, where acts of violence are very common and the maintenance of law and order is not strictly enforced.

94. With reference to (*a*), I may observe that rum drinking appears to be steadily on the increase in the Island, in a much more rapid proportion than the population, as the subjoined figures of the revenue from Excise Duty on rum for the last seven years will show:—

	£
1905-6	93,531
1906-7	101,352
1907-8	104,399
1908-9	95,168
1909-10	106,977
1910-11	111,589
1911-12	123,414

95. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 3,993, and to lock-ups for short terms 1,683, making a total of 5,676, as compared with 5,777 in the previous year, a decrease of 101, as compared with the previous year, but an increase of 716 compared with 1909-10.

96. The re-convictions during the year amounted to 1,442, of which 464 were second convictions, 242 third, and 736 fourth and upwards. During 1910-11 the re-convictions numbered 1,826; during 1909-10, 1,472; the year under review showing the lowest number.

97. The daily average of prisoners in custody in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 1,087, as compared with 1,192 during the previous year. There were 29 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 49 during 1910-11. There was no execution of capital punishment. In the previous year there was one for murder.

98. Considering the institutions separately, 12 deaths occurred in the General Penitentiary, the same number as in the previous year, representing a rate of 18·54 per 1,000. This is the lowest

rate of mortality recorded at this establishment, except in 1910-11, since the year 1886-87 when it was 15·05. At the St. Catherine District Prison 17 deaths occurred, representing a rate of 38·65 per 1,000. Of the 17 prisoners who died in the District Prison, 12 are reported as having been admitted in very poor health. The state and discipline of the prisons has been good, and no corporal punishment was inflicted for breaches of discipline.

99. A reformatory branch was started at the District Prison with 21 lads transferred from Stony Hill, which is now being utilised solely as an industrial school. The inmates have a building and compound separate from those occupied by the regular prisoners in the District Prison.

100. During the year 1911-12, 103 persons were bound over as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. There were 102 probationers from the previous year, making 215 persons under recognisances to report to the Probation Officer. From these probationers 1,098 reports were received. The following table shows the increase during the three years ended 31st March, 1912, in the number of probationers, and of reports received:—

Period ending.	Convicted.	Under supervision.	Reports received.
31st March, 1910	88	132	593
31st March, 1911	118	174	876
31st March, 1912	103	215	1,098

Of the 215 probationers under supervision this year, only 11 were brought before the court for indictable offences subsequent to first conviction; 18 probationers are known to have left the Island. For default in respect of their reports by those in the Island, police assistance was sought to warn probationers in 19 cases, and subsequent proceedings were taken in 17 cases.

101. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £14,560, and for the St. Catherine District Prison, £6,590; total, £21,150. The gross earnings in cash of the General Penitentiary were £3,342, and of the St. Catherine District Prison, £1,572. The yield of the St. Catherine District Prison Farm was valued at £1,292. £529 of that amount is the value of articles grown and consumed by the prisoners, thereby reducing the cost of the prison by that amount.

Police.

102. In reporting on the Police Department, the Inspector-General states that the establishment, including officers, was only four men under the authorised strength on the 31st March, 1912. This is a satisfactory recovery from the depletion from which the Force has suffered during recent years. It may be attributed partly to the improvement in the conditions of service which has been effected as an inducement to recruiting and to persistence in the ranks of the Force, and also to the removal of the depôt from Spanish Town to a more healthy and attractive

situation in Kingston. But the Force is continually depleted by the excessive number of withdrawals from its ranks after comparatively short service and by the high proportion of dismissals for inefficiency.

103. The health of the sub-officers and men appears to have improved during the latter portion of the year. This is attributed to the precautions taken to reduce the risk of malarial infection by mosquitos. The Inspector for Westmoreland reports that since the station at Savanna-la-Mar was enclosed with wire gauze in July, 1911, there had not been a single case of malarial fever, a condition of things which was unprecedented in living memory.

104. Enforcements of the law for the prevention of noises at night, which came into operation on the 22nd May, resulted in the prosecution of 30 persons, of whom 27 were convicted. This law is generally regarded as a useful measure, and has already proved of service in abating the nuisance caused by noisy assemblies at night.

105. Including 69 criminals on licence, there were 4,695 habitual criminals on the register on the 31st March, 1912, against 4,528 on the 31st March, 1911; 922 habitual criminals were re-convicted during 1912, against 910 in 1911.

The class of habitual criminals remains a standing factor in the production of a continuous amount of crime, and no effectual method has been arrived at for reducing this persistent element.

106. The employment of "authorised persons," that is to say, of persons recommended by agricultural societies or magistrates to be empowered to make arrests under the prædial larceny laws, appears to be acting as a check on prædial larceny, less on account of the amount of arrests effected than on account of the greater apprehension diffused in the minds of the prædatory class by their knowledge of the vigilance of persons habitually living among them other than the ordinary police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

107. The results of the census taken on the 2nd of April, 1911, were published during the year.

The total population was enumerated at 831,383—397,439 males and 433,944 females,—an excess of 36,505 of the latter.

108. According to the figures of 1891, adding the births since that date and deducting the deaths, the population should have appeared as 874,821, or 43,439 more than it is: these figures give an indication of the excess of emigration over immigration, principally of males, during the 20 years. I am convinced, however, that there are fully 60,000 Jamaicans resident or employed in Central America.

109. The number of East Indians in Jamaica born out of the Island was returned as 7,884. There were also found to be 9,496 persons of East Indian races who had been born in the Island. The proportion of East Indian immigrants is highest

in those parishes from which there is least emigration of Jamaicans.

110. Whilst the increase in the total population during the 20 years is a little over 23 per cent., the increase in St. Mary's parish was 63·6 per cent., in Portland 50 per cent., and in St. Catherine 32 per cent., pointing to the effect of the development of banana planting upon the distribution of population. The population of St. Andrew's parish increased by 42·8 per cent., principally owing to the growth of the suburbs of Kingston.

111. A very remarkable indication of advance in prosperity and comfort is shown in the return of the character of the houses of the people. In 1891 the number of houses floored and with shingle, metal, or concrete roofs was 44,027, in 1911 it was 91,183.

In 1891 the number of floored houses with thatch roof was 35,683, in 1911 only 47,637.

The number of unfloored dwellings, mostly with roofs of thatch, in 1891 was 52,146; in 1911 only 42,241—a positive decrease.

In 1891 the number of dwellings with metal roofs was 994, in 1911 18,135.

The greatest indication of progress in this connection is to be found in the Parish of St. Mary, where in 1891 there were 4,704 unfloored dwellings, but now only 3,913, and in 1891 only 4,443 floored dwellings, but now 12,153. Altogether, whereas there were in 1891 52,146 unfloored dwellings and 79,710 floored dwellings, there are now only 42,241 unfloored and 138,820 floored. These figures afford an interesting supplement to the testimony of our returns of exports and public revenue.

112. The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1912, was 845,767. This figure is arrived at as follows:—

Population by Census of 1911 ...		831,383
Births registered, 1911-12 ...	32,750	
Deaths ,, ,, ...	18,631	
		14,119
		845,502
Migration:—		
Arrivals—general	17,682	
Arrivals—East Indians	813	
	18,495	
Departures—general	18,230	
		265
		845,767

113. The East Indians arriving were indentured immigrants. No time-expired immigrants left for India during the year.

114. Of the general arrivals and departures, 8,984 and 13,109 respectively were labourers, and show a net emigration of 4,125 persons of this class. The remainders, 8,698 arrivals and 5,121 departures, represent a net immigration of 3,577 persons.

115. Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries:—

—	Departures.	Returned.	Excess Departures.	Excess Returns.
Central America	10,829	7,190	3,639	--
Cuba	1,660	1,395	265	—
Hayti	587	353	234	—
Other Countries (all American and West Indian).	33	46	—	13
Total	13,109	8,984	4,138	13

116. The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th September, 1911, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census, was 839,247. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths have been calculated.

117. The following are the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year:—

—	—	Rate per 1,000.	
		1911–12.	1910–11.
Marriages	3,607	4·2	4·0
Births	32,750	39·0	38·6
Deaths	18,631	22·1	23·1

showing a tendency to increase of population for 1911-12. Of the births, 21,008, or 64·1 per 100 were illegitimate. The rate was 62·4 in 1910-11, and the average for the decade 63·3. Accompanying this rise in illegitimacy was an increase in infantile mortality, although the general death-rate decreased, as the following figures show:—

	Rate per 100 of deaths.	
	1910-11.	1911-12.
Infants under one year	31·4	33·0
Infants under two years... ...	40·4	42·0
Death-rate per 1,000	23·1	22·1

118. In the order named, the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Hanover, Clarendon, and St. Ann show the highest birth rates, while those of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, and St. Mary show the lowest death rates.

Kingston and St. Andrew exhibit the lowest birth and highest death rates of any, but it is satisfactory to note that the death-rate in Kingston fell from 32·8 in 1910-11 to 27·3 in 1911-12, and in St. Andrew from 27·5 to 26·0.

119. *Uncertified cases of death* were 75·2 per cent., compared with 75·1 in 1910-11 for the whole Island. The figures for Kingston were 27·0 in 1911 and 31·1 in 1910-11, a very satisfactory diminution, accompanied also, as has been shown, by a considerable fall in the city's death-rate.

120. The principal causes of death in Kingston, stated in order of number of deaths in 1911-12, were as follows:—

Causes.	1911-12.		1910-11.	
	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	191	11·8	165	8·5
Phthisis	163	10·0	197	10·2
Heart Disease	83	5·1	93	4·8
Enteric Fever	69	4·2	100	5·1
Malaria	52	3·2	98	5·0
Fever (not otherwise defined)...	43	2·6	62	3·2

Of causes of death from feebleness rather than any named disease, we have 268 cases of "debility, atrophy, and inanition" in 1911-12, compared with 201 in 1910-11.

121. There was an extraordinary epidemic of whooping cough from June quarter, 1910, to the end of March, 1912, resulting in 1,412 deaths, 869 of them in the year under review. "Vomiting sickness," the cause of which is still under investigation, was registered as the cause of death in 85 cases.

Public Health.

122. The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £68,625 14*s.*, the approved estimate of expenditure having been £70,526 2*s.* 2*d.*

123. The progressive increase in the expenditure of this department in the course of the last five years is noticeable. The figures are as follows:—

		£
	1907-8	54,839
	1908-9	56,404
	1909-10	58,317
	1910-11	64,986
	1911-12	68,626
Estimates,	1912-13	74,811

124. During the year there were no detentions at the Quarantine Station, but quarantine restrictions were imposed upon ships coming from Trinidad, New York, Brazil, Venezuela, and Mazatlan in Mexico in consequence of reports of cases of infectious diseases in those places.

125. Much work was accomplished during the year by the Central Board of Health in the preparation of by-laws under

the Health Law No. 35 of 1910. Ten out of 14 parishes have adopted the by-laws, in some cases in their entirety and in others with some amendments to suit local conditions.

126. By-laws regulating the duties of medical officers of health have been approved by the Governor for several parishes.

127. Health Officers have been appointed, since the passing of the Law, in nine parishes. The Parish of Kingston was previously provided with an efficient Health Department.

128. The reports of certain of the Health Officers on their several districts furnish interesting information and show that progress is being made in the inculcation of sanitary habits among the population and in the attention to the abatement of nuisances by the sanitary authorities, but indicate that an immense amount of work remains to be done both of an educational and practical character, and that over-crowding of tenements is a common evil, leading to the dissemination of yaws and other contagious diseases. Useful comments on the subject of water supply are also made both by Health Officers and District Medical Officers.

129. During the year increased attention was given to the disease of yaws, in pursuance of the extended powers given by the Yaws Notification Law No. 23 of 1910.

The disease prevails generally in mountainous localities and where water is scarce or not easily accessible and where, consequently, cleanliness, bathing, and proper sanitary precautions are neglected.

130. The following is a return of the numbers and cost of the cases treated for some years past:—

Year.		Cases treated.		Cost.
				£
1907-8		2,853		385
1908-9		5,332		797
1909-10		4,555		723
1910-11		7,[illegible]		1,265
1911-12—1st Visit		8,152	15,469	2,524
2nd ,, ...		4,702		
3rd ,, ...		1,884		
4th ,, ...		731		

131. Treatment with salvarsan in hospital was employed in 201 cases, of which 192 were discharged cured. Only in 10 cases was a second injection used.

132. In consequence of the new arrangements made for the treatment of out-patients at hospitals, the number so assisted increased considerably: 52,325 cases were so treated during the year as against 40,077 in the previous year. Of this increase 8,077 cases were due to the new facilities given.

133. The total number of patients treated in public general hospitals during the year under review was 26,091. There were 497 deaths in hospitals.

134. The number of operations performed was 2,268 with 20 deaths.

135. Increased attention was given to the hook-worm disease.

The examination of prisoners admitted into the General Penitentiary and the Spanish Town Prison shows the excessive prevalence of this disease among this class of the population. The cases found to be infected by ocular examination and without the aid of the microscope exceeded 70 per cent., and there can be little doubt that were microscopic methods adopted, a much larger percentage of infected cases would have been disclosed. Indian immigrant prisoners were not included in this investigation.

There can be no doubt that a large amount of chronic ill-health and of what is described in the returns as undefined fever among the Creole population is due to this disease.

Apathy and moral degeneracy result amongst large numbers, and the disease is probably responsible for a good deal of the petty crime of the country districts.

Unlike yaws, it is most prevalent among those who come from moist agricultural districts and who have worked in cane and banana fields. The disease is no doubt contracted in the majority of cases by infection through the feet from polluted soil.

136. The daily average of patients accommodated in the public hospitals was 967, against 890 in the previous year and 533 in the year 1904-5.

137. The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the public general hospitals were as follows:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Malarial Fever, Intermittent ...	7,434	37
,, ,, Remittent	327	21
,, ,, Pernicious	87	11
Skin Diseases	4,111	8
Diseases of the Digestive System ...	1,844	75
Local Injuries	1,697	23
Rheumatism	1,528	—
Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	739	63
Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	665	23
Diseases of the Cellular Tissue ...	611	5
Ankylostomiasis (Hook-worm) ...	470	70
Gonorrhœa	434	—
Anæmia	327	7
Diseases of the Eye	308	—

138. The Government Bacteriologist conducted during the year a large amount of important and valuable work. The demands upon this department appear to justify a liberal provision for the increase of its efficiency.

139. Special operations have been continued for the abatement of conditions producing malarial fever.

140. Dr. W. D. Neish completed the series of lantern lectures on malaria prevention which he had begun in the previous year, and he also conducted a course of instruction to Parochial Sanitary Officers, advantage of which was taken by the majority of the Parochial Boards, but not by those of the Parishes of St. Ann, Clarendon, Hanover, Trelawny, and St. Elizabeth. These lectures were also attended by overseers from certain estates where malaria and hook-worm are prevalent among the labourers.

141. Most of the principal coast towns are situated at the mouths of streams or rivers, whose estuaries have filled up into levels. The streams being sluggish, except in floods, their outlets are continually blocked by the sea, and flood water spread over the low-lying lands remains there for a long time without passing away.

142. To permanently reclaim much of these swamps considerable operations in filling would be required, and the Colonial Government has not yet seen its way to meet the large expense for suction dredging plant that would be involved. Experiments are being made in constructing permanent outlets of various forms to keep open channels for the rivers through their bars.

143. A very considerable amount of work has been done within the towns themselves and in their immediate surroundings, either in concreting water courses or in providing concrete drains and water tables along the roadways, and the authorities controlling the water supply have given increased attention to the diminishing of the waste of water causing puddles which form breeding grounds for mosquitos. Much, however, remains to be done in checking this evil. Seventeen police stations in malarial districts have been protected with wire-gauze screening.

144. A great increase in the distribution and consumption of quinine took place during the year. The police consumed 41,650 five-grain doses as against 38,675 doses in the year 1910-11.

145. Owing partly to this precaution, partly to the screening of police stations, and partly to the reclamation of swamps in the neighbourhood of police stations, the cases of malarial fever reported among the police and the number of days lost to the force through absence of men for this sickness have diminished in a remarkable degree, as shown in the following table covering the period during which careful statistics have been kept and special precautions taken in regard to the police. Further progress in this direction may, I believe, be confidently looked for

Return of Malarial Fever Cases among Police.

—	Strength at all stations.	Total number that suffered from malaria.	Percentage of men suffering from malaria.	Total number of days' absence from malaria.	Average days' absence per man of entire strength.
December quarter, 1910 ...	960	277	28·8	2,370	2·47
March " 1911 ...	910	145	15·9	1,493	1·63
June " " ...	903	153	16·9	1,338	1·48
September " " ...	880	134	15·2	1,278	1·45
December " " ...	987	135	13·6	1,255	1·27
March " 1912 ...	919	104	11·3	1,109	1·20

146. The police, in addition to their own consumption, sold 6,000 packets of five-grain tablets. The Malaria Commission distributed 110,600 doses of five-grain tablets, 219,302 doses of

three-grain tablets, and 10,500 doses of two-grain tablets. The post offices distributed 221,100 packets of five-grain tablets, 9,000 packets of three-grain tablets, 8,000 packets of two-grain tablets, and 9,000 packets of one-grain tablets. The various estates where indentured immigrants are employed used 232,750 five-grain doses. The various parochial boards used 13 lbs. 14 ozs. of sulphate of quinine.

147. Quinine distribution to school children has been continued, and this remedy was at the close of the year being administered in 250 schools. Quinine has also been distributed free through the district nurses to poor persons in the west end of Kingston. At all post offices quinine is on sale in farthing packets, which contain one dose suitably made up for adults and children of different ages. A leaflet on the use of quinine as a prophylactic was prepared by the Superintending Medical Officer, and 20,000 copies have been issued through the agency of the post office, constabulary, medical department, and the immigration department.

148. A great deal of excellent work has been done by the Health Officer of the city of Kingston and his subordinates in abolishing malarial conditions, which were limited to a comparatively small number of areas in and near to the city. Within the last few years very great improvement has been made in the streets by laying down concrete water tables and by conducting waste surface water into the sewers. A large drain to the west of the city has been concreted at the expense of the Government down to the sea. Kingston Pen, the largest swampy area adjoining the city, has been made a deposit ground for city refuse and the margins of the swamp have been treated with kerosene oil.

Since the end of the year under report, Kingston Pen has been bought by the Government, another concrete drain has been laid down through it, and the Government is taking in hand the complete drainage and reclamation of this area. The effects of the work done in Kingston in the reduction of malarial cases have been very marked.

149. The City Council also undertook, but has not up to the date of this report completed, the filling up of a small lagoon and swamp lying to the windward of the city. When this work and the reclamation of Kingston Pen have been accomplished, there will remain no important breeding ground for anopheline mosquitos in the neighbourhood of the city, except the Rock Spring Swamp on the Windward Road, part of which is owned by the Admiralty. Protracted negotiations have been in progress with the Admiralty through the Military Authorities with a view to the reclamation of this swamp, but, hitherto, the objections entertained by the Admiralty to the methods proposed for dealing with it have deferred any effectual work being taken in hand.

150. The improvement shown by the decrease of cases admitted to the Public Hospital, Kingston, may be specially noted. There were 600 hospital cases of malaria fever in 1910-1911 and 289 only in the year under review. There were 97 fewer cases in December, 1911, than in the same month of the previous year.

151. Considerable works of reclamation have been carried out at Black River, on that portion of Dickenson's morass lying

between the town and the river; at Port Maria, by works for the draining and the partial filling up of Warner's Pond; at Port Antonio very great and extensive improvements have been made through the extension of concrete drains and the filling up of swampy lands belonging to the Titchfield Trust. The Government has now acquired from the Trust five acres of swamp which is in process of reclamation and which will be used for new buildings for the public hospital, which will be transferred from the Government lands at the Fort. The reclamation of this area will complete the abolition of swamps throughout the large district lying to the east of the town, formerly notorious for its malarial conditions. Great improvements have been made in the main road and the by-streets in this locality, which have been widened and will be beautified with the planting of trees. A broad avenue, for a public promenade, will be laid out along the foreshore of the hospital reclamation.

152. At Savanna-la-Mar some good work, but not sufficient, has been done in the checking of waste from water pipes, the concreting of water tables and the clearing of mangrove swamps. The Government has acquired the area of swampy land around the police station to be reclaimed and improved. Improvements have been effected in the neighbourhood of Lucea and there has been a marked decrease in Lucea in admissions to the hospital for malaria fever.

153. Similar improvements have been effected at Morant Bay, Montego Bay, and in Spanish Town. The large amount of swampy land between Spanish Town and the railway has been drained and filled, and by the diversion of certain irrigation channels a great improvement in the condition of the locality has been effected.

Work is also in progress at Buff Bay and Annotto Bay.

154. In addition to expenditure by Parochial Boards, there was spent by the Island Government during the year £3,171 6*s.* on anti-malarial work, and by the Kingston General Commissioners £251 13*s.* 2*d.* The City Council had a loan advanced to them by the Government and spent £7,000 on the improvement of back streets, by laying concrete curbs and channels and improving the formation and drainage, and £155 in opening, draining, and forming the course of several gullies.

155. The Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, in his report on malaria in Kingston for 1911, draws the following inferences from the statistics of malaria fever and deaths during the year:—

(1) That there is a low rate of fresh infection over the whole parish;

(2) That the cases are relapses and mostly imported;

(3) That a consideration of the distribution of the cases and of the number of admitted previous attacks and of the low haunts of anopheles justifies the inference that during 1911 original malarial infection in Kingston has been comparatively rare.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

156. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1911-12 with those of previous years:—

—	1911-12.	1910-11.	1909-10.
	£	£	£
Postages	39,487	36,587	33,362
Commission on Money Orders	411	390	425
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	240	225	212
Commission on Local Postal Orders ...	891	831	777
Miscellaneous	584	938	865
Telegraphs	7,109	6,942	6,769
Total	48,722	45,913	42,410

157. These statistics show an increase of £2,809 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases of £2,900 and £166 in postage and telegraph collections, and of £107 on commissions on postal orders (British and local respectively), and on money orders. The only decrease has been on Miscellaneous, amounting to £354.

158. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £42,466, as against £42,336 in 1910-11, an increase of £130.

159. The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1891-92	24,100	20,758
1901-02	28,520	25,517
1911-12	48,722	42,466

160. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were:—

—	At General Post Office.		
	1911-12.	1910-11.	1909-10.
Outwards	4,461,971	4,508,686	4,458,220
Inwards	5,649,423	5,688,126	5,707,807
Total	10,111,394	10,196,812	10,166,027
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	2,577,412	1,494,537	2,054,066
Grand Total	12,688,806	11,691,349	12,220,093
Telegrams sent and received ...	192,270	134,626	112,515

161. The increase of 57,644 in the number of telegrams sent during the year, and of £166 in telegraph revenue, is attributable in part to the introduction of sixpenny inland telegrams in January, 1911, and also in part to the number of offices being increased from 83 to 90.

162. An electric stamping machine was introduced during the year and has proved of great benefit.

163. Seven new District Post Offices were opened during the year.

164. Books containing penny stamps to the value of two shillings, interleaved with advertisements, were introduced. They form a convenient means of carrying stamps, and, judging from the sale, have been much appreciated. It has been decided to sell half-penny stamps in this way also in future.

165. The value of orders cashed during the year on behalf of the United States of America exceeded that of the previous year by £10,221, and this increase was due principally to remittances from the canal zone.

166. Telephonic communication was established at nine District Post Offices during the year, at one of which it was in substitution for telegraphic communication.

167. The facilities offered to the public of buying 5-grain doses of quinine at a farthing each were continued at all Post Offices.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

168. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £235,205 18*s.* 1*d.*, summarised as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries and other Departmental Charges ...	17,091	17	9
Main Road and Bridges, Maintenance ...	83,518	18	3
Main Road and Bridges, New Works ...	52,952	14	3
Public Buildings and Telegraphs, Maintenance	10,074	0	11
Public Buildings and Telegraphs, New Works	49,397	15	1
Lighthouses	1,381	7	0
Irrigation Works	2,819	2	11
Water Works	1,968	19	10
Post Office, Mail Conveyance, and other Charges	5,295	15	7
Malaria Reclamations	1,461	4	7
School Buildings and Schoolmasters' Houses	6,389	0	0
Work done for Government Railway ...	1,352	14	1
Miscellaneous Minor Works	1,502	7	10
	£235,205	18	1

169. The total length of main roads at the end of the year was 2,180 miles 28 chains, which included about 160 miles of parochial road taken over during the year in order to enable the reduction to be made in the Donkey Tax, which goes to the Parochial Roads Fund.

170. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £35 7*s.* 10*d.*

The average cost per mile in St. Mary was £72 13*s.* 6*d.* and in Manchester £17 4*s.* 11*d.*, being the highest and lowest respectively.

171. The average rainfall for the whole Island was 86 per cent. of the average, which was favourable to economy and the maintenance of roads. Much of the expenditure of the new works to main roads is devoted to the improvement and reconstruction of existing main and parochial roads, laid out on gradients unsuitable for wheeled traffic, and in the provision and improvement of bridges on such roads.

172. The principal new main roads under construction were:—

(1) A road to connect Stony Hill with the road leading from Bog Walk to Glengoffe. This involved considerable deviation and improvement of the existing St. Christopher's Road and the construction of a finely graded road with two important bridges through the Above Rocks District.

(2) A road from Bath in St. Thomas to Mooretown in Portland crossing the ridge of the Blue Mountain Chain and the Rio Grande.

(3) A new road from Mount Charles in St. Andrew to Montrose in St. Mary's Parish, with deviation and improvement of the road from Lawrence Tavern to Mount Charles. This road will afford the shortest route between Kingston and Richmond and will be on easy grades throughout.

(4) Catadupa in St. James's to Flamstead: across the fine country lying at an elevation of about 3,000 feet in this Parish.

(5) A road from Bethel Town in Westmoreland to Duckett's Bridge, affording an access to Cambridge Station.

(6) Mount Carmel to Morgan's Valley in Clarendon.

(7) Flamstead in St. James's to Shaw Castle on the borders of Trelawny, continuing Road No. 4 above mentioned.

(8) New roads and connections to give access to the terminus of the Branch Railway from May Pen to Craigfield in Clarendon.

173. The most important bridge constructed was that over the Johnson River, at a cost within the year of £5,825. Important bridges were also made over the Sandy Gully, St. Andrew, and the Spanish River at Chepstow.

174. £25,670 9*s.* 8*d.* was spent on the second block of the New Public Buildings, including the Supreme Court and Offices, the Kingston Judges' Court, the Administrator-General's Office, the Land Titles Office, the Surveyor-General's Office, the Attorney-General's Office, the Constabulary Office, and the Education Office.

Government Railway.

175. The very efficient management of the Government Railway continued to produce satisfactory financial results. The total receipts for the year amounted to £190,007, an increase of £28,375 over those of the previous year: the expenditure was £97,829, leaving a nett earning of £92,178.

176. The total amount which has been borrowed for the construction and the capital improvements on the railway is £2,434,365, to which may be added £100,000 of Second Mortgage Bonds issued to the promoters of the railway extension, the interest on which is a charge on the railway. There should also perhaps be properly added £88,000, borrowed by the Government to pay arrears of interest due when the railway was taken over and also the value of public lands assigned to the promoters, which were redeemed by the Government last year at a cost of £18,500, making a total capital investment of £2,640,865.

177. The nett earnings of the year were equivalent to a dividend at the rate of £3 9*s*. 9*d*. upon this investment, and were more than sufficient to cover the actual charges for interest on railway debt paid during the year.

The sinking fund charges payable on account of the railway debt amounted to about £32,575.

178. The gross receipts and nett earnings of the railway considerably exceeded that of any previous year.

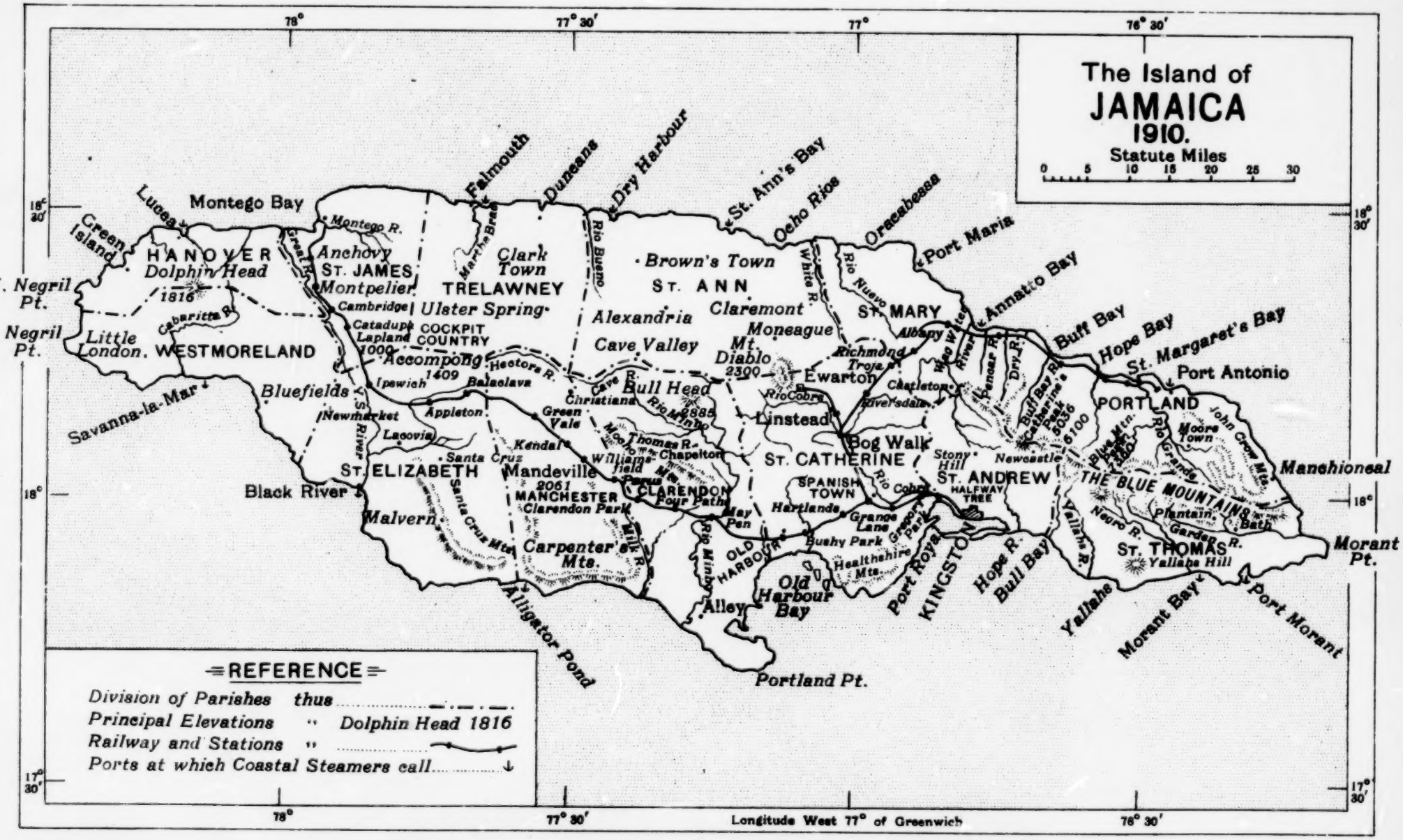
			£
Nett earnings in	1907-8	were	49,768
,, ,, ,,	1908-9	,,	42,992
,, ,, ,,	1909-10	,,	53,846
,, ,, ,,	1910-11	,,	57,343

Receipts are summarised as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Increase. £	s.	d.
Goods, Cattle	113,930	15	11	18,914	8	10
Passengers	59,186	9	3	6,373	0	1
Carriage of Mails	4,000	0	0	108	6	8
Wharf Dues	10,946	5	2	2,406	19	11
Rents	289	7	11	41	14	2
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,654	2	8	531	0	10
	£190,007	0	11	£28,375	10	6

179. Of the freight receipts the following were the most important items:—

—	1911–12.	1910–11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	49,610	41,429	8,180	—
Bananas	38,063	27,042	11,021	—
Oranges	6,641	7,121	—	470
Logwood	4,784	6,294	—	1,510
Live Stock	3,086	2,614	472	—
Coffee	2,363	1,742	621	—



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1912.

180. The great and increasing importance of the banana traffic to the railway is clearly indicated. The increase of 12 per cent. in the passenger receipts is also a satisfactory evidence of increased prosperity and an increased disposition to travel.

181. Abstract of ordinary expenditure:—

—	1911-12.	1910-11.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Main Way and Works	31,197	34,807	—	3,610
Locomotive Power	25,375	24,188	1,187	—
Carriages and Waggons ...	6,694	6,777	—	84
Traffic Expenses including Wharves.	18,727	17,751	976	—
General Charges...	3,739	4,503	—	764

The very moderate increase in the expenditure for locomotive power and traffic expenses, as compared with the increase of earnings, is noticeable.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

182. I have but few general observations to add to those which I have embodied in the text of this Report.

183. The year was, on the whole, one of comparative prosperity and progress, although there is much in the conditions of the Island which calls for expenditure and energy to effect needed improvements. The population is gradually coming to demand a higher and more civilised standard of living, and this demand is exhibited in the increased activities of the Parochial Boards in sanitary matters, and in the growing interest in the subjects of education, postal, telephonic, and railway facilities.

184. The Island is still too greatly dependent upon the banana industry, to which, however, it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge that it has principally owed whatever progress towards prosperity it has made during the last twenty years.

185. I may, however, observe that while the value of the export of bananas last year amounted to nearly one-half that of the whole volume of exports and was £308,871 in advance of the value for 1910, it was only £46,751 in advance of that of the preceding year, when it constituted more than 53 per cent. of the whole of the exports.

186. The comparative advance thus indicated in the proportion of other exports is a healthy sign, and, generally speaking, the export of so-called minor products shows steady and satisfactory increase.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
712	St. Vincent ...	1910–1911
713	St. Lucia ...	1910
714	St. Helena ...	1911
715	Weihaiwei ...	"
716	Ceylon ...	1910–1911
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718	Gambia ...	"
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722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
723	Hong Kong...	"
724	Sierra Leone ...	"
725	Gold Coast ...	"
726	Turks and Caicos Island ...	"
727	Fiji ...	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate ...	1911–1912
729	Basutoland...	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee ...	"
731	Malta ...	"
732	Nyasaland ...	"
733	British Honduras ...	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria ...	1911
736	Somaliland ...	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute ...	1911
738	Northern Nigeria ...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji ...	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica ...	Cayman Islands,
74	Ceylon ...	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies ...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent ...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei ...	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute ...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies ...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 754.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1911-12.

(For previous Report *see* Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] No. 73.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
May, 1913.

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No. 754.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
20th March, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a report by the late Acting Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, in the nature of a report on the Annual Blue Book of that Dependency for the year 1911-12.

2. I would beg leave to explain that the Acting Commissioner's attention had been directed to the need for preparing an Annual Blue Book of the Dependency and for furnishing Annual Reports, and to add that Mr. A. C. Robinson, who has now assumed duty as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, will be required to furnish a yearly Blue Book and report thereon in future.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(30015—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 5/13. D & S. A

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended 30th September, 1912, amounted to £3,795 9*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure totalled £2,700 2*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a surplus of £1,095 7*s.* 1*d.* to swell the assets of the Dependency. Including the year under review, the average revenue for five years is £3,515. The receipts for the past year are therefore £270 above the average. The expenditure for the year is £341 below the average for the five years period, the smaller disbursements on Public Works accounting for the difference. In the five years including 1912 the cost of the maintenance and construction of roads amounted to £3,940, and other expenditure on Public Works made a grand total under this head of £5,806, or an average of £1,161 per annum.

The following tables show the totals of revenue and expenditure for the past five years, and the amounts under separate heads for the past two years:—

FINANCES.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907-8	4,569	2,773
1908-9	3,610	3,735
1909-10	2,824	3,282
1910-11	2,779	2,716
1911-12	3,795	2,700
Average five years...	£3,515	£3,041

Head of Revenue.	1910-11.	1911-12.
	£	£
Customs	1,520	1,638
Internal Revenue	328	370
Port Dues	19	23
Payments for Special Service ...	34	43
Post Office	784	1,640
Revenue from Government Property	16	12
Interest	75	67
Miscellaneous	3	2
Totals	£2,779	£3,795

Head of Expenditure.	1910-11	1911-12.
	£	£
Commissioner's Department	681	654
Judicial Department	88	106
Legislative Department	22	23
Medical Department	218	188
Police and Prisons	228	250
Charitable	85	88
Education	243	283
Registration	11	10
Miscellaneous	144	116
Post Office Department	126	202
Lighthouse Department	16	15
Public Works	854	765
Totals	£2,716	£2,700

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1912, the assets of the Dependency were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance of cash in the Jamaica Treasury	3,027	17	4
Interest due on monthly balances ...	67	3	10
Cash in Treasury, Grand Cayman ...	520	12	7
Cash in Treasury, Cayman Brac	209	4	2
Remittances in transit	6	5	8
Advances recoverable	5	0	0
	£3,836	3	7

The local liabilities were:—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits	105	1	0
Government Savings Bank	364	12	8
	£469	13	8

The account of money order business through Jamaica is not available in exact figures. The balance is, however, in favour of Jamaica by somewhat over £500, so that the balance of assets of the Dependency at the end of the year was, approximately, £2,800.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the imports from all countries has been in—

	£
1907-8	22,774
1908-9	22,091
1909-10	23,858
1910-11	26,232
1911-12	28,444

Average for five years, £24,680.

Exports.

The exports to all countries have totalled in value as follows:—

	£
1907-8	11,629
1908-9	11,995
1909-10	11,371
1910-11	10,992
1911-12	12,323

Average for five years, £11,662.

SHIPPING.

Ships Entered.

—	1910–11.		1911–12.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
British	207	14,095	231	15,775
United States	30	1,854	27	1,173
Central American	9	388	18	825
Other Foreign	1	19	5	4,881
Totals	247	16,356	281	22,654

Ships Cleared.

—	1910–11.		1911–12.	
	Ships.	Tons.	Ships.	Tons.
British	230	15,470	242	15,968
United States	31	1,916	29	1,335
Central American	12	498	16	899
Other Foreign	1	19	5	4,881
Totals	274	17,903	292	23,083

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has continued to grow in usefulness. The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1912, were: deposits, £283 11*s.*, withdrawals, £190 12*s.* 2*d.*

The balances due depositors at the end of each year have been: in 1909, £31 4*s.* 9*d.*; in 1910, £83 8*s.* 7*d.*; in 1911, £264 16*s.*; and in 1912, £364 12*s.* 7*d.*

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency, and in the last five years has been responsible for nearly one-half of the revenue.

Year.	Post Office Revenue.	Total Revenue.
	£	£
1907-8	2,275	4,569
1908-9	1,758	3,610
1909-10	769	2,824
1910-11	784	2,779
1911-12	1,640	3,795
Total ...	£8,226	£17,577

As is usual in all small and isolated countries, the sales of postage stamps to collectors are considerable.

The inland postal service would appear steadily growing in favour and the increase in the amount of business is marked. The foreign receipts are large in proportion to the population because of emigration to the Canal Zone, the Central American republics and to the Gulf ports of the United States. The following tables show the amount of mail matter dealt with in two years:—

—	Local Mails.	Foreign Mails.	
	Postal packets handled.	Postal Packets.	
		Received.	Despatched.
1910-11	16,781	29,854	13,903
1911-12	20,544	33,011	16,546

Post Office Orders.

All money order business is done through Jamaica, the offices at George Town, Grand Cayman, and at Cayman Brac alone transacting:—

	Orders issued.	Orders cashed.
	£	£
1910-11	2,921	3,051
1911-12	3,557	2,819

JUDICIAL.

The Grand Court, with unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction, in which the Commissioner sits as judge, has two semi-annual sessions, in June and December. There are quarterly Petty Courts dealing solely with the smaller civil actions in which two justices sit, and also weekly Petty Sessions of two justices, taking cognizance of minor offences.

Serious crime is almost unknown and the criminal matters enquired into are generally of a trifling nature. It is a very unusual circumstance to have a prisoner in gaol.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly of the Justices (twelve at present) and Vestrymen (27) meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year beginning on the 1st October and, otherwise, when summoned for despatch of business.

By recent resolution the Assembly has agreed to a substantial diminution of its membership, and the matter is now under consideration.

The following Laws were enacted in the years 1910-11-12:—

Law 1 of 1910.—The Appropriation Law, 1910-11. This makes the ordinary appropriation for the financial year, £2,678 9*s*.

Law 2 of 1910.—A Law to amend Law 7 of 1908. This amends the Education Law as regards the composition of the Board of Education.

Law 1 of 1911.—The Appropriation Law, 1911-12. This makes the ordinary appropriation for the financial year, £2,779.

Law 2 of 1911.—A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditure incurred in the financial year 1909-10. This is a supplementary appropriation legalizing excess of expenditure in 1909-10, £834 9*s*. 4*d*.

Law 3 of 1911.—A Law to further amend Law 7 of 1908. This is an amendment of the Education Law with respect to absences of pupils by way of sickness, and provides for the instruction of pupil teachers.

Law 1 of 1912.—A Law to amend Law 4 of 1898, the Cayman Islands Tax Collection and Internal Revenue Law. This increases to two shillings the annual tax on fire-arms and defines the conditions under which a servant may use his master's gun.

Law 2 of 1912.—A Law in aid of the Public Health Law. This is an amendment to enforce the erection and proper maintenance of latrines on occupied house lots.

Law 3 of 1912.—The Appropriation Law, 1912-13. This makes the ordinary appropriation for the financial year, £3,032.

Law 4 of 1912.—The George Town Market Law Amendment Law, 1912. This repeals an amendment of the Market Law requiring all fish sold in the town to be sold through the market.

Law 5 of 1912.—A Law to amend the Cayman Islands Customs Consolidation Law. This provides that proceedings for the recovery of penalties may be taken at any time within six months of any offence against the Customs Law coming to the knowledge of the Collector of Customs.

Law 6 of 1912.—A Law to make provision with respect to vessels engaged in the Nicaraguan Turtle Fisheries. This Law is designed to secure on reasonable terms the privilege to Caymanian vessels of catching turtle in Nicaraguan waters, and is the outcome of diplomatic negotiation. Before starting on the voyage the master of a Caymanian vessel pays a small voyage licence fee of 10*s*., and on his return he pays 2*s*. for each turtle "crawled." These amounts are to be subsequently handed over to the Nicaraguan Government. Assent to this Law has been withheld by the Governor pending the signing of an agreement between the Imperial and Nicaraguan Governments.

Law 7 of 1912.—A Law to provide for the giving of security by public officers in the Cayman Islands. This Law brings the law of the Dependency in line with that of other colonies on the question of bonds for fidelity in office. This Law has not yet been assented to by the Governor.

PUBLIC WORKS.

In the five years 1907-12 substantial sums have been expended under this head, the extension and improvement of roads accounting for the greater part of the expenditure. The main road from George Town, on the west, to Boddentown, half-way to the east end, is in fair condition except in wet weather.

Since 1910 a riding road 12 feet wide has been cut through the bush between George Town and West Bay, a distance of seven miles. The surface is, however, sandy and loose, and it is questionable whether it is possible to convert it into a driving road except at great expense.

SHIPBUILDING.

It would be made to appear from a cursory glance at the register for 1912 that there had been a revival in this industry. The figures for the two previous years were, however, small, and, evidently, unfinished vessels in 1910-11 were launched in 1912. In 1910 two vessels were launched, the largest 47 tons; total tonnage, 87 tons. In 1911 a small sloop of 8 tons was launched. In 1912 seven vessels were completed, the largest 55 tons; total tonnage, 246 tons. The industry is a valuable one and is to be encouraged and fostered.

There are now remaining on the register 25 vessels, with a total tonnage of 1,524 tons. There are, however, many vessels built in the Caymans and manned entirely by Caymanians under the flags of Cuba and the Central American republics, the earnings of which contribute to the support of families in the Dependency.

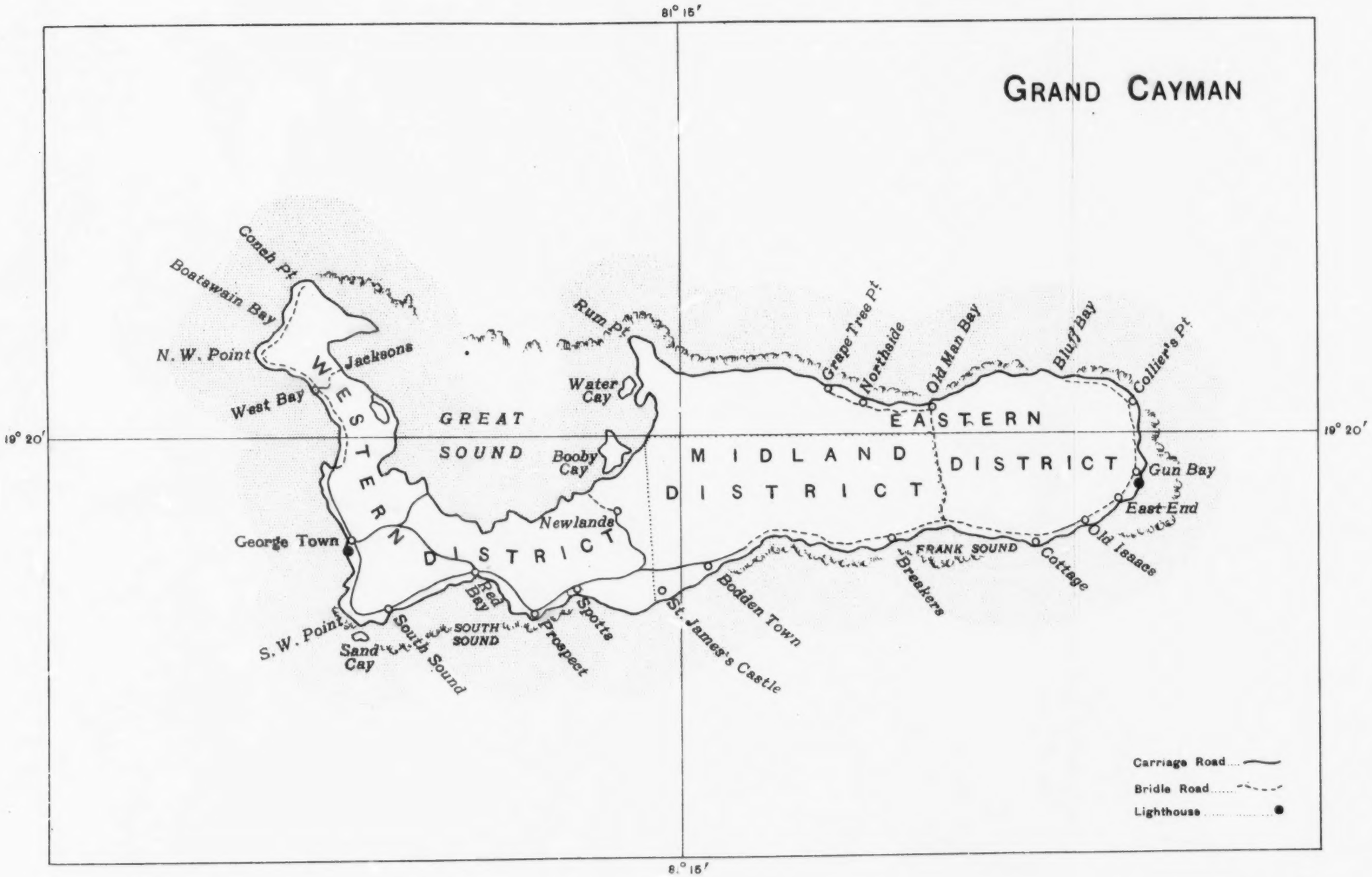
POPULATION.

The returns of the census in June, 1911, show a total population of 5,564. Of these, 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black. As regards education, 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denominations the people are mainly Presbyterians, 3,264 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the Lesser Islands; and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God."

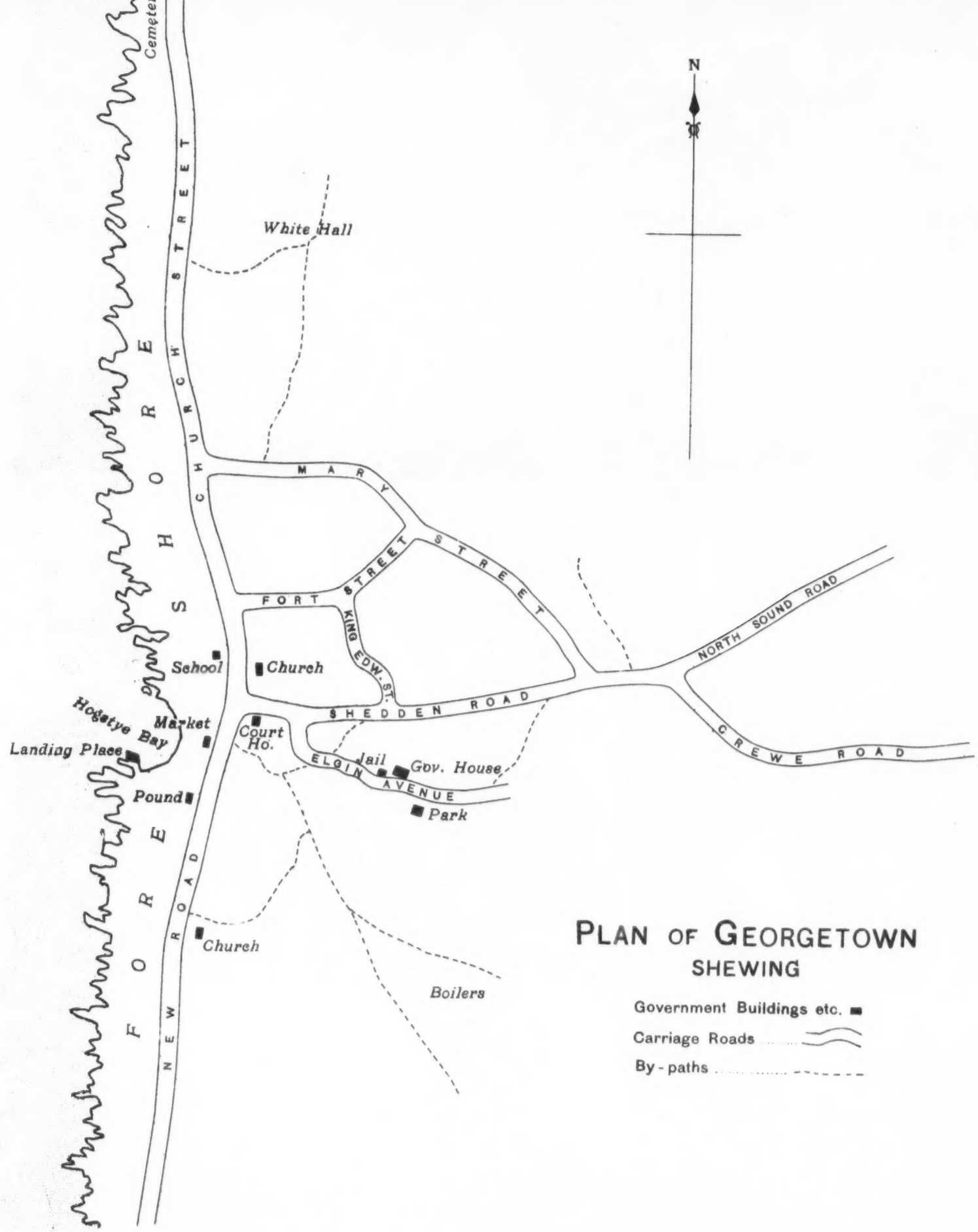
During 1912 there were 206 births: 114 males and 92 females. Of these 174 were legitimate and 32 illigitimate. In the same period there were 58 deaths: 33 males and 25 females.

EDUCATION.

At the last inspection of schools in the island of Grand Cayman there were present 359 out of 441 pupils enrolled in the schools visited. No opportunity offered for the inspection of several private schools, and no schools were visited in the Lesser Islands. There are in the Dependency about one thousand children of school age, but hardly more than two-thirds are within reach of ordinary educational advantages. Efforts by many interested in progress are now being directed toward the establishment of a system of free and compulsory education, which will entail special taxation.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Dr. G. S. S. Hirst, who had been appointed Commissioner and Medical Officer in 1907, died in June, 1912. Affairs were temporarily administered by Mr. Edmund Parsons, the senior justice of the peace, from June till the end of August, when the administration was taken over by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner at Turks Islands, pending the appointment of a Commissioner. At the request of the Assembly arrangements are being made for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Grand Cayman without executive duties.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Acting Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
17th February, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1911
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate...	1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Surveys, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 763.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 726.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1913.

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No. 763.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 726.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
22 July, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1912, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(31387—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 9/13. D & S. A

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1912.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1912 amounted to £8,215, while the expenditure was £8,092, as against £8,318 and £7,695 in 1911 respectively. There was a surplus of £123. The expenditure includes the grants under the Salt Producers Relief Ordinance, of which £1,777 was distributed.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908	7,404	11,430
1909	7,748	7,454
1910	8,648	6,827
1911	8,318	7,695
1912	8,215	8,092

Including £4,000 in 1908 and £800 in 1909 for hurricane relief.

Revenue.

	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Import Duties	3,477	3,577
Royalty of Salt	2,183	2,161
Port Dues	577	800
Licences and Internal Revenue...	234	227
Payments for Specific Services...	128	183
Post Office	935	865
Revenue from Government Property	448	194
Interest	228	199
Miscellaneous	107	9
	£8,318	£8,215

Expenditure.

	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Pensions	391	412
Commissioner's Department ...	1,868	1,849
Judicial Department	211	180
Police and Prisons Department...	571	589
Medical Department	582	586
Paupers	337	325

	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination ...	33	19
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	533	405
Post Office	191	426
Lighthouses	235	260
Public Works	355	640
Salt Industry	1,767	1,777
	£7,695	£8,092

Assets stand at £9,781 and liabilities at £3,367, leaving a balance of assets of £6,414. £5,363 is invested to meet emergencies, while there is no Public Debt.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board:—

No. 1.—The Appropriation Ordinance, 1913.
No. 2.—The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1911.
No. 3.—The Wild Birds Protection Ordinance.
No. 4.—The Copyright Ordinance.
No. 5.—The Fibre Plant Exportation Amendment Ordinance, 1912.

The Wild Bird Protection Ordinance was virtually a continuation of Ordinance No. 11 of 1907, but power was given to remove from, or add to, the schedule names of birds.

The Copyright Ordinance repealed Act 11 Victoria, c. 6, and brought the Imperial Act of 1911 into operation in the Dependency.

Ordinance No. 5 provides that, whenever it appears advisable, sisal plants may, under such conditions and for such periods as the Commissioner may see fit, be exempt from the export duty of 1½*d.* imposed upon each sisal plant by Ordinance No. 2 of 1908.

EDUCATION.

The average number on the registers of the eight Government schools in the Dependency and the average attendances, together with the cost of maintenance of each school, were as follows:—

School.	On Register.	Average Attendance.	Cost of Maintenance
			£
Grand Turk	248	209	154
Salt Cay	58	48	56
Cockburn Harbour	159	136	93
Lorimers	87	55	40
Kew	80	54	40
Blue Hills	91	62	40
Bottle Creek	117	95	52
Conch Bar	58	47	20
Total	898	706	495

By the inclusion of Conch Bar in the Government schools the number on the registers and the average attendance increased by 37 and 42. The private schools showed an attendance of 78 as compared with 73 in 1911. The total expenditure in 1912 was £628 as against £649 in the previous year, while there is a balance of £21 due the Treasury for advances to the Education Fund.

The primary education of the Dependency is under the management of a Board appointed annually, the Government making a yearly grant of £600. No fees are charged at the Government schools; attendance of children over six and under thirteen being enforced in the three settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour under the provisions of the Education Ordinance, 1901. A school rate of ten shillings for the half-year is payable in respect of every child of school age at the three settlements, but this rate is not collected where a child has been in regular attendance or where satisfactory excuse is offered for his absence. The Bible is a daily class book in every aided school, but no child is excluded on account of his religious denomination.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports and exports during the year were valued at £27,662 and £25,947 as against £24,722 and £23,703 in 1911, respectively. The exports of fibre rose from £1,225 in 1911 to £4,718, chiefly owing to larger shipments in consequence of better prices, but the shipments of salt and sponges fell from £19,503 and £1,530 to £18,703 and £1,451 respectively. The raking of salt was up to the average, but great difficulties were experienced in chartering vessels.

The value of the imports and exports during the past five years has been:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1908	24,426	24,768
1909	25,262	18,936
1910	27,916	24,461
1911	24,722	23,703
1912	27,662	25,947

During the year the trade was with the following countries:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom... ...	6,111	80
British Colonies	4,837	4,497
Foreign Countries ...	16,714	21,370
	£27,662	£25,947

Articles of Export.

	£	£
	1911.	1912.
Salt: Coarse	15,257	14,918
Salt: Fishery	4,246	3,685
Sisal	1,225	4,718
Sponges	1,530	1,451
Conchs	743	553
Miscellaneous	702	622
	£23,703	£25,947

Shipping.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the period 1908 to 1912 was:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1908	410,195
1909	433,340
1910	385,762
1911	388,112
1912	378,773

Comparative statement of shipping cleared for years 1911 and 1912.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	95	10,998	5	11,469	100	22,467
Foreign	89	11,076	98	153,950	187	165,026
Totals, 1912	184	22,074	103	165,419	287	187,493
Totals, 1911	227	18,695	97	154,841	324	173,536

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE.

There is no direct communication between England and these islands now that the Imperial Direct Line has ceased running to Jamaica from Avonmouth. Letters are sent and received by the steamers of the Clyde Line which sail from New York for ports in San Domingo about every ten days, while parcels post and freight from England are brought by the subsidized steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black, which leaves Halifax for Jamaica every four weeks.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company connects Grand Turk with Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica. The company supplies a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made. The rate to England is 3*s*. a word, to Halifax 2*s*., to Bermuda 1*s*. 6*d*., to Jamaica 1*s*., and to New York 2*s*. 3*d*.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank was established in 1890, the principal Ordinance being No. 4 of 1889. The following statistics are interesting as showing that the institution is self-supporting, and that its benefits are appreciated by the population (5,615) of these islands:—

Number of depositors	349
	£
Amount of deposits in 1912	1,603
Amount of withdrawals in 1912	1,257
Amount to credit of depositors	3,070
Amount of invested funds	3,143
Rate of interest	2 per cent.
	£
Revenue	58*
Expenditure	53

In 1902—ten years ago—the number of depositors was 201, and the amount to their credit £1,418, so that the work of the bank has greatly increased.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following is the rainfall:—

	Inches.
1908	41·37
1909	39·97
1910	26·73
1911	22 91
1912	27·98
Average rainfall for the period 1908-1912 ...	31·76

* To this amount should be added £35 brought to account in January for interest on investments in Jamaica.

The wettest month was November, when 6·59 inches were measured, of which 4·50 inches fell on the sixth of that month, while the driest month was June, with 27 parts.

The coolest and warmest months were December and September, with mean temperatures of 76·1 and 83·5 respectively.

Mean temperature for the year	80·2
Mean pressure	30·029
Lowest temperature (9th February)	63·5
Highest temperature (29th July)	92

The prevailing winds of the year were:—

	Days.
N.	11
S.E.	97
W.	7
N.E.	43
S.	26
N.W.	2
E.	175
S.W.	4
Calm	1

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The police force consists of 1 inspector, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 2 lance-corporals, 3 constables, 2 revenue constables, and 10 district constables, or 21 in all.

Offences reported to the police	173
Persons brought before the magistrates	173
Sumary convictions:—	
Offences against property with violence to the person	—
Other offences against property	23
Other offences against the person	20
Other offences	91
Convictions in the Superior Courts:—	
Other offences against property	4
Other offences	4
Number of persons acquitted:—	
In the Superior Courts	3
In the Inferior Courts...	39

GENERAL REMARKS.

The production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation is, in the three chief settlements of the Dependency, the main industry. The special climatic conditions, comparative absence of rain during periods of strong dry winds, and the convenient proximity of the

islands to the markets, are the principal contributing factors. For the salt raker the year 1912, as 1911, was an almost perfect one, large crops being gathered, which, in spite of strong demand, left on hand at the end of December an average annual crop, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining freights at moderate rates, and this notwithstanding the exports of salt were not below the average quantity annually shipped. The West Indian proverb, "If it's not one thing, 'tis another," was verified, and it seems that, in the salt industry, one difficulty is removed only to give place to another. In the matter of freight, the Dependency, in common with other countries, was suffering from the successful participation of sailing ships in the profits secured in the present boom in the shipping trade. Several years ago, salt was carried exclusively in sailing vessels, but now steamers are frequently chartered, and it seems probable that, after the temporary improvement in the position of sailing ships, steamers will eventually take the place of the rapidly disappearing picturesque "wind jammer." During several months of the year quarantine, in consequence of bubonic plague in Porto Rico, was also an obstacle to obtaining ready charters.

The price of coarse salt was maintained at six cents a bushel throughout the year as a result of an informal mutual understanding between local producers and certain dealers, by whom the trade is apparently controlled, that the coarse salt raked in these islands for the markets in the United States should pass through their hands. Though an improvement upon that obtained several years ago, the price leaves but a narrow margin of profit even for those producing salt under favourable circumstances.

After several years of depression the fishery salt trade with British North America showed signs of improvement, 252,132 bushels of the value of £3,684 being exported.

As more than nine-tenths of the coarse salt is exported to, and as about four-fifths of the total trade of the Dependency are with, the United States, it is imperative to watch closely the conditions of the salt industry in that country. In June, 1911, of the 32 million barrels (280 lbs. to the barrel) consumed annually in the United States only 3·2 per cent. of the approximate value of £75,000, as against 36·5 per cent. in 1880, was imported, chiefly from the West Indies and the Mediterranean, so that these islands have to face fierce competition in an extremely limited and apparently dwindling market. In recent years the increasing production of salt in Michigan and other central States has driven the producers of the State of New York to compete more actively in the markets of the eastern coast where imported salt finds its only market. The Payne-Aldrich Tariff Bill, which reduced the duty by 20 cents on a short ton, afforded the foreign producer but little substantial relief. Sanguine expectations are entertained that, if salt is placed on the free list, Turks Islands salt will benefit both in price and demand, but past experience goes to show that, while the demand may be rendered steady, the price, in consequence of the keen competition of the Mediterranean salt, will not be increased to any appreciable extent. It will be more reasonable to look for the improvement of the industry in the concentration and

combination of local interests, which will facilitate economy in cartage, boatage, and the working of the ponds.

In addition to a grant of £1,000 under Section 11 affording sensible assistance to the individual owners in cleaning and raking operations, the Salt Producers Relief Ordinance, 1910, by a grant of £800 under Section 10 for the improvement of the common property enabled the Salt Pond Boards of the three settlements to carry out useful and important works. At Grank Turk the dams, walls, drains and embankments were repaired or extended in all the salinas, while the shipping places were cleared and the roads placed in good order. At Salt Cay, where the ponds are more concentrated, the improvements strike the eye more quickly. The common reservoir in that island has been dredged and cleaned, whereby the capacity has been largely increased and the flow of water accelerated. But the extension and raising of the embankment of over a mile in length to the east of the reservoir to prevent the wash from the adjoining lands in case of heavy rains, and to protect the ponds, will prove the most lasting and beneficial work ever undertaken at Salt Cay. Similar work has been carried out at Cockburn Harbour, and it is confidently hoped that the expenditure under the Ordinance will assure the future protection of both the private and common ponds and the production of a fine grade of salt.

Despite the fact that no work at all was carried on during the year at West Caicos, the Colonial Fibre Planting and Trading Company being in liquidation, the export of sisal fibre showed an increase in value from £1,225 to £4,718 for 767 bales (about 153 tons) and the prices obtained were better than those for several years.

Although the grants under the Salt Producers Ordinance, 1910, amounting to £800, or more than one-fifth of the expenditure, had to be met, the revenue was sufficient, with economy and without seriously impairing administrative efficiency, to show a small surplus, and it is satisfactory, so soon after the disastrous hurricane of 1908, to be able to point to a balance of assets of £6,413, equal to four-fifths of the annual revenue, of which amount £5,363 is invested to meet future emergencies.

F. H. Watkins,

Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Grand Turk, 13th June, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria ...	1911
736	Somaliland ...	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute ...	1911
738	Northern Nigeria ...	"
739	Jamaica ...	1911–1912
740	Swaziland ...	"
741	Bahamas ...	"
742	Grenada ...	1911
743	Uganda ...	1911–1912
744	Mauritius ...	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago ...	1911–1912
746	British Guiana ...	"
747	St. Vincent ...	"
748	Barbados ...	"
749	Leeward Islands ...	"
750	Straits Settlements...	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate ...	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia ...	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar ...	1912
756	St. Helena ...	"
757	Weihaiwei ...	"
758	Ceylon ...	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone ...	1912
760	Seychelles ...	"
761	Somaliland ...	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong...	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
74	Ceylon ...	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies ...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent ...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei ...	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute ...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 783.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1912-13.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No. 739.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1914.

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No. 783.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No. 739.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
11th November, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the Heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:—

REVENUE.

Heads.	Receipts, 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Receipts, 1912-1913. £	s.	d.
Customs	494,361	9	3	449,433	10	5
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	8,274	18	11	8,039	12	0
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	207,839	19	11	206,214	15	2½
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid (*a*) and Irrigation Receipts ...	163,823	16	2½	207,814	2	9¾
Post Office and Telegraphs	48,725	14	6¼	51,480	15	0¾
Railway	190,006	2	5½	183,280	4	5½
Rents	2,670	13	3	3,036	0	8
Interest	15,726	1	0	16,469	10	2¾
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	13,898	13	5¾	28,652	13	7
Land Sales (*b*)	15,686	18	3¼	1,739	18	7½
Transfer from Insurance Fund in aid of General Revenues ...	—			50,000	0	0
	£1,161,014	7	3¼	£1,206,161	3	0¾

(*a*) Includes from Earthquake Loan Board for redemption of debt, £46,401 17*s*. 4*d*. in 1911-12, and £87,055 6*s*. 9*d*. in 1912-13.

(*b*) Includes sale of Constant Spring Hotel, £10,000, and sale of East Street Wharf, £3,500, in 1911-12.

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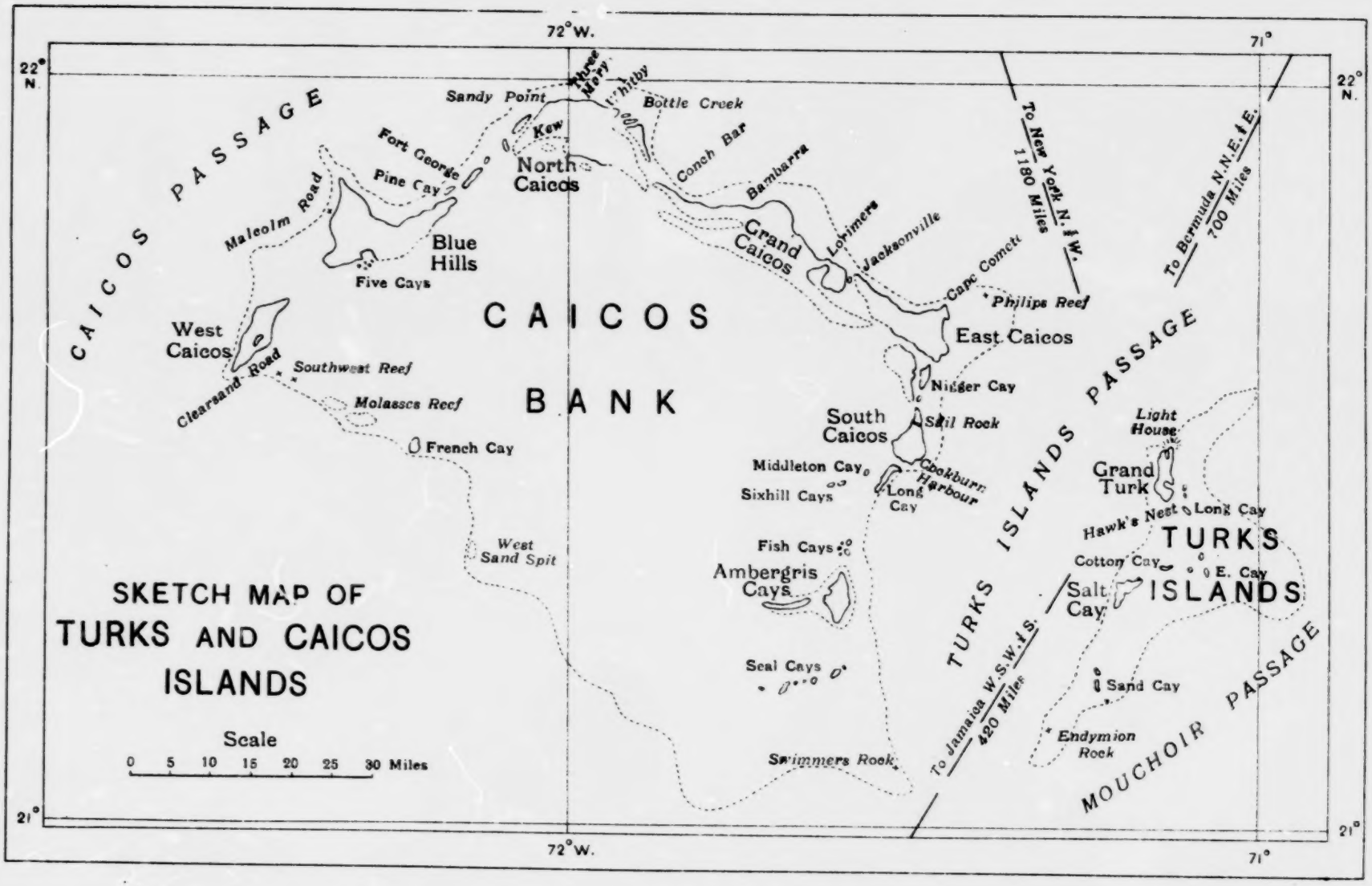


Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1915

EXPENDITURE.

Heads.	Payments. 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Payments. 1912-1913. £	s.	d.
Charges of Debt	245,534	13	9	231,686	10	3
Pensions	29,722	12	3½	31,564	14	1
Pensions, Widows' and Orphans'	8,112	18	7	8,013	12	8
Governor and Staff ...	6,202	14	4	6,014	12	8
Privy Council	83	10	8	62	8	8
Legislative Council ...	586	4	9	791	18	8
Colonial Secretariat ...	5,277	10	2½	5,504	8	11½
Public Works Department	17,092	8	11	19,262	7	4
Parochial Roads and Works	1,675	0	0	1,663	10	10
Lands Department ...	2,900	7	11	3,484	0	9½
Railway	98,594	10	1	95,157	9	6½
Audit Office	4,287	11	8	4,102	0	5½
Treasury Department ...	3,770	8	11	3,624	12	3
Government Savings Bank	2,228	4	0	2,385	0	10
Immigration	1,443	1	8¾	1,090	13	0½
Clerks' Parochial Boards	600	0	0	600	0	0
Stamp Office	833	18	10	848	7	3
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs	39,254	18	1¼	38,972	13	9¾
Postal and Telegraph Service	41,451	0	3¼	51,166	12	3¾
Construction of Railway Pier No. 3	357	9	0	925	18	9
Part Redemption of Earthquake Loan	46,401	17	4	87,055	6	9
Judicial	36,546	13	10½	38,330	18	7½
Ecclesiastical	1,104	7	1	849	3	10
Medical	68,932	13	7¼	74,580	9	11
Constabulary and Prisons	91,970	4	3¼	96,864	8	4½
Industrial Schools ...	810	0	1	6,449	4	10¼
Reformatories	5,592	15	0			
Education	82,329	2	5½	91,411	17	4¾
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,879	9	11½	4,250	0	1½
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence ...	8,302	7	5	7,787	8	8
Direct Cable Subsidy ...	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	—			—		
Railway to Chapelton ...	14,041	1	8½	53,698	14	2
Record and Registrar-General's Office, Registrar of Titles	5,404	4	7½	5,660	12	11½
Census of Jamaica, 1911...	6,623	13	3½	—		
Government Printing Office	10,449	7	8	10,144	15	8

EXPENDITURE—*cont.*

Heads.	Payments. 1911-12. £	s.	d.	Payments. 1912-1913. £	s.	d.
Institute of Jamaica ...	1,362	8	0	1,729	10	5
Board of Supervision ...	421	9	4	447	1	0
Agricultural Services ...	15,223	10	10½	16,146	18	6
Agricultural Societies Board Administration Expenses	—			292	17	11
Miscellaneous	22,259	0	9	42,682	12	8½
Public Works and Buildings	203,632	2	2	227,363	14	2
Lighthouses	1,381	7	2			
West India Improvement Company's Lands, Cost of Purchase	18,531	7	10	—		
New Public Buildings—Second Block	—			11,188	7	7
Hurricane Assistance ...	—			20,073	18	2
Total for General Expenditure ...	£1,155,208	8	6¼	£1,304,929	14	11½

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below:—

	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1908-9	933,751	911,095
1909-10	992,976	1,033,794
1910-11	990,399	987,304
1911-12	1,161,014	1,155,208
1912-13	1,206,161	1,304,930

The revenue exceeded the original estimate for the year by £116,117. In the total there are, however, included sums of £87,055 received from the Earthquake Loan Board for redemption of debt, £50,000 from the Insurance Fund in aid of General Revenues and £11,414 15*s.* 10*d.* of Railway Inscribed Stock. For purposes of comparison, therefore, the total revenue might be reduced by £148,470 and regarded as £1,057,691, or less than the estimate by £32,352.

The heads showing decrease of revenue as compared with 1911-12 are Customs, £44,928; Port Harbours and Light dues, £235. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, £1,625; Railway, £7,726; counterbalanced to some extent by increases in Stamp Duties, £5,304; Irrigation receipts, £1,595; Post Office and Telegraphs, £2,755; Rents, £366; Interest, £743.

The principal cause of the falling off in Customs was the remission of import duties, the *ad valorem* rate having been reduced from 16⅔ to 10 per cent. during nine months of the year.

The year started hopefully with a large surplus of nearly £175,000, and an Insurance Fund of £100,000. Moreover the Rio Minho Valley Branch Railway, for which a loan had been authorised by law, was being constructed out of moneys voted from General Revenues, £14,041 having been spent in 1911-1912 which, when recouped, would increase the surplus to £289,000.

As against this surplus there were certain commitments. A Resolution of the Legislative Council passed on the 28th February authorised the amortisation of the balance of the annuities under Imperial legislation (Colonial Loans Act), amounting to £56,937 17*s*. 11*d*. of which, £32,940, was payable in 1912-13, grants of £3,750 were voted to certain secondary schools, £1,037 to the Sailors' Home, £1,000 was re-voted for Kingston Streets, £9,000 for Water Supplies, £6,000 for works for the abatement of malaria, £5,000 for roads in Clarendon to give access to the new branch railway, and £25,000 for the No. 3 Railway Pier, totalling £83,727 and reducing the available surplus to £205,273.

The Estimates of expenditure for 1912-13, as passed, provided for using up £60,863 of this surplus, but as it included £75,000 for the Railway and £25,000 for the Pier, the former being recoverable and the latter already earmarked, the real position on the 1st April was that the forecast for the year, if realised, would have resulted in a surplus of £144,410 on current account and £100,000 in the Insurance Fund on the 31st March, 1913.

Supplementary appropriations of £19,149 10*s*. were, however, made on the 18th April, and a Bill was passed reducing the customs *ad valorem* duties from 16⅔ to 10 per cent. from the 1st July, equal to a remission of duties of about £60,000 a year or £45,000 for the nine months of the year under review—total, £64,149 10*s*.

In October the Council met again and voted further Supplementary Estimates of £10,861 6*s*. 4*d*. and £24,210 = £35,071 6*s*. 4*d*., thus reducing the probable surplus to, say, £45,000, and leaving the Insurance Fund untouched.

Severe hurricanes having occurred in November, the Council was again summoned in December, when £48,000 was voted for relief of hurricane sufferers and to meet extraordinary demands arising out of the hurricane. The Council was informed by the Governor that the estimate of damages to main roads, public buildings, telegraphs and other public works was £41,471, but a vote was not at the time taken for the amount. At the same time the Government was authorised to make loans to the sufferers aggregating £55,000. Naturally some of the works for which the votes had been taken had to be postponed.

The total expenditure for the year as shown by the accounts amounts to £1,304,930, but after deducting the adjusting entry of £87,055 for redemption of Earthquake Loan Board debt the net expenditure was £1,217,875, while £33,248 10*s*. additional was issued in Hurricane and Drought Loans.

The chief increases were Debt charges, £26,805; Pensions, £1,842; Administrative Departments, £2,439; Postal Service, £9,716; Judicial, £1,784; Medical, £5,648; Constabulary and

Prisons, £4,894; Education, £9,083; Harbours and Pilotage, £1,370; Agricultural Services, £923; Miscellaneous, £20,423; Public Works and Buildings, £33,181; Hurricane Assistance, £20,074.

The decreases were small and relatively unimportant.

The surplus of assets over liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £76,215, with £50,000 remaining in the Insurance Fund, but many of the works had been commenced were unfinished and the operations for hurricane and drought relief were in progress and not yet near completion. The financial situation was therefore substantially the same as has been described as existing after the meeting of the Legislative Council in December, namely, that the whole of the surplus and Insurance Fund would be absorbed except a small working balance on current account.

The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,803,719 on the 31st March, 1913. This included £46,402 due to the Imperial Government for Earthquake Loans, directly secured by advances on properties. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £850,866, leaving a net liability of £2,952,852. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £357,188, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £66,871.

No addition forming a charge on general revenue was made during the year to the public debt of the Island.

On the other hand, £87,055 was refunded to the Imperial Government to close the account of a loan of £100,000 obtained under the Earthquake Loan (Imperial) Law, 1907.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioner, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements:—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipt.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908-9	32,197	30,010
1909-10	32,513	35,739
1910-11	35,755	35,385
1911-12	46,565	45,846
1912-13	41,515	43,846

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipt.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908-9	30,545	26,223
1909-10	31,957	30,707
1910-11	60,082	52,373
1911-12	69,740	72,875
1912-13	44,656	54,842

Other Parochial Boards. (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipt. £	Expenditure. £
1908-9	106,231	107,838
1909-10	111,586	117,461
1910-11	135,118	139,032
1911-12	123,179	124,059
1912-13	148,029	146,491

14. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £18,867.

15. Power has also been taken under the Parochial Loans Law, 20 of 1903, to borrow for the construction or improvements of water-works, markets and streets, and drains, and £32,950 had been raised in this manner by the end of the financial year.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(*a*) Imports and Exports.

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1908-9	2,420,335	2,268,254
1909-10	2,561,674	2,628,307
1910-11	2,614,943	2,568,222
1911-12	2,865,553	2,948,067
1912-13	3,050,478	2,709,283

The imports increased by £184,925 and the exports decreased by £238,784. These figures very clearly indicate the grave effect which the prolonged droughts and the hurricanes of 1912 produced in the economic condition of the Colony and the extent to which the prosperity attained in 1911 has been diminished.

The principal articles of import were:—

		1912.	Average of four years.
Ale and Beer	galls.	347,975	260,544
	value	£57,996	£42,668
Bacon	lbs.	47,290	50,579
	value	£1,970	£2,259
Beef, W.S.	brls.	4,427	5,698
	value	£16,934	£20,058
Bread and Biscuits	lbs.	3,071,815	4,222,632
	value	£25,598	£35,188
Butter and Substitutes ...	lbs.	1,121,401	1,035,696
	value	£41,751	£35,524
Candles, composition ...	lbs.	45,734	56,465
	value	£1,143	£1,517

		1912.	Average of four years.
Cheese	lbs.	231,828	221,259
	value	£8,693	£8,522
Coal	tons	69,215	55,310
	value	£59,769	£48,061
Corn	bushls.	279,476	247,424
	value	£52,402	£45,900
Fish, dried, salted	lbs.	11,401,633	11,263,456
	value	£151,071	£133,415
Fish, alewives	brls.	6,183	8,590
	value	£8,347	£9,839
Herrings	brls.	43,495	36,146
	value	£43,495	£32,237
Mackerel	brls.	4,007	6,574
	value	£10,017	£13,693
Salmon	brls.	382	345
	value	£1,329	£1,119
Flour	brls.	309,621	224,847
	value	£325,103	£252,875
Gunpowder	lbs.	41,325	32,942
	value	£2,066	£1,647
Hams	lbs.	202,052	195,634
	value	£8,418	£8,167
Lard	lbs.	239,460	206,158
	value	£5,986	£4,294
Matches	gross	41,507	23,325
	value	£3,591	£2,196
Meal	brls.	63,999	45,873
	value	£53,599	£35,124
Milk, condensed	cases	61,866	49,864
	value	£57,226	£41,864
Oats	bushls.	94,370	71,652
	value	£18,874	£12,769
Oils	galls.	1,493,494	1,185,720
	value	£76,414	£63,910
Peas and Beans	bushls.	19,925	16,946
	value	£9,962	£9,343
Pork, W.S.	brls.	5,330	5,655
	value	£20,657	£23,746
Rice	lbs.	17,219,702	12,038,210
	value	£99,013	£60,865
Salt	lbs.	11,725,787	10,360,456
	value	£12,680	£11,264
Soap	lbs.	5,109,664	4,390,532
	value	£42,154	£33,901
Spirits, Brandy	galls.	3,852	3,997
	value	£1,926	£1,998
,, Cordials	galls.	2,891	2,312
	value	£3,458	£2,856
,, Gin	galls.	4,540	3,309
	value	£1,135	£827
,, Whisky	galls.	36,738	31,958
	value	£12,858	£11,185

		1912.	Average of four years.
Sugar, Refined	lbs.	895,111	673,560
	value	£7,608	£5,494
Tea	lbs.	89,768	67,664
	value	£4,488	£3,383
Tobacco, Leaf	lbs.	34,651	34,391
	value	£6,930	£7,145
,, Manufactured and cigarettes ...	lbs.	69,649	142,174
	value	£7,344	£16,132
Wines	galls.	55,221	40,980
	value	£21,372	£16,051
Wood, W.P. Lumber ...	ft.	1,967,265	1,795,624
	value	£14,754	£13,097
,, Pitch Pine	ft.	13,450,718	11,730,259
	value	£94,155	£82,112
,, Shingles	No.	1,412,996	1,859,264
	value	£3,532	£4,647

The imports for the past fifty years at intervals of ten years are as under:—

	£
To 30 September, 1872	1,559,601
30 September, 1882	1,318,450
31 March, 1892	1,759,890
31 March, 1902	1,755,921
31 December, 1912	3,050,480

and were obtained from the following countries:—

—	1872.	1882.	1892.	1902.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	932,768	722,086	862,345	857,952	1,333,353
	59·8%	54·8%	49%	48·9%	43·7%
United States ...	365,926	396,496	654,165	732,595	1,273,390
	23·5%	30·1%	37·2%	41·7%	41·7%
Canada	218,398	147,581	182,928	118,066	291,364
	14·0%	11·2%	10·4%	6·7%	9·6%
Other Countries ...	42,509	52,287	60,452	47,308	152,373
	2·7%	3·9%	3·4%	2·7%	5·0%

The Collector-General remarks:—

"In forty years the value of the imports has just doubled, but were it possible to measure by quantity or volume, I think it would have been found that the rate of progress has been very much more rapid. In that span of years Great Britain has yielded 16·1 per cent. of her proportion of the Island's trade to other countries, and the United States has improved her position by no less a proportion than 18·2 per cent. Canada has lost ground and "other countries" made some little progress. It remains to be seen how far the new imperial movement will affect these relations, and what period of time will be required for full fruition."

	£
Of the total exports, amounting in value to £2,709,283, the proportion attributable to Island produce was	2,572,275
Against the like figures in 1911 of	2,778,583
Or a decrease of	206,308
And the proportion attributable to British and foreign goods re-exported	137,008
Against the like figures for 1911 of... ...	169,484
Or a decrease of	32,476

This decrease in the value of Island produce exported as compared with 1912 is made up of Bananas, £215,394; Sugar, £114,615; Rum, £18,816; Citrus Fruit, £10,850; Ginger, £10,600; Honey, £6,759; Pimento, £4,864; Fustic and Bitterwood, £5,075; Logwood, £15,034; counterbalanced in part by increases in Coffee, £120,599; Cocoa, £38,385; Coconuts. £9,940; Hides, £3,233; and various other minor products.

The figures for the two years brought into contrast grouped under the general Board of Trade classification work out thus:—

	1912.	1911.
	£	£
Class I.—Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics	2,239,447	2,451,137
Class II.—Raw Material and Articles mainly unmanufactured	149,818	160,713
Class III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	216,176	207,263
Class IV.—Miscellaneous unclassified	2,150	
Class V.—Bullion and Specie	101,692	133,952

The growth of the total export trade in the forty years commencing 1872 is as follows:—

	£
1872—Year ending 30 September	1,418,443
1882— ,, ,, ,, ...	1,549,058
1892— ,, ,, 31 March	1,722,096
1902— ,, ,, ,, ...	1,939,142
1912— ,, ,, 31 December	2,709,283

The increase during that period is £1,290,840. In this connection the following figures showing the trend of trade will also possess interest. The markets accepting the Island's exports in each of the years specified and the proportions falling to each were as under:—

—	1872.	1882.	1892.	1902.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	1,152,783	968,323	562,913	409,858	358,516
	81·3°/₀	62·5°/₀	32·7°/₀	21·1°/₀	13·2°/₀
United States ...	149,629	275,703	877,274	1,272,540	1,618,614
	10·5°/₀	17·8°/₀	50·9°/₀	65·7°/₀	59·8°/₀
Canada	9,649	199,787	59,764	31,849	148,943
	·7°/₀	12·9°/₀	3·5°/₀	1·6°/₀	5·5°/₀
Other Countries ...	106,382	105,245	222,145	224,895	583,210
	7·5°/₀	6·8°/₀	12·9°/₀	11·6°/₀	21·5°/₀

In forty years the island's export trade has been practically weaned from the mother country and transferred in an ever-increasing degree to the United States, though discrimination in favour of Cuban sugars has in recent years had the effect of somewhat checking this trend.

The chief articles of export show the following variations:—

		1912.	Average of four years.
Annatto	lbs.	959,943	822,355
	value	£5,999	£8,108
Beeswax	cwt.	525	722
	value	£3,185	£4,536
Cocoa	cwt.	65,675	49,317
	value	£139,833	£91,357
Coconuts	No.	22,949,450	15,769,770
	value	£108,627	£69,216
Coffee	cwt.	89,586	72,873
	value	£274,730	£141,207
Divi Divi	cwt.	5,178	2,940
	value	£1,268	£842
Fruit, Bananas	stems	13,382,072	15,479,417
	value	£1,241,187	£1,261,735
,, Grapefruit	brls.	48,512	50,315
	value	£17,002	£18,030
Fruit, Oranges	No.	30,737,900	39,564,263
	value	£38,422	£42,578
Ginger	cwt.	24,793	23,133
	value	£48,038	£45,978
Hides	lbs.	513,843	440,018
	value	£16,057	£11,551
Honey	cwt.	15,951	21,408
	value	£18,343	£19,626
Horses and Mules	No.	71	74
	value	£1,799	£1,500
Limejuice	galls.	95,107	104,314
	value	£3,863	£4,179
Logwood Extract	pkgs.	24,898	18,657
	value	£175,677	£139,336
Pimento	cwt.	107,504	135,194
	value	£78,388	£92,221

		1912.	Average of four years.
Rum	galls.	894,679	1,347,584
	value	£67,100	£160,382
Sugar	cwt.	197,960	280,396
	value	£132,798	£176,085
Skins, Goat	lbs.	157,247	136,716
	value	£14,086	£12,375
Tobacco, Cigars	lbs.	68,942	69,229
	value	£35,561	£33,872
,, Cigarettes ...	lbs.	17,272	7,245
	value	£2,500	£803
,, Leaf	lbs.	27,769	38,315
	value	£1,230	£1,467
Tortoise shell	No.	6,523	5,674
	value	£6,371	£4,725
Turtle	No.	1,000	1,093
	value	£2,095	£2,814
Wood, Bitter	tons.	2,317	2,240
	value	£3,486	£3,382
,, Fustic	tons.	2,027	3,067
	value	£4,468	£7,382
,, Logwood	tons.	37,295	29,481
	value	£84,070	£65,971
Yams	cwt.	10,879	8,539
	value	£4,162	£2,839

The relation which each of the staples bears to the total is indicated by the following figures for the past three years:—

—	1910.	1911.	1912.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Sugar	10·8	8·9	5·1
Rum	5·5	3·1	2·6
Coffee	6·9	5·5	10·7
Cocoa	2·6	3·6	5·4
Dyewoods	3·2	3·9	3·4
Fruit	53·7	58·3	54·7
Pimento	3·0	3·1	3·0
Minor Products	14·3	13·5	15·1

The acreage returned in 1912-1913, grouped under the four principal headings of the return, and set against an average of four years, exhibits the following:—

—	1912–13.	1911–1912.	Average of Four Years
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled lands	267,276	280,286	263,443
Guinea grass	152,527	143,592	140,642
Commons	502,830	517,830	497,699
Wood and ruinate	1,222,699	1,230,001	1,223,530
Total	2,145,332	2,171,709	2,125,314

As compared with 1911-12 the tilled lands show a decrease of 13,010 acres, and the commons 15,000 acres, while the area in guinea grass has increased by 8,935 acres. On the average of four years there has been a net increase, but the droughts of 1912-1913 have checked progress and resulted in less land being cultivated than in the previous year.

The tilled lands in turn are classified as far as possible under description of cultivation, and the figures for the past year taken out under crop, and compared with 1911-12, and with an average of four years give the following summary:—

—	1912–13.	1911–12.	Average of Four Years.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	31,753	34,766	31,197
Coffee	22,275	24,473	24,873
Cocoanuts	17,377	16,691	14,781
Bananas	81,071	82,435	72,641
Cocoa	11,236	13,355	11,458
Ground provisions	66,153	74,723	80,128
Mixed cultivation	33,479	30,167	24,894
Minor items	3,932	3,676	4,135

The only increases on 1911-1912 are in cocoanuts 686 acres, mixed cultivation 3,312 acres, and in minor items 256 acres, while canes have decreased 3,013 acres, coffee 2,198 acres, bananas 1,364 acres, cocoa 2,119 acres, and ground provisions 8,570 acres. In comparison with the average of 4 years, however, there has been very general progress except in coffee and ground provisions, which show serious progressive decline.

The following abstract of the number of separate properties laid under contribution to general and parochial revenue during the year 1912-13, and the different descriptions set out and compared with the figures of the year preceding, show the following:—

	1912-13.	1911-12.
Properties valued at £20 ...	62,554	62,911
Properties valued at £30 ...	6,618	6,445
Properties valued at £40 ...	53,240	55,286
Properties valued at over £40...	30,177	29,767
Occupiers relieved	920	1,136
Properties in arrear	12,600	6,693
	166,109	162,238

The Collector-General states that the hurricanes of November are doubtless responsible for the arrears in St. James, 77, Hanover, 237, and Westmoreland, 497, but that the formidable figures in St. Elizabeth, 1,391, Manchester, 1,516, Clarendon, 1,085 and St. Catherine, 1,338 are attributable to the long continued drought.

The Surveyor-General makes the following observations with regard to the sale of Crown lands, &c., during the year:—

Sale of Land.

215 purchasers who bought 1,820 acres under the Rules of the Sale of Crown Lands to small settlers have completed payment of instalments of their purchase money and been given titles for their lands. There were also 86 other purchasers who paid cash down for 727 acres. Fresh areas have been offered for sale for cash in St. James, in Trelawny, and in Portland. Very few purchasers have, however, been forthcoming. Excellent land is, among other places, now offered for sale at 30*s.* an acre up the Spanish River, to which a new road has been made. To date, of the total of 31,000 acres that have been sold partly on credit since 1897 about 13,420 acres have been paid for in full, 3,020 acres taken back for failure to pay, 14,560 acres still remain unpaid for. £31,780 has been received to date on account of sales of land since 1896. The total amount of purchase money received during the year from cash and instalment purchasers amounts to £1,778 9*s.* 9*d.* 22 persons were given refunds of one-fifth of purchase money for establishing in permanent bearing cultivation one-fifth of the area purchased or making building improvements on town lots.

Leases and Tenancies.

6,690 acres and 64 town lots have been leased to 72 persons for £247 a year and 718 small prædial tenancies have been taken on at rentals of from 12*s.* to 20*s.* per acre per annum. The total amount of rent received for the year amounts to £3,085 2*s.* 4*d.*

Forfeiture of Lands.

2,403 acres have been forfeited and interlocutory judgment entitling the Crown to possession obtained on 2,289 acres. Notification No. 36, covering 1,522 acres, has been issued and proceedings under this and previous notifications are now pending in respect of 11,260 acres.

Escheatable Lands and Generally.

Two cases of escheat and squatting occurred during the year. Sites for various school houses, teachers' cottages, hospitals, police stations, and other purposes have been arranged for.

AGRICULTURE.

A further extension of the Farm School at Hope so as to accommodate 44 students at that institution was made during the year.

The school opened with a full complement of students in January, while several applications for admission had to be refused.

Of the pedigree Red Poll cattle imported from England in May for the Government Farm, only one was lost during the year, while the imported cows produced 13 calves, which have all been safely reared. The attempts to establish pedigree dairy cattle from England and the United States during the past three years at the Government Farm have resulted in a herd of 63 pedigree animals being established, while the dairy cattle now number 180.

A number of well-bred young bulls are being reared for sale to the public by auction in March next. Promising results have been obtained by crossing Jerseys with Indian Zebu cattle.

By the use of ensilage made from guinea grass and guinea corn the dairy herd was enabled during the dry months of the year to produce the best yield of milk yet recorded at the farm. This experiment has demonstrated the value of the silo for the feeding of cattle during the dry months of the year when green fodder is not obtainable.

The demand for the Departmental tick wash increases and this preparation is now extensively used by stock-breeders all over the Island.

An outbreak of anthrax was reported from St. Catherine. Vaccination was carried out on a large scale with striking success.

Equine influenza was very general during the spring months, and a good many young foals were lost in consequence.

Sugar planters are extending their areas in seedling canes; about 1,500 acres of B. 208 are now established. The Demerara seedling D. 625 is giving large returns on heavy soils in Westmoreland. The local seedling canes Nos. 70, 71, and 72 have done well in estate trials and are considered to be valuable introductions.

The establishment of local plant nurseries in connection with the work of the agricultural instructors has been found a successful means of extending the planting of permanent crops such as cocoa by small settlers.

Over 72,000 cocoa plants were distributed from the nurseries during the period under review.

The work of the newly appointed microbiologist during the year has served to determine the causative organisms of the four diseases of the banana scheduled under the Diseases of Plants Law. A good deal of activity has been shown lately by planters, both great and small, in seeking for cases of disease and in their treatment. It is satisfactory to record that the Panama disease does not appear to be spreading and that the few cases dealt with last year appear to have been satisfactorily stamped out.

A marked revival in the exports of coffee and good progress with cocoa and cocoanuts have been recorded for the year, while the banana and sugar industries were affected adversely by drought and storms.

Jamaica rum now appears to have recovered its former position and is again merchantable at standard prices.

Sea-island cotton has made marked progress in Vere, where small growers have taken up this crop. The area in cotton is now increasing.

Cassava meal is to be prepared for export to the United States next year, and 500 acres of cassava have been established in Trelawny with this object.

The successful outcome of the pioneer efforts in building up a trade in dried bananas or "banana figs" has encouraged an extension of this industry, and several factories have been erected for drying the fruit during the past year. The chief outlet for banana figs at present is Germany.

Good results have followed from active measures under the Adulteration of Food Law, and such articles as lard, butter and condensed milk are now supplied to the public in a satisfactory manner. All kerosene oil used in the Island now appears to satisfy the requirements of the law as to flash point.

The Rio Cobre Irrigation Works have at length come to their full development. The average of irrigated lands in cultivation in the plains of St. Catherine and the amount of water taken per hour for the different crops may be of interest.

—	Acres.	Cubic Yards per Hour.	Cubic Yards per Acre.
Bananas	10,000	15,000	1·5
Canes	750	720	1·0
Grass	2,300	1,013	·4
Provision grounds	100	100	1·0
Oranges	610	300	0·5
	13,760	17,133	1·24 average.

Unless it should prove feasible to construct an extensive impounding reservoir to conserve the surplus flood waters which now flow into the sea no extension of cultivation will be possible.

SHIPPING.

The ships reporting show an increase in number and tonnage. The figures are:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

1911.	1,508	ships with tonnage	2,158,647
1912.	1,471	,, ,, ,,	2,341,823
Decrease in ships	37	Increase in tonnage	183,176

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

The clearances were:—

1911.	1,509	ships with tonnage	2,160,465
1912.	1,453	,, ,, ,,	2,346,615
Decrease in ships	56	Increase in tonnage	186,150

Distinguishing between ships (steamers and sailing vessels) reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast, the account appears as follows:—

Reporting with Cargo.

1911.	1,144	ships with tonnage	1,824,363
1912.	1,169	,, ,, ,,	2,068,855
Increase in ships	25	and in tonnage	244,492

Reporting in Ballast.

1911.	364	ships with tonnage	334,284
1912.	302	,, ,, ,,	272,968
Decrease in ships	62	and in tonnage	61,316

Separating steamers from sailing vessels, the analysis shows that the arrivals of steamships were:—

1911.	1,360	ships with tonnage	2,127,165
1912.	1,282	,, ,, ,,	2,300,272
Decrease in ships	78	and increase in tonnage	173,107

The following tables show the arrivals with cargo and the arrivals in ballast:—

Steamships arriving with Cargo.

1911.	1,028	ships with tonnage	1,808,481
1911.	1,033	,, ,, ,,	2,050,711
Increase in ships	5	and in tonnage	142,230

Steamships arriving in Ballast.

1911.	332	ships with tonnage	318,684
1912.	249	,, ,, ,,	249,561
Decrease in ships	83	and in tonnage	69,123

The steamers clearing were as under:—

1911.	1,363	ships with tonnage	2,130,424
1912.	1,285	,, ,, ,,	2,310,835
Decrease in ships	78	and increase in tonnage	180,411

Separating those clearing in ballast from those taking cargo the figures are:—

Cleared with Cargo.

1911.	1,313	ships with tonnage	2,046,305
1912.	1,234	,, ,, ,,	2,198,245
Decrease in ships	79	and increase in tonnage	151,940

Cleared in Ballast.

1911.	50	ships in tonnage	84,119
1912.	49	,, ,, ,,	112,590
Decrease in ships	1	increase in tonnage	28,471

The arrivals from the United Kingdom and British Possessions were:—

Sailing vessels 199	... tonnage	13,994	
Steam vessels 131	... tonnage	322,152	
			336,146
from foreign countries:—			
Sailing vessels 70	... tonnage	27,557	
Steam vessels 1,151	... tonnage	1,978,120	
1,471			2,005,677
			2,341,823

The nationalities of the steamships were Norwegian, 524, tonnage, 401,697; British, 493, tonnage, 1,294,424; German, 193, tonnage, 522,448; American, 70, tonnage, 86,287; Cuban, 3, tonnage, 2,835; and Danish, 2, tonnage, 3,144.

Chartered Norwegian steamers are much employed in the fruit trade with the United States, and ply regularly between ports in the northern states and Jamaica. The Germans have much improved their freight and passenger trade by putting on large ships of the Hamburg-American line.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Of the 36 Laws passed in the session of 1912-1913, the following may be referred to as the more important:—

Law 3.—To make provision for extending the Jamaica Railway from May Pen to Danks Estate in the parish of Clarendon.

Law 6.—For the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies.

Law 36.—The Agricultural Societies (Special Loans) Law.

Law. 10.—To amend the Tariff Law, reducing the customs duties on *ad valorem* goods from £16 13*s*. 4*d*. to £10 per cent.

Law 17.—To prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease.

Law 18.—To facilitate the recovery of possession of small tenements after determination of the tenancy.

Law 19.—To amend the Customs Consolidation Law, substituting declarations on invoices for oaths.

Law. 22.—The Railway Employees Law, granting pensions or grtauities to railway servants and regulating their employment.

Law 23.—The Shop Assistants Law, regulating hours of employment.

Law 24.—An amendment of the Health Law giving the Public Works Department power in certain cases to perform sanitary works on private property.

Law 25.—To provide for granting compassionate allowances to certain parochial officers.

Law 26.—An amendment of the Towns Nuisances Prevention Law.

Law 28.—To provide for a yearly return by bankers of unclaimed securities and moneys and to make certain unclaimed moneys general assets of the Island.

Law 29.—To authorise the transfer of young criminals from a prison to a prison farm or similar institution.

Law 31.—To provide for the notification of infective diseases.

Law 33.—To amend the Immigration Law in the direction of increasing the wages of indentured immigrants.

Law 35.—To amend the Elementary Education Law in the direction of providing for School Boards.

It will be observed that nearly all the legislation is social or industrial, having for its object improvement of railway communication, the bettering of the condition of labourers, encouraging thrift amongst small farmers, assisting them through troubles induced by drought and hurricane by means of loans, lightening the burden of taxation, improving conditions conducive to ill-health, and mitigating the punishment of young criminals.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Director of Education furnishes the following statistics:—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books for Year ended 31st October, 1910.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st October, 1909.	Percentage on Average Attendance of number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
					£
1911–12 ...	698	98,576	61,669	62·55	60,503
1912–13 ...	698	100,179	60,900	60·79	66,847

In the last three years there has been an increase of 10,277 in the number of scholars' names on the school registers. The percentage of average attendance out of numbers on the register (60·79) is, however, considerably below that of 1910 (64·34). With regard to the efficiency of the work of the schools as measured in the inspection results, there is a gratifying increase in the number of first-class schools from 217 to 254 in the year under review. It is also satisfactory to note that the number of third-class schools has diminished by 12. The "failures," however, increased by 5.

The annual examination of teachers and training college students shows the following results:—There were 118 Jamaica students presented, of whom 104 passed, 36 obtaining honours. Of the 4 female and 6 male students from British Guiana all passed except one whose health interfered with her studies.

For the Pupil Teachers' Examination 414 were presented and 256, or 61 per cent. passed; of Volunteer Candidates 1,930 were presented and 943, or 48 per cent., passed.

The total amount expended on elementary education through the Department was £91,387, and by the Public Works Department in the building of Government schools and schoolmasters' houses £6,248, aggregating together £97,635 or over 9 per cent. of the total revenue of the Government collected during the year.

Special attention was devoted to providing appliances for the various schools where these were lacking, and to improving the sanitary arrangements.

Progress was made in kindergarten instruction of teachers and pupils and in manual training, and the technical and continuation school has been kept busy with day and night classes training teachers and instructing pupils.

Two locally produced text-books are now in use in the schools, one dealing with agriculture and the other with hygiene and sanitation. The recent development of education has been an attempt to add a utilitarian and industrial element to the ordinary literary instruction and to inculcate in the young the elementary methods to be observed in the preservation of good health.

Laws have been passed regulating the creation of School Boards with the object of extending the areas of compulsory education and of strengthening the hands of these Boards.

Regulations have been framed for granting pensions to elementary school teachers with the intention of making the profession more attractive.

The year, which commenced favourably, proved later to be a very trying one for the Education Department no less than for all others, on account of unfavourable seasons. Droughts prevailed over the greater portion of the Island during most part of the year, while in November destructive hurricanes struck several districts. In Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James, out of a total of 126 schoolhouses 57 were completely destroyed and 41 more or less seriously damaged; 19 teachers' houses were destroyed and 26 damaged, while in other parts of the Island four schoolhouses and one teacher's house were destroyed and six schoolhouses and 46 teachers' houses were damaged. The Director of Education bears testimony to the courage with which the managers and teachers faced the disaster.

Industrial Schools.

The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was:—

Stony Hill	462
Shortwood	39
Alpha Cottage	153
Belmont	19
Happy Grove	25
A total of	698

Secondary Education

The expenditure of the enlowed schools during the year was as follows:—

	£
Jamaica College	3,435
Munro and Dickenson's	6,345
Wolmer's	3,668
Manning's	1,110
Rusea's	364
Tichfield	1,637
Beckford and Smith's	362
Manchester Schools	291
Vere Schools	488
Montego Bay School	619
Guthrie Davidson's	66
	£18,385

The total number of pupils was 1,478, including those receiving elementary education in the Tichfield Schools. One boy from Munro and Dickenson's obtained the Rhodes Scholarship, one from the Jamaica College took the Jamaica Scholarship, and one from Wolmer's the £60 Scholarship; 93 boys and girls passed the Cambridge Local Examinations, 33 of them taking honours.

A Girls' Scholarship of the value of £150 a year, tenable for three years, was established during the year by a vote from general revenue.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) Public Hospital, Kingston.

Indoor patients treated, 3,148; outdoor patients, including paupers, 9,290; dressings done for out-patients, 18,022; prescriptions made up, 20,461; total surgical operations, 1,027; daily average number of inmates, 222·7; total cost of maintenance, £10,540; receipts, £702 16*s*. 1*d*.

(*b*) Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital.

Number of patients admitted, 653; 8 pupil nurses admitted for training (one was unable to finish her term owing to ill-health, and 7 passed and received certificates); average daily number of patients, 17; receipts, £366 8*s*. 6*d*.; expenditure, £1,430.

(*c*) Lunatic Asylum.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1913, 1,314; an increase of 119 since beginning of the year. Total number of patients under treatment during year, 1,547; daily average resident, 1,272; rate of recovery, 38·94 per cent.; admissions, 349; discharges, 135; deaths, 97; death-rate, 7·46 per cent.

The proportion of insane is one to 632 population. A new ward for the safe custody of criminal lunatics has been commenced.

Cost of maintenance, £18,414; receipts, £9,321.

(*d*) Leper's Home.

Patients on 31st March, 1912		114
Admitted		14
		128
Discharged	3	
Absconded	—	
Died	14	
		17
On 31st March, 1913		111

The buildings and grounds were kept in good order. The death-rate was 10·9 per cent. The average longevity of leper life of those who died during the year works out at 7¼ years. Cost of maintenance, £2,584; receipts, nil.

(*e*) Government Savings Bank.

The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was further decreased during the year by £15,693, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £13,491, while the Government accounts were decreased by £220 2*s*.

The net decreases in liability in the two previous years were £29,620 12*s*. 11¾*d*. and £1,511 3*s*. 7½*d*. respectively.

The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £107,561 0*s*. 2¾*d*., a decrease of £4,524 15*s*. 2*d*., and the withdrawals to £121,052 4*s*. 6½*d*., an increase of £7,119 19*s*. 11*d*., as compared with the previous year.

The balance sheet on 31st March, 1913, shows a liability to depositors of £316,971, the full amount of which was covered by investments in British and Colonial securities at that date.

The income and expenditure of the Savings Bank for the year may be summarised as below:—

Income.

	£	s.	d.
Interest on Investments	11,912	14	8
Interest on Deposits	350	2	6
Refund by Imperial Government of Income Tax overpaid...	379	6	2
Miscellaneous	13	15	11
	£12,655	19	3

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Interest on Deposits	7,721	12	6
Expenses of Management	2,385	0	7
Balance Profit to General Revenue ...	2,549	6	2
	£12,655	19	3

The number of pass books examined was 4,299.

During the past ten years the ordinary deposits in the Savings Bank have declined by £119,000. The institution no longer meets the needs of any but the depositors of very trifling amounts, as better rates of interest can be secured in the Canadian Banks doing business in the country and in all industrial or agricultural undertakings.

(*f*) Registration of Titles.

The number of titles registered is steadily increasing at the rate of between 300 and 400 each year. The Titles Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £5,438.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(Courts, Police and Prisons.)

The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 131, as compared with 104 in 1911-12; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Court 7,935, as compared with 6,639; of summary convictions 15,028 as compared with 15,037.

There was a marked increase in the proportion of convictions of offences against property in all three divisions of the courts. Convictions for prædial larceny show an increase from 1,382 last year to 2,369 in the year under report.

The causes of this sudden increase are the long period of drought which prevailed in the greater portion of the Island and the occurrence of a hurricane in the western parishes which destroyed much property.

There was 1 conviction for murder in the course of the year, and 5 for man-slaughter, comparing with 4 and 3, respectively, in the previous year.

The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 5,076, and to lock-ups for short terms 1,929, making a total of 7,005, as compared with 5,676 in the previous year, an increase of 1,329.

The re-convictions during the year amounted to 1,690, of which 548 were second convictions, 319 third, and 823 fourth and upward. During 1911-12 the re-convictions numbered 1,442.

The daily average of prisoners in custody in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 1,259, as compared with 1,087 during the previous year. There were 39 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 29 during 1911-12. There were 3 executions of capital punishment. In the previous year there were none.

Considering the institutions separately: 24 deaths occurred in the General Penitentiary, representing a rate of 32·9 per 1,000. At St. Catherine District Prison 15 deaths occurred, representing a rate of 28·2 per 1,000. The state and discipline of the prisons has been good, and no corporal punishment was inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 23 lads on 31st March. The inmates have a building and compound separate from those occupied by the regular prisoners in the District Prison.

During the year 1912-13, 185 persons were bound over as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. From these probationers 668 reports were received. 47 probationers were directed to make their reports to the Police Station nearest to their homes, 8 were allowed to report by letter and 130 reported in person to the Probation Officer.

Of the 185 probationers under supervision this year, 14 were brought before the court for offences subsequent to first conviction and sentenced to imprisonment. Proceedings were taken against 20 probationers who failed to report.

The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £15,587, and for the St. Catherine District Prison, £7,365, total, £22,952. The gross earnings in case of the General Penitentiary were £3,710, and of the St. Catherine District Prison, £1,350. The yield of the St. Catherine District Prison Farm was valued at £1,126. £605 of that amount is the value of articles grown and consumed by the prisoners, thereby reducing the cost of the prison by that amount.

POLICE.

In reporting on the Police Department, the Inspector General states that the establishment, including officers, was nine men under the authorised strength on the 31st March, 1913. This maintained recovery from the depletion from which the Force has suffered during recent years is satisfactory.

The health of the sub-officers and men appears to have improved during the year. 1,301 days less were spent in hospital than in the preceding year.

There were 84 criminals under police supervision and 2,584 habitual criminals under surveillance during the year; 1,831 habitual criminals were re-convicted during 1913, against 1,438 in 1912.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1913, was 855,682. This figure is arrived at as follows:—

Estimated population on 31st March, 1912			845,767
Births registered, 1912-13 ...	33,159		
Deaths ,, ,, ...	21,450		
			11,709
			857,476
Migration:—			
Arrivals—general	25,178		
Arrivals—East Indians	1,985		
		27,163	
Departures—general	28,428		
Departures—East Indians ...	529		
		28,957	
			1,794
			855,682

The East Indians arriving were indentured immigrants.

Of the general arrivals and departures, 8,954 and 14,993 respectively were labourers, and show a net emigration of 6,039 persons of this class. The remainders, 18,209 arrivals and 13,964 departures, represent a net immigration of 4,245 persons, of whom 1,456 were East Indians.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries:—

—	Departures.	Returned.	Excess Departures.	Excess Returns.
Central America	13,091	7,347	5,744	—
Cuba	1,373	798	575	—
Hayti	367	649	—	282
Other Countries (American and West Indian).	162	160	2	—
Total	14,993	8,954	6,321	282

During the five years from April, 1908 to March, 1913, the Collector-General's returns show that 65,895 labourers emigrated and 45,843 returned. The difference of 20,058 gives an average loss of 4,011 per annum.

The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th September, 1912, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census, was 854,136. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths have been calculated.

The following is the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year.

—	—	Rate per 1,000.	
		1912–13.	1911–12.
Marriages	3,218	3·7	4·2
Births	33,159	38·8	39·0
Deaths	21,450	25·1	22·1

Of the births, 21,313, or 64·2 per 100, were illegitimate. The rate was 64·1 in 1911-12, and the average for the decade 63·3.

There was a decrease of infant mortality in proportion to the general death-rate, which increased by 3 per cent.

—	1910–11.	Rate per 100 of deaths.	
		1911–12.	1912–13.
Infants under one year ...	31·4	33·0	29·9
Infants under two years ...	40·4	42·0	38·8
Death-rate per 1,000	23·1	22·1	25·1

This does not denote any improvement in the ratio of infantile deaths to births, which for the whole Island has increased from 17·5 per cent. in 1908-9 to 19·3 per cent. in 1912-13 in the case of children under 1 year of age, and from 25·1 per cent. to 29·5 per cent. in the case of children under 5 years of age, while the figures for Kingston show an increase from 26·2 to 26·8 per cent. for children under one year and from 32·8 per cent. to 35 per cent. for children under 5 years during the same period.

In the order named, the parishes of Hanover, Clarendon, St. Ann, and Westmoreland show the highest birth rates, while those of St. Ann, Manchester, St. Mary, and Trelawny show the lowest death rates.

St. Andrew, St. Elizabeth, Portland, and St. Thomas exhibit the lowest birth rates.

Uncertified cases of death were 73·3 per cent., compared with 75·2 in 1911-12, for the whole Island. The figures for Kingston were 18·8 in 1912-13 and 27·0 in 1911-12, a very satisfactory diminution.

The principal causes of death in Kingston, stated in order of number of deaths in 1912-13, were as follows:—

Causes.	1912-13.		1911-12.	
	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	332	7·2	191	11·8
Phthisis	174	9·0	163	10·0
Heart Disease	118	6·1	83	5·1
Enteric Fever	85	4·4	69	4·2
Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of new born (under 1 year).	235	12·2	190	11·7
Atrophy, Icterus and Inanition (1 year and upwards).	52	2·6	78	4·8

Malaria is no longer a serious item in the mortality of Kingston. The Registrar-General remarks with reference to it—"It is satisfactory to note that malaria, which in 1909-10 was accountable for 6·9 per cent. of the deaths in Kingston, has gone steadily down since then, the rate being 6·9 in 1909-10, 5·0 in 1910-11, 3·2 in 1911-12, and 1·2 in 1912-13."

Of the few cases of malaria now reported in Kingston a proportion represents arrivals from elsewhere.

It may also be noted that fever (not otherwise defined) has also steadily declined to 1·5 per cent.

Bowel and lung complaints, enteric fever, and heedlessness of infant life are the causes of death against which the sanitary and education authorities may hope to wage a beneficent campaign.

The epidemic of whooping cough which commenced in the June quarter, 1910, has at length spent itself after claiming 1,505 victims, 17 of whom died in 1912-13. "Vomiting sickness," the

cause of which is still under investigation, was registered as the cause of death in 188 cases, while 12 deaths were certified as cerebro-spinal fever, and 98 were registered as meningitis, of which 97 were certified.

These facts are mentioned because the term "vomiting sickness" which might with equal cogency be applied to sea sickness, having been loosely used in certain cases in which medical men failed to diagnose some disease accompanied by the symptom of vomiting, the term has been seized on by the public, encouraged by the profession, and used as a kind of shibboleth to describe any illness accompanied by sickness at the stomach. Cases reported as "vomiting sickness" have from time to time proved on investigation to be due to a multiplicity of ailments, such as malaria, biliousness, worms, &c., but there was always a residue ascribed by certain medical men to meningitis, a diagnosis which was not accepted by others. It was then suggested that this residue of cases might be due to yellow fever, but this suggestion was scouted by the older medical men who had had the opportunity of seeing cases of this disease in the distant past and failed to couple the symptoms with those of the residue of the cases of "vomiting sickness." Moreover, as no effort had been made to trace the disease through the medium of the Stegomyia mosquito, and it attacked the class of people hitherto immune and at the wrong time of year, there was profound distrust of the theory. About this time the Bacteriologist had the opportunity of examining specimens and he found in some of them the germs of meningitis. The investigation is not yet concluded. Dr. Seidelin was sent out by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to make investigations and his report has not yet been received. In the meantime it seems proper to group together the cases reported as vomiting sickness with those certified as meningitis pending more complete and authoritative information.

Public Health.

The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £74,621, as against £68,626 in 1911-12.

The progressive increase in the expenditure of this department in the course of the last six years is noticeable. The figures are as follows:—

	£
1907-8	54,839
1908-9	56,404
1909-10	58,317
1910-11	64,986
1911-12	68,626
1912-13	74,621

This does not include the cost of building, which was £8,743 in the past year, bringing up the total to £83,364, or nearly 8 per cent. of the revenue collected.

During the year, 43 persons were detained at the Quarantine Station, and quarantine restrictions were imposed upon ships coming from Trinidad, Brazil, Venezuela, Porto Rico, Cuba,

and other countries in consequence of reports of cases of infectious diseases in those places.

During the year the increased attention given to the disease of yaws, in pursuance of the extended powers given by the Yaws Notification Law No. 23 of 1910, was continued, and 8,285 new cases were treated, 21,410 visits being paid altogether, and 10,866 persons returned as treated, though the returns are incomplete.

The disease prevails generally in mountainous localities and where water is scarce or not easily accessible and where, consequently, cleanliness, bathing, and proper sanitary precautions are neglected.

Treatment with salvarsan in hospital was employed in 349 cases, of which 327 were discharged cured. Only in 14 cases was a second injection used, and more than two in one.

The arrangements made for the treatment of out-patients at hospitals in 1910-11 resulted in a further increase in the numbers treated. During 1912-13 the numbers were:—

At Kingston Hospital	9,290
At public general hospitals	11,599
In districts	45,186
Under the ticket system of reduced payment	1,597
	67,672

The total number of patients treated in public general hospitals during the year under review was 27,781. There were 665 deaths in hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,148, the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 653, the Lunatic Asylum, 1,314, the Lepers' Home, 128, the total number of patients treated in Government hospitals and asylums total 33,024.

The number of operations performed was 2,552, with 25 deaths.

Continued attention was given to the hook-worm disease.

The Bacteriologist examined 897 specimens and found 702, or 78 per cent., harbouring the worm, while in the Spanish Town Prison 1,378 cases were examined, with positive results in 71·55 per cent., and in the General Penitentiary 339 cases, with 70 per cent. In the public general hospitals 3,641 cases were thymolised and 1,147 East Indian immigrants who arrived were landed at the Quarantine Station, and 711 found to be infected were treated. The Surgeon Superintendent of one of the immigrant ships had treated 180 cases during the voyage until his supply of thymol and naphthol B had run out. The Medical Board that examined the immigrants on arrival state that it is evident there is no insuperable obstacle to treating coolies on board during the voyage from India, and are of opinion that the period on board ship offers the completest facilities for thoroughly thymolising them.

The daily average of patients accommodated in the public hospitals was 1,094·83, against 967 in the previous year, and 533 in the year 1904-5.

The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the public general hospitals were as follows:—

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Malarial Fever, Intermittent ...	8,068	49
,, ,, Remittent	353	21
,, ,, Pernicious	45	10
Skin Diseases	3,614	10
Disease of the Digestive System ...	2,010	100
Local Injuries	1,935	33
Rheumatism	1,194	—
Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	672	56
Disease of the Circulatory System ...	172	27
Diseases of the Cellular Tissue ...	696	4
Ankylostomiasis (Hook-worm) ...	1,594	16
Gonorrhœa	316	—
Syphilis	628	11
Anæmia	195	11
Diseases of the Eye	326	—

The Government Bacteriologist conducted during the year examinations of 6,194 specimens covering a wide field of investigation, the most important as affecting the mortality in the Island being enteric fever, ankylostomiasis, vomiting sickness, malaria and dysentery. After fumigation of a ship from Cuba two out of 67 rats killed on board were found to be infected with plague, but test examinations of rats caught in the Island have all yielded negative results. Of 183 cases of "vomiting sickness" examined, 52, or 28·4 per cent., were traced to cerebro-spinal meningitis. So great has been the demand on the Bacteriologist's services that it has been found necessary to provide for the appointment of an Assistant

A considerable amount of work in connexion with improved drainage of the coast towns was carried on during the past year. The filling of the swamp to the eastward of Kingston was completed by convict labour. The Government purchased Kingston Pen, to the west of the city, and greatly improved the property which had for many years been in a very insanitary condition, and the Health Department of the Mayor and Council devoted increased attention to obliterating the breeding places of mosquitoes, with the result, already stated, that the death rate from malaria has fallen to 1·2 per cent., including deaths of patients admitted to the Public Hospital from other parishes.

Pipe outlets into the sea for draining swamps or streams have been constructed at Morant Bay, Annotto Bay, and Port Maria, and many drains have been cemented to facilitate the passage of water and abolish stagnant pools. Unfortunately work has had to be discontinued in order to provide funds for repairing the damage occasioned by the hurricanes of November last.

11,422 ounces of quinine were issued for use in institutions on estates, by the police, in schools, or for sale at the post offices at ¼*d.* per packet.

Bowel complaints, variously returned as dysentery, colitis and enteritis, have been very prevalent during the year and caused several deaths. In those parts of the Island in which there has been a drought and no hurricane it has been attributed to the drought, and in those where there has been a hurricane and no drought to the hurricane. To the statistician collating the returns and reports it would appear probable that the disease, having been introduced, has been carried from place to place by human agency, possibly contaminating water supplies by neglect of sanitation and food by means of insects, house flies, &c.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

156. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1911-12 with those of previous years:—

—	1912–13.	1911–12.	1910–11.
	£	£	£
Postages	40,992	39,487	36,587
Commission on Money Orders	364	411	390
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	754	240	225
Commission on Local Postal Orders ...	403	891	831
Miscellaneous	583	584	938
Telegraphs	8,125	7,109	6,942
Total	51,221	48,722	45,913

These statistics show an increase of £2,499 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases of £1,505 and £1,016 in postage and telegraph collections, and of £514 on commission on British postal orders, which have been in use since September last in lieu of local orders. The consequent decrease on local postal orders and on money orders has been £535.

The expenditure of the year by the Department amounted to £51,211 as against £42,466 in 1911-12.

The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1892-93	24,966	22,405
1902-03	33,105	27,696
1912-13	51,221	51,211

160. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were:—

—	At General Post Office.		
	1912–13.	1911–12.	1910–11.
Outwards	4,493,416	4,461,971	4,508,686
Inwards	5,499,762	5,649,423	5,688,126
Total	9,993,178	10,111,394	10,196,812
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	1,486,638	1,577,412	1,494,537
Grand Total	11,479,816	11,688,806	11,691,349
Telegrams sent and received ...	223,635	192,270	134,626

An increase of 31,365 in the number of telegrams sent during the year, and of £1,017 in telegraph revenue, is attributable in part to the introduction of sixpenny inland telegrams in January, 1911, and also in part to the number of offices being increased from 90 to 94.

Seven new District Post Offices were opened during the year, making the total number 197.

The value of orders cashed during the year on behalf of the United States of America exceeded that of the previous year by £3,606, and this increase was due principally to remittances from the Canal Zone.

The facilities offered to the public of buying five-grain doses of quinine at a farthing each were continued at all post offices, the amount of the sales being £239 1*s.* 3*d.*

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £280,153 18*s.* 6*d.*, summarised as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries and other Departmental Charges ...				19,262	4	9
Main Roads and Bridges, Maintenance ...				108,697	3	1
New Works	64,281	18	7			
New Bridges under Law 20 of 1892	2,080	19	7			
New Roads to improve access to Railway Stations, Clarendon	5,004	5	9			
Relief Work	3,237	4	3			
				74,604	8	2

	£	s.	d.
Public Buildings, Maintenance	12,453	2	5
Public Buildings, New Works...	36,302	10	9
Lighthouses	1,731	14	8
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	2,335	16	9
Spanish Town Water Works	1,025	18	9
Government Schools	6,247	15	3
Malaria Reclamations	7,125	3	9
Mail Conveyance and Telegraph and Telephones	6,967	9	1
Miscellaneous Services	13,400	11	1
	£280,153	18	6

The total length of main roads at the end of the year was 2,211 miles 33½ chains, exclusive of about 34 miles taken over for reconstruction.

The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole island was £45 9*s.* 10*d.*, and including special works of improvement £49 2*s.*; of this sum flood damages amounted to £10 5*s.* 5*d.* per mile.

The average cost per mile in St. Mary was £93 19*s.* 2*d.*, and in St. Elizabeth £21 3*s.* 2*d.*, being the highest and lowest, respectively.

The weather for ten months of the year was favourable for road work, being dry in almost all parts except the extreme west and east of the Island, but hurricanes accompanied by floods occurred in November in the western parishes and in St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon and Manchester, the rainfall for that month being 26·74 inches, as against the average of 7·44 inches. Serious damage was done to main roads, public buildings, and telegraphs, estimated at £41,471; school houses suffered to the extent of about £5,000, and parochial roads and buildings were also very much damaged.

The extent to which the expenditure of the Public Works Department has increased, and the relative cost of supervision are indicated by the following figures:—

	£		
1902-3	118,980		
1903-4	129,514		
1904-5	114,929		
1905-6	100,563	supervision per cent.	13·8
1906-7	111,310	,, ,,	12·6
1907-8	138,914	,, ,,	10·6
1908-9	165,276	,, ,,	9·2
1909-10	173,544	,, ,,	8·6
1910-11	189,436	,, ,,	8·3
1911-12	235,206	,, ,,	7·3
1912-13	280,154	,, ,,	6·8

The progressive cost of maintenance and special works on main roads from £32 2*s.* 0*d.* per mile in 1906-1907 and £29 5*s.* 9*d.* in 1907-1908 to £49 2*s.* 0*d.* in 1912-1913 is attributed to flood

damages £10 5*s*. 5*d*. per mile, to heavier traffic, to damage by motor cars, motor trucks, and traction engines and to lack of sufficient supervision in consequence of the great increase of work which has devolved on the staff. Much of the work done during the past year was performed under great stress of urgency during the heavy rains which followed the hurricane, when roads were blocked, telegraph and telephone lines blown down and public buildings unroofed or damaged.

The inadequacy of the staff had been recognised and in October last a resolution had been passed by the Legislative Council authorising the appointment of a divisional engineer and the employment for a term of three years of a hydraulic engineer to consider and supervise certain schemes for water supplies, &c., which were in contemplation. On account of the heavy expenditure due to drought and hurricane and the reduction of revenue from remission of taxation and other causes only the hydraulic engineer has been engaged.

£11,196 14*s*. 3*d*. was spent on the second block of the new public buildings, including the Supreme Court and Offices, the Kingston Judge's Court, the Administrator General's Office, the Land Titles Office, the Surveyor General's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Constabulary Office, and the Education Office.

Both blocks of the new public buildings in King Street are now completed at a cost of—

	£
West Block	42,914
East Block	43,905
Land	30,632
Total	£117,451

These buildings were paid for out of current revenue as well as King's House, which cost the additional sum of £20,400 They replace buildings damaged or destroyed by the earthquake of 1907.

Government Railway.

The total receipts were £183,279, the expenditure, exclusive of debt charges, £95,157, making the net earnings, £88,122. The receipts fell short of those for 1911-1912 by £6,728, due to diminished traffic consequent on the hurricanes which occurred in November and the droughts which prevailed during the greater part of the year. There was, however, a decrease of expenditure of £2,672, so that the deficiency of net revenue as compared with the previous year was £4,056.

After paying debt charges on the capital expenditure of £2,640,865 the net loss to the public treasury on the working of the railway system amounted to £29,611 for the year. The average loss for the past twelve years has been £62,514 or a total of £750,168, but it appears evident that the railway is slowly approaching a condition of equilibrium between revenue and

expenditure. But for the excessive capital cost, amounting to £14,313 per mile, no loss would accrue.

The railway was taken over by the Government on 16th August, 1900, under an Order of the Supreme Court, the Company having defaulted in the payment of interest on the First Mortgage bonds. The line when taken over proved to be in indifferent condition, the rolling stock insufficient and to a great extent unsuitable, and there were certain debts remaining unpaid. The average gross earnings for the two preceding years had been £115,997 and the working expenses £97,423, leaving only £18,574 per annum to go towards the payment of debt charges. Since then the most careful and economical management has been necessary, particularly as the mountain sections of the line had been constructed with such steep grades and sharp curves that much difficulty was experienced in obtaining rolling stock of a suitable description, the type of engine ultimately adopted being of American manufacture with immense boiler capacity.

Owing to the increase of traffic the rolling stock has become inadequate and will have to be considerably increased, some of the main road bridges over which the Company was allowed to run its lines may have to be strengthened and other works undertaken, but in other respects the line is in very good order, well ballasted, and provided with hard-wood sleepers.

The history of this line is instructive as an indication of what should be avoided in Colonial Railway development. The line, for a distance of 14 miles 5 furlongs, was opened for traffic by a private company in 1845. Representing capital expenditure of over £267,000 it was purchased by the Colonial Government for £93,932 in 1879; extensions of 38¾ miles constructed by contractors were opened for traffic in 1885: in 1890 it was sold to an American Syndicate: in 1894 an extension of 66 miles was completed and in 1896 a further length of 54½ miles. The Syndicate having defaulted, the Government resumed possession in 1900, with the result stated above.

Railway extension could not be resumed until 1912, when the annual loss showed a marked diminution. A branch up the Rio Minho Valley was then commenced, but the lessons of the past having been taken to heart, the Director of the Railway, who had been in charge since 1900, was entrusted with the construction, and a section of 10 miles to Suttons was opened on the 10th March, the balance of 3½ miles being well advanced. The expenditure to the end of the year amounted to nearly £68,000, or less than £7,000 per mile. The difference between this sum and the capital cost of the old line—£14,313 per mile—is sufficiently striking to indicate the advantage of conducting the work of railway construction under well organised direct control rather than by means of contracts with private companies.

The Acting Director of the Railway in his report states:—

> "In consequence of Mr. James Richmond going on sick leave on March 10th, 1913, which has since been followed by his retirement on a well earned pension, the duty of writing this report has devolved on me. A very cursory examination of the various comparative statements annexed

to this report bear testimony, better and more lasting than any words of mine can do, to the remarkable development of the railway and to the improved financial results due to his single-minded devotion to his onerous duties."

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year the Colony has suffered from the two catastrophes of drought and hurricane. The former was the more widespread and caused very lasting distress, while the latter appealed more to the imagination, on account of the swift destruction which marked its path. Fortunately, the public finances were in a strong position and it was possible to provide for the relief of the sufferers out of surplus revenue. The Island has been the sport of circumstances for some years past. Slowly and painfully emerging from the depression caused by the almost total destruction of the sugar industry, portions of it have been devastated by hurricanes in 1880, 1886, 1899, 1903, and 1912, and a destructive earthquake in 1907. The matter which has caused the greatest financial embarrassment to the Government was, however, the sale of the Railway in 1890, which had to be taken back in 1900 after the company to which it had been handed over had defaulted. Since then the loss incurred on it, after paying debt charges and working expenses, has amounted to more than £750,000.

My predecessor, Sir Sydney Olivier, left the Colony on the 18th January, 1913, to take up other duties in His Majesty's Service, and I arrived on the 6th March and entered upon the duties of Governor of the Colony on the 7th.

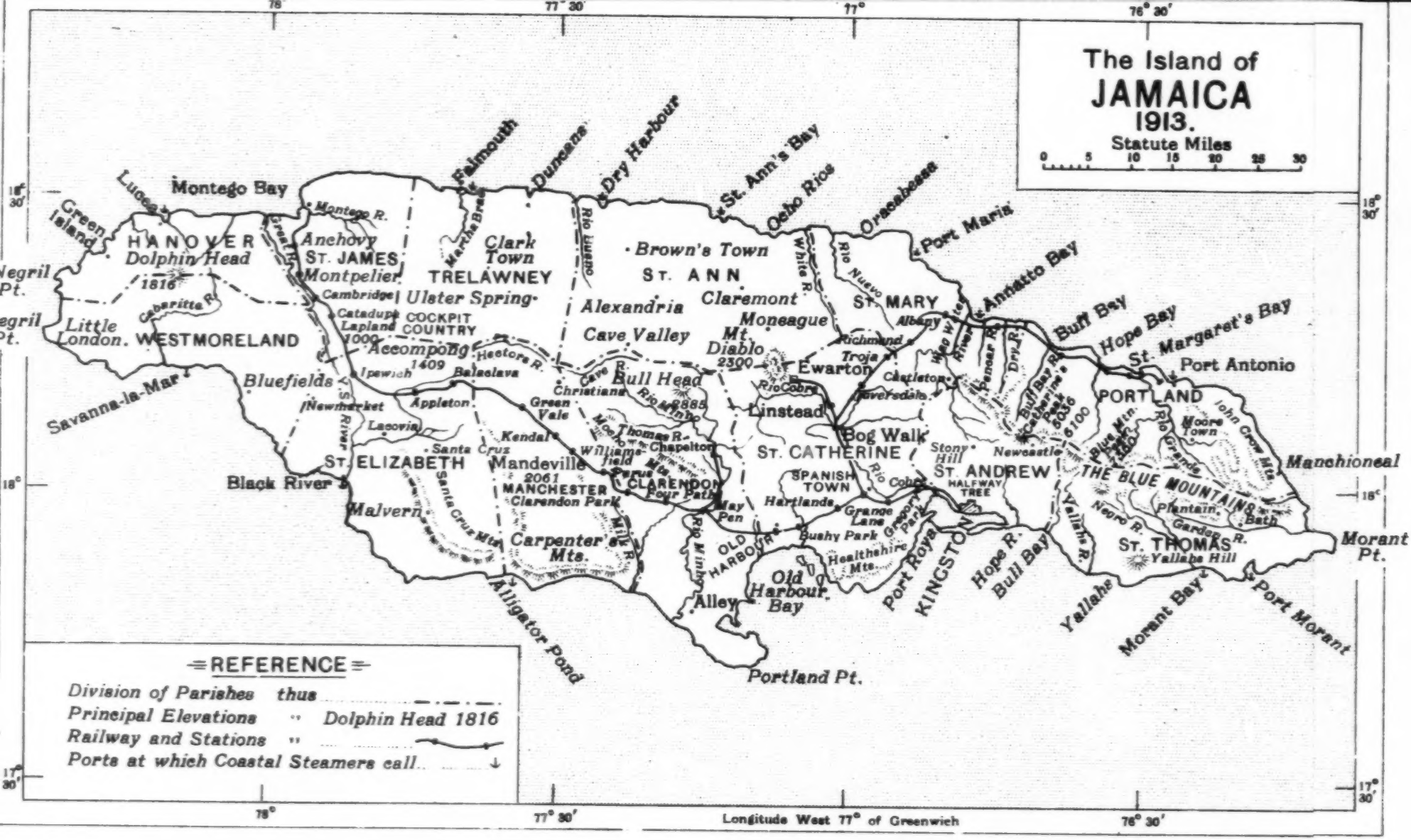
Due to the heavy demands for the relief and re-housing of the poorer classes who suffered from the effects of drought and hurricane, and for loans to assist in the restoration of crops damaged or destroyed by the hurricane of November, 1912, a period of economy in expenditure has become necessary, and many useful public works have had to be postponed to a more propitious season.

I have, &c.,

W. H. Manning,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State
for the Colonies.


The Island of
JAMAICA
1913.
Statute Miles
0 5 10 15 20 25 30
REFERENCE
Division of Parishes thus
Principal Elevations " Dolphin Head 1816
Railway and Stations "
Ports at which Coastal Steamers call
Longitude West 77° of Greenwich
78°
77° 30'
77°
76° 30'
18° 30'
18°
17° 30'
Montego Bay
Green Island
Negril Pt.
Negril Pt.
Little London.
HANOVER
Dolphin Head
1816
WESTMORELAND
Savanna-la-Mar
Bluefields
Black River
Malvern
Lucea
Falmouth
Duncans
Dry Harbour
St. Ann's Bay
Ocho Rios
Oracabessa
Port Maria
Annatto Bay
Buff Bay
Hope Bay
St. Margaret's Bay
Port Antonio
Manchioneal
Morant Pt.
Morant Bay
Port Morant
Portland Pt.
Alligator Pond
Old Harbour Bay
Alley
Port Royal
KINGSTON
Hope R.
Bull Bay
Yallahs
Montego R.
Anchovy
ST. JAMES
Montpelier
Cambridge
Catadupa
Lapland
1000
Accompong
1409
Ipswich
Newmarket
Lacovia
Appleton
Balaclava
Heetore R.
Clark Town
TRELAWNEY
Ulster Spring
COCKPIT COUNTRY
Brown's Town
ST. ANN
Alexandria
Cave Valley
Claremont
Moneague
Mt. Diablo
2300
Bull Head
2885
Christiana
Green Vale
Kendal
Williamfield
Mandeville
2061
MANCHESTER
Clarendon Park
Thomas R.
Chapelton
CLARENDON
Four Paths
May Pen
Carpenter's Mts.
ST. ELIZABETH
Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Mts.
Ewarton
Linstead
Bog Walk
ST. CATHERINE
SPANISH TOWN
Hartlands
Grange Lane
Bushy Park
Healthshire Mts.
OLD HARBOUR
Rio Cobre
Rio Minho
Rio Nuevo
White R.
ST. MARY
Richmond
Troja
Clarkston
Riverdale
Stony Hill
HALFWAY TREE
ST. ANDREW
Newcastle
Buff Bay R.
Catherine's Peak
5036
6100
Blue Mtn. Peak
7360
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
Moore Town
Rio Grande
John Crow Mts.
Plantain Garden R.
Bath
Negro R.
ST. THOMAS
Yallahs Hill
Yallahs R.
Great R.
Cabaritta R.
Martha Brae
Rio Bueno
Rio Nuevo
Wag Water River
Pencar R.
Dry R.
Cave R.
Rio Cobre
Rio Minho
Mt. Rose
Mt. Rose R.
Mt. Rose Mts.
Mt. Rose R.
Williamfield
Santa Cruz Mts.
Santa Cruz R.
Yallahs R.
Yallahs
Negro R.
Rio Grande
Rio Cobre
Rio Minho
Rio Nuevo
Rio Bueno

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
750	Straits Settlements...	1911–1912
751	East Africa Protectorate ...	"
752	St. Lucia ...	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate ...	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar ...	1912
756	St. Helena ...	"
757	Weihaiwei ...	"
758	Ceylon ...	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles ...	"
761	Somaliland ...	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong...	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	"
764	Falkland Islands ...	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
766	Bahamas ...	1912–1913
767	Gambia ...	1912
768	Fiji ...	"
769	Basutoland ...	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast ...	1912
771	Ashanti ...	"
772	Nyasaland ...	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands ...	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
777	Swaziland ...	"
778	Imperial Institute ...	"
779	Barbados ...	"
780	British Guiana ...	"
781	Entomological Research Committee ...	"
782	Southern Nigeria ...	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
77	St. Vincent ...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei ...	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute ...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Ditto ...	Ditto 1912.

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No. 800.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 763.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1914.

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No. 800.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 763.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
6th June, 1914.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1913, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C49) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 20. 7.14. B.&F. Ltd. Gp.11/4.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS POR THE YEAR 1913.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year 1913 amounted to £10,867 and the expenditure to £8,505, as against £8,215 and £8,092 in 1912, respectively. There was a surplus of £2,362. The expenditure includes the grants under the Salt Producers' Relief Ordinance of £1,994, £300 for school buildings in the Caicos Islands and £50 for the improvement of the sea frontage at Grand Turk.

FINANCES.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909	7,748	7,454
1910	8,648	6,827
1911	8,318	7,695
1912	8,215	8,092
1913	10,867	8,505

Including £800 in 1909 for Hurricane Relief.

For the period 1909–13 the average annual revenue was £8,759 and the average annual expenditure £7,715, showing an average yearly surplus of £1,045.

REVENUE.

	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Import Duties	3,577	3,971
Royalty on Salt	2,161	2,585
Port Dues	800	626
Licences and Internal Revenue ..	227	246
Payments for Specific Services ..	183	195
Post Office	865	2,627
Revenue from Government Property	194	248
Interest	199	210
Miscellaneous	9	159
	£8,215	£10,867

EXPENDITURE.

	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Pensions	412	403
Commissioner's Department.. ..	1,849	1,938
Judicial Department	180	187
Police and Prisons Department ..	589	607
Medical Department	586	608
Paupers	325	316
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccination ..	19	26
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	405	418
Post Office	426	201
Lighthouses	260	224
Public Works	640	962
Salt Industry	1,777	1,994
	£8,092	£8,505

Assets stand at £13,947 and liabilities at £5,171, leaving a balance of assets of £8,776. £5,543 is invested to meet emergencies, while there is no public debt.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board :—

No. 1. The Appropriation Ordinance, 1914.

No. 2. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1912.

No. 3. The Escheat Ordinance 1870 Amendment Ordinance 1913.

No. 4. The Pensions Ordinance 1904 Amendment Ordinance 1913.

No. 5. The Cinematograph Ordinance, 1913.

The Escheat Ordinance, No. 3 of 1913, in order to minimize the cost of procedure in cases of escheat, reduces the number of jurors required from 12 to 5.

No. 4 of 1913 precludes officers drawing pensions from the Dependency from acting as directors of commercial companies connected with the Islands except with the previous approval of the Secretary of State.

No. 5 of 1913 regulates and controls cinematograph and similar entertainments.

EDUCATION.

The average numbers on the registers of, and the average attendance at, the eight Government Schools in the Dependency during 1913 may be seen in the following table :—

School.	On Register.	Average Attendance.
Grand Turk	238	206
Salt Cay	57	48
Cockburn Harbour ..	161	144
Lorimers	107	62
Kew	86	58
Blue Hills	95	58
Bottle Creek	115	96
Conch Bar	59	48
	918	720

The total cost of maintenance of these schools during the year amounted to £489.

The number on the roll and the average attendance have increased by 20 and 14 respectively.

The number of children attending private schools was at Grand Turk 25 and at Cockburn Harbour 22, a total of 47 as compared with 78 in 1912. A few children are recognized as receiving private tuition.

The total expenditure of the Board, as compared with £607 8*s.* 3*d.* of the previous year, amounted to £639 16*s.* 1*d.*, disbursed as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries of Teachers	478	11	8
Salaries of Pupil Teachers	18	10	0
Tuition of Pupil Teachers	10	0	0
Aided Schools	7	10	0
Inspection Expenses	13	8	0
Salary of Inspector	25	0	0
Furniture and upkeep of buildings ..	21	6	10
Books and materials	22	13	2
Rewards for regular attendance ..	9	1	6
Contingencies	1	19	9
Refund of Treasury advance	27	13	11
Preliminary work on new schoolhouse at Kew	6	1	3

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports and exports in 1913 were valued at £30,231 and £27,808, as against £27,662 and £25,947 in the previous year, respectively. Owing to the fall in prices no sisal fibre was shipped during the year, whereas in 1912 the value of the fibre exported was £4,718, but the shipments of salt and sponges rose from £18,703 and £1,451 to £23,032

and £1,835, respectively. The weather conditions were most favourable for the staple industry. Bullion to the amount of £3,874 was imported from Jamaica to meet salvage claims, and £1,920 was shipped to the same island.

The value of the imports and exports during the past five years has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1909	25,262	18,936
1910	27,916	24,461
1911	24,722	23,703
1912	27,662	25,947
1913	30,231	27,808

During the year the trade was with the following countries :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	3,861	Nil
British Colonies	9,088	7,806
Foreign Countries	17,282	20,002
	£30,231	£27,808

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Salt : coarse	14,918	17,603
Salt : fishery	3,685	5,429
Sisal	4,718	Nil
Sponges	1,451	1,835
Conchs	553	270
Miscellaneous	622	2,671
	£25,947	£27,808

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the period 1909 to 1913 was : —

Year.	Tonnage.
1909	433,340
1910	385,762
1911	388,112
1912	378,773
1913	406,326

Comparative statement of shipping cleared for the years 1912 *and* 1913.

Nationality.	Total.	
	No.	Tons.
British	102	10,153
Foreign	162	193,546
Totals, 1913	264	203,699
Totals, 1912	287	187,493

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

The Clyde Line of steamers run regularly to and from New York direct, about every ten days, carrying mails, passengers and freight, and accomplish the single voyage each way in 4½ days. There is also a monthly mail service by a Pickford & Black steamer, which calls at Grand Turk both on the outward and return passage from Halifax to Jamaica.

The Dependency is connected with the outer world by the cable of the Direct West India Cable Company. A news bulletin is published daily, for which a subsidy of £120 per annum is paid. The rate to England is 3*s.* a word, to Halifax 2*s.*, to Bermuda 1*s.* 6*d.*, to Jamaica 1*s.*, and to New York 2*s.* 6*d.* Non-express messages are sent at half rates.

The estimated number of letters and postal matter dealt with in 1913 was :—

Letters	31,500
Post Cards	3,750
Newspapers	19,250
Books	2,050
Parcels	894

The amount of Money Order transactions was :—

	£
Issued in the Dependency	1,282
Paid in the Dependency	451

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank was 415; the amount of deposits in 1913, £1,837; the amount of withdrawals in 1913, £1,273; the amount to credit of depositors, £3,634; and the rate of interest, 2 per cent.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following is the annual rainfall for the period 1909 to 1913 :—

	Inches.
1909	39·97
1910	26·73
1911	22·91
1912	27·98
1913	30·56
Average rainfall for the period	29·63

7·99 inches were recorded in December, of which 4·55 inches fell on the 9th December, whilst in May only 64 parts were measured.

The coolest and warmest months were April and August, with mean temperatures of 76·2° and 83·5° respectively.

Mean temperature for the year	79·3°
Mean pressure	30·044
Lowest temperature (24th February)	62°
Highest temperature (18th August)	92·5°

The prevailing winds of the year were :—

N.	11 days
N.E.	58 ,,
E.	184 ,,
S.E.	88 ,,
S.	8 ,,
S.W.	3 ,,
W.	4 ,,
N.W.	5 ,,
Calm	4 ,,

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Offences reported to the Police	175
Persons brought before the Magistrates	170
Summary Convictions :—	
Offences against property with violence to the person	*Nil*
Other offences against property	48
Offences against the person	30
Other offences	61
Convictions in the Superior Court :—	
Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide	*Nil*
Other offences against property	2
Other offences	4
Number of persons acquitted :—	
In the Inferior Courts	36
In the Superior Courts	1

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year under review was one of financial prosperity, the revenue, £10,867, being the largest on record since the Islands became a Dependency of Jamaica in 1873, while the climatic conditions for the staple industry were as favourable as in the two previous years.

Although the revenue collected included, it is true, the fortuitous amount of about £2,000 from the sale of the new issue of stamps, it is satisfactory to note that the ordinary sources of revenue, especially the import duties, £3,974, which exceeded those of any year, showed a tendency to expand, while the expenditure, £8,505, provided for the extraordinary items of £1,994 for grants under the Salt Producers' Relief Ordinance 1910, £300 for the erection of new school, and £50 for the improvement of the sea frontage at Grand Turk, leaving £6,161 for the ordinary cost of administration. The assets exceeded the liabilities by £8,775, more than the amount of the revenue of many favourable years, while the amount of £5,543, which is being automatically increased by the investment of the interest, was at the end of the year already funded to provide against contingencies. Although a hurricane or a succession of wet seasons might at any time upset the most conservative precautions, the finances of these Islands, after many years of anxiety, may be said to have been re-established on a sound basis.

In addition to the ideal conditions for salt raking which prevail during the year, the outlook for the staple industry was brightened by the placing of salt on the free list of the United States Tariff, which will, even if the price is not increased, aid in rendering a steady demand for what is produced in the islands. The difficulty of obtaining charters of vessels at moderate rates still continues, the result being that a quantity equal to an average annual raking remained on hand at the end of the year. The present time is one of comparative prosperity to the salt pond owners, who, in view of the lessons of the past will be well advised to take advantage of the Government grants and propitious years to free themselves as much as possible from the burden of debt which has overwhelmed them in the past, and to combine in measures for the reduction of the cost of production to enable them to meet on more equal terms their competitors in the limited markets still remaining open to salt imported into the United States.

The favourable prices for sisal obtained in 1912 were not maintained; not a single bale, in consequence, being exported during the past year, which is a convincing proof of the fluctuating character of the fibre industry, which can only be carried on with financial success by strict adherence to rigid economy in cultivation and by the absence of heavy charges on borrowed capital.

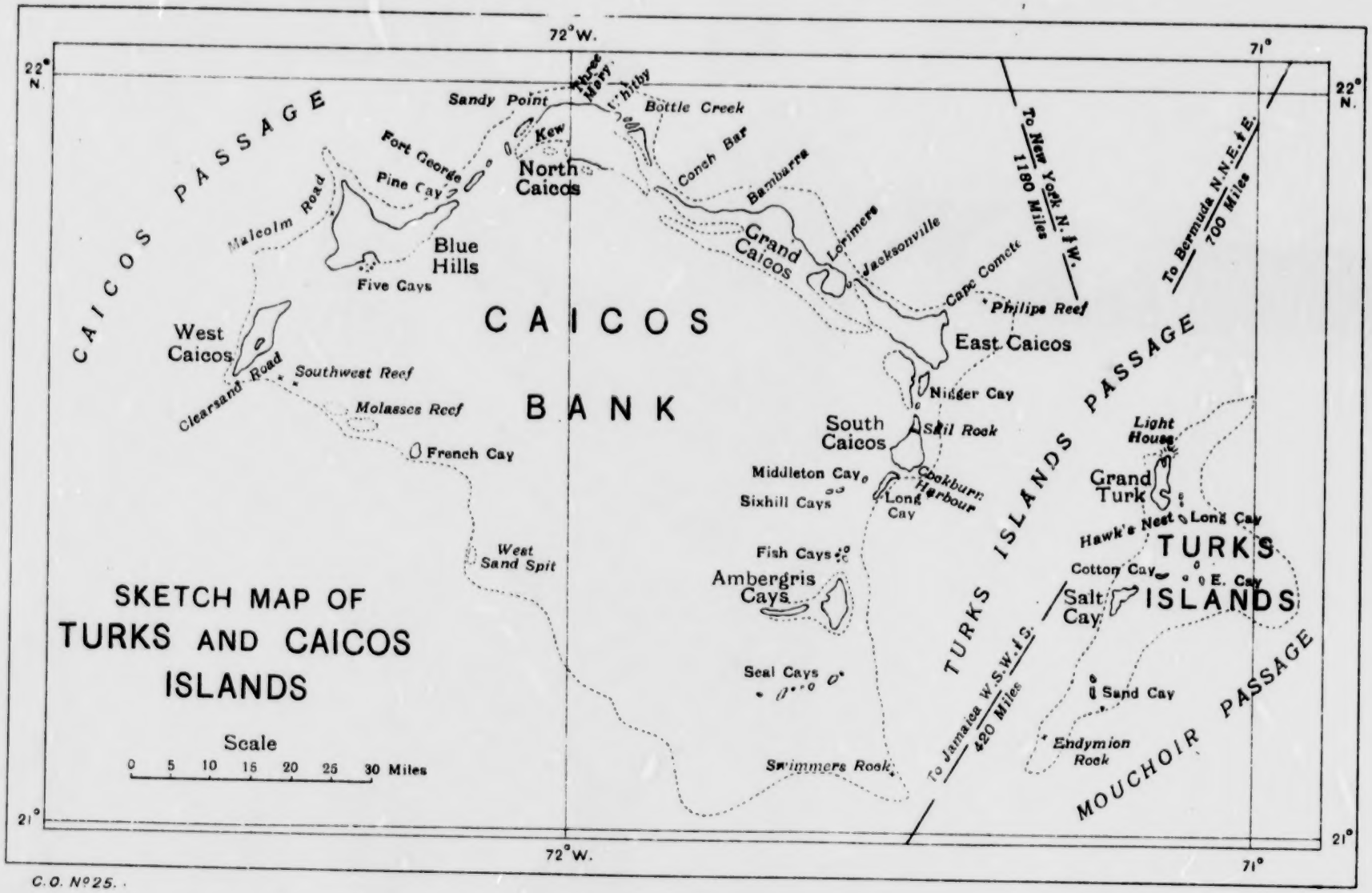
After a decade of misfortunes and depression, it is pleasant to be able to point to signs of improvement in the immediate future, but, in writing of Islands so wholly dependent on precarious industries and uncertain climatic conditions, it is safer to indulge in pious hopes than in sanguine prophecy, and to consolidate their financial position to meet as far as possible every conceivable emergency.

F. H. WATKINS,

Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Grand Turk,

20th April, 1914.



C.O. No 25.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
768	Fiji	1912
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.

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1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 810.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1912-13.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No 754.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1914.

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No. 810.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
20th August, 1914.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of the Blue Book of the Cayman Islands for the year 1912–13, together with a copy of the Commissioner's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(C71.) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 10.14. B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/2. A

REPORT ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1912 13.

FINANCE.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for the five years from 1908–9 to 1912–13, and the amounts under separate heads for the past two years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1908–9	3,600	3,735
1909–10	2,824	3,282
1910–11	2,779	2,716
1911–12	3,795	2,700
1912–13	3,397	3,105
Average five years ..	£3,279	£3,107

Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1911–12.	1912–13.
	£	£
Customs	1,638	1,622
Internal Revenue ..	370	359
Port Dues	23	22
Payments for Specific Services	43	44
Post Office	1,640	1,247
Revenue from Government property ..	12	16
Interest	67	83
Miscellaneous	2	4
Totals	£3,795	£3,397

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1911–12.	1912–13.
	£	£
Commissioner's Department	654	779
Judicial Department ..	106	102
Legislative Department	23	23
Medical Department ..	188	317
Police and Prisons ..	250	257
Charitable	88	53
Education	283	155
Registration	10	13
Miscellaneous	116	202
Post Office Department	202	286
Lighthouse Department	15	16
Public Works	765	902
Totals	£2,700	£3,105

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1913, amounted to a sum total of £3,397 and the expenditure to £3,105, leaving a surplus of £292 towards the assets of the Dependency. Including, therefore, the year under review, the average revenue for the last five years is £3,279. The receipts for the past year are therefore £118 above the average.

During the past year £902 1*s*. 3*d*. has been spent on public works. Of this sum £435 17*s*. 10*d*. was applied to the maintenance and construction of roads and £466 3*s*. 5*d*. to Government buildings and other purposes, in which sum is included all expenditure on the construction of school-houses.

The chief sources of revenue are the import duties and the sale of postage stamps. With reference to the import duties, 5 per cent. ad valorem duty is imposed on all imported goods, together with an additional sum of four shillings per gallon on distilled spirits and one shilling and sixpence per gallon on all wines. The general prosperity of these islands depends to a very large extent in the case of Grand Cayman on the price obtained from the sale of turtle. Contracts have been entered into, which will take effect from January 1st, 1914, and be in force throughout the year, at prices remunerative to the contractors. There is therefore every reason to anticipate a promising year, in so far as the import duties are concerned, while in the year that has passed, namely, 1913, there has been no scarcity of buyers of turtle. In the Lesser Islands coconuts form the staple industry, and if budrot and other diseases peculiar to that article of commerce, which during the last year have made their appearance, can be effectually controlled and kept within bounds there seems no reason to doubt the continued prosperity of that portion of the Dependency. The Post Office contributes a very large sum annually towards the general revenue, the sale of postage stamps amounting to £1,137. This sum has been due to the new 1913 issue of various denominations from a farthing upwards.

Export Duty :—There is an export duty of 1s. per 1,000 on coconuts, which realized £61 during the past year. There is no other export duty.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1913, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £3,097. The liabilities were £925, being £245 due to depositors in Government Savings Bank, £39 due to depositors in Treasury, and £641 Money Order Account. With reference to money order transactions through Jamaica, the precise figures are not at present available, but it is estimated that a sum of approximately £641 represents the liability of the Dependency under this head

---

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the imports from all countries has been in :—

Year.	£
1908–9	22,091
1909–10	23,853
1910–11	26,232
1911–12	28,444
1912–13	25,000

Average for five years, £25,122.

Exports.

The exports to all countries have amounted in value as follows :—

Year.	£
1908–9	11,995
1909–10	11,371
1910–11	10,992
1911–12	12,323
1912–13	10,000

Average for five years, £11,336.

It will be observed that there is a large difference between the value of imports and exports, which is due to several causes. Shipbuilding is one of the most important industries in these islands, and one in which a large number of people engage from time to time. Part of the materials used in the construction of vessels is imported from abroad and therefore included under the head of imports, while, though a few are sold to foreigners, most of them are owned locally and do not appear as exports. The majority of the male inhabitants are forced to seek for a means of subsistence in the United States, Central American Republics, Cuba, Colon, and other places, and in so doing leave their relatives behind, to whom large sums are remitted. It is estimated that approximately £3,469 has been received by way of

remittance during the past year from wage-earners abroad by people in Grand Cayman. When not engaged in the turtle fisheries trade between various foreign countries, schooners and their earnings may be said to be a national asset. But by far the most important reasons for the disparity lies in the comparative isolation of Grand Cayman from the outside world, the want of reliable communication, the lack of capital to develop industries for which the soil is best fitted and the entire absence of any initiative or enterprise on the part of the inhabitants, who seem in most cases to be quite content with their lot and show no disposition or desire to ameliorate their condition in life.

At present the Seeberg Line, of Mobile, U. S. A., operate two steamers which call at Georgetown on the way to Jamaica, and, though this in itself is of great advantage to the island, yet no reliability can be placed on the precise hour of arrival and departure. It is currently reported that the company have decided to withdraw their vessels. It is to be hoped that by the end of this year a schooner will be built with auxiliary power and cabin accommodation for passengers and that a tourist trade will gradually be built up. Efforts are being made in the direction of establishing a canning factory for turtle, fish, crayfish, etc., and also in the growing of cotton and the resuscitation of the coconut industry in Grand Cayman, which would prove an inestimable boon to the island.

Shipping.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry having 36 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,002 tons. The number of ships entered and cleared during the year 1912–13 is as follows :—

Entered.

	No.	*Tonnage.*
British	104	5,864
Foreign	49	18,411
Total	153	24,275

Cleared.

	No.	*Tonnage.*
British	115	6,545
Foreign	48	11,716
Total	163	24,261

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has proved of great use to those desirous of availing themselves of the opportunity offered for safe investment. For the financial year ended the 30th September, 1913, deposits amounted to £493 and withdrawals to £248.

The balance due to depositors at the end of the year 1913 was £246.

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment amply proved its usefulness and has contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency. As will be seen from the tabular statement below, in the last five years it has been the mainstay of these islands and has been responsible for nearly one half of the total revenue, the sale of postage stamps to collectors forming a very appreciable item.

Year.	*Post Office Revenue.*	*Total Revenue.*
	£	£
1908–9	1,758	3,600
1909–10	769	2,824
1910–11	784	2,779
1911–12	1,640	3,795
1912–13	1,247	3,316
Total	£6,198	£16,314

The inland postal service shows a steady and favourable increase in the amount of business transacted, while the large receipts in respect of the foreign mail are due to the number of Caymanians who have been compelled to seek a livelihood in the Canal Zone, Cuba, Central and South American Republics, and the United States.

The following table is indicative of the amount of mails, inland and foreign, despatched and received for the two years :—

	Local Mails.	*Foreign Mails.*	
	Postal Packets Handled.	*Postal Received.*	*Packets Despatched.*
1911–12	20,544	33,011	16,546
1912–13	20,600	35,000	20,600

Post Office Orders.

All money order business is transacted through Jamaica, the issue of orders in the Cayman Islands being at present confined to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

	Orders issued.	*Orders cashed.*
	£	£
1911–12	3,557	2,819
1912–13	3,791	3,469

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely, in June and December. The Commissioner presides as Judge. The Court has an unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction except in cases of capital felony—Jamaica Law 11 of 1911. Quarterly Petty Courts and weekly Petty Sessions are held, in which two Justices sit, the former dealing with smaller civil actions and the latter taking cognizance of minor offences. Cases of serious crime are few and isolated, while the minor offences are generally the result of drink. In all cases in the Grand Court there is a right of appeal to the Jamaica Supreme Court and in the Petty Court to the Grand Court.

The following is a return of the cases before the Courts in the last two years :—

	1911-12.	1912-13.
Weekly Petty Sessions—		
Minor criminal offences ..	39	45
Quarterly Petty Courts—		
Minor civil actions	10	8
Half-yearly Grand Court—		
Criminal cases	1	2
Civil actions	13	10
Judgment summonses	4	6
Totals	67	71

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly is styled "The Justices and Vestry," and is composed of all the Justices of the Peace (thirteen in number) and 27 vestrymen. The Vestry meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year, beginning on the 1st October, and otherwise when summoned for the despatch of business.

In accordance with a recent resolution of the assembly a Bill has been framed and will be passed through the Legislative Council of Jamaica providing for a diminution of its membership, which is at present about one vestryman for every 143 inhabitants, and establishing a local franchise, together with property and pecuniary qualifications for candidates, and bringing the elections more into line with modern conditions.

The following Laws were passed during the year 1913 :—

Supplementary Appropriation Law for 1911-12.
Law to remit payment of dues and taxes by Mail Steamships.
Commissioner's Pension Law.
Coconut Palm Disease Law.
Public Officers Security Law.
Appropriation Law 1913-14.
Auditors Law.
Public Holidays Law.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Substantial sums have been spent during the five years 1907-12 on the construction, extension and improvement of roads throughout the Dependency, while during the year 1913 £138 9*s*. 9*d*. has been expended in the construction of a road from West Bay to Batabano, the present width of which is four feet, but which it is ultimately intended to widen to twelve feet. The road is only half completed and is 1½ to 1¾ mile in length. It is estimated that an additional outlay of £120 will be required to complete it. The absence of stone in the immediate neighbourhood of the road has contributed largely to its expense. The stone has had to be brought from a considerable distance, but the construction up to date has been satisfactorily executed and the workmanship neat and durable. It is proposed during the coming year to extend Hirst Road and render it more suitable for traffic by removing the soft sand. During the five years 1908-9 to 1912-13 the total expenditure on works has been £1,952 and that on roads £3,580.

The sum of £300 a year is allotted to the maintenance and upkeep of roads, which owing to the continual rains and to the prolific growth of vegetation and weeds require constant attention and repair.

SHIPBUILDING.

During the last financial year there were 13 vessels, amounting in the aggregate to 512 tons, built and launched in these islands. Shipbuilding constitutes an important industry and one deserving of every encouragement. The Caymanians possess a natural aptitude for shipbuilding, and if only more orders could be obtained from countries abroad which, perhaps, know little or nothing of the native skill and workmanship, a very lucrative source of employment could be opened up. In 1912 seven vessels were completed, the largest 55 tons, total tonnage 246 tons. There are at present on the register 36 vessels, with a total tonnage of 2,002 tons.

Many vessels built by the Caymanians and manned in great part by them are serving under the flags of Cuba and the American Republics.

AGRICULTURE.

A branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was established in Georgetown in 1908, but does not appear to be progressing as satisfactorily as such a movement deserves. There is always a lamentable scarcity of ground provisions, though Georgetown affords a ready market for their sale. The depredations of wild rabbits and crabs, and to a small extent prædial larceny, tend to discourage enterprise and individual industry. £18 a year is voted for agricultural purposes, and for the granting of prizes at the annual agricultural show by way of encouragement. Quarterly meetings of the Agricultural Society are held in January, April, July and October. The larger portion of the land in Grand Cayman is devoted to the growing of guinea grass and the rearing of cattle and horses. There are in Grand Cayman about 2,000 head of cattle and about 250 horses.

POPULATION.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured and 1,031 black. 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denomination the people are mainly Presbyterian, 3,264 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the Lesser Islands, and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God." During 1913 there were 199 births, 108 males and 91 females. Of these 163 were legitimate and 36 illegitimate. In the same period there were 41 deaths, 20 males and 21 females.

EDUCATION.

The state of education in the Dependency is far from satisfactory, especially in the country districts. £250 a year is devoted to education. The conditions obtaining at the present time do not offer any attractions to good and reliable teachers. The latter in all "registered" schools receive a capitation grant from the Government of 5*s*. a year for every pupil on his books, and a fee of 3*d*. up to the third standard, and 6*d*. from the fourth standard upwards in the case of destitute children. All parents and guardians pay a similar fee of 3*d*. and 6*d*. for the education of their children. While the Government grant is of great assistance to the teachers, they are largely dependent on the collection of fees from private individuals, who cannot always be relied upon to pay, and in a large number of cases offer payment in kind instead of cash. The result is that teachers, whether fit or unfit, must be tolerated or the schools must close, as in the case of North Side, Gun Bay and East End, where children are growing up in ignorance. All children between the ages of six and fourteen years residing within two miles of a school are required to attend 75 per cent. of the sessions of the school every term. It is estimated that there are about 1,030 children of school age in Grand Cayman. There are many who attach no importance whatsoever to the education of their children, and who do not consider even reading or writing as in any way essential to a child's future welfare. A Bill having as its object the establishment of free and compulsory education will be submitted at the forthcoming meeting of the Justices and Vestry, together with a bill for increasing by 2½ per cent. the present ad valorem duty of 5 per cent., in order to defray the expense of such a system and to make due provision for the payment of efficient teachers.

HOSPITAL.

There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases, but is not generally used. Government Medical Officers are appointed for the Lesser Islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts.

PRISONS.

There are no prisons in the Dependency. Prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent to Jamaica. There are three cells at Grand Cayman and one at Cayman Brac, which are used for the detention of those awaiting trial or sentenced to short terms.

CRIME.

There is very little crime, and offences are generally of a trivial nature, in most cases the result of excessive drinking.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an Inspector, five policemen and one district constable. The Inspector also performs the duties of Tide Waiter and Visiting Officer, while the services of the police in the country districts are utilized in the carriage of inland mails.

LIGHTHOUSES.

There are three lights, one at Georgetown, one at East End, Grand Cayman, and the third at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. They consist of large lanterns hoisted on masts about seventy-five feet high, and are visible from ten to twelve miles out at sea. The lights of Georgetown and East End are of the same colour, namely, white.

MOSQUITOS.

The mosquito season begins in April and continues until September, when they begin to abate, and from November to February almost disappear. Householders adopt the method of lighting a smoke fire to ward off the attacks of these insects, which swarm in myriads and render life a torture to man and beast. A few houses are mosquito screened. There are fortunately very few of the anopheline or malaria transmitting variety. During the course of the last year there have only been two cases of malaria in persons who have never lived outside Grand Cayman, and these both resident in the same district, Red Bay. Although these islands are practically immune from the recognised mosquito-borne diseases, as malaria, yellow fever and filariasis, the mosquito is nevertheless seriously detrimental to health in other respects, the conditions of anæmia and general debility met with being attributed by the Government Medical Officer to the blood-sucking powers of these insects. Swamps are found in various places, but as these are below the level of the sea they could only be drained at a large expenditure of money.

CLIMATE.

The Cayman Islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness attributable to climatic conditions. The weather is warm for the greater part of the year. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, when the cool season begins with a change of the wind to the north-west in the early part of November. The following table shows the average temperature :—

	Morning.	Mid-day.	Evening.
Hot months	83°	89°	86°
Cool months—Nov. to March ..	71°	80°	74°

GENERAL HEALTH.

The death rate for the year was 7·1 per 1,000.

From the yearly report of the Government Medical Officer it would appear that pulmonary tuberculosis is on the increase, there being at present four cases, as compared with one at the beginning of the year. There have been a number of cases of fish poisoning, especially in the West Bay district. Almost all the fish in these waters are poisoned and unfit for human consumption, but until the precise cause and nature of the condition have been ascertained neither preventive nor curative measures can be effectually undertaken.

Generally the health of the inhabitants is eminently satisfactory.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

There were 199 births during the year, or 22 per 1,000, of which 36 were illegitimate. There were 41 deaths, or 7·1 per thousand, and 36 marriages.

A great amount of intermarrying takes place.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Dr. G. S. S. Hirst, who had been appointed Commissioner and Medical Officer in 1907, died in June, 1912. The affairs of the Dependency were temporarily administered by Mr. Edmund Parsons, the Senior Justice of the Peace, from June till the end of August, when the administration was taken over by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner at Turks Islands. Mr. A. C. Robinson was appointed Commissioner and assumed duties on February 20th, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

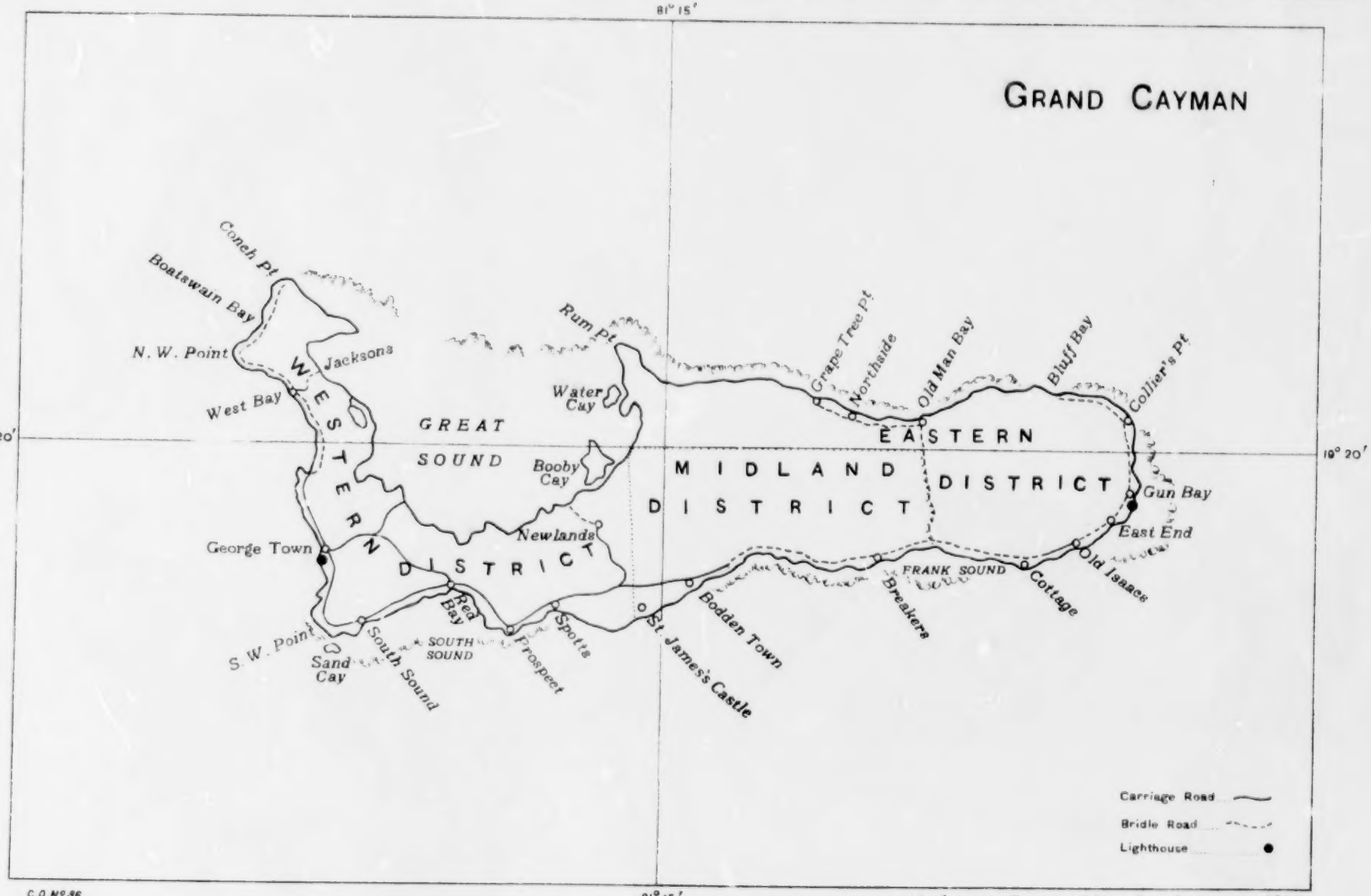
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1912–1913
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories, Gold Coast	"
808	Sierra Leone	"
809	Bahamas	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oils, Oilseeds, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913



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Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton. 1914.

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No. 820.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1913-14.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 783.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1914.

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No. 820.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1912–13, see No. 783.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
9th October, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows :—

Revenue.

Heads.	Receipts, 1912–13.			Receipts, 1913–14.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	449,433	10	5	426,686	18	11
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	8,039	12	0	8,195	18	2
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	206,214	15	2½	208,655	14	9½
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid (a) and Irrigation Receipts ..	207,814	2	9¾	128,217	12	0¾
Post Office and Telegraphs ..	51,480	15	0¾	51,791	18	7½
Railway	183,280	4	5½	176,677	7	0
Rents	3,036	0	8	3,030	11	0
Interest	16,469	10	2¾	8,355	0	5
Miscellaneous Receipts	28,652	13	7	15,868	17	3½
Land Sales	1,739	18	7½	1,158	15	10½
Transfer from Insurance Fund in aid of General Revenues ..	50,000	0	0	–	–	–
Loan raised to reimburse cost of Rio Minho Branch Railway ..	–	–	–	20,000	0	0
	£1,206,161	3	0¾	£1,048,638	14	1½

(a) Includes from Earthquake Loan Board for redemption of debt, £87,055 6s. 9d. in 1912–13.

(C94) Wt. 36076/850. 1125 & 90. 11.14. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2. A2

Expenditure.

Heads.	Payments, 1912-13.			Payments, 1911-12.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges of Debt	231,686	10	3	189,591	12	1
Pensions	31,564	14	1	33,661	6	7¾
Pensions, Widows and Orphans	8,013	12	8	8,390	18	4
Governor and Staff	6,014	12	8	6,083	2	0
Privy Council	62	8	8	82	6	3
Legislative Council	791	18	8	929	19	11
Colonial Secretariat	5,504	8	11½	5,146	9	1
Public Works Department ..	19,262	7	4	19,121	16	9½
Parochial Roads and Works ..	1,663	10	10	1,726	11	4½
Lands Department	3,484	0	9½	3,481	3	3
Railway	95,157	9	6½	112,528	1	9½
Audit Office	4,102	0	5½	4,034	0	9½
Treasury Department	3,624	12	3	3,832	16	0½
Government Savings Bank ..	2,385	0	10	2,137	15	11½
Immigration	1,090	13	0½	1,061	2	8
Clerks' Parochial Boards ..	600	0	0	450	0	0¾
Stamp Office	848	7	3			
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs	38,972	13	9¾	54,867	19	7¾
Postal and Telegraph Service ..	51,166	12	3¾	47,097	12	0¾
Construction of Railway Pier No. 3	925	18	9	12,610	5	10
Part Redemption of Earthquake Loan	87,055	6	9	—	—	—
Judicial	38,330	18	7½	38,797	0	6½
Ecclesiastical	849	3	10	868	14	8
Medical	74,580	9	11	75,975	18	5½
Constabulary and Prisons ..	96,864	8	4½	95,784	7	8½
Industrial Schools						
Reformatories	6,449	4	10¼	6,677	15	9¼
Education..	91,411	17	4¾	84,013	11	1
Harbours and Pilotage	4,250	0	1½	3,476	12	3
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence	7,787	8	8	7,475	7	9
Direct Cable Subsidy	1,000	0	0	750	0	0
Direct Steamship Subsidy ..	—			—		
Railway to Chapelton (Rio Minho Branch)..	53,698	14	2	13,122	18	1
Record and Registrar-General's Office, Registrar of Titles ..	5,660	12	11½	5,524	12	6
Census of Jamaica, 1911 ..	—			—		
Government Printing Office ..	10,144	15	8	9,425	15	1
Institute of Jamaica	1,729	10	5	1,551	9	2
Board of Supervision	447	1	0	727	19	8
Agricultural Services	16,146	18	6	20,959	13	2½
Agricultural Societies Board Administration Expenses ..	292	17	11	—		
Miscellaneous	42,682	12	8½	48,785	3	0
Public Works and Buildings ..						
Lighthouses	227,363	14	2	144,344	10	10
West India Improvement Company's Lands, Cost of purchase						
New Public Buildings—Second Block	11,188	7	7	—		
Hurricane Assistance	20,073	18	2	338	8	10
Total for General Expenditure..	£1,304,939	14	11½	£1,065,434	19	2¼

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909–10	992,976	1,033,794
1910–11	990,399	987,304
1911–12	1,161,014	1,155,208
1912–13	1,206,161	1,304,930
1913–14	1,048,639	1,065,435

The revenue exceeded the original estimate by £40,370 9*s.* 1*d.* £20,000 of this amount is however a refund of part of the money advanced in previous years from revenue for building the Rio Minho Branch Railway, that sum having been raised by loan.

The heads showing material increase over the estimate are Fees of Office Stamp Duties, &c., £15,725, Railway, £11,677, and Post and Telegraphs, £792, while there was a deficiency of £3,313 in Customs revenue and £4,348 in Interest.

The expenditure exceeded the Budget estimate by £13,660 8*s.* 9*d.*, but as supplementary appropriations amounting to £32,026 17*s.* 11½*d.* were voted, there was a saving of £18,366 9*s.* 2½*d.* on the total sums voted for the services of the year. The principal items of extraordinary expenditure have been £13,123 on the Rio Minho Branch Railway, £12,610 on the construction of Railway Pier No. 3, and an excess of £17,371 on the maintenence of the railway and the provision of new rolling stock. There was also considerable expenditure for re-housing and for relief works consequent on the hurricane of 1912 and the severe droughts. The excess of expenditure over revenue, amounting to £16,796, has reduced the surplus on 31st March, 1914, to £59,418.

The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,810,447 on the 31st March, 1914. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £908,379, leaving a net liability of £2,902,068. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £407,233, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £73,197.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipt.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909–10	32,513	35,739
1910–11	35,755	35,385
1911–12	46,565	45,846
1912–13	41,515	43,846
1913–14	39,100	37,610

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipt. £	Expenditure £
1909–10	31,957	30,707
1910–11	60,082	52,373
1911–12	69,740	72,875
1912–13	44,656	54,842
1913–14	48,479	44,503

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipt. £	Expenditure. £
1909–10	111,586	117,461
1910–11	135,118	139,032
1911–12	123,179	124,059
1912–13	148,029	146,491
1913–14	154,813	148,199

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £22,648.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(*a*) *Imports and Exports.*

7 The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1909–10	2,561,674	2,628,307
1910–11	2,614,943	2,568,222
1911–12	2,865,553	2,948,067
1912–13	3,050,478	2,709,283
1913–14	2,837,446	2,430,207

The imports decreased by £213,032 and the exports by £279,283. These figures afford additional proof of the grave effect which the

prolonged droughts and the hurricanes of 1912 produced in the economic condition of the Colony, and the extent to which the prosperity attained in 1911 has been diminished. The exports of 1912 were £238,784 and those of 1913 £517,860 less than those of 1911.

The principal articles of import were :—

		1913.	Average four years.
Ale and Beer	galls.	295,715	289,978
	value	£49,285	£47,094
Bacon	lbs.	48,140	49,439
	value	£2,206	£2,266
Beef, W. S.	brls.	3,362	5,263
	value	£12,859	£19,048
Bread and Biscuits ..	lbs.	2,575,222	3,823,605
	value	£21,460	£31,863
Butter and substitutes	lbs.	1,206,085	1,080,150
	value	£44,462	£38,405
Candles, composition ..	lbs.	49,003	53,292
	value	£1,225	£1,438
Cheese	lbs.	215,127	224,360
	value	£8,963	£8,733
Coal	tons	51,745	59,150
	value	£46,172	£51,046
Corn	bushls.	260,164	260,193
	value	£52,032	£47,230
Fish, dried, salted ..	lbs.	10,139,251	11,576,738
	value	£134,345	£142,324
Fish, alewives	brls.	8,912	7,881
	value	£12,032	£9,445
Herrings	brls.	42,862	37,795
	value	£42,862	£34,655
Mackerel	brls.	4,093	5,636
	value	£10,132	£12,767
Salmon	brls.	500	357
	value	£1,762	£1,204
Flour	brls.	324,439	246,438
	value	£340,661	£272,727
Gunpowder	lbs.	22,650	39,642
	value	£1,132	£1,982
Hams	lbs.	206,651	198,103
	value	£8,610	£8,470
Lard	lbs.	302,961	214,565
	value	£7,574	£4,933
Matches	gross	48,844	29,683
	value	£4,797	£2,770
Meal	brls.	92,223	50,120
	value	£78,889	£39,122
Milk, condensed ..	cases	64,510	52,726
	value	£61,285	£47,058
Oats	bushls.	80,220	77,382
	value	£16,044	£14,581
Oils	galls.	1,588,778	1,295,340
	value	£93,231	£69,027
Peas and Beans ..	bushls.	19,143	17,134
	value	£10,528	£9,597
Pork, W. S.	brls.	6,012	5,128
	value	£23,081	£21,889
Rice	lbs.	15,302,630	13,947,168
	value	£84,164	£72,964
Salt	lbs.	10,311,972	10,241,960
	value	£10,311	£11,638

		1913.	Average four years.
Soap	lbs.	5,056,711	4,722,559
	value	£41,707	£37,491
Spirits, Brandy ..	galls.	2,898	4,099
	value	£1,448	£2,050
" Cordials ..	galls.	2,274	2,536
	value	£2,676	£3,106
" Gin	galls.	3,040	3,712
	value	£713	£928
" Whisky ..	galls.	32,883	33,261
	value	£11,509	£11,641
Sugar, refined	lbs.	1,043,658	726,141
	value	£8,349	£6,070
Tea	lbs.	71,526	73,316
	value	£3,576	£3,666
Tobacco, Leaf	lbs.	40,090	35,285
	value	£3,018	£7,171
Tobacco, Manufactured, and Cigarettes ..	lbs.	68,383	112,389
	value	£7,305	£12,505
Wines	galls.	41,962	45,193
	value	£15,409	£17,965
Wood, W. P. lumber ..	feet	2,341,355	1,797,328
	value	£17,560	£13,230
Wood, Pitch Pine ..	feet	12,313,596	12,120,722
	value	£86,195	£84,845
Wood, Shingles ..	Number	2,252,340	1,573,156
	value	£5,503	£3,777

The imports for the past 40 years at intervals of ten years are as under :—

1873	£1,762,817
1883	£1,568,639
1893	£2,157,794
1903	£2,014,477
1913	£2,837,446

and were obtained from the following countries :—

	1873.	1883.	1893.	1903.	1913.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,016,571	906,902	1,190,563	948,315	1,088,309
	57·5%	57·8%	55·2%	47·1%	38·3%
United States ..	453,2[illegible]5	425,712	719,487	856,973	1,326,723
	25·9%	27·2%	33·4%	42·5%	46·7%
Canada ..	223,065	175,063	188,484	144,877	2,486,210
	12·7%	11·2%	8·7%	7·2%	8.7%
Other Countries ..	70,026	60,962	59,260	64,31[illegible]	173,793
	3·9%	3·8%	2 7%	3·2%	6·3%

The Collector General remarks :—In the span covered by these summaries the Colony's import trade has increased by over a million, but the latter half of the period has witnessed the rapid declension of trade with Britain and a commensurate advance in the trade relations with the United States, and while "Other Country" makes a bid, Canada stands stationary. These are features that one would wish otherwise.

Of the total exports, amounting in value to £2,430,207, the proportion attributable to Island produce was	£2,216,211
Against the like figures in 1912 of	2,572,275
Or a decrease of	356,064
And the proportion attributable to British and foreign goods re-exported	213,995
Against the like figures for 1912 of.. ..	137,008
Or an increase of	£76,987

This decrease in the value of Island produce exported as compared with 1913 is made up principally of Bananas, £252,951; Cocoa, £25,095; Coffee, £16,152; Ginger, £11,400; Honey, £3,100; Yams, £1,018; Logwood extract, £5,250.

The figures for the two years brought into contrast, grouped under the general Board of Trade classification, work out thus :—

	1913.	1912.
	£	£
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink and Narcotics..	1,846,703	2,239,447
Class II. Raw Material and Articles mainly unmanufactured..	184,565	149,818
Class III. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	216,579	216,176
Class IV. Miscellaneous unclassified ..	1,541	2,150
Class V. Bullion and Specie	180,816	101,692

The growth of the total export trade in the forty years since 1872 is as follows:—

1873 year ending 30th September	£1,226,011
1883 year ending 30th September	£1,469,446
1893 year ending 31st March	£1,759,806
1903 year ending 31st March	£2,292,335
1913 year ending 31st December	£2,430,207

In this connexion the following figures showing the trend of trade will also possess interest. The markets accepting the Island's exports in each of the years specified and the proportions falling to each were as under :—

	1873.	1883.	1893.	1903.	1913.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	998,779	800,306	511,550	436,593	424,491
	81·5%	54·5%	29.1%	19·0%	17·5%
United States ..	103,139	290,268	954,782	1,559,990	1,396,086
	8·4%	19·8%	54.3%	68·0%	57·4%
Canada ..	4,589	244,850	46,193	53,721	90,374
	·3%	16·7%	2.6%	2·4%	3·7%
Other Countries ..	119,504	134,022	247,281	242,031	519,256
	9·8%	9·0%	14.0%	10·6%	21·4%

The chief articles of export show the following variations :—

		1913.	Average of four years.
Annatto	lbs.	613,044	856,175
	value	£5,108	£7,031
Beeswax	lbs.	57,904	72,268
	value	£3,257	£4,048
Cocoa	cwt.	46,359	53,449
	value	£114,738	£103,586
Coconuts	number	23,769,600	18,724,420
	value	£135,486	£85,241
Coffee	cwt.	58,193	77,668
	value	£158,578	£180,847
Divi Divi	lbs.	249,530	380,474
	value	£534	£903
Fruit, Bananas	stems	11,597,881	15,171,714
	value	£988,236	£1,310,826
,, Grapefruit ..	pkgs.	81,983	54,323
	value	£28,355	£18,939
,, Oranges	number	45,863,600	38,283,837
	value	£58,967	£42,565
Ginger	cwt.	21,234	24,972
	value	£36,637	£47,376
Hides	lbs.	619,707	464,338
	value	£23,239	£13,395
Honey	galls.	109,334	164,111
	value	£15,261	£20,630
Horses and Mules ..	number	122	79
	value	£2,101	£1,726
Limejuice	galls.	89,010	102,163
	value	£3,708	£3,956
Logwood Extract ..	pkgs.	23,965	21,101
	value	£170,427	£154,640
Pimento	cwt.	135,612	107,215
	value	£88,148	£75,912
Rum	galls.	953,677	1,259,915
	value	£101,328	£130,456
Sugar	cwt.	97,821	299,067
	value	£52,171	£190,023
Skins, Goat	lbs.	156,397	146,500
	value	£14,336	£13,620
Tobacco, Cigars	lbs.	74,473	70,311
	value	£36,025	£35,267
Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	2,905	10,530
	value	£342	£1,330
Tobacco, Leaf	lbs.	43,303	30,268
	value	£1,473	£1,269
Tortoise Shell	lbs.	5,571	5,957
	value	£6,008	£5,116
Turtle	number	624	871
	value	£1,379	£2,063
Wood, Bitter	tons	3,441	2,602
	value	£5,162	£3,907
Wood, Fustic	tons	3,449	2,985
	value	£7,416	£7,176
Wood, Logwood	tons	50,081	33,409
	value	£106,423	£75,388
Yams..	cwt.	8,970	9,410
	value	£3,144	£3,122

The relation which each of the staples bears to the total is indicated by the following figures for the past three years :—

	1911.	1912.	1913.
Sugar	8·9%	5·1%	2·3%
Rum	3·1%	2·6%	4·6%
Coffee	5·5%	10·7%	7·1%
Cocoa	3·6%	5·4%	5·2%
Dyewoods	3·9%	3·4%	5·2%
Fruit	58·3%	54·7%	48·6%
Pimento	3·1%	3·0%	4·0%
Minor Products ..	13·5%	15·1%	23·0%

The acreage returned in 1912–1913, grouped under the four principal headings of the return and set against an average of four years, exhibits the following :—

	1913–14.	1912–13.	1911–12.	Average of four years.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	264,656	267,276	280,286	270,058
Guinea Grass	153,718	152,527	143,592	144,144
Commons	521,754	502,830	517,830	507,242
Wood and ruinate ..	1,173,120	1,222,699	1,230,001	1,232,024
Total	2,113,248	2,145,332	2,171,709	2,153,468

As compared with 1911–1912 the tilled lands show a decrease of 13,010 acres in 1912–1913 and 2,620 in 1913–1914, and the commons and guinea grass net increases of 3,924 and 9,126 acres, respectively. The droughts have resulted in a restriction of cultivation and an increasing of grazing.

The tilled lands in turn are classified as far as possible under description of cultivation, and the figures for the past year taken out under crop and compared with 1911–1912 and with an average of four years give the following summary :—

	1913–14.	1912–13.	1911–12.	Average for four years.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	31,160	31,753	34,766	32,083
Coffee	20,023	22,275	24,473	24,171
Coconuts	19,955	17,377	16,691	16,170
Bananas	85,468	81,071	82,435	77,964
Cocoa	10,849	11,236	13,355	11,848
Ground Provisions ..	61,834	66,153	74,723	82,785
Mixed Cultivation ..	31,238	33,479	30,167	27,756
Minor Items	4,129	3,932	3,676	4,217

The lesson taught by these figures is that the cultivation of bananas, coconuts and minor items is increasing at the expense of all other staples, and that the peasantry are rapidly abandoning the production of native foodstuffs. The general increase in tilled lands within the past 40 years has been very considerable, having risen from 123,428 acres in 1873–1874 to 264,656 in 1913–1914, while the pastoral industry has also made some progress, the number of acres in guinea grass having increased from 119,642 to 153,718, and in commons from 312,693 to 521,754 in the same period. The result of this access of industry on the part of the inhabitants is that the exports have increased practically 100 per cent., while the population has increased by about three-fifths.

The following abstract of the number of separate properties laid under contribution to general and parochial revenue during the year 1913–1914 and the different descriptions, set out and compared with the figures of the year preceding, show the following :—

	1913–14. Number.	1912–13. Number.
Properties valued at £20	62,889	62,554
" " at £30	6,653	6,618
" " at £40	53,428	53,240
" " over £40	30,715	30,177
Occupiers relieved	1,005	920
Properties in arrear	12,757	12,600
	167,447	166,109

The Surveyor General makes the following observations with regard to the sale of Crown Lands, &c., during the year :—

Sale of Land.

250 purchasers who bought 2,322 acres under the rules for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers have completed payment of instalments of their purchase money and been given titles for their lands. There were also 43 other purchasers who paid cash down for 204½ acres. To date, of the total of 32,814 acres that have been sold partly on credit since 1897, about 22,734 acres have been paid for in full, 3,206 acres taken back for failure to pay, and 6,874 acres still remain in possession of purchasers to be paid for. £32,912 has been received for sale of lands since 1896. The total amount of purchase money received during the year is £1,132 11*s.* 4¾*d.* 29 persons were given refund of one-fifth of purchase money for establishing in permanent cultivation one-fifth of the area purchased or making building improvements on Town Lots.

Leases and Tenancies.

449¾ acres and 22 Town Lots have been leased to 33 persons for £349 10*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and 506 small prædial tenants have been taken on at rentals of from 12*s.* to 20*s.* per acre per annum. The total amount of rent received for the year is £2,834 13*s.* 6*d.*

Forfeiture of Lands.

247½ acres of land have been finally forfeited. Two notifications, 37 and 38, covering 2,785½ acres, have been issued, and forfeiture proceedings for non-payment of taxes in respect of this and 12,813¾ acres proceeded against in former notifications are now pending.

Escheatable Lands and Generally.

Four cases of escheat and squatting occurred during the year and the lands recovered are in possession of this Department. Sundry sites for Teachers' Cottages, School Houses, Hospitals, Court Houses, etc., etc., have been surveyed and title arranged for.

AGRICULTURE.

Despite the marked deficiency in the total rainfall for the year the distribution has been on the whole favourable for the growth of crops all over the Island, and the prospects for the resulting export in 1914 are good.

The effect of the hurricane and drought of the previous year is shown by the record of the exports of bananas, sugar, rum and cacao, which were all markedly below the average. Coconuts, however, show a gratifying increase despite the damage done to the groves at the west end of the Island by the recent storms, while orange oil has attained a position of importance as a standard article of export from Jamaica.

The work of plant sanitation has progressed during the year and the appointment of a special field officer to carry out the treatment of diseased bananas and coconuts under the Diseases of Plants Law has enabled the Department to maintain a close supervision of the areas where disease had been found. The Panama disease of bananas has been controlled by the drastic measures which were carried out by the Department and only a few sporadic cases occurred during the year on the original sites where it was first discovered in January, 1912. An outbreak of this disease, however, occurred in an isolated field in Hanover and has been dealt with during the year. Speaking generally, the Colony may be congratulated on the health and promise of its banana fields at the present moment.

Sisal hemp figures for the first time in a material way in the export statistics of the Colony, due to the enterprise of a planter in the district of Vere, who has been markedly successful in the cultivation of the true sisal (*Agave sisalana*) on a soil of limestone formation. This plant had failed when cultivated on alluvial soils some twenty years ago owing to its habit of polling prematurely. It has now been demonstrated that it can be grown with success and profit on a limestone soil in the dry and hot district of Vere and a good deal of planting is now taking place.

A perennial wild cotton from Cuba has been grown on a small scale during the year and the results were so promising that a large extension of this crop is now being undertaken by planters in districts suitable for the growing of cotton.

Diseases of animals have not occasioned much concern during the year, the livestock of the Island having been unusually free from serious diseases.

A few cases of anthrax were dealt with, while trypan blue was employed on a large scale on working cattle suffering from tick fever with quite remarkable results.

The Government Stock Farm closed the year with a healthy improvement in its finances, while the first sale of pedigree bulls in February attracted a good number of buyers, some 23 dairy bulls being sold by public auction.

The experiment with silage has been continued, and a further proof obtained of the efficacy of the silo for preserving fodder in districts where dry weather has to be contended with by stock raisers and dairymen. An improved formula for spraying cattle for ticks was tested out at the farm during the year, and the materials—paranaph and arsenite of soda—are now being supplied to the public at cost.

The recently established Farm School at Hope continues to progress, and it is satisfactory to find that a large proportion of the students already trained are finding useful occupations in various branches of agriculture.

The work of plant distribution has recently been enlarged by the establishment of local nurseries in Portland, St. Thomas, Clarendon, and St. James under the direction of the Agricultural Instructors of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

In this way 125,000 cocoa plants have been distributed, mainly to small settlers, during the year. This enterprise should in a few years result in a marked increase in the exports of cacao from the Colony.

The total number of plants distributed to the public during the year was 233,000, as against 172,000 last year and 159,000 in 1911-1912. These figures indicate that planting enterprise is on the up-grade and that the cultivation of permanent crops is steadily progressing.

The work of the Government Laboratory shows a substantial increase in the number of samples dealt with during the year. Through the activity of the Police a satisfactory check on the quality of foods and drugs has been maintained.

The records of the Laboratory indicate that on the whole the public is being honestly served by the purveyors of these articles.

The public supply of milk alone remains unsatisfactory, 29 per cent. of the samples tested having been found to be diluted with water.

SHIPPING.

The ships reporting show a decrease of 70 in number and an increase of tonnage of 206,473 tons. The figures are :—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

1912—1,471 ships with tonnage	2,341,823
1913—1,401 ships with tonnage	2,548,296
Decrease in ships, 70 ; increase in tonnage, ..	206,473

Steamers and Sailing Vessels.

The clearances were :—

1912—1,453 ships with tonnage	2,346,615
1913—1,400 ships with tonnage	2,569,827
Decrease in ships, 53 ; increase in tonnage ..	223,212

Distinguishing between ships (steamers and sailing vessels) reporting with cargo and those reporting in ballast, the account appears as follows :—

Reporting with Cargo.

1912—1,169 ships with tonnage	2,068,855
1913—1,123 ships with tonnage	2,201,382
Decrease in ships, 46 ; increase in tonnage	132,527

Reporting in Ballast.

1912—302 ships with tonnage	272,968
1913—278 ships with tonnage	346,914
Decrease in ships, 24 ; increase in tonnage	23,946

Separating steamers from sailing vessels, the analysis shows that the arrivals of steamships were :—

1912—1,282 ships with tonnage	2,300,272
1913—1,201 ships with tonnage	2,498,859
Decrease in ships, 81 ; increase in tonnage	198,587

The following tables show the arrivals with cargo and the arrivals in ballast :—

Steamships arriving with Cargo.

1912—1,033 ships with tonnage	2,050,711
1913— 991 ships with tonnage	2,183,805
Decrease in ships, 42 ; increase in tonnage..	133,094

Steamships arriving in Ballast.

1912—249 ships with tonnage	249,561
1913—210 ships with tonnage	315,054
Decrease in ships, 39 ; increase in tonnage	65,493

The steamers clearing were as under :—

1912—1,285 ships with tonnage	2,310,835
1913—1,207 ships with tonnage	2,525,255
Decrease in ships, 78 ; increase in tonnage	214,420

Separating those clearing in ballast from those taking cargo, the figures are :—

Cleared with Cargo.

1912—1,236 ships with tonnage	2,198,245
1913—1,122 ships with tonnage	2,304,464
Decrease in ships, 114 ; increase in tonnage	106,219

Cleared in Ballast.

1912—49 ships with tonnage	112,590
1913—85 ships with tonnage	220,791
Increase in ships, 36 ; increase in tonnage..	108,201

The arrivals from the United Kingdom and British possessions were :—

Sailing vessels	145	..	tonnage	15,943
Steam vessels	515	..	tonnage	1,442,556
	660			1,458,499

From foreign countries :—

Sailing vessels	55	..	tonnage	33,494
Steam vessels	686	..	tonnage	1,056,303
	741			1,089,797

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Laws were passed during 1913, the most important being :—

Nos. 16 and 17, relating to Irrigation in the parish of Clarendon (Vere) ;

No. 15, giving effect to the International Opium Convention ;

No. 14, for the better Regulation and Control of Cinematograph and similar Exhibitions ;

No. 11, the Westmoreland Relief Law, granting loans for the restoration of dwellings destroyed by the hurricane of November, 1912 ; and

No. 12, repealing the Copyright Laws.

The usual financial measures and certain amending Laws complete the list.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Director of Education furnished the following statistics :—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Schools on Books for Year ended 31st October.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st October.	Percentage on Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
1912–14 ..	698	100,179	60,900	60·79	£66,847
1913–14 ..	697	96,757	59,666	61·66	£66,344

The annual examination of teachers and training college students shows the following results :—

There were 123 Jamaica students presented, of whom 92 passed, 27 obtaining honours. Of the 16 students from British Guiana and the Leeward Islands all passed except one.

For the Pupil Teachers' examination 462 were presented and 235, or 51 per cent., passed ; of volunteer candidates 2,099 were presented, and 809, or 39 per cent., passed.

The total amount expended on elementary education through the Department was £83,937, as compared with £91,387, and by the Public Works Department, in the building of Government Schools and schoolmasters' houses, £10,407, as compared with £6,248 in the previous year.

The principal developments in education matters during the year have been the better housing of a few of the schools in Government buildings, the bringing into full operation of the Technical and Continuation Schools, and the establishment of School Boards throughout the Island. Progress has also been made in the teaching of hygiene, sanitation, and agricultural instruction.

The Director of Education has submitted a report from Colonel Hicks, one of the Inspectors, who has served in the Department for thirty-eight years, and he gives some interesting particulars as to the progress of education during that period. He points out that the average school attendance has increased by 122 per cent., while the population has increased 65 per cent.; that the number of first-class schools has increased from 8 to 37 per cent., second class schools from 28 to 45 per cent., and that third class schools have decreased from 57 to 17 per cent. He also shows that the merit of the schools in the different classes has attained a much higher standard, the comparison being as follows:—

Year.	1st, 62 marks.	2nd, 51 marks.	3rd, 40 marks.
1876 ..	8 per cent.	Less than 1 per cent.	Less than 1 per cent.
1912–13 ..	40 per cent.	51 per cent.	63 per cent.

This retrospect indicates that not only has literary education improved greatly in quality, but that a wider scope has been given to teaching in the elementary schools, embracing preparation for industrial pursuits.

With reference to teachers' salaries Colonel Hicks states:—

"A specially gratifying festure of the progress made since 1876 is the improvement in the income of teachers. Comparing the salary of the principal teacher of an elementary school in Jamaica in the years 1876 and 1913, the increase is 76 per cent. I know of no class of workers in the Island, professional or otherwise, the proportionate increase of whose average income has been equally great. Let it be confessed that it is not easy to name any class whose work has shown an average increase of merit equal to that of the school teachers. The teachers and the Government have combined to produce the result, the Government little by little, in successive steps, enlarging the scope of its grants, and the teachers by increased merit earning larger grants. . . . The pension scheme, just brought into force, is a factor that will still further increase the difference between the financial prospects of the teacher 38 years ago and now."

The Director of Education reports that:—

"The proportion of schools in the first, second and third classes remains almost unchanged, which is probably testimony to the consideration allowed (and properly allowed) by the Inspectors for the distressful conditions under which school work was carried on in very many schools in the three western parishes which were slowly recovering from the effects of the hurricane of the preceding year, and in Southern Saint Elizabeth and Southern Manchester from the effects of drought."

Industrial Schools.

The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was :—

Stony Hill	481
Shortwood	23
Alpha Cottage	183
Belmont	19
Happy Grove	25
A total of ..	731

Secondary Education.

The expenditure of the endowed schools during the year was as follows :—

	£
Jamaica College	3,405
Munro and Dickenson's	8,068
Wolmer's	3,627
Manning's	994
Rusea's	279
Titchfield	1,836
Beckford and Smith's	370
Manchester Schools	294
Vere Schools	1,264
Montego Bay School	806
Guthrie Davidson's	62
	£21,005

The total number of pupils was 1,432, including those receiving elementary education in the Titchfield Schools. One boy from the Jamaica College obtained the Rhodes Scholarship, one from Wolmer's took the Jamaica Scholarship, and two scholarships for girls were awarded to pupils from Wolmer's, the £60 scholarship being gained by a pupil from Munro and Dickenson's.

Owing to an outbreak of mumps the Cambridge Local Examination was not held at Potsdam (Munro and Dickenson's), but at the other centres 173 boys and girls passed the examinations, 29 of them taking honours.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Indoor patients treated 2,919; outdoor patients, including paupers, 8,299; dressings done for outpatients, 26,227; prescriptions made up, 16,983; total surgical operations, 929 daily. Dental cases, 1,276; daily average number of inmates, 216; total cost of maintenance £10,692; receipts, £741 17*s.* 7*d.*

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in-Hospital.*

Number of patients admitted, 634; 10 pupil nurses admitted for training, all of whom passed and received certificates; average daily number of patients, 15; receipts, £373 16*s.* 4*d.*; expenditure, £1,245 4*s.* 3*d.*

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

Number of patients on 31st March, 1914, 1,341, an increase of 27 since beginning of the year. Total number of patients under treatment during year, 1,634; daily average resident, 1,323; rate of recovery, 49·82 per cent; admissions, 320; discharges, 163; deaths, 130; death-rate, 9·90 per cent.

The proportion of insane is one to 645 population.

A new ward for the safe custody of criminal lunatics has been completed.

Cost of maintenance £19,613; receipts, £9,941.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1913		111
Admitted		22
		133
Discharged	4	
Absconded	1	
Died	8	
	—	13
On 31st March, 1914		120

The death-rate was 6 per cent.; cost of maintenance, £1,087 8*s.* 3*d.*; receipts nil.

The Medical Superintendent reports that he has abandoned the treatment by Nastin after a fair trial, and that he has been using "Antileprol" for over two years with very excellent and gratifying results. He explains that "Antileprol" is a refined product of chaulmoogra oil.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was increased during the year by £2,854, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £6,877, while the Government accounts were increased £9,731.

The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £106,647, a decrease of £914, and the withdrawals to £113,524 a decrease of £7,528, as compared with the previous year.

The balance-sheet on 31st March, 1914, shows a liability to depositors of £319,826.

The income and expenditure of the Savings Bank for the year may be summarised as below.

Income.

Interest on investments	12,026	10	1
Miscellaneous receipts	17	0	7
Deficiency provided out of General Revenue ..	724	13	10
	£12,768	4	6

Expenditure.

Interests on deposits	7,139	16	2
Loss on realisation of investments	5,628	8	4
	£12,768	4	6

The number of pass books examined was 6,532.

(f) *Registration of Titles.*

The number of titles registered is steadily increasing at the rate of between 300 and 400 each year.

The Titles Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £5,858 18*s.* 11*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Courts, Police, and Prisons.

The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 85, as compared with 131 in 1912–1913; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Court 8,628, as compared with 7,935; of summary convictions 14,832, as compared with 15,028.

The proportion of convictions of offences against property continued high. Convictions for prædial larceny show an increase from 2,369 last year to 2,643 in the year under report.

These high figures are attributable to the long period of drought which prevailed in the greater portion of the Island, and the effects of the hurricane in the western parishes which occurred in 1912.

The Attorney General, commenting on these statistics, remarks :—

"The prædial larceny figures are disheartening. Convictions for the offence show an increase of 273 as compared with the figures for 1912–1913, and the latter figures showed an increase of nearly 1,000 when compared with those for the previous year. It will perhaps be possible, when experience has been gained of the working of the Detention of Habitual Criminals Law, 1914 (Law 30 of 1914), to devise some means for the prolonged detention and reformation of the prædial thieves who do so much harm to agriculture, especially that of the peasantry, in the country districts."

There were 7 convictions for murder in the course of the year, and 3 for manslaughter, comparing with 1 and 5, respectively, in the previous year.

The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 7,079, and to lock-ups for short terms 2,197, making a total of 9,276, as compared with 7,005 in the previous year, an increase of 2,271.

The re-convictions during the year amounted to 984, of which 275 were second convictions, 200 third and 500 fourth and upward. During 1912–1913 the re-convictions numbered 1,690.

The daily average of prisoners in custody in the Penitentiary and Saint Catherine District Prison was 1,456, as compared with 1,259 during the previous year. There were 59 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 39 during 1912–1913. There were 4 executions of capital punishm[illegible] In the previous year there were 3.

Considering the institutions separately: 23 deaths occurred in the General Penitentiary, representing a rate of 26·5 per 1,000. At Saint Catherine District Prison 36 deaths occurred, representing a rate of 60·94 per 1,000. The state and discipline of the prisons has been good, and no corporal punishment was inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 29 lads on 31st March. The inmates have a building and compound separate from those occupied by the regular prisoners in the District Prison.

During the year 1913–1914, 135 persons were under supervision as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. From these probationers 835 reports were received. Six probationers were brought before the Court for subsequent offences, showing 4·5 per cent. of lapses.

The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £16,182, and for the Saint Catherine District Prison, £7,554, total £23,736. The gross earnings in the case of the General Penitentiary were £3,817, and of the Saint Catherine District Prison, £1,785. The yield of the Saint Catherine District Prison Farm was valued at £1,948. £974 of that amount is the value of articles grown and consumed by the prisoners, thereby reducing the cost of the prison by that amount.

Police.

The monthly average number of officers and men below the allowed strength during the year was 46, but the improvement in health of the force was so marked that the number of days absent from duty on account of illness was 4,722 less than in 1912–1913, and 6,044 less than in 1911–1912. 202 fewer men were treated in hospitals, and 192 fewer in barracks or in private quarters than in 1912–1913. This seems to indicate that the anti-malarial measures adopted have, at any rate, in the case of the Police, been attended with gratifying results as regards both economy and efficiency.

The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 37,710, those prosecuted 31,430, and convictions were obtained in 19,672 cases, the number of persons prosecuted being 37,842 and those convicted 23,545. 37 were under remand for trial. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of population was 453·59, against 424·25, 408·92, and 383·95 for the three previous years.

There were 46 habitual criminals under police supervision and 2,576 under police surveillance during the year.

The sub-officers and men travelled 651,774 miles in the execution of their duty, and generally it may be observed that it has been an arduous year for the Police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1914, was 864,864. This figure is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated population on 31st March, 1913			855,682
Births registered, 1913–14	30,527		
Deaths registered, 1913–14	18,741		
			11,786
			867,468
Migration :—			
Arrivals—general	23,632		
Arrivals—East Indians	293		
		23,925	
Departures—general..	26,310		
Departures—East Indians	219		
		26,529	
			2,604
			864,864

The East Indians arriving were indentured immigrants.

Of the general arrivals and departures 11,817 and 15,096, respectively, were labourers, and show a net emigration of 3,279 persons of this class. The remainders, 12,108 arrivals and 11,433 departures, represent a net immigration of 675 persons, of whom 74 were East Indians.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries :—

	Departures.	Returned.	Excess. Departures.	Excess. Returns.
Central America	12,089	9,835	2,254	—
Cuba..	2,422	1,500	922	—
Hayti	318	358	—	40
Other Countries (American and West Indian) ..	267	124	143	—
Total	15,096	11,817	3,319	40

The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th September, 1913, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census, was 863,427. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths have been calculated.

The following is the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year :—

		Rate per 1,000.	
		1912–13.	1913–14.
Marriages	2,683	3·7	3·1
Births	30,527	38·8	35·3
Deaths	18,741	25·1	21·7

Of the births, 19,691, or 64·5 per 100, were illegitimate. The rate was 64·2 in 1912–13, and the average for the decade 63·3.

The general death-rate decreased by 3·4 per 1,000, and the proportion due to deaths of infants under 5 years of age shows a reduction of 4·3 per cent. Of the total mortality the deaths of infants were :—

Under one year	5,241	or 27·9 per cent.
One year ..	1,469	or 7·8 per cent.
Two years ..	464	or 2·5 per cent.
Three years ..	337	or 1·8 per cent.
Four years ..	254	or 1·4 per cent.
	7,765	or 41·4 per cent.
1912–1913 ..	9,799	or 45·7 per cent.

Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 30,527 infants were born, and 6,710 died at one year of age or under, equal to 21·98 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 25·4. These figures indicate that the most critical age for children is one year and under, and especially in Kingston, where 2,013 births occurred, while 635 infants, or 31 per cent., died at that age during the year.

There was great variation in both the birth and death rates in different parts of the Island. The birth rate in Hanover, 38·6 per 1,000; Clarendon, 38·3; St. Ann, 38·1; Saint Catherine, 37·2, were the highest, and Manchester, 31·6; Saint Elizabeth, 32·3; Saint Andrew, 32·6; Kingston, 33·7, were the lowest. The death rate of Kingston, 29·1; Hanover, 27·7; Westmoreland, 25·3; Trelawny and Saint Catherine each 22·6, and Saint Thomas 22·2, were highest, and Saint Ann, 17·4; Saint Mary and Manchester each 17·7 and Saint Elizabeth, 18·3, the lowest.

Uncertified cases of death were 70·0 per cent., compared with 73·3 in 1912–1913 and 76·6 in 1909–1910 for the whole Island. The figures for Kingston were 15·7 in 1913–1914 and 18·8 in 1912–1913.

The principal causes of death in Kingston were as follows :—

Causes.	1913–14.		1912–13.	
	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	290	16·7	332	17·2
Phthisis	163	9·4	174	9·0
Heart Disease	110	6·3	118	6·1
Enteric Fever	73	4·2	85	4·4
Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of new born (under 1 year).. ..	185	10·6	235	12·2
Atrophy, Icterus and Inanition (1 year and upwards)	45	2·5	52	2·6
Chronic Bright's Disease	74	4·2	48	2·4
Bronchitis	59	3·4	49	2·5
Dysentery	47	2·7	35	1·8

Deaths from malaria in Kingston numbered 22, against 25 in 1912–1913, and from fever (not otherwise defined) 21, against 29. There was no vote for the abatement of malaria during the year, and the Commission was dissolved, leaving the works contemplated not quite complete. It is satisfactory to note that the position reached in 1912–1913 has been maintained and that there has been a further slight decrease in the number of victims from this malady. It must, however, be recollected that until measures for abatement of malaria are universal throughout the Island the disease cannot be wholly eliminated from the statistics of Kingston, as the General Penitentiary, the Lunatic Asylum, the Public Hospital and other institutions draw their inmates from all parts of the Colony and many persons come from the country for medical advice and treatment. Emigrants returning from the malarious portions of Central America also contribute materially to the number of cases.

Public Health.

The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £75,292, as against £74,621 in 1912-1913.

The progressive increase in the expenditure of this department in the course of the last seven years is noticeable. The figures are as follows :—

1907–8	£54,839
1908–9	£56,404
1909–10	£58,317
1910–11	£64,986
1911–12	£68,626
1912–13	£74,621
1913–14	£75,292

This does not include the cost of building, which was £9,229 in the past year, bringing up the total to £84,521, or nearly 8 per cent. of the revenue collected.

During the year 225 persons were detained at the Quarantinee Station, and quarantine restrictions were imposed upon ships coming from Trinidad, Brazil, Venezuela, Cuba, Grenada, Pensacola, Baltimore, St. Lucia, the Pacific Coast of South America, Santa Marta, Martinique, Galveston, Argentine, Haiti and other countries, in consequence of reports of cases of infectious disease in those places.

Salvarsan was utilized in the treatment of yaws and syphilis in the public general hospitals in 788 cases and in 90 at out-stations, the patients returning to their homes after the operation on these last-mentioned occasions. One death occurred in hospital, 46 patients remained under treatment, while all the others are reported to have had their symptoms cured. Reports have also been received of 40 cases treated in the Kingston and Saint Andrew Poor House, and 14 in the Saint Ann Poor House. One patient died 21 days after a second injection and one 73 days after the first (but unfortunately no post mortem examination was made in either case and the causes of the deaths have not been ascertained) one remained under treatment, the remainder having their symptoms cured or much improved. Some of these cases were of seven to ten years' duration and apparently hopeless under the treatment formerly resorted to, the patients lapsing into pauperism and becoming inmates of the Poor Houses. Nearly all of them had a complete recovery and several were able to return to work. This remedy promises under proper safeguards to solve the problem of preventing the ravages due to yaws and syphilis. There were 11,945 attendances on yaws patients without salvarsan treatment, 6,272 being first visits. The deaths registered as due to yaws and syphilis during the year numbered 244.

A special feature of the medical returns is the decrease of 2,347 in the number of cases of malaria treated in the hospitals, and of 25 in the mortality from that disease as compared with the previous year. The decrease exceeds 27 per cent. in the cases treated and 31 per cent. in the death rate. The Registrar General's returns show a decrease of 168 in the total number of deaths in the Island attributed to malaria, equal to 31·21 per cent. Eighty of the deaths are not medically certified, but as the percentage of decreases shows so near an approximation to the hospital cases the figures may be regarded as sub-

stantially accurate. The Superintending Medical Officer has submitted no comments on these figures, but he has furnished reports by various District Medical Officers showing, in most cases, that some attention is being paid to the question of mosquito reduction by the local health authorities. As the matter is of great importance, I cull from these reports the following extracts :—

The Medical Officer for Kingston :

"*Malaria.*—Twenty-two deaths were recorded under this head. This indicates that the anopheline has not yet been banished from Kingston. I think, however, a tribute is due to the successful efforts of the late Malaria Commission in this connection, for undoubtedly the prevalence of malaria has been greatly reduced. I think the above-quoted figures place the city in an unduly unfavourable light, as I feel pretty certain a considerable proportion were imported from outside. At all events, I am sure of this, that the majority of cases that I treated came from other parishes."

The Medical Officer for Port Antonio :

"It affords me very great pleasure to call attention to the marked decrease in the number of cases of malarial fever treated during the past year. The admissions to hospital for malarial fever numbered 892, as compared to 2,428 cases during the preceding year.

"It is difficult to account for this decided falling off in the malarial admission rate. It might be thought that the lessened malarial rate among the coolies was the cause of it, but the falling off was more noticeable among the creoles.

. . . . . .

"It might also be thought that the few sanitary improvements that have been carried out, such as the laying of the concrete water tables along the new streets recently taken over from the Titchfield Trust and the filling in of the Bound Brook Swamp, may have been the cause of this very satisfactory condition of affairs. As regards the former, the people living on the streets are all in good circumstances and never come to the Hospital, while as regards the Bound Brook Swamp, this was covered by tidal waters.

"I have never found anopheline mosquitoes breeding in salt water. That some other cause is in operation is apparent from the fact that few cases of malarial fever have been admitted to the Hospital from places where no sanitary work has been carried out, places that hitherto have furnished a considerable number of cases, such as Fellowship and Breastworks. Whatever the cause may be, it is a matter for congratulation, and it is to be hoped that the reduction in the admission rate will be permanent."

I understand that the late Malaria Commission, acting, as they believed, on the theory and practice which has proved effective elsewhere, endeavoured to abate the breeding of malarial mosquitoes, and to diminish the sources from whence the reduced number of mosquitoes could become infected, thus rendering as many as possible harmless as transmitters of the disease. With this object in view, they caused search to be made in the malarious districts for breeding places, and furnished particulars to the local health authorities, assisting, as far as funds permitted, in destroying these breeding places. They established classes to teach the Sanitary Inspectors how to identify the different descriptions of mosquito larvæ, and to destroy them, and employed an officer to go round the country and deliver free illustrated lectures of a popular description, so that the householders might be interested in the matter, with a view to their co-operation. The issue of quinine to school children, the police, and indentured coolies, and its sale at cost price to the general public at the Post Offices, was started. They also urged the stocking of all tanks and other bodies of stagnant water with mosquito-destroying fish.

Whether or not these measures have been the cause of the diminution of malaria may be a question of the degree to which they have been given effect to, and I regret to say that the evidence at my disposal on the point is not sufficient to be regarded as conclusive, but I have no doubt that the lady and gentlemen who gave their services in this useful work, and outlined the principles on which it should be conducted, will study the statistics with the hope that the labour which thay have devoted to the matter will result in much ultimate benefit to the Colony, and will be gratified that so far there seems reason to infer that the considerable saving of life and decrease of sickness from malaria during the past year are in some measure attributable to their efforts, and that the small public vote of £2,000 per annum which was placed at their disposal in the years 1911–1912 and 1912–1913 has been expended in such a manner as to indicate how the work of malaria abatement can be continued without straining the resources of the Colony.

The number of persons thymolised for hook-worm during the year was 8,204.

The arrangements made for the treatment of out-patients at hospitals in 1910–11 resulted in a further increase in the numbers treated. During 1913–14 the numbers were :—

At Kingston Hospital	8,299
At public general hospitals	11,893
In districts	51,066
Under the ticket system of reduced payment ..	1,181
	72,439

The total number of patients treated in public general hospitals during the year under review was 30,716. There were 617 deaths in hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 2,919, the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 634, the Lunatic Asylum, 1,634, the Lepers' Home, 133, the total number of patients treated in Government hospitals and asylums total 36,036.

The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the public general hospitals were as follows :—

Diseases.	1913–14.		1912–13.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Malarial Fever—				
Intermittent	5,885	29	8,068	49
Remittent	217	23	353	21
Pernicious	9	2	45	10
Skin Diseases	6,408	5	3,614	10
Disease of the Digestive System ..	1,610	91	2,010	100
Local Injuries	2,089	30	1,935	33
Rheumatism	1,081	—	1,194	—
Diseases of the Respiratory System	940	45	672	56
Disease of the Circulatory System	198	38	172	27
Diseases of the Cellular Tissue ..	722	7	696	4
Ankylostomiasis (Hook-worm) ..	1,815	17	1,594	16
Gonorrhœa	459	—	316	—
Syphilis	761	15	628	11
Anæmia	164	16	195	11
Diseases of the Eye	402	—	326	—
Blackwater Fever	8	1	—	—

The Government Bacteriologist and his assistant conducted during the year examination of 6,697 specimens.

The routine work embraced the usual examination of specimens for the correct diagnosis of diseases, for testing the purity of water supplies, &c., and the "special investigations" embraced pellagra, streptothrix and vomiting sickness.

Dr. Seidlin, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, paid a visit to the Island for the purpose of investigating "vomiting sickness," and Dr. Scott, the Government Bacteriologist, was associated with him in so far that he assisted him in certain portions of his work, the Government Laboratory being placed at his disposal. By the process of eliminating cases, loosely termed "vomiting sickness," which were traceable to specific causes, and grouping the remainder which showed similar characteristics, it was hoped that the disease would be recognised, but the results have been negative. The theory of yellow fever has been exploded, and Dr. Scott advances the suggestion that the "rapidity of progress (or, in rarer instances, rapid and complete recovery) rather indicates the action of a poison," adding that "since feeding experiments have proved negative and chemical tests (which in former years have been repeatedly tried by the Island Chemist) have revealed none of the usual poisons, and no signs of alkaloids, the poison (if such it be) is one which rapidly leaves the stomach, or is rapidly discomposed; for example, it may be of the nature of a glucoside," and "the only suggestion I can offer as to the source of this hypothetical poison is that, since one can never obtain any history to implicate any particular article of food, it is due to something which is apparently dangerous only at certain times of the year, some fruit, perhaps, or vegetable, or, what in my opinion is more probable, some growth (fungus, yeast, moulds, &c.) on or in this food rendering it toxic."

Dr. Sambon, also of the Liverpool School, likewise visited the Island, accompanied by Captain Siler, M.D., of the United States Army, to make investigation into the prevalence of pellagra, and the Government bacteriological staff is continuing the investigation.

The Central Board of Health has given much attention to questions of public health, and especially in connection with measures for the prevention of plague, for the destruction of the hook-worm, for the avoidance of infection from consumption, &c. Certain leaflets prepared or obtained by them have been widely circulated, and the local health authorities are now in possession of regulations embracing a wide range of duties bearing on the prevention of diseases, the notification of infectious diseases, &c.

Some system is gradually being infused into the operations of the local health authorities, and as these become more efficient it may, I think, be confidently expected that the health of the population will improve.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, com-

paring the postal revenues for 1913-1914 with those of the previous years :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
	£	£
Postages	40,992	42,213
Commission on Money Orders	364	315
Local Commission on British Postal Orders	754	787
Commission on Local Postal Orders	403	—
Miscellaneous	583	751
Telegraphs..	8,125	7,811
Total	£51,221	51,877

These statistics show an increase of £656 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year, due to increases in postage and British postal orders; telegraph and other business fell off. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £50,710, as against £51,211 in 1912-1913.

The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1893–1894.	26,687	20,504
1903–1904.	33,096	36,217
1913–1914.	51,877	50,710

As compared with the two previous years the number of letters and postcards were :—

	At General Post Office.		
	1913–14.	1912–13.	1911–12.
Outwards	4,895,811	4,493,416	4,461,971
Inwards	6,170,649	5,499,762	5,649,423
Total	11,066,460	9,993,178	10,111,394
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	3,144,523	1,486,638	1,577,412
Grand Total	14,210,983	11,479,816	11,688,806
Telegrams sent and received	226,497	223,635	192,270

There is an increase of 2,862 in the number of telegrams sent during the year, but a decrease of £313 15s. 2d. in telegraph revenue, which the Postmaster ascribes to greater economy being exercised by the public in the wording of messages.

Seven new District Post Offices were opened during the year, making the total number 200.

4,900 money orders, for £16,339 11*s.* 2*d.*, were issued in Jamaica, and 33,895 orders, for £84,106 15*s.* 10*d.*, the issues of other countries, were paid here. The principal item is £76,393 18*s.* 0*d.* paid on behalf of the United States, chiefly on account of remittances from the Canal zone.

British postal orders were issued of the face value of £76,844 18*s.* 0*d.* and orders for £42,210 10*s.* 8½*d.* were cashed in the Colony.

50,087 parcels, of the declared value of £56,959 1*s.* 2*d.*, were imported by parcels post, and 13,596, of the value of £13,281 11*s.* 11*d.*, despatched.

Government Railway.

The total receipts were £176,677, against £183,279 in 1912–1913, the expenditure, exclusive of debt charges, £112,529, against £95,157 in 1912-1913, making the net earnings £64,148, against £88,122. The receipts fell short of those for 1912-1913 by £6,602, due to diminished traffic consequent on the hurricane which occurred in November, 1912, the droughts which prevailed during a part of the year, and a falling off of tourist traffic. There was an increase of expenditure of £17,372, so that the deficiency of net revenue as compared with the previous year was £23,974. These figures do not include an expenditure of £12,610 on Railway Pier No. 3. After paying debt charges on the capital expenditure of £2,721,725, the net loss to the Public Treasury on the working of the railway system amounted to £53,543 for the year. The loss for the twelve years to 1912-1913 had been £750,168, bringing up the total since the line was taken over by the Government to £803,711.

During the year the second mortgage bonds amounting to £100,000, which were not in the hands of the Government, were purchased for £45,000, thus securing to the Island the full ownership of the railway.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £174,618 6*s.* 10½*d.*, summarised as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries and other Departmental Charges ..	19,121	16	9½
Main Roads and Bridges, Maintenance ..	89,038	17	0
New Works	6,795	6	0
Public Buildings, Maintenance	9,827	4	10
Public Buildings, New Works	19,370	0	10
Lighthouses	1,591	6	10
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	2,677	1	10
Spanish Town Water Works	551	12	7
Government Schools	10,407	10	10
Telegraph and Telephones	3,625	5	1
	£163,006	2	7½
Adding the work done for other Departments and Parochial Boards and paid for from other votes	11,612	4	3
	£174,618	6	10½

This amount is £105,535 11*s.* 8*d.* less than the expenditure of the previous year.

The total length of main roads at the end of the year was 2,225 miles, 20½ chains.

The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £35 3*s.* 3*d.*, and, including special works of improvement, £40 0*s.* 3*d.*, of which £3 0*s.* 0*d.* per mile was due to flood damage.

The average cost per mile in Saint Mary was £65 10*s.* 8*d.*, and in Saint Elizabeth £18 6*s.*, 0*d.* being the highest and lowest, respectively.

With a view to ascertaining the actual use to which certain of the roads of the Island are put, the Director of Public Works instituted a system of road census based on the method adopted by the Road Board in Great Britain, including the weight of everything passing over the roads, passengers, animals, vehicles, &c., as well as freight.

The results disclosed at the census in the following instances were :—

Spanish Town Road :—

3,437 tons traffic, equal to 98 tons per yard width per day.

Road into Port Antonio :—

2,878 tons traffic, equal to 88 tons per yard width per day.

Road into Port Maria :—

4,564 tons traffic, equal to 69 tons per yard width per day.

The Director of Public Works remarks :—

"The result on the Spanish Town Road is almost to a ton identical with a result obtained on the East Coast Road near Georgetown, Demerara, which is similarly situated as regards a railway."

These remarks are instructive as showing the difficulty experienced by railways in attracting certain classes of traffic when the haulage is for short distances.

These roads cost for maintenance £129 12*s.* 9*d.*, £221 17*s.* 4*d.*, and £125 13*s.* 8*d.* per mile respectively.

The weather was favourable for road maintenance, the rainfall being over 64 inches, or about 84 per cent. of the general average. The road surfaces generally were maintained in good condition, but, owing to the need for retrenchment, no new works of any magnitude were commenced, except the resurfacing of the Spanish Town road with hard river metal. Such expenditure as took place was for settling claims, for land cultivation, fencing, &c., for roads projected or commenced before the hurricane of November, 1912.

Similarly, the expenditure for new works on buildings was mainly to carry forward or to complete works to which the Government had already been committed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year has been one of stress for the Colony, due to the after effects of the hurricane of November, 1912, and to droughts which occurred in certain portions of the Island, rendering relief works necessary. Prosperity was diminished by short crops and a lessened tourist traffic, and this was reflected in an increase of crime and a larger prison population. The exports have diminished in the past two years by £517,860, or about 17½ per cent. As the year drew to its close, however, this condition was gradually becoming ameliorated and a hopeful tone prevailed. The indications were that, if no untoward event occurred, trade would regain most, if not all, the lost ground.

The public revenue did not suffer to the extent which had been anticipated, as the receipts were £20,370 above the estimate, due to railway receipts and stamp duties exceeding the forecast. Customs duties, however, were less than anticipated.

The loans made to sufferers from the hurricane and droughts through the Agricultural Societies Loan Board and the Loan Societies were :—

Direct loans to property owners	£41,030
Loans to peasantry through Agricultural Loan Societies	£48,821
	£89,851

The latest returns show that on the 6th August the owners of properties had paid off £4,041 12*s.* 10*d.*, and nine of them were in arrear for £1,612 10*s.*, while the Loan Societies had paid up £10,322 12*s.* 11*d.*, or £2,185 16*s.* 3*d* more than the instalments due to 31st July. It is curious that a proportion of the larger planters should be less able to meet their obligations promptly than the small cultivators, but it is believed that all the debts are fully secured, and will be paid in full.

After the hurricane of 1903 and the earthquake of 1907, the Government came to the relief of the sufferers with loans of money. A few bad debts were incurred in 1903, but these were much more than covered by the interest received. The transactions in connexion with earthquake loans have so far not been attended by any losses, the instalments of principal which have fallen due and the interest having been paid and a substantial reserve against any future loss built up.

During the year there has been manifested considerable desire to extend the railway system, with the object of opening up land suited to fruit cultivation ; preliminary surveys have been made in certain districts to determine the practicability of these projects.

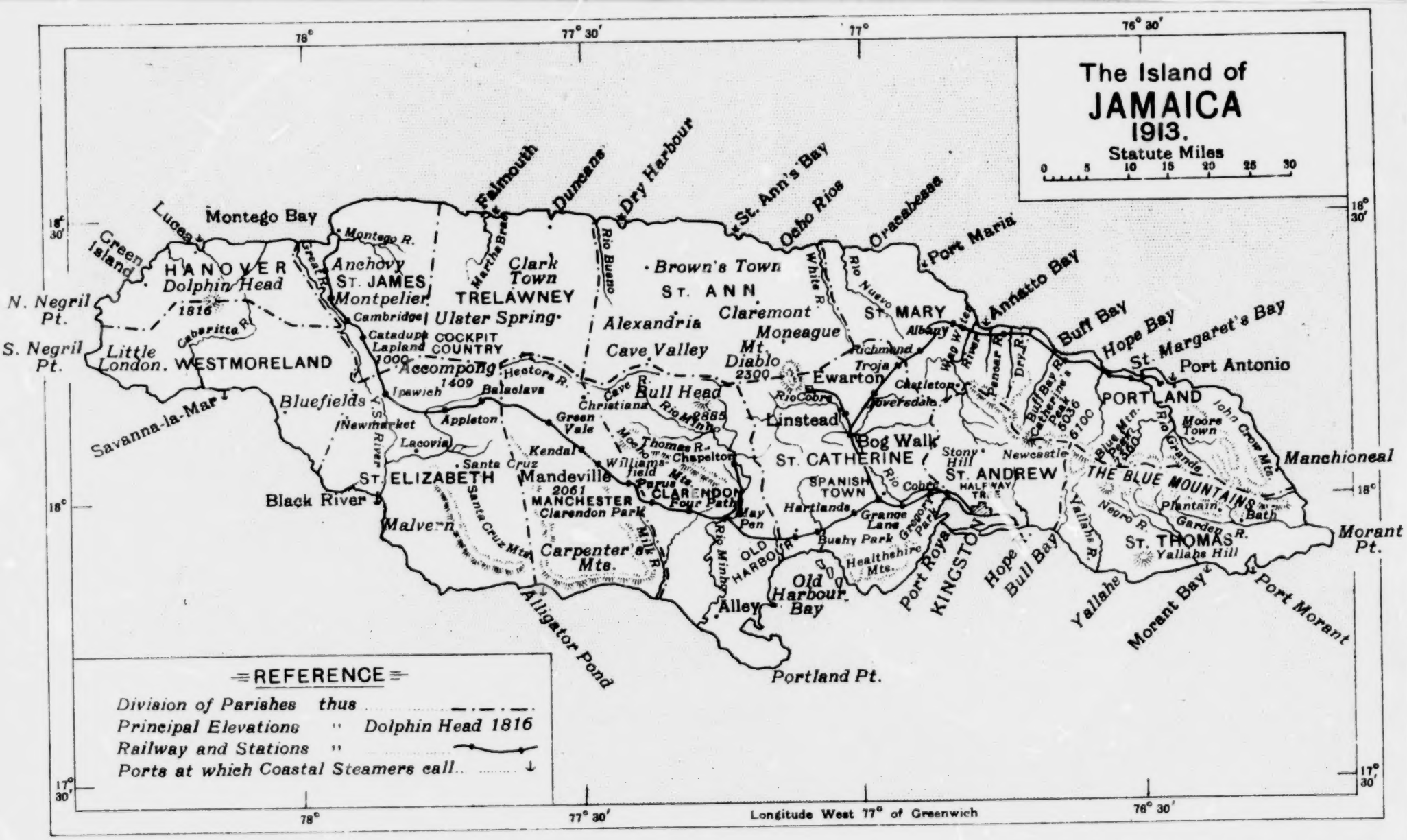
With the practical completion of the Panama Canal Works, a large number of Jamaica labourers has been thrown out of employment in the Canal Zone. The lucrative wages paid to these men while employed upon the Canal Works has not been without its effect upon the revenues of the Colony, since considerable remittances have been made in the past to relations in the Colony. The decrease in the number and amount of these remittances has already been felt, and is likely to be more marked in the future.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1913.

C.O. No. 4.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
785	Northern Nigeria	1912
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	,,
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	,,
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	,,
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	,,
795	St. Vincent	,,
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	,,
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	,,
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
801	Seychelles	,,
802	Ceylon	,,
803	Bermuda	,,
804	Weihaiwei	,,
805	Gambia	,,
806	Gold Coast	,,
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
808	Sierra Leone	,,
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	,,
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	,,
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

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1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 839.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1913-14.

(For Report for 1912–13 see No. 810.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

April, 1915.

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No. 839.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

(For Report for 1912-13 see No. 810.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
12th February, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Cayman Islands for the year 1913–14, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

2. The satisfactory financial position of the Dependency has been remarked upon by the Commissioner and is evidence of the greater prosperity of the people, as well as of Mr. Robinson's economical administration.

3. You will observe that the Commissioner on the third page of his Report refers to the existence of "bud-rot" disease in the Lesser Islands, which seriously threatens the coconut industry. This disease is reported to have first appeared in the Lesser Islands after the hurricane of November, 1912, and steps were immediately taken against it under Cayman Islands Law 4 of 1913. Specimens from diseased trees were also sent to Jamaica and the Government Microbiologist reported that there was evidence that "bud-rot" was the cause. A copy of the Microbiologist's report and of a lecture which he gave on Coconut Diseases, together with a copy of a letter from the Director of Agriculture containing recommendations for dealing with the outbreak, have been sent to the Commissioner, and I now await his report on the steps which he has subsequently taken in the matter.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

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FINANCE.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following tables show the Revenue and Expenditure for the five years from 1909–10 to 1913–14, and the amounts under separate heads for the past two years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1909–10	£2,824	£3,282
1910–11	2,779	2,716
1911–12	3,795	2,700
1912–13	3,397	3,105
1913–14	5,044	2,836
Av. 5 years	£3,568	£2,928

Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1912–13	1913–14
Customs	£1,622	£1,706
Internal Revenue ..	359	372
Port Dues	22	29
Payments for Specific Services	44	83
Post Office	1,247	2,750
Revenue from Government Property ..	16	20
Interest	83	80
Miscellaneous	4	4
Totals	£3,397	£5,044

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1912–13	1913–14
Commissioner's Dept. ..	£779	£712
Judicial Dept.	102	122
Legislative Dept. ..	23	23
Medical Dept.	317	158
Police and Prisons ..	257	344
Charitable	53	117
Education	155	127
Registration	13	11
Miscellaneous	202	160
Post Office Dept. ..	286	264
Lighthouse Dept. ..	16	22
Public Works	902	776
Totals	£3,105	£2,836

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1914, has amounted to a sum total of £5,044 and the expenditure to £2,836, thus leaving a surplus of no less than £2,208 towards the assets of the Dependency, which amount at the present time to £5,008, an increase of £1,911 during the year.

The year under review has been the most prosperous in the annals of these islands. The revenue has shown an increase under each head of the Estimates, while the expenditure shows a considerable decrease in comparison with that of last year. Several circumstances have combined to bring about this gratifying result. The receipts derived from the Customs display unmistakable signs of moving upward, thus manifesting a corresponding advance, however slight, in the prosperity of the people. The Post Office receipts have also increased and the sale of postage stamps alone during the year has amounted to £2,630, while the absence of a Government Medical Officer, though a matter of much regret, has accounted in a great measure for the saving in expenditure. £776 has been expended on public works, of which sum £494 was applied to the maintenance and construction of roads and £282 to Government buildings and other purposes.

With reference to the import duties, 5 per cent. ad valorem duty is imposed on all imported goods, together with an additional sum of six shillings—recently increased from four—per gallon on distilled spirits and one shilling and sixpence per gallon on all wines. It has also been found necessary to increase the duty on all bay rum imported into the Dependency and to place it on the same footing as wines, with a view to preventing as far as possible the use of that article as a beverage.

The general prosperity of the Cayman Islands depends to a very large extent in the case of Grand Cayman on the price obtained from the sale of turtle. Contracts which hitherto have been entered into for one year with foreign buyers have been superseded during the last year by contracts in the majority of cases of five years' duration to take effect from the 1st of January next. The contracts have been made by the representative of a company that contemplates establishing a turtle-canning factory in Grand Cayman. In the Lesser Islands coconuts form the staple industry, but, unfortunately, in spite of the most strenuous measures, the dreaded bud-rot disease still continues to make headway, a circumstance that gives rise to grave anxiety for the future of these islands.

The Cayman Islands, though far removed from the immediate theatre of warlike operations, feels and will feel with ever increasing pressure the unfortunate effects caused by the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. The sale of postage stamps must of necessity considerably decrease, while works of public utility in the United States of America, the Spanish-American Republics, and Colon have been shut down, thus throwing out of employment a large number of Caymanians who are forced to seek for a means of subsistence in a foreign land.

Export Duty.—There is an export duty of 1*s.* per 1,000 on coconuts, which realized £54 during the past year. There is no other export duty.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1914, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £5,008.

The liabilities were £554 due to depositors in Government Savings Bank and £53 due to depositors in Treasury, making £607 in all.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the imports from all countries has been in

1909–10	£23,858
1910–11	26,232
1911–12	28,444
1912–13	25,000
1913–14	33,000

Average for five years, £27,306.

Exports.

The exports to all countries have amounted in value as follows :—

	£
1909–10	11,371
1910–11	10,992
1911–12	12,323
1912–13	10,000
1913–14	8,000

Average for five years £10,537.

It will be observed that there is a large difference between the value of imports and exports, which is due to several causes. Shipbuilding is one of the most important industries in these islands, and one in which a large number of people engage from time to time. Part of the materials used in the construction of vessels is imported from abroad and therefore included under the head of imports while, though a few are sold to foreigners, most of them are owned locally and do not appear as exports. The majority of the male inhabitants are forced to seek for a means of subsistence in the United States, Central American Republics, Cuba, Colon, and other places, and in so doing leave their relatives behind, to whom large sums are remitted. It is estimated that approximately £3,767 has been received by way

of remittance during the past year from wage earners abroad by people in Grand Cayman. This is exclusive of cash sent in by relatives, which amounts to a considerable sum. Schooners, when not engaged in the turtle fisheries, trade between various foreign countries and their earnings may be said to be a national asset. But by far the most important reasons for the disparity in value between exports and imports lies in the comparative isolation of Grand Cayman from the outside world, the want of reliable communication, the lack of capital to develop industries for which the soil is best fitted, and the entire absence of any initiative or enterprise on the part of the inhabitants, who seem in most cases to be quite content with their lot and show no disposition or desire to ameliorate their condition in life.

Negotiations were entered into with the Williams Shipping Agency of New York with a view to the establishment of direct steamship communication between America, Jamaica, and Georgetown, Grand Cayman. The negotiations have been brought to a successful issue, and the Company have decided to operate between the above-mentioned ports and the Isle of Pines, returning by the same route to New York. Such a line would be of the greatest possible advantage to the island, as nearly all the merchants obtain their supplies from New York, which could be brought direct from port to port, thus obviating the necessity of transhipment in Jamaica, with the additional benefit of less expense to them and the certainty of being able to estimate the arrival of goods with greater accuracy than at present obtains in the case of reliance on schooners and irregular communication between Georgetown and Jamaica. Owing to the outbreak of war the service has been temporarily postponed. It is hoped also that tourists in search of peace and quiet will be induced to visit the island, which, though possessing few attractions to offer, is yet entirely free of dust, with good sea-bathing in parts and wild duck shooting.

Shipping.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry, having vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,784. The number of ships entered and cleared during the year 1913–14 is as follows :—

166 entered.
165 cleared.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has proved of great use to those desirous of availing themselves of the opportunity offered for safe investment. The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1914, were :—

Deposits £454. Withdrawals £136.

The balances due to depositors at the end of each year have been :—

	£	s.	d.
1911	264	16	0
1912	364	12	7
1913	245	13	4
1914	554	6	6

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment amply proved its usefulness and has contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency. For the last six years it has been the mainstay of these islands and has been responsible for nearly one half of the total revenue.

Year.	*Post Office Revenue.*	*Total Revenue.*
	£	£
1909–10	769	2,824
1910–11	784	2,779
1911–12	1,640	3,795
1912–13	1,247	3,316
1913–14	2,750	5,047
Total ..	£7,190	£17,761

The sale of postage stamps to collectors forms a very appreciable item in its revenue. The inland postal service shows a steady and favourable increase in the amount of business transacted, while the large receipts in respect of the foreign mail are due to the number of Caymanians who have been compelled to seek a livelihood in the Canal Zone, Cuba, Central American Republics, and the United States.

The following table is indicative of the amount of mails inland and foreign, despatched and received for the two years :

	Local Mails.	*Foreign Mails.*	
	Postal Packets.	Postal Packets.	
	Handled.	Received.	Despatched.
1912–13 ..	20,600	35,000	20,600
1913–14 ..	18,169	22,967	27,459

Post Office Orders.

All money order business is transacted through Jamaica, the issue of orders in the Cayman Islands being at present confined to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

	Orders issued.	*Orders cashed.*
	£	£
1912–13	3,791	3,469
1913–14	3,311	3,768

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely, in June and December. The Commissioner presides as judge. The court has an unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction except in cases of capital felony—Jamaica Law 11 of 1911. Quarterly Petty Courts and Weekly Petty Sessions are held, in which two Justices sit. The former deal with smaller civil actions, and the latter take cognizance of minor offences. Cases of serious crime are few and isolated while the minor offences are generally the result of drink. In all cases in the Grand Court there is a right of appeal to the Jamaica Supreme Court and in the Petty Court to the Grand Court.

The following is a return of the cases before the Courts in the last two years :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Weekly Petty Sessions :		
Minor criminal offences ..	45	11
Quarterly Petty Courts :		
Minor civil actions	8	26
Half-yearly Grand Court :		
Criminal cases	2	6
Civil actions	10	11
Judgment summonses ..	6	1
Totals	71	55

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly is styled "The Justices and Vestry" and is composed of all the Justices of the Peace (thirteen in number) and 27 Vestrymen The Vestry meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year, beginning on the 1st October, and otherwise when summoned for the despatch of business. Elections for the new Vestry were held in August. The question of a Constitution for the Cayman Islands differing materially from that which at present obtains is still under consideration and it is hoped soon to effect some diminution of the membership of the Vestry, which is at present about one Vestryman for every 143 inhabitants, and the establishment of a local franchise, together with property and pecuniary qualifications for candidates, thus bringing the elections more in line with modern conditions.

The following Laws were passed during the year 1914 :—

Lights on Carriage Law ;
Cinematograph Law ;
Law to repeal Law 2 of 1883 and part of Law 1 of 1894.
Cayman Islands Pension Law ;
Auditors' Law Amendment Law ;
Pension Law Amendment Law.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review the roads throughout the Dependency have been thoroughly cleaned and cleared, a process that requires to be annually resorted to owing to the continual rains and to the prolific growth of vegetation and weeds The sum of £300 is allotted yearly to the maintenance, and £200 to the construction, of roads. In recent years construction has taken the form of adding sections to already existing thooughfares, and nearly all the districts have participated in this expenditure. Batabano and Hirst Roads have received additions, together with the road leading in to East End.

Owing to the heavy rains and to the fact that the construction of roads lacks the adequate tools and appliances, such, for instance, as a steam roller, together with the expert knowledge on thoroughly modern lines necessary for scientific road construction, they do not stand the wear and tear of wheeled traffic as well as they perhaps might be expected to do, were only the above-mentioned requirements available, the expense of which the Dependency is not yet in a position to undertake. The roads, however, possess one great advantage, and that is that they are entirely free of dust, the marl with which they are constructed being of a soft clinging nature that tends to harden after a time, and if only costly experiments could be indulged in they might well be made almost ideal throughout the Dependency. During the five years 1909–10 to 1913–14 the total expenditure on works has been £1,669, and that on roads £3,035.

SHIPBUILDING.

During the last financial year there were seven vessels, amounting in the aggregate to 1,128 tons, built in these islands and launched. Shipbuilding constitutes an important industry and one deserving of every encouragement. The Caymanians possess a natural aptitude for shipbuilding and if only more orders could be obtained from countries abroad, which perhaps know little or nothing of the native skill and workmanship, a very lucrative source of employment could be opened up. There are at present on the register 38 vessels, with a total tonnage of 2,784 tons.

Many vessels built by the Caymanians and manned in great part by them are serving under the flags of Cuba and the American Republics.

AGRICULTURE.

A branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was established in Georgetown in 1903, but does not appear to be progressing as satisfactorily as such a movement deserves. There is always a lamentable

scarcity of ground provisions though Georgetown affords a ready market for their sale. The depredations of wild rabbits and crabs and to a small extent prædial larceny, tend to discourage enterprise and individual industry. Eighteen pounds a year is voted for agricultural purposes, and for the granting of prizes at the Annual agricultural Show by way of encouragement. Quarterly meetings of the Agricultural Society are held in January, April, July, and October. The larger portion of the land in Grand Cayman is devoted to the growing of guinea grass and the rearing of cattle and horses. There are in Grand Cayman about 2,000 head of cattle and about 250 horses.

POPULATION.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black. 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denomination the people are mainly Presbyterian, 3,264 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the Lesser Islands, and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God." During 1914 there were 195 births, 99 males and 96 females. Of these 160 were legitimate and 35 illegitimate. In the same period there were 39 deaths, 21 males and 18 females.

EDUCATION.

The state of education in the Dependency is far from satisfactory, especially in the country districts. £250 a year is devoted to Education. The conditions obtaining at the present time do not offer any attractions to good and reliable teachers. In all "registered" schools each of the latter receives a capitation grant from the Government of 5*s*. a year for every pupil on his books, and a fee of 3*d*. up to the third standard, and 6*d*. from the fourth standard upwards in the case of destitute children. All parents and guardians pay a similar fee of 3*d*. and 6*d*. for the education of their children. While the Government grant is of great assistance to the teachers, yet they are largely dependent on the collection of fees from private individuals who cannot always be relied upon to pay, and in a large number of cases offer payment in kind instead of cash. The result is that teachers, whether fit or unfit, must be tolerated or the schools must close, as in the case of North Side, Gun Bay, and East End, where children are growing up in ignorance. All children between the ages of six and fourteen years residing within two miles of a school are required to attend 75 per cent. of the sessions of the school every term. It is estimated that there are about one thousand and thirty children of school age in Grand Cayman.

There are many who attach no importance whatsoever to the education of their children and who do not consider even reading or writing as in any way essential to a child's future welfare. A Bill having as its object the establishment of free and compulsory education, to which reference was made in last year's report, was submitted to the Justices and Vestry in March, but withdrawn owing to the previous rejection of the Tariff Bill, providing for the imposition of an additional 2½ per cent. to the existing 5 per cent. ad valorem duty, the object of which was to defray the cost of the establishment and maintenance of the new system.

There is every reason to believe that in the new Vestry—elections for which were held in August last—there is a decided majority in favour of free and compulsory education and the Tariff Bill; but owing to the outbreak of war and the consequent rise in the price of food stuffs, it was not considered desirable or politic to introduce the above measures in September.

HOSPITAL.

There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases but it is not generally used. Government Medical Officers are appointed for the Lesser Islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts.

PRISONS.

There are no prisons in the Dependency. Prisoners sentenced to more than six months imprisonment are sent to Jamaica. There are three cells at Grand Cayman and one at Cayman Brac, which are used for the detention of those awaiting trial or sentenced to short terms.

CRIME.

There is very little crime and offences are generally of a trivial nature and in most cases the result of excessive drinking.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an Inspector, five policemen, and one district constable. The Inspector also performs the duties of Tide Waiter and Visiting Officer, while the services of the police in the country districts are utilized in the carriage of inland mails.

LIGHTHOUSES.

There are three lights, one at Georgetown, one at East End, Grand Cayman and the third at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. They consist of large lanterns hoisted on masts about 75 feet high, and are visible from 10 to 12 miles out to sea. The lights of Georgetown and East End are of the same colour, namely white. It is hoped in the near future, to erect a flash light at one of the three dangerous points of Grand Cayman at a cost of £150, and as time goes on to add to their number.

MOSQUITOS.

The mosquito season begins in April and continues until September, when they begin to abate, and from November to February almost disappear. Householders adopt the method of lighting a smoke fire to ward off the attacks of these insects, which swarm in myriads and render life a torture to man and beast. A few houses are mosquito screened. There are fortunately very few of the anopheline or malaria-transmitting variety. Although these islands are practically immune from the recognised mosquito-borne diseases, as malaria, yellow fever, and filariasis, the mosquito is nevertheless seriously detrimental to the health in other respects, the conditions of anæmia and general debility met with being attributed by the Government Medical Officer to the blood-sucking powers of these insects.

Swamps are found in various places, but as these are below the level of the sea they could only be drained by a large expenditure of money. So far as it is possible to ascertain the people generally seem to display a more marked interest in hygiene, and, as this subject is taught in all the Government schools and particular importance attached to the subject, the rising generation may no doubt be taught to realize to the full the benefits to be derived from living in healthy surroundings.

CLIMATE.

The Cayman Islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness attributable to climatic conditions. The weather is warm for the greater part of the year. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, when the cool season begins with a change of the wind to the north and north-west in the early part of November.

The following table shows the average temperature :—

	Morning.	Mid-day.	Evening.
Hot months	83°	89°	86°
Cool months (Nov. to March) ..	71°	80°	74°

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	"
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	"
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	"
820	Jamaica	"
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	"
823	Zanzibar	"
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 844.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 800.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1915.

LONDON:
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No. 844.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 800.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
18th May, 1915

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1914, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C166) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 7.15. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE

BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Dependency for the year 1914 exceeded the estimate by £696 and amounted to £9,051. The decrease in 1914 as compared with the revenue for the previous financial year is due entirely to a falling off of receipts under the head of Post Office, the stimulus due to sales of the new stamps issued in 1913 having expended itself.

Notwithstanding this, as the result of persistent and watchful economy in every item of recurrent disbursement, and after the inclusion of the sum of £1,000, contributed at the unanimous wish of the inhabitants towards the War Fund, the expenditure for the year under review exceeded revenue by only £340.

Considering that there is no direct taxation and that the Customs tariff, the chief source of revenue, is the lowest, and the "free" list the largest, of any in the West Indies, the financial condition of the Dependency cannot be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory.

The following statement illustrates the several heads of revenue and expenditure in 1914 as compared with the preceding five years.

REVENUE.

Head of Revenue.	1914. £	1913. £	1912. £	1911. £	1910. £
Import Duties	3,997	3,971	3,577	3,477	3,494
Royalty on Salt	2,581	2,585	2,161	2,183	1,716
Port Dues	695	626	800	577	494
Licences and Internal Revenue	278	246	227	234	187
Payments for Specific Services..	173	195	183	128	166
Post Office Revenue	658	2,627	865	935	1,237
Revenue from Government Property	290	248	194	448	1,209
Interest	306	210	199	228	135
Miscellaneous Receipts	69	159	9	107	8
Totals	£9,051	10,867	8,215	8,318	8,646

EXPENDITURE.

Head of Expenditure.	1914. £	1913. £	1912. £	1911. £	1910. £
Pensions	403	403	412	391	333
Commissioner's Department ..	1,978	1,938	1,849	1,868	1,858
Judicial Department	159	187	180	211	213
Police and Prisons Department	606	607	589	571	764
Medical Department	593	608	586	582	584
Paupers	276	316	325	337	329
Education	600	600	600	600	600
Registration and Vaccination ..	29	26	19	33	22
Public Market	21	21	21	21	21
Miscellaneous	1,480*	418	405	533	447
Post Office Department.. ..	159	201	426	191	248
Lighthouse Department ..	215	224	260	235	238
Public Works Department ..	—	—	—	—	631
Public Works Recurrent ..	898	962	640	355	539
Salt Industry	1,969	1,994	1,777	1,767	—
Totals	£9,391	8,505	8,092	7,695	6,827

* Includes £1,000 contribution to War Fund.

On the 31st December of the year under record assets stood at £15,079, and liabilities at £6,644, thus leaving a balance of assets of £8,435 to be carried forward to the credit of the Dependency towards the year 1915.

There is no public debt.

LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year. These were:—No. 1. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1913; No. 2. The Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, 1912—Amendment Ordinance, 1914; No. 3. The Larceny Ordinance, 1914; and No. 4. The Appropriation Ordinance, 1915.

VITAL STATISTICS.

According to the census of 1911 the population of the Dependency was 5,615 (2,505 males and 3,110 females) composed as follows:—Whites, 286; coloured, 5,329. Of these 1,279 reside in the Turks Islands, and 4,336 in the Caicos Islands.

During the year there were 192 births, or 34 per thousand, and 112 deaths, or 20 per thousand.

The general state of the public health of the Dependency was good and no diseases of a zymotic character were reported.

EDUCATION.

A.—Primary Education.

The control and management of primary education in the Dependency has for many years been administered by a Board, to which the Government makes an annual grant of £600 for the purpose.

The following table illustrates the growth in attendance at the schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour since the year 1901, when the Ordinance enforcing regular attendance came into operation.

Government Schools at	1901. No. of pupils on roll.	1901. Average attendance.	1914. No. of pupils on roll.	1914. Average attendance.
Grand Turk	163	79	224	192
Salt Cay..	49	31	45	38
Cockburn Harbour ..	100	68	160	139

In addition to those above enumerated, Government Schools are also maintained at the undermentioned settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Settlement.	On register.	Average attendance.
Lorimers	104	54
Conch Bar	50	33
Bottle Creek	122	93
Kew	90	63
Blue Hills	103	67

and assistance is given towards the employment of teachers in the sparsely populated districts of the Bight and Five Cays.

The total expenditure of the Board for management, books, materials and other expenses for the year under review amounted to £632 15s. 2d.

Besides school management the statement of expenditure for 1914 also mentions the sum of £219 disbursed towards completing the new school house at Kew, and initial expenses, amounting to £14, towards the erection of a similar building at Lorimers.

It may be gathered from the foregoing that primary education in the Dependency has now passed the limits of the amount allowed. Education being such an important factor in the moral progress of the community, it is hoped to give this question early attention.

B.—Secondary Education.

There is no provision for secondary education, and parents desirous of their children enjoying such advantages are compelled to send them

abroad. Undoubtedly this occasions considerable inconvenience, particularly among those in moderate circumstances, but, under present financial conditions, it does not seem possible to advocate any scheme involving comparatively heavy recurring expenditure.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

There is no hospital or asylum. Cases of lunacy are fortunately very rare, and, when occurring, are sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Jamaica and maintained there at the cost of the Dependency.

Although undoubtedly cases of illness frequently occur which would be the better for treatment at a properly equipped hospital, yet the scattered nature of the population throughout the islands of the Dependency, and the difficulties which exist in the way of getting sick persons from outlying districts to Grand Turk in small open boats (often a distance of 50 to 60 miles), render the question of establishing such an institution one of doubtful general utility. This matter is, however, receiving consideration with a view to providing a small emergency hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases, serious cases of illness, where home nursing is impossible, and such cases as may occur among seamen landed from vessels in harbour.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and exports to the value of £28,192 and £28,348, respectively, are recorded for the year.

The following table gives particulars in this connection during the past five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1910	27,916	24,461
1911	24,722	23,703
1912	27,662	25,947
1913	30,231	27,808
1914	28,192	28,348

The direction of trade during the same period may be gathered from the following :—

Countries.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	1910.	5,518	422
British Colonies ..	—	4,941	3,799
Foreign Countries ..	—	17,456	20,240
Totals		£27,915	£24,461
United Kingdom ..	1911.	3,642	*Nil.*
British Colonies ..	—	4,633	4,528
Foreign Countries ..	—	16,447	19,175
Totals		£24,722	£23,703
United Kingdom ..	1912.	6,111	80
British Colonies ..	—	4,837	4,497
Foreign Countries ..	—	16,714	21,370
Totals		£27,662	£25,947
United Kingdom ..	1913.	3,861	*Nil.*
British Colonies ..	—	9,088	7,806
Foreign Countries ..	—	17,222	20,002
Totals		£30,231	£27,808
United Kingdom ..	1914.	3,757	61
British Colonies ..	—	5,528	5,129
Foreign Countries ..	—	18,906	23,157
Totals		£28,192	£28,348

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

Articles.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt : coarse	12,902	15,257	14,918	17,603	15,902
Salt : fishery	1,987	4,246	3,685	5,429	5,948
Sisal	7,351	1,225	4,718	Nil.	2,212
Sponges	1,316	1,530	1,451	1,835	2,140
Conches	559	743	553	270	566
Canned lobster ..	28	42	56	272	558
Miscellaneous ..	346	702	622	2,671	1,022

Salt.—The steady development of the salt industry since 1910, as indicated in the foregoing table, leads one to hope that high water mark has not yet been reached in the direction of this important export. Commendable efforts continue to be made on the part of some of our salt producers to extend the trade in fine or "fishery" salt. Results, so far, are of an encouraging character.

Sponges.—In common with all other important sponge beds in the world, those of the Caicos Islands have been fished in the past in such a manner as to cause grave concern as to their depletion. In these islands the threatened extinction would not appear to be due to improper methods of fishing, but to the indiscriminate taking of small immature sponges and to the wanton destruction which such a system involves. These sponges, of little practical use and value, if left to grow for two years, or even less, would not only greatly increase in value, but would furnish large supplies of larval sponges to replenish those taken during the ordinary operations of fishing.

The difficulties to be encountered in the way of enforcing such obviously sound remedial measures as the establishment of a closed season, restricted areas, and the protection of undersized sponges, are many; but there can be no doubt that recourse will eventually have to be made to legislative measures if the industry is to be saved from extinction.

Shipping.

254 vessels, with a total of 192,811 tons, entered, and 260 vessels, representing 192,786 tons, cleared at the various ports of entry in the Dependency during the year under review. The following statement discloses the numbers and tonnage of vessels which have cleared for the past three years.

Nationality.	1912.		1913.		1914.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ..	100	22,467	102	10,153	110	17,276
Foreign ..	187	165,026	162	193,546	150	175,510
Total ..	287	187,493	264	203,699	260	192,786

Agriculture.

Agriculture in the real sense of the word may be described as non-existent in the islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos. Nor does it appear how it could be otherwise, since the climatic con-

ditions which favour the making of salt are diametrically opposed to those which are required for the culture of plants. At Middle and North Caicos and at Blue Hills, however (large islands with a sparse and scattered population), the outlook for agriculture is of a more hopeful character and, provided the people, who at present possess no knowledge whatever of the subject, can be instructed and induced to take up the cultivation of cotton, there seems to be no reason why the condition of landholders in these islands should not be materially improved.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

The Clyde line of steamers continue to ply regularly to and from New York direct, about every ten days, carrying mails, passengers, and freight, the voyage taking either way about 4½ days. The monthly service, which for many years had been maintained by a Pickford and Black steamer, which called at Grand Turk, both on the outward and return voyage from Halifax to Jamaica was interrupted by the stranding of the steamship "Anita" on a reef at Middle Caicos on the 20th December. Much inconvenience to the people of these islands has been occasioned thereby.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, connects the Dependency with the outer world. A news bulletin is published daily, for which a subsidy of £120 per annum is paid. The rate to England is 3s. per word, to Halifax 2s., to Bermuda 1s. 6d., to Jamaica 1s., and to New York 2s. 6d. Non-express messages are sent at half rates.

The estimated amount of postal matter dealt with in 1914 was:—Letters, 28,000; postcards, 1,300; newspapers, 2,700; books, 17,600; parcels, 1,002.

The amount of Money Order transactions was:—

	£	s.	d.
Issued in the Dependency	1,681	10	6
Paid in the Dependency	260	0	11

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount standing to the credit of the depositors on the 31st December was £3,981, or £347 in excess of the amount shown on the 31st December, 1913. There were 446 depositors. Deposits during

1914 amounted to £1,500 and withdrawals to £1,152, thus disclosing a credit of £348 on the working of this department for the year under review.

METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall recorded during the year was 33·94 inches, or 2·98 inches in excess of that recorded for the year 1913. November was the wettest month, with 9·58 inches, and June the driest, when only ·47 inches were recorded.

The coolest and warmest months were January and July, with mean temperatures of 69·1° and 89·8°, respectively. The lowest temperature for the year, 62°, occurred on the 28th February and the highest, 92°, on the 14th September.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Offences reported to the Police	192
Persons brought before the Magistrates	188
Summary Convictions :—	
Offences against property with violence to the person	1
Other offences against property	16
Offences against the person	32
Prædial larceny	4
Other offences	93
Convictions in the Supreme Court :—	
Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide	Nil
Other offences against property	Nil
Other offences	5
Number of persons acquitted :—	
In the Inferior Courts	42
In the Superior Courts	Nil

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., who had administered the affairs of the Dependency since 1906, was appointed to be Colonial Secretary of Grenada in July of the year under review. Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, F.L.S., Commissioner of Carriacou (Windward Islands), was appointed to succeed him and arrived in the Dependency on the 2nd December. During the period between Mr. Watkins's departure and Mr. Smith's arrival (five months) the duties of Commissioner were performed by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner, who holds a dormant commission to administer the government on such occasions. His Honour C. H. Yorke Slader, one of the Resident Magistrates of Jamaica, was specially deputed by the Governor of Jamaica in December to adjudicate certain important matters pending in the Supreme Court.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year under review was again a year of financial prosperity. From the revenue point of view it may be regarded as distinctly the most satisfactory for some time. Abnormal receipts from sales of the new issue of stamps having entirely disappeared, the revenue has resumed its normal character, and it is now possible to estimate with greater certainty the future revenue and recurrent expenditure of the Dependency.

It is encouraging to record that with the closing days of December favourable prices for sisal were quoted in the American market, and it is hoped that the year 1915 will see a resumption of work at the factory of the East Caicos Company, on which a large number of labourers in the Caicos Islands depend for employment.

The year under review was otherwise of an uneventful character and there are no other matters calling for remark.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk, Turks Islands,
6th April, 1915.

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814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	"
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	"
820	Jamaica	"
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	"
823	Zanzibar	"
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
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83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Land Settlement.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 860.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 820).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1915.

LONDON:
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No. 860.

JAMAICA

(For Report for 1913–14, see No. 820.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
26th August, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended 31st March, 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue and expenditure of the year, under the heads of Estimates, compared with those of the preceding year, were as follows:

Revenue.

Heads.	Receipts, 1913-14.			Receipts, 1914–15		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	426,686	18	11	396,045	1	11
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	8,195	18	2	6,894	19	4
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	208,655	14	9	201,832	7	7
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements-in-aid, and Irrigation Receipts	128,217	12	1	111,331	9	5
Post Office and Telegraphs ..	51,791	18	8	49,744	17	1
Railway	176,677	7	0	179,387	16	3
Rents	3,030	11	0	3,233	10	4
Interest	8,355	0	5	13,482	12	10
Miscellaneous Receipts	15,868	17	4	16,369	5	5
Land Sales	1,158	15	11	1,352	9	7
Loan raised to reimburse cost of Rio Minho Branch Railway ..	20,000	0	0			
Face value of Nickel Coin imported	—			500	0	0
	£1,048,638	14	1	£980,174	9	9

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Expenditure.

Heads.	Payments, 1913-14.			Payments, 1914-15.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges of Debt	189,591	12	1	109,540	4	8
Pensions	33,661	6	8	35,241	13	9
Pensions, Widows and Orphans	8,390	18	4	9,480	7	8
Governor and Staff	6,083	2	0	6,295	6	4
Privy Council	82	6	3	56	2	10
Legislative Council	929	19	11	906	11	9
Colonial Secretariat	5,146	9	1	5,153	5	10
Public Works Department ..	19,121	16	10	19,331	4	9
Parochial Roads and Works ..	1,726	11	5	1,712	10	0
Lands Department	3,481	3	3	4,133	2	4
Railway	112,528	1	10	107,259	5	0
Audit Office	4,034	0	9	4,206	5	3
Treasury Department	3,832	16	0	3,841	7	11
Government Savings Bank ..	2,137	15	11	2,056	8	4
Immigration	1,061	2	8	788	18	4
Clerks Parochial Boards ..	450	0	0	450	0	0
Stamp Office, Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs ..	54,867	19	8	58,457	8	1
Postal and Telegraph Service ..	47,097	12	1	49,612	16	7
Construction of Railway Pier No. 3	12,610	5	10	6,290	3	5
Judicial	38,802	0	7	38,550	11	5
Ecclesiastical	868	14	8	830	0	0
Medical	75,975	18	5	77,912	9	3
Constabulary and Prisons ..	95,784	7	8	99,702	6	5
Industrial Schools, Reformatories	6,674	15	5	6,615	13	6
Education..	84,013	11	1	85,120	12	2
Harbours and Pilotage	3,476	12	3	3,157	18	2
Military: Imperial Troops, Colonial Defence	7,475	7	9	17,693	19	0
Direct Cable Subsidy	750	0	0	1,000	0	0
Railway to Chapelton (Rio Minho Branch)..	13,122	18	1		9	7
Record and Registrar-General's Office, Registrar of Titles ..	5,524	12	6	5,460	19	4
Government Printing Office ..	9,425	15	1	9,339	15	1
Institute of Jamaica	1,551	9	2	1,500	0	0
Board of Supervision	727	19	8	399	16	9
Agricultural Services	20,959	13	3	15,824	17	3
Miscellaneous	48,785	3	0	38,274	19	3
Public Works and Buildings, Lighthouses	144,344	10	10	121,502	10	3
Purchase of Sugar as Colony's War Contribution	—			25,879	2	0
Relief Works, Manchester ..	—			146	13	0
Hurricane Assistance	338	8	10	—		
Manufacture of Nickel Coin ..	—			243	5	6
	£1,065,436	18	10	£1,054,969	0	9

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910–11	990,399	987,304
1911–12	1,161,014	1,155,208
1912–13	1,206,161	1,304,930
1913–14	1,048,639	1,065,437
1914–15	980,174	1,054,969

The revenue for 1914–1915 was less than the original estimate by £84,117 10*s*. 3*d*. Nearly every Head of Receipts showed material decrease as compared with the estimate, thus :—Customs, £43,955 ; Port, Harbour, and Light-house Dues, £1,605 ; Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, £8,092 ; Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, &c., £9,487 ; Post Office and Telegraphs, £2,255 ; Railway, £20,612 ; and Interest, £2,906. The only increase of consequence was £3,608 under Miscellaneous. These shrinkages in revenue were chiefly due to the great war, and on the 17th September, 1914, a law was passed reimposing the additional 6⅔ per cent. import duty on the value of all goods which fall without the specific and free schedules of the tariff law. This additional levy to the end of the financial year realized £25,206, but in spite of this the total yield of the Import Duties for the year was, as is stated above, £43,955 less than the original estimate based on, the lower duty. If, therefore, the extra duty had not been put on, Customs Dues would have been £69,161 less than the estimate. If the yield of the reinforced Import Duties (£396,045) be compared with the amount received in the preceding year (£425,686), the falling off is £30,641. This would have been increased to £55,847 if the extra 6⅔ per cent. had not been added to the *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. in force at the beginning of the year.

The expenditure was less than the Budget estimate by £52,305 12*s*. 2*d*., but as supplementary appropriations amounting to £60,000 were voted, there was a saving of £112,305 12*s*. 2*d*. on the total sums voted for the services of the year. The supplementary appropriations voted at the War Sessions in August and September were respectively £10,000 for defence and £50,000 to be expended in the purchase of sugar as a gift to the Home Government.

There were savings on almost every head of expenditure as the result of the action taken at the beginning of the war, which is hereinafter referred to. If the payments are considered against the votes, the following are the chief points of difference, £1,000 and over only being taken, viz :—Decreases under Charges of Debt of £3,632 ; under Public Works Department of £1,821 ; under Lands Department of £1,008 ; under Post Office and Telegraphs of £4,913 ; under Medical of £3,113 ; under Constabulary and Prisons of £2,280 ; under Harbours and Pilotage of £1,107 ; under Agricultural Services, £1,097 ; under Public Works and Buildings, £57,316 ; under Railway, £13,771 (includes £4,359 under Pier No. 3) ; and under Chapelton Railway Estimates of the whole Vote of £1,400, less a few shillings. Apart from sugar and defence the only similar increases were £1,457 under

Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs, and £7,475 under Miscellaneous. This latter excess is more than accounted for by a deferred expenditure from the previous year for new pumps for the Kingston Pumping Station (£4,591), and the costs of appeal in certain tramway cases (£1,704), and Interest on Temporary Advances (£2,471).

If the payments are considered against those of the preceding year the following are the chief points of difference :—Increases of £1,580 under Pensions of Public Officers ; of £1,089 under Pensions of Widows and Orphans of Public Officers ; of £3,589 under the Revenue Department ; of £2,515 under Postal and Telegraphs ; of £1,936 under Medical ; of £3,917 under Constabulary and Prisons ; of £1,107 under Education ; of £10,218 under Military (Defence) ; and of £25,879 in respect of the gift of sugar to the Home Government.

The chief decreases were £5.134 under Agricultural Services ; £10,510 under Miscellaneous ; £11,588 under Railway (£6,290 of which was in respect of Pier No. 3) ; £13,122 under Clarendon Railway extension ; and £23,180 under Public Works and Buildings.

The receipts during the year being £980,174 and the expenditure £1,054,969 ; there was a deficit on the year's transactions of £74,795. As the surplus balance in the Surplus and Deficit Account of the Government on the 1st April, 1914, was £59,417, the year ended with a deficit of £15,378 to be met from the Insurance Fund. It had been expected, when the revised estimates of 1914–1915 were being made up prior to the passing of the estimates of the year 1915–1916, that this deficit would be £40,872, a difference of £25,494 ; but it was not found possible to spend within the year as much as was expected in the matter of the gift sugar. This accounted for about £12,400 of the apparent saving and, of course, meant that it was simply expenditure deferred until the year 1915–1916 ; about £600 represented other unavoidable deferred expenditure, so the remainder, say £12,500, represented further savings than had been expected at the date the revised estimates were made up.

Immediately on the outbreak of the great war, in order to make provision for the decrease in revenue, which I felt sure would ensue, I ordered the suspension of all those new works on roads, buildings, etc., which were not of absolute necessity and called upon every department of Government to suspend for the time, all but the unavoidably necessary expenditure. By these means the pressure of the situation on the island's finances was reduced as much as possible and there resulted savings on the votes (excluding from consideration the matter of the vote and expenditure on account of the gift of sugar) amounting to a total of £88,165.*

	£	£
*Total votes	1,167,275	
Less sugar vote	50,000	
		1,117,275
Total expenditure	1,054,969	
Less sugar expenditure ..	25,879	
		1,029,090
		88,165

These savings (£88,165—excluding sugar) added to the yield of the additional taxation put on as a result of the war (£25,206) came to £113,371, by which amount the Colony would have been in a worse position financially at the end of the year if the measures above briefly alluded to had not been taken in the early days of war.

The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,854,305 on the 31st March, 1915. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £968,739, leaving a net liability of £2,885,566. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £467,801, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £79,874.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last five years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1910–11	35,755	35,385
1911–12	46,565	45,846
1912–13	41,515	43,846
1913–14	39,100	37,610
1914–15	38,420	37,777

	Kingston General Commissioners.		*Other Parochial Boards (14 Parishes.)*	
	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £	Receipts. £	Expenditure. £
1910–11 ..	60,082	52,373	135,118	139,032
1911–12 ..	69,740	72,875	123,179	124,059
1912–13 ..	44,656	54,842	148,029	146,491
1913–14 ..	48,479	44,503	154,813	148,199
1914–15 ..	49,919	52,074	136,107	129,187

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £18,623.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a) *Imports and Exports.*

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are as follows :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1910	2,614,943	2,568,222
1911	2,865,553	2,948,067
1912	3,050,478	2,709,283
1913	2,837,446	2,430,207
1914	2,565,820	2,904,533

The imports decreased by £271,626 and the exports increased by £474,326. With the passing of a cycle of years, characterised by deficient rainfall, the year 1914 was agriculturally prolific, and notwithstanding the handicap of war conditions and the competition in the island's principal fruit market of a phenomenally abundant crop of home-grown fruits, the domestic exports of the year actually constituted a record, having been in excess of those of 1911 by upwards of £22,000 when from the figures are eliminated the value of re-exports. Nor is there reason to doubt that but for the interposition of unlooked for factors the volume of imports also would have approached high water mark.

If a perspective of forty years be taken at intervals of ten years the growth of the imports and exports is thus indicated :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1874	1,759,942	1,442,080
1884	1,487,832	1,483,989
1894	2,191,745	2,075,689
1904	1,682,355	1,436,725
1914	2,565,820	2,904,533

The imports and exports under the approved statistical grouping for 1914 and 1913 compare thus :—

	1914.		1913.	
	Imports. £	Exports. £	Imports. £	Exports. £
1.—Animals, Food, Drink, and Tobacco,	1,020,654	2,422,748	1,224,389	1,846,703
2.—Raw Material or Articles mainly unmanufactured ..	281,465	192,188	121,825	184,565
3.—Manufactured wholly or mainly	1,250,280	214,606	1,488,666	216,579
4.—Miscellaneous unclassified	940	1,139	2,163	1,541
5.—Bullion and Specie ..	12,481	73,852	403	180,816
	£2,565,820	2,904,533	2,837,446	2,430,207

Tables giving the trend of trade are given by the Collector General for forty years as below—countries from which imports are drawn, with values and rates in each case :—

	1874.	1884.	1894.	1904.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	966,469	789,506	1,106,284	788,452	986,218
	54·9%	53·1%	50·5%	46·8%	38·5%
United States ..	540,124	469,692	803,340	719,262	1,221,150
	30·8%	31·6%	36·6%	42·7%	47·6%
Canada ..	187,366	177,260	186,320	115,891	208,884
	10·6%	11·8%	8·5%	6·8%	8·1%
Other Countries ..	65,983	51,374	95,801	58,750	149,567
	3·7%	3·5%	4·4%	3·7%	5·8%

Countries to which exports are distributed, with the like information in each case :—

	1874.	1884.	1894.	1904.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,141,459	643,628	554,082	271,209	529,803
	79·2%	43·4%	26·7%	18·9%	18·2%
United States ..	21,071	461,877	1,189,618	768,121	1,769,464
	1·5%	31·1%	57·3%	53·5%	60·9%
Canada ..	8,034	198,660	35,681	126,693	208,516
	·6%	13·4%	1·7%	8·8%	7·2%
Other Countries ..	271,516	179,824	296,308	270,702	396,750
	18·7%	12·1%	14·3%	18·8%	13·7%

The following table gives a birdseye view of the relative importance to the island during each of the last three years of its staples and of minor products :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.
Sugar	5·1%	2·3%	7·0%
Rum	2·6%	4·6%	3·6%
Coffee	10·7%	7·1%	5·9%
Cocoa	5·4%	5·2%	5·5%
Dyewoods	3·4%	5·2%	4·5%
Fruit	54·7%	48·6%	54·5%
Pimento	3·0%	4·0%	1·6%
Minor Products ..	15·1%	23·0%	17·4%

The acreage returned in 1914–15 grouped under the four main divisions of the Agricultural returns and compared with the average acreage under these headings in the four preceding years produces the following abstract :—

	1914–15.	Average 1910–14.
	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	273,111	271,316
Guinea Grass	172,864	148,157
Commons	566,153	513,342
Wood and ruinate	1,114,283	1,216,256

There is an increase in each description of land subjected to some sort of care and culture, with consequent falling off in the area returned as being in wood and ruinate.

Lands subject to tillage are further classified under the particular crops to which they are dedicated, and the following is an abstract of such classification showing the figures for 1914–15 against a four-years' average :—

	1914–15.	Average 1910–14.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	31,727	32,334
Coffee	18,175	22,869
Coconuts	29,731	17,531
Bananas	85,854	82,064
Cocoa	11,088	11,722
Ground Provisions	63,640	72,061
Mixed Cultivation	28,603	28,626
Minor Items	4,293	4,106

In connection with this abstract the Collector-General remarks :—

"Last year it was recorded that the cultivation of canes, coffee, and cocoa were on the down grade, and the figures here given show that the downward tendency has not yet been arrested, canes showing a further decrease of 607 acres, coffee 4,694 acres, and cocoa 634 acres. The very strong present position of sugar in the world markets and the favourable position of cocoa, will doubtless result in much more attention being given to these products in the immediate future, but the indications are that coffee will continue to give way to fruit-growing. The great increase in the coconut area—12,000 acres—is no doubt due to the return to bearing of groves that were destroyed in the hurricane of 1903, and had to be replanted. Bananas show an increase of 3,790 acres over the average, and if only a proportion of the rumours reaching us as to the condition of this industry in Central American Republics be well grounded, confidence in the future of the banana in this country will be justified. Ground provisions show a falling off of 8,421 acres, probably due to lands being less exclusively devoted to root crops than was formerly the case, and minor items exhibit an improved acreage of 187 acres."

The following abstract of the number of separate properties laid under contribution to general and parochial revenues during the year 1914–1915 and the different descriptions, set out and compared with the figures of the year preceding, show the following :—

	1914–15. Number.	1913–14 Number.
Properties valued at £20	63,921	62,889
" " at £30	6,653	6,653
" " at £40	53,098	53,428
" " over £40	31,275	30,715
Occupiers relieved	1,307	1,005
Properties in arrear	13,463	12,757

The year just past is the eleventh since the direct taxation for general and parochial purposes was transferred to its present basis of real property, and the following comparative table given by the Collector-General of the progress made in that period will possess interest :—

	Approximate number of properties on roll.		Number in arrears.		Percentage uncollected.	
	1903–04.	1914–15.	1903–04.	1914–15.	1903–04.	1914–15.
Kingston ..	7,850	8,128	231	60	2·9	·7
St. Andrew ..	7,525	10,806	1,468	512	19·5	4·7
St. Thomas ..	8,417	10,008	2,961	394	35·2	3·9
Portland ..	8,161	10,512	1,766	167	21·6	1·5
St. Mary ..	10,159	12,788	2,920	361	28·7	2·
St. Ann.. ..	12,249	14,937	1,489	1,254	12·1	8·3
Trelawny ..	6,106	8,356	921	353	15·	4·2
St. James ..	6,091	7,298	839	352	13·8	4·8
Hanover ..	6,523	7,590	143	471	2·2	6·2
Westmoreland ..	10,388	11,538	442	1,361	4·2	11·7
St. Elizabeth ..	12,667	15,933	642	1,234	5·	7·7
Manchester ..	12,110	14,288	234	1,854	2·	12·9
Clarendon ..	14,657	17,620	1,702	2,798	11·6	15·8
St. Catherine ..	14,942	19,408	2,806	2,291	18·7	11·7
Port Royal ..	199	205	5	1	2·5	·4
	138,044	169,415	18,569	13,463		

In the parishes of Westmoreland, Manchester, Clarendon, and St. Catherine the percentage of arrearage may perhaps be higher than it should be, but there were local causes accounting for this in the shape of the aftermath of hurricane in one case and drought in the others, but with minimum imposts of from 3*s*. 2*d*. to 4*s*. 4*d*. per holding of real property it is difficult to admit that the causes enumerated are sufficient to account for arrears so high as from 11·7 to 15·8 per cent. On this point the Collector-General reports as follows :—" The general sentiment of the bulk of the peasantry is opposed to direct taxation in any

form, a sentiment which it is feared is fostered by those higher up the social scale. Prior to 1903 the direct taxes were levied on rental values of houses, on cultivation, and on holdings according to area, but the small holder became so overweighted and arrears accumulated to such an extent, that legislative intervention was sought and arrears were forgiven and a new start made under more favourable auspices, but I am afraid that whatever the incidence and however small the rating, the repugnance to direct taxation will always constitute a handicap to efficient collection."

The Surveyor-General makes the following observations with regard to the sale of Crown Lands, &c., during the year :—

Sale of Land.

Three hundred and fourteen instalment purchasers, who bought 2,881 acres under the Rules for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers have completed payment of their instalments of purchase money and been issued titles for their lands. There were also 53 other purchasers who paid cash down for 193 acres. To date, of the total of about 33,029 acres that have been sold partly on credit since 1897, about 25,807 acres have been paid for in full, about 3,336 acres taken back for failure to pay, and about 3,489 acres still remain in possession of the purchasers to be paid for. On 3rd December, 1914, the Rules for the sale of Crown Lands to settlers, which had been partly suspended during the past few years, owing to the large amount of land that was out on credit, were issued afresh with some slight amendments, and since that date 70 applications to purchase 538 acres have been received, of which 35 applicants have been allotted 216 acres in satisfaction of their applications. More applications are still coming in and debt collecting and retaking of lands for failure to pay will, as in the past, continue to be undertaken. Twenty-three purchasers were issued refunds of £42 10*s*. 6*d*. for establishing one-fifth of their purchased area in bearing cultivation of permanent crops or making building improvements on town lots ; £34,440 has been received for sale of lands since 1897. The purchase money received during the year is £1,527 4*s*. 10*d*. Roads were made to Crown lands at Grant Bailey's and Clover Hill, St. Ann, and at Mount Donald, St. Thomas, at a cost of £218 4*s*. 2*d*.

Leases and Tenancies.

51¾ acres and 12 town lots have been leased to 14 persons for £203 18*s*. 0*d*. per annum, and 865 praedial tenancies have been made at rentals ranging from 12*s*. to 20*s*. per acre per annum. The total amount of rent received for the year is £3,182 15*s*. 5½*d*.

Forfeiture of Lands.

1,760¾ acres have been finally forfeited. No fresh notifications of forfeitable land have been issued owing to the considerable area on which forfeiture proceedings are pending, covering no less than 9,431¾ acres, on which the half way stage of interlocutory judgment has been reached on only 2,492 acres.

Generally.

No fresh squatters or escheat cases have been concluded ; two are still pending. Sundry prosecutions of trespassers, tenants, etc., had to be undertaken. Titles and surveys for several schools and teachers' cottages were completed.

AGRICULTURE.

A serious drought in the summer months, which particularly affected some of the best banana and sugar districts, caused a reduction in the major crops of the island that would otherwise have attained a very gratifying standard of production.

The exports of cacao for the year achieved a record both in quantity and value, while the recent increase in the price has encouraged planters to pay still more attention to this staple. The various plant nurseries distributed 145,000 cacao plants during the year, mainly to small settlers. By these agencies 340,000 cacao plants have been distributed to the peasantry during the past three years. The indications are that cacao will become of increasing commercial importance to Jamaica in the near future.

The export of coconuts also established a record coincident with the recovery of this industry from the severe blow administered by the hurricane of 1903. Large plantings have recently been made and this staple is rapidly assuming a position of importance in the resources of the Colony.

Sugar and rum have received some encouragement from recent happenings and the estates are looking forward to a profitable year. But for the drought the sugar industry would have benefited greatly from the rise in price of sugar due to the war. Progress is being made with the Cockpit irrigation works in Vere, which should serve to establish the sugar industry in this area on a sound basis in the near future.

The banana industry has had a prosperous year in 1914, but, owing to the summer drought and the collapse of the European market for bananas due to the war, there has recently been not only a reduced demand for the fruit, but also a lack both of quality and of quantity in the output of bananas from Jamaica.

The " Panama Disease " has given some cause for anxiety, owing to the difficulty in securing adequate measures of quarantine among the small owners whose fields were infected with the disease.

A stringent law was therefore passed and the staff of Inspectors has been increased so as to secure efficient control of this and other serious diseases of plants. The actual number of banana plants affected with Panama disease was small, but it appeared that the disease was being spread owing to the carelessness and disobedience of persons whose fields were attacked and that larger powers of control were necessary in order to stamp out the infection.

Only two cases of anthrax were dealt with during the year under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Law, and the general health of the livestock of the Colony has been good.

The Government Stock Farm at Hope seems now to be on a sound basis and closed the year with a surplus of £1,053 on the balance sheet, while the revenue earned was £1,778, as against the original estimate of £1,350.

Despite the loss of imported cattle to the value of £1,400, the live stock valuation shows a surplus of over £600 over the original expenditure.

Of the 55 bulls that have been distributed from the Farm to various breeders in the island, 21 were pedigree Red Polls, and 14 pedigree Jerseys from imported parents of the best breeding.

The experiments with guinea corn silage have shown that this valuable fodder can be produced at a cost of less than 6*s*. per ton, while the effects of a prolonged drought were successfully offset through the feeding of silage to the herd of cattle.

The educational work at the Farm School continues to progress, and despite war conditions there has been a full attendance of students at that institution.

A new station was established during the year on the Savanna, at Lititz, where trials are being made of drought-resistant crops suitable for this depressed district, where the rainfall is so scanty and irregular.

The staff of the Department of Agriculture has recently been strengthened by the addition of an entomologist.

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of ships reported in 1914 compared with the numbers reported in the year preceding were as follows :—

1914—1,434	vessels	with	tonnage	of 2,164,185	tons.
1913—1,401	,,	,,	,,	,, 2,548,296	,,

The corresponding figures in regard to vessels cleared were :—

1914—1,424	vessels	with	tonnage	of 2,142,663	tons.
1913—1,400	,,	,,	,,	,, 2,569,827	,,

Admiralty requirements due to the war and soaring charter rates, sufficiently account for decrease in tonnage and for the increase in the number of smaller craft employed.

The numbers of steam and sailing vessels reported are shown by the following figures :—

1914—1,261	steamers	with	tonnage	of 2,122,083	tons.
1913—1,201	,,	,,	,,	,, 2,498,859	,,
1914— 173	sailing vessels		,,	,, 42,102	,,
1913— 200	,,	,,	,,	,, 49,437	,,

The corresponding figures in regard to vessels cleared were :—

1914—1,253	steamers	with	tonnage	of	2,101,603 tons.
1913—1,207	,,	,,	,,	.	2,525,255
1914— 171	sailing vessels		,,	,,	41,060 ,,
1913— 193	,,	,,	,,	,,	44,572 ,,

The division of the island's carrying trade between British and foreign tonnage will be sufficiently indicated by the following summary of the vessels reporting in 1914 and in 1913 :—

	Vessels.	Tons	Vessels.	Tons.
British steam in 1914 ..	445	1,115,934		
British sailing in 1914 ..	127	11,733		
			572	1,127,667
Foreign steam in 1914 ..	816	1,006,149		
Foreign sailing in 1914..	46	30,369		
			862	1,036,518
British steam in 1913 ..	515	1,442,556		
British sailing in 1913 ..	145	15,943		
			660	1,458,499
Foreign steam in 1913 ..	686	1,056,303		
Foreign sailing in 1913..	55	33,494		
			741	1,089,797

The following further abstract taken from the Collector-General's separate report and designed to show the growth within the last forty years of shipping visiting the island is of much interest :—

	Ships Reported.		Ships Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1874 ..	808	381,777	829	384,601
1884 ..	845	475,752	849	469,529
1894 ..	1,131	774,014	1,136	790,326
1904 ..	1,135	1,220,209	1,135	1,220,533
1914 ..	1,434	2,164,185	1,424	2,142,663

In 1874 the average tonnage of a visiting ship was 468 tons; during the past year the average tonnage per ship was over 1,500 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-one Laws were passed during the year 1914, nearly all of which were assented to by me in the financial year under review and 23 during the ordinary session of the Legislative Council in 1915, which,

owing to the closing of the session at an earlier date than usual, were also assented to by me in the same financial year. Of these the most important were :—

Law 6 of 1914 to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Law, 1906.

Law 19 of 1914 providing for the compulsory treatment of persons suffering from yaws.

Law 22 of 1914 to make provision with respect to the laying out of building lots and the opening of new streets.

Law 24 of 1914 prohibiting the navigation of aircraft for certain purposes.

Law 25 of 1914 to further amend Law 28 of 1904 entitled a "Law to consolidate and amend the Resident Magistrates Laws."

Law 26 of 1914 to provide for the apportionment between general revenue and parochial funds of certain expenses incurred in connection with the care of lunatics.

Law 31 of 1914 for preventing overcrowding on ships bringing steerage passengers to Jamaica and for providing life-saving appliances on such ships.

Law 33 of 1914 consolidating the Laws relating to the protection of birds and fish.

Laws 34 and 35 of 1914 consolidating the Laws relating to secondary and elementary education respectively.

Law 36 of 1914 providing for Bank notes being made legal tender.

Law 37 of 1914 providing for the establishment of the Jamaica Volunteer Defence Force.

Law 38 of 1914 to prevent the publication and transmission of naval and military intelligence at times to be determined by the Governor.

Law 39 of 1914 to render the Jamaica Constabulary Force liable to military service in case of invasion.

(The last four Laws were passed at the special session of the Legislative Council called in August shortly after the outbreak of war).

Law 1 of 1915 empowering the Governor to fix maximum retail prices of foodstuffs, etc.

Law 3 of 1915 to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease.

Law 6 of 1915 to provide for the imposition of restrictions on aliens in time of war, etc.

Law 7 of 1915 to secure the obtaining of information during the present war as to stocks of articles of commerce and to take possession thereof.

Law 9 of 1915 giving powers for securing the public safety and defence of the island during the present war.

Law 13 of 1915 to provide for the protection of public stores.

Law 21 of 1915 to enable orders to be given for restricting the sale or consumption of intoxicating liquor during the war.

Law 22 of 1915 relating to trading with the enemy.

The usual financial measures and certain amending Laws were also passed.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Director of Education furnished the following statistics :—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st March.	Per-centage on Average Attend-ance of Number on Books.	Total Payments to Ele-mentary Schools and Teachers.
1914–15 ..	696	94,955	56,333	67·32	£67,440
1913–14 ..	697	96,757	55,411	61·66	£66,847

The annual examination of teachers and Training College students shows the following results :—

There were 127 Jamaica students presented, of whom 109 passed, 13 obtaining honours. Of the 17 students from British Guiana and the Leeward Islands all passed except four.

For the Pupil Teachers' examination 445 were presented and 225, or 51 per cent., passed; of volunteer candidates 2,349 were presented, and 810, or 34 per cent., passed.

The total amount expended on elementary education through the Department was £85,010, as compared with £83,937, and by the Public Works Department, in the building of Government Schools and schoolmasters' houses, £2,725, as compared with £10,407 in the previous year.

Notwithstanding the curtailment of expenditure consequent upon the war, it was found possible to provide better accommodation in certain places where it was needed, and to complete and equip three new Government Schools; seven sites for Government Schools were also acquired. The Director of Education remarks that gradually a healthier attitude of the question of school sanitation is being adopted. The scheme for the creation of Parish and District School Boards was practically completed and the success with which the work of these

Boards has been started is stated to be most encouraging. The Kingston Infant School was closed during the year. The immediate ground for this was the urgent need for economy which was disclosed on the consideration of the estimates for the current year. A party of 50 English teachers, members of the London Teachers' Association, visited Jamaica and spent a week in the island during the month of August.

The number of schools placed in the first class on the results of the annual examination is less by four, and those in the second class less by two than in the previous year; the number of third class schools has remained the same and the failures have increased from four to seven.

Industrial Schools.

The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was :—

Stony Hill	505
Shortwood	—
Alpha Cottage	208
Belmont	20
Happy Grove	10
Broughton	20
A total of ..	763

The Industrial School at Shortwood was closed on the 10th February, 1915, and the inmates, 15 girls and one boy, returned to the care of parents or others able and willing to take them. The question of closing this school had long been under consideration and was decided on after reports from the Director of Education that the Institution was not sufficiently serving the purpose for which it was established, and was costing a high rate of maintenance which fell heavily on the parishes.

Secondary Education.

The expenditure of the endowed schools during the year was as follows :—

	£
Jamaica College	3,272
Munro and Dickinson's	5,686
Wolmer's	3,191
Manning's	No report.
Rusea's	403
Titchfield	1,915
Beckford and Smith's	341
Manchester Schools	330
Vere Schools	1,327
Montego Bay School	888
Guthrie Davidson's	68
	£17,421

Exclusive of Manning's and Beckford and Smith's, the total number of pupils was 1,396, which include those receiving elementary education in the Titchfield Schools.

The Jamaica Scholarship for Boys for 1915 was won by a pupil from the Jamaica College, and that for girls by a pupil from Hampton (Munro and Dickenson). The £60 scholarship was awarded to a pupil from Potsdam.

192 boys and girls are reported to have passed the Cambridge examinations, 52 of whom did so with honours.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Indoor patients treated, 3,123; outdoor patients, including paupers, 9,007; dressings done for outpatients, 22,667; prescriptions made up, 17,652; total surgical operations, 1,289; dental cases, 1,966; daily average number of inmates, 207; total cost of maintenance, £10,869; receipts, £725 15*s.* 4*d.*

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in-Hospital.*

Number of patients admitted, 651; 8 pupil nurses admitted for training, seven of whom passed and received certificates; average daily number of patients, 16; receipts, £545 6*s.* 1*d.*; expenditure, £1,243 19*s.* 1*d.*

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

Number of patients on 31st March, 1915, 1,399, an increase of 58 since beginning of the year. Total number of patients under treatment during year, 1,670; daily average resident, 1,386; rate of recovery, 47·27 per cent; admissions, 329; discharges, 161; deaths, 110; death-rate, 7·87 per cent.

The proportion of insane is one to 631 population.

Cost of maintenance, £20,337; receipts, £9,827.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1914..		120
Admitted		21
		141
Discharged	5	
Absconded	8	
Died	10	
	—	23
On 31st March, 1915		118

The death-rate was 7 per cent.; cost of maintenance, £1,099 7*s.* 8*d.*; receipts nil.

The Medical Superintendent reports that the treatment by "Antileprol" has been continued in suitable cases during the year, and observes that when the drug is administered in cases which present themselves in the early stages of the disease, the results are excellent and most encouraging.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was decreased during the year by £33,886, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £26,987, and in Government accounts £6,899.

The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £85,212, a decrease of £21,435, and the withdrawals to £112,199, a decrease of £1,325, as compared with the previous year.

The balance-sheet on 31st March, 1915, shows a liability to depositors of £285,939.

The income and expenditure of the Savings Bank for the year may be summarised as below.

Income.

Interest on investments..	£10,061 10 10
Miscellaneous receipts	8 17 1
	£10,070 7 11

Expenditure.

Interest on deposits	£6,824 15 0½
Loss on realisation of investments	1,297 18 3
Balance carried to general revenue	1,947 14 7½
	£10,070 7 11

The number of pass books examined was 5,346.

(f) *Registration of Titles.*

Work was steadily carried on; the number of titles registered during the year was 882.

The Titles Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £6,281 8*s*. 3*d*.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Courts, Police, and Prisons.

The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 98, as compared with 85 in 1913–1914; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts, 8,234, as compared with 8,628; and of summary convictions 15,973, as compared with 14,832.

Convictions for praedial larceny were 2,009, as compared with 2,369 in the previous year.

Commenting on these latter figures the Attorney General remarks:

> "Efforts are being made to check this class of offence by encouraging the action of 'Authorized persons' under the provisions of Law 4 of 1909."

There were 3 convictions for murder in the course of the year and 3 for manslaughter, comparing with 7 and 3 respectively in the previous year.

The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 5,575, and to lock-ups for short terms 2,204, making a total of 7,779, as compared with 7,788 in the previous year, a decrease of 9.

The re-convictions during the year amounted to 2,470, of which 763 were second convictions, 538 third, and 1,169 fourth and upwards. During 1913–1914 the re-convictions numbered 1,918.

The daily average of prisoners in custody in the Penitentiary and Saint Catherine District Prison was 1,314, as compared with 1,456 during the previous year. There were 31 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 59 during 1913–1914. There were 3 executions of capital punishment. In the previous year there were 4.

Considering the institutions separately: 19 deaths occurred in the General Penitentiary, representing a rate of 24·39 per 1,000. At Saint Catherine District Prison 12 deaths occurred, representing a rate of 22·64 per 1,000, which is a very great improvement on the previous year, when it was 60·94 per 1,000. The state and discipline of the prisons have been satisfactory; four corporal punishments were inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 28 lads on 31st March. The inmates have a building and compound separate from those occupied by the regular prisoners in the District Prison.

During the year 1914–1915, 168 persons were under supervision as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. From these probationers 852 reports were received. Fourteen probationers were brought before the Court for subsequent offences, showing 8 per cent. of lapses.

The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £15,729, and for the Saint Catherine District Prison £7,452, total £23,181. The gross earnings in the case of the General Penitentiary

were £3,225, and of the Saint Catherine District Prison, £1,452. The yield of the Saint Catherine District Prison Farm was valued at £1,138. £611 of that amount is the value of articles grown and consumed by the prisoners, thereby reducing the cost of the prison by that amount.

Police.

The monthly average number of officers and men below the allowed strength during the year was 22. The number of days absent from duty on account of illness was 11,431, 1,641 more than 1913–1914, and 1,491 less than 1912–1913; 847 men were treated in hospitals, and 619 in barracks or in private quarters. The figures in 1913–14 were 626 and 641 respectively.

The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 36,823, those prosecuted 31,069, and convictions were obtained in 21,394 cases, as compared with 37,710, 31,430, and 19,672, respectively; in the previous year 131 were under remand for trial. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of population was 442·91 against 453·59, 424·25, and 408·92 for the three previous years.

There were 33 habitual criminals under police supervision, and 2,461 under police surveillance during the year.

The sub-officers and men travelled 632,876 miles in the execution of their duty, as compared with 651,774 miles in the previous year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1915, was 883,158. This figure is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated population on 31st March, 1914			864,864
Births registered, 1914–15	34,208		
Deaths registered, 1914–15	18,802		
	—		15,406
			880,270
Migration :—			
Arrivals—general	15,218		
Arrivals—East Indians	Nil		
		15,218	
Departures—general..	12,280		
Departures—East Indians	50		
		12,330	
			2,888
			883,158

Of the general arrivals and departures 9,978 and 6,643, respectively, were labourers, and show a net emigration of 3,335 persons of this class. The remainders, 5,240 arrivals and 5,687 departures, represent a net emigration of 447 persons, of whom 50 were East Indians.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries :—

	Departures.	Returned.	Excess. Departures.	Excess. Returns.
Central America	5,788	8,910	—	3,122
Cuba..	749	639	110	—
Hayti	61	84	—	23
Other Countries (American and West Indian) ..	45	345	—	300
Total	6,643	9,978	110	3,445

The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th September, 1914, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census, was 878,003. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths have been calculated.

The following is the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year :—

		Rate per 1,000.	
		1914–5.	1913–14.
Marriages	2,721	3·0	3·1
Births	34,208	38·9	35·3
Deaths	18,802	21·4	21·7

Of the births, 22,861, or 66.8 per 100 were illegitimate. This is the highest island rate recorded since the compulsory registration of births commenced in 1878. The rate was 64·5 in 1913–1914.

The general death-rate decreased by ·3 per 1,000, but the proportion, due to deaths of infants under 5 years of age, shows an increase of 3·8 per cent. Of the total mortality the deaths of infants were :—

Under one year	5,722	or 30·4	per cent.
One year ..	1,584	or 8·4	per cent.
Two years ..	569	or 3·0	per cent.
Three years ..	370	or 2·0	per cent.
Four years ..	257	or 1·4	per cent.
	8,502	or 45·2	per cent.
1913–1914 ..	7,765	or 41·4	per cent.

Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 34,208 infants were born, and 7,306 died at one year of age or under, equal to 21·3 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 24·8.

There was great variation in both the birth and death-rates in different parts of the island. In the case of the former the lowest were in St. Andrew, 54·9; St. Ann, 60·5; and Manchester, 62·4, while the highest were in St. Thomas, 72·1 and Hanover, 71·7. The death-rate in the parishes of St. Andrew, 26·3; St. Thomas, 24·5; Portland, 23·8; St. Mary, 22·7; Trelawny, 22·8; and St. Catherine, 22·8, were higher than in 1913–14; in Kingston, 26·8; St. Ann, 17·1; St. James, 21·9; Hanover, 22·2; Westmoreland, 20·3; St. Elizabeth, 17·4; and Manchester, 15·9, they were lower and in Clarendon there was no change.

Uncertified cases of death were 71·6 per cent., compared with 70·0 in 1913–1914 and 75·1 in 1910–1911 for the whole Island. The figures for Kingston were 14·1 in 1914–1915 and 15·7 in 1913–1914.

The principal causes of death in Kingston were as follows :—

Causes.	1913–14.		1914–15.	
	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 100 of Total Deaths.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	290	16·7	241	14·9
Phthisis	163	9·4	146	9·0
Heart Disease	110	6·3	103	6·3
Enteric Fever	73	4·2	67	4·1
Atrophy, Icterus, and Scleroma of new born (under 1 year).. ..	185	10·6	169	10·4
Atrophy, Icterus, and Inanition (1 year and upwards)	45	2·5	31	1·9
Chronic Bright's Disease	74	4·2	72	4·4
Bronchitis	59	3·4	45	2·7
Dysentery	47	2·7	49	3·0
Pneumonia	41	2·3	59	3·6
Pellagra	20	1·1	21	1·2

Deaths from malaria in Kingston numbered 22, the same as in 1913–1914, and from fever (not otherwise defined) 5 against 21.

Public Health.

The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £77,183, as against £75,292 in 1913–1914.

The expenditure of this department in the course of the last seven years is as follows :—

1908–9	£56,404
1909–10	£58,317
1910–11	£64,986
1911–12	£68,626
1912–13	£74,621
1913–14	£75,292
1914–15	£77,183

This does not include the cost of building, which was £1,816 in the past year, bringing up the total to £78,999, or nearly 8 per cent. of the revenue collected.

By special request of the officer in charge of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Dr. Scott, the Government Bacteriologist, was given permission to attach himself for duty at camp in order to assist in the medical work there, due to shortage of medical officers caused by the war.

With a view to obtaining a better educated and generally higher class of dispensary student than has in some instances been entering the dispenser's profession in recent years, it was decided to make the preliminary examination to be passed by such students somewhat more severe than in the past.

During the year there was established a travelling dispensary with a hospital tent to accommodate 12 patients, with a view specially to the treatment of yaws and also for the purpose of affording medical relief to that class of persons in the country districts, who, though not paupers, are yet too poor to afford the lowest fee for attendance by a District Medical Officer under the Ticket System. 2,322 cases of yaws were treated with salvarsan in the several Public General Hospitals and Medical Districts during the year.

The new hospital buildings at Port Maria were completed during the year and the old premises vacated. The new buildings are a great improvement on the old premises, which was formerly a rum store, providing accommodation for 120 ordinary patients and many more in case of emergency, and having an infective diseases block.

A Cottage Hospital, providing accommodation for six patients, was opened at Ulster Spring in the upper part of the parish of Trelawny, thus supplying a long felt want in this district.

Towards the end of the year, Dr. H. H. Howard, Inspecting Medical Officer of the Rockefeller International Health Commission, visited Jamaica in order to make investigations of the incidence of Hookworm disease and infection in Jamaica. In company with the medical officers of the districts he visited various insanitary spots and several estates employing coolie labour.

He subsequently submitted a report of his investigations and made recommendations with a view to the eradication of the disease; unfortunately, on account of the financial position, it has not been found possible to act, for the present, on his suggestions, but it is hoped that some permanent benefit to the Island will result from Dr. Howard's visit.

The treatment by thymol has been continued during the year, 8,408 cases having been treated at the various country hospitals. In addition, 227 East Indian immigrants were thymolised on the estates.

The Surgeon of the General Penitentiary reports that out of 376 newly admitted prisoners who were tested, 235, or about 61 per cent., were found to be infected.

The Surgeon reports that most encouraging results are being obtained from the use of a strong infusion of quassia (bitterwood) and that these compare so favourably with those obtained from thymol that, for reasons of safety, the use of the latter drug had been entirely discontinued.

The reports of the District Medical Officers on the sanitary conditions of the estates employing East Indian labour show that while they may be regarded as being, in the main, satisfactory, there is much room for improvement, especially with regard to the provision of proper latrine accommodation. This is a matter which has been given much consideration from time to time, and steps have recently been taken to obtain particulars of a type of latrine which will be acceptable to the East Indians.

Quinine appears to be regularly administered on most of the estates.

Vomiting Sickness.

This disease is reported as having been very rife this year, the number of deaths being 196, 106, or 54 per cent., of which were medically certified. In the previous year 133 deaths occurred, 51·1 per cent. of which were certified. The largest numbers of deaths were in St. James, 42; Clarendon, 41; Trelawny, 32.

The outbreak in St. James was exceptionally severe in the Montego Bay District, so much so that the Government Bacteriologist was sent down to make investigations.

The investigations were commenced towards the end of the financial year under review, and were continued in the current year, and the results would seem to uphold the suggestion which had previously been advanced by Dr. Scott, that certain symptoms of the disease indicated the action of a poison.

In the first report submitted by Dr. Scott, he stated that after making enquiries into 32 cases, there was sufficient evidence to make out a strong case against the "ackee," which is largely used as an article of food by the class of persons who are generally attacked by this so-called "vomiting sickness," but that the chain of evidence could not be regarded as complete without confirmation by means of animal experiment.

People generally in the Island have always regarded ackees as poisonous under certain conditions. The condition to which most suspicion is attached is where ackees have not opened naturally but have been forced open after falling from the tree unopened.

Dr. Scott obtained specimens of these suspicious ackees and treated them in the same way as in the cases in St. James, using the water in which they had been boiled for experimental administration to animals. Three kittens and a dog were experimented upon and in each case post-mortems were performed, the results being very similar to those seen in cases of human "vomiting sickness."

The soup or pot-water given to these animals is that which is usually given to children, amongst whom the number of cases of so-called vomiting sickness is greatly preponderant.

Dr. Scott also shows that the disease corresponds exactly with the main ackee season; that the ackee does not grow, at all events to any extent, in any other of the West Indian Islands, thus explaining the limitation of the disease to Jamaica; that the symptoms are those of an acute intoxication; and that the symptoms were most acute in the cases of the younger children of a family who receive the pot-water. Dr. Scott also shows that the disease has no preference for sex, and explains that its attacking West Indian natives in greater numbers than the East Indian or white population, is due to the East Indian rarely eating ackee and being much more careful of his children, while the white are more particular in the selection of the fruit used.

The symptoms, post-mortem appearances, and histological findings in the animals experimented on, Dr. Scott reports, are the same as in cases of human vomiting sickness and his opinion is that the condition is an acute intoxication by a hot aqueous extract of unopened or unwholesome ackees. It should be mentioned that the experiments on animals were made after the close of the year under review and the matter will be further referred to in the Report on 1915–16.

Malaria.

It was not found possible to continue the special vote of £2,000 for the abatement of malaria.

The number of cases admitted to the various hospitals, other than in Kingston, for malaria was 6,975.

The District Medical Officer for Kingston reports that malaria seems to be disappearing from Kingston; a similar comment is made by the District Medical Officer of the Four Paths District of Clarendon in respect of that district. In some of the other districts of the Island there were outbreaks of more or less severity.

General.

The water supplies of the several towns and villages are on the whole satisfactory. A good and ample pipe supply was installed in Chapelton during the year.

Sanitation generally is reported as having improved since the passing of the Health Law, No. 35, of 1910, more interest and action having been taken by the several local Boards of Health.

The arrangements made for the treatment of out-patients at hospitals in 1910–11 resulted in a further increase in the numbers treated. During 1914–15 the numbers were :—

At Kingston Hospital	9,007
At public general hospitals	16,561
In districts	49,071
Under the ticket system of reduced payment ..	925
	75,564

The total number of cases treated in public general hospitals during the year under review was 26,875. There were 610 deaths in hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,123, the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 651, the Lunatic Asylum, 1,670, the Lepers' Home, 141, the total number of patients treated in Government hospitals and asylums was 32,460.

The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the public general hospitals were as follows :—

Diseases.	1913–14.		1914–15.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths
Malarial Fever—				
Intermittent	5,885	29	6,710	40
Remittent	217	23	183	18
Pernicious	9	2	14	4
Skin Diseases	6,408	5	4,533	8
Diseases of the Digestive System..	1,610	91	1,395	88
Local Injuries	2,089	30	1,701	17
Rheumatism	1,081	—	896	1
Diseases of the Respiratory System	940	45	682	54
Disease of the Circulatory System	198	38	174	40
Diseases of the Cellular Tissue ..	722	7	798	10
Ankylostomiasis (Hook-worm) ..	1,815	17	1,595	17
Gonorrhœa	459	—	513	1
Syphilis	761	15	630	16
Diseases of the Eye	402	—	309	—
Blackwater Fever	8	1	2	1
Enteric Fever—Typhoid	304	88	226	58
Paratyphoid ..	85	9	19	5
Yaws	569	1	696	—

Besides the investigation of vomiting sickness previously referred to, the Government Bacteriologist and his Assistant conducted examinations of specimens for correct diagnoses of diseases, of rats for plague infection, the results of which were uniformly negative, and for testing the purity of water supplies. Special research work was carried out in regard to typhoid bacillus carriers and contagious abortion of cattle amongst the cattle at the Government Stock Farm. With the help of the new Assistant Bacteriologist the total number of specimens examined during the year was 12,930; in the previous year it was 6,697.

608 passengers were confined at the Quarantine Station during the year; 47 vessels were fumigated; 2,068 packages of passengers' baggage were disinfected, and 68 bags of mails.

During the year arrangements were made with the British Consular officers in the Central American and certain of the South American Republics for the immediate notification by telegram of cases of infective disease and in the case of plague of suspected cases also, and it is hoped that this arrangement will tend to keep the Island free from plague or serious infective diseases.

Qualified medical men were appointed as Port Health Officers at Port Antonio and Montego Bay during the year, but the arrangement was discontinued at the end of the year on account of the necessity for retrenchment, and it being thought that no risk would be run by reverting to the former system of Visiting Officers at those ports, the quarantine arrangements for dealing with vessels being now so strict.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1914-1915 with those of the two previous years:—

	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
Postage	£40,992 13 4	£42,213 8 1	£38,790 1 8
Commission on Money Orders	364 3 10	315 0 6	684 15 11
Local commission on British Postal Orders..	753 19 4	787 2 0	943 3 1
Commission on Local Postal Orders	402 14 2	——	——
Miscellaneous	583 3 9	750 16 10	1,068 17 9
Telegraph	8,125 4 10	7,811 9 8	8,255 4 11
	£51,221 9 3	£51,877 17 1	£49,742 3 4

These statistics show a decrease of £2,135 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £52,651, as against £50,710 in 1913-1914.

The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1894–1895.	27,962	33,904
1904–1905.	33,447	31,725
1914–1915.	49.742	52,651

As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were :—

	At General Post Office.		
	1912–13.	1913–14.	1914–15.
Outwards	4,493,416	4,895,811	4,105,119
Inwards	5,499,762	6,170,649	5,162,326
Total	9,993,178	11,066,460	9,267,445
	At District Post Offices.		
Total	1,486,638	3,144,523	2,007,910
Grand Total	11,479,816	14,210,983	11,275,355
Telegrams sent and received	223,635	226,497	228,172

There is an increase ot 1,675 in the number of telegrams sent during the year, and of £443 15*s*. 3*d*. in telegraph revenue.

One new District Post Office was opened during the year; the total number in existence was 199.

During the year it became necessary to increase the rates of commission on Money Orders on the United Kingdom, United States of America, and Canada, on account of the rise in bank rates as a result of the war.

5,778 money orders, for £54,012 1*s*. 6*d*. were issued in Jamaica, and 26,559 orders for £65,285 10*s*. 4*d*., the issues of other countries,

were paid here. The principal item is £58,851 13*s*. 11*d*. paid on behalf of the United States, chiefly on account of remittances from the Canal Zone.

British Postal Orders were issued of the face value of £74,33 13*s*. 6*d*.; the amount actually sold was £74,991 16*s*. 6*d*., and Orders for £45,192 were cashed in the Colony.

47,469 parcels, of the declared value of £56,860 0*s*. 1*d*. were imported by parcel post, and 11,997 of the value of £11,164 3*s*. 5*d*. despatched.

IX.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

The total receipts were £179,381, against £176,677 in 1913–14, the expenditure, exclusive of debt charges, £107,265, against £112,529 in 1913–14, making the net earnings £72,116, against £64,148. The receipts exceeded those of 1913–1914 by £2,704. There was a decrease of expenditure ot £5,264 as compared with the previous year. These figures do not include an expenditure of £6,284 on Railway Pier No. 3. After paying debt charges on the capital expenditure, which amounts to £2,666,725, the net loss to the Public Treasury on the working of the railway system amounted to £45,972 for the year. The loss for the thirteen years to 1913–14 had been £803,711, bringing up the total since the line was taken over by the Government to £849,683.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £160,823, summarised as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and other Departmental Charges ..	19,330	2	2
Main Roads and Bridges, Maintenance ..	86,860	13	8
New Works	11,769	5	11
Public Buildings, Maintenance	7,266	19	4
Public Buildings, New Works	4,694	4	3
Lighthouses	1,529	16	8
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	2,636	6	9
Spanish Town Water Works	755	2	1
Government Schools	2,725	9	0
Telegraph and Telephones	2,804	12	8
	£140,372	12	6
Adding the work done for other Departments and Parochial Boards and paid for from other votes, and for Relief Works	20,450	12	3
	£160,823	4	9

This amount is £13,801 15*s*. 2*d*. less than the expenditure of the previous year, and the smallest since 1907–1908.

The total length of main roads at the end of the year was 2,213 miles, 5½ chains.

The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £33 17*s*. 0*d*. and, including special works of improvement, £38 9*s*. 9*d*., of which £2 4*s*. 7*d*. per mile was due to flood damage.

The average cost per mile in Kingston was £80 2*s*. 3*d*., and in Manchester £21 9*s*. 6*d*., being the highest and lowest respectively.

Owing to the necessity for economy as a result of the war, expenditure was deferred on every work which could be postponed without positive risk or loss to the Government.

The average rainfall for the whole financial year was over 62 inches, or about 81 per cent. of the general average. The expenditure on flood damage was therefore small.

The road surfaces generally were maintained in good condition. The system of rolling the roads appears to increase the life of the material 50 per cent. and over.

No specially important new works were executed. The new Hospital at Port Maria and the Cottage Hospital at Ulster Spring were completed.

All light-houses were maintained in good repair and the services efficiently rendered.

Certain works for the Imperial Government were undertaken during the year. These works involved the haulage of 2,500 tons of machinery, buildings, and building material, over many miles of hilly road to a site some 3,500 feet above sea level.

During the year the Railway and Public Works Stores were separated. This has made it possible to provide for the better care of the "plant" used by the Public Works Department, besides being the means of finding use for certain forgotten articles.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The abnormal conditions consequent upon the European war have very seriously affected the Colony. Shortage of shipping facilities has been the foremost factor in this connection, affecting both the export of produce and the import trade.

In spite of these circumstances the revised estimate of revenue has been more than realised.

The one industry in the Colony which the war has materially benefited is the sugar industry, which has reaped the advantage due to the diminished output of beet sugar.

The demand for cocoa has been of benefit to growers of this product in enhancing prices.

Dyewoods also have, to a limited extent, profited by the increased demand.

The drought in the early part of 1914 resulted in a serious diminution both in the quality and the quantity of the fruit produced in the banana industry. Seasonable weather in the latter part of the year 1914 and early in 1915, gives promise of a much improved condition of affairs in this respect.

I am of opinion, provided no set-back is experienced during the forthcoming year, now that the circumstances inevitable to the conditions arising from the war have been realised and dealt with, there is no need for serious anxiety as to the prospects for the future, except as to the provision of adequate shipping facilities for the Island produce.*

Upon the outbreak of war the small settlers were urged to plant increased quantities of foodstuffs in view of the expected rise in the cost of imported foods and due to this precaution, and helped by good rains, there has been an ample supply of provisions, counteracting to some considerable extent the diminution of purchasing power brought about by the effects of the war.

The steps taken upon the outbreak of the war and later by legislation, to prevent an unwarrantable increase in the price of imported food has kept prices within reasonable limits, and has satisfactorily achieved its purpose.

The tourist traffic to the Island suffered seriously and the falling off in the number of tourists was very marked.

The expressions of loyalty to the Empire and to the Mother Country, and the patriotism of all classes since the outbreak of the war, demonstrate the close ties of affection which bind this Colony to the Empire and to the Mother Country, and practical proof of this sentiment may be found in the generous contributions from all sections of the people of Jamaica to the funds for the war, and to their gifts of fruit and presents to the soldiers at the front and to sailors of the Grand Fleet. About £20,000 has been collected, in the majority of cases in small sums, and has been, or is being, transmitted to the various war funds. In addition to this the Colony has voted £50,000 to purchase sugar as a gift to the Mother Country.

---

* Since the above was written the hurricane of the night of 12–13 August has occurred.

The Colony has likewise raised and maintained a defence force of mounted troops and infantry, which has reached a very creditable standard of efficiency, and which is a valuable addition to the regular forces of the Island.

Considerable numbers of young men also have proceeded to the United Kingdom with the object of joining the army, and many have obtained commissions in the new armies.

I have &c.,

W. H. MANNING,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	1914
859	Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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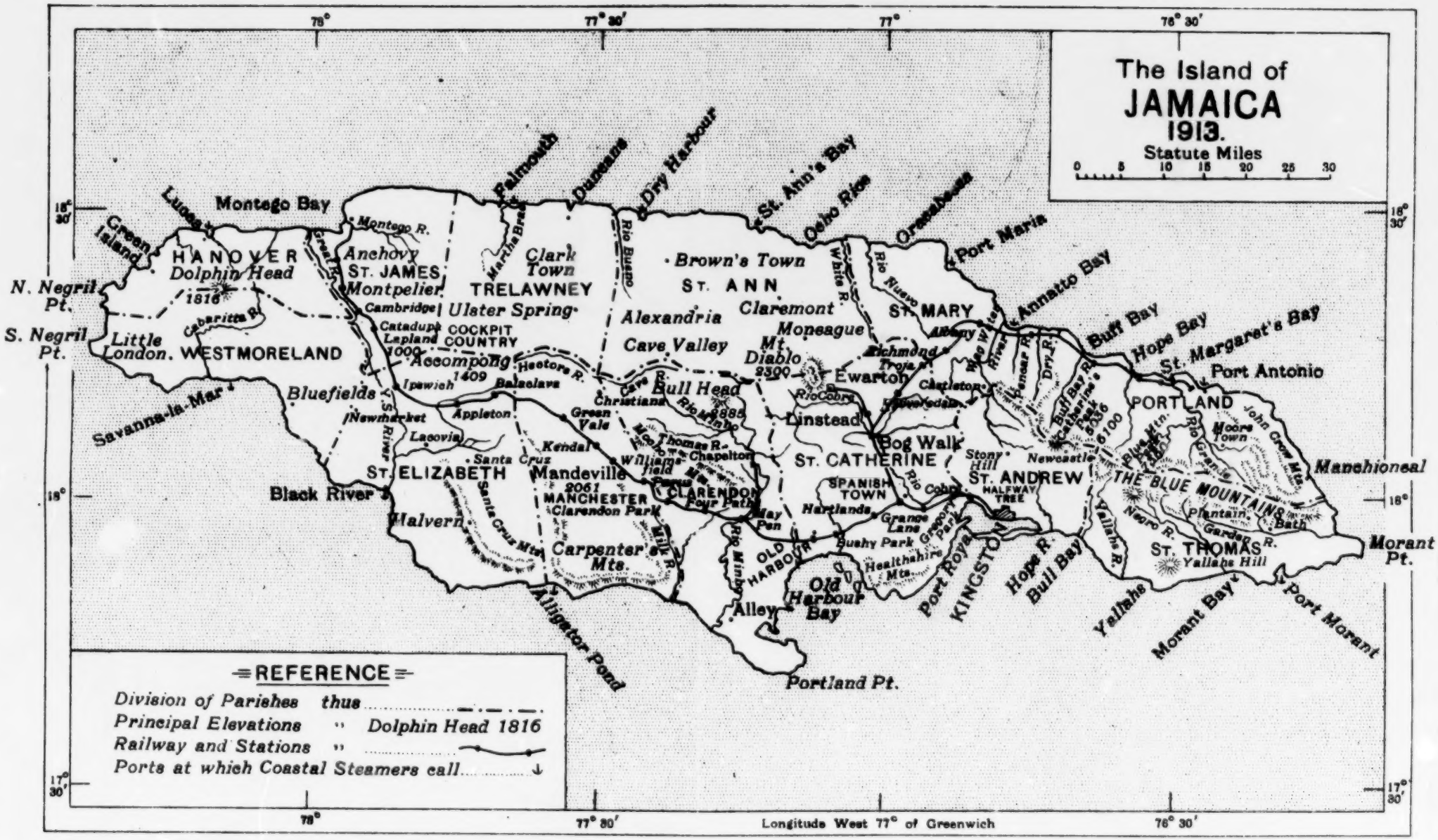

C.O. No 4.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 879.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 839.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

April, 1916.

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No. 879.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

(For Report for 1913-14 see No. 839.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
12th February, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Cayman Islands for the year 1914–15, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C252) Wt.45316/1003. 1000 & 90. 4.16. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

FINANCE.

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1915, amounted to a sum total of £3,343, and the expenditure to £3,038. The average revenue for the last five years is £3,671.

When regard is had to the present depressing effect on the trade of all countries in consequence of the War, with the natural and inevitable concomitants of uncertainty and anxiety, it cannot be said that the revenue has suffered to any very appreciable extent during the past year, though signs are apparent that these islands will not for long be permitted to enjoy such a favoured position.

Unlike the inhabitants of Grand Cayman who fish exclusively for the green turtle, those of the Lesser Islands confine their operations to the "Hawk's bill" turtle, from which tortoise shell is derived. There is at present more than £1,000 worth of shell on the London market which cannot be disposed of, Continental nations being the principal purchasers, while the market price has dropped considerably. The merchants and storekeepers refused to give credit, hence it was that those who possessed savings were forced to draw on their slender reserves of money, while others were compelled to live a hand-to-mouth existence. The price of coconuts too, on which commodity so many depend for a means of subsistence, has been comparatively low. Such were the conditions obtaining up to the month of August 1915.

On Friday, the 13th August, a hurricane of unprecedented severity devastated the island of Cayman Brac within the period of one hour, rendering the inhabitants homeless and in many cases destitute. Fortunately the death of one child only was reported. Of two hundred and sixty-one houses only one remained intact, while 75 per cent. were totally destroyed; 98 per cent. of the coconut trees at Cayman Brac have been blown down; at little Cayman 40 per cent. have met with a similar fate. All provision grounds were destroyed. Of Government property, in addition to the new Government Building completed two weeks before the storm which was unroofed and forced from its foundation, the old Court House, school house, lighthouse, and boat house, have been completely swept away. The actual damage sustained in respect of house property amounts approximately to between £7,000 and £8,000, and to coconut trees, £20,000, taking the average annual yield of a tree at one pound.

The road which runs by the seashore throughout the island has been for the most part obliterated and will require no inconsiderable sum to restore.

Many of the people who have habitually constituted Mother-earth their banker and deposited their savings within her apparently secure vaults, were unable to trace the hidden places in consequence of the effects of the hurricane.

The Government Medical Officer of Grand Cayman at once proceeded to the island with a supply of drugs. A supply of foodstuffs was as soon as possible forwarded to the sorely stricken inhabitants from Jamaica and clothes from Grand Cayman. This was supplemented a few weeks after by generous gifts of food from the merchants of Montego Bay, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the United Fruit Company, and by food, clothes, and subscriptions made in response to an appeal through the medium of the "Register" and "Daily Item" newspapers of Mobile, United States of America, in which town a considerable number of Caymanians reside.

A Relief Committee was duly appointed to distribute the food and clothing, and steps were taken by means of leglislation for the granting of loans at a small rate of interest to those requiring the same in order to enable the inhabitants to rebuild their shattered houses.

Grand Cayman was not for long allowed to enjoy immunity from Nature's visitations. At 7 p.m. on Saturday evening, the 25th of September, strong winds sprang up which blew uninterruptedly with spasmodic gusts of great and increasing intensity until 6 p.m. on the following Monday morning.

The sea swept to a distance inland never experienced within the memory of the oldest living inhabitants, since the year 1846, completely destroying all ground provisions and much pasture land, and damaging the public roads to the extent of £250. Fortunately no appreciable loss was sustained in respect of house property.

Export Duty.—There is an export of 1*s.* per 1,000 on coconuts.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1915, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £4,878.

The liabilities were £418 due to depositors in the Government Savings Bank and £53 due to depositors in Treasury; Money Order Account £1,697, making £2,168 in all.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the imports from all countries in 1914–15 has been £17,345.

The average for five years is £26,004,

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports to all countries amounted in 1914–15 to only £1,810.

The average for five years is £8,625.

The trade of these islands during the year under review cannot be said to have been affected by the war to the extent anticipated. A turtle-canning factory was erected in Georgetown and canning operations began in July. Five hundred turtle were canned in twenty-two days. This represents nine hundred and sixty cases, each case containing two dozen tins.

The calipee and skin of the turtle are put up separately from the meat itself. These are placed in cans of varying sizes, namely, 2 lbs. and 3 lbs., and in future 1 lb. tins will be added.

The prices paid under contracts of five years' duration are as follows:—51*s.* for grown females from 120 lbs. upwards, and 32*s.* 6*d.* for males of 120 lbs. upwards, These prices are somewhat in excess of those previously obtaining. Estimating the amount of turtle caught in the course of a year at two thousand head, this would yield approximately four thousand cases of twenty-four tins each.

There are at present forty people employed in the factory, with every prospect of an increase in this number as time goes on.

There was every reason to believe that the establishment of the factory would in a great measure have contributed towards the unimpaired maintenance of the economic life of the people inasmuch as the whole output was consigned to the United States of America with every prospect of a ready and reliable market; but, unfortunately, whether due to the war or other causes, the sales have been so slow—only a very few cases having been disposed of—that the promoters decided to suspend operations for the present until their efforts to place the consignment were rewarded with greater success. There does not, however, appear to be any reason at present to justify a verdict of failure. Foreign buyers, on whose support the people of Grand Cayman have hitherto depended have, as a result of the war, considerably curtailed their purchases.

Efforts will also be made to stimulate an interest in the cultivation of sponges. When regard is had to the success of this industry from small beginnings in other parts of the Empire, there does not appear to be any reason why equal success should not attend the establishment of it in the Cayman Islands, The only difficulty would seem to be the expert knowledge that would perhaps be required to initiate the people in the proper method of growing and curing. The growing of sponge would be a blessing to the people of the Lesser Islands now that the Hawk's bill turtle trade is at a standstill and the coconut industry crippled.

Unfortunately, the Williams Shipping Agency, of New York, with whom negotiations were entered into some time ago with a view to the establishment of direct steamship communication between

America, Jamaica, and Grand Cayman, have been forced to relinquish all idea of such an undertaking owing to the difficulty experienced in chartering vessels as a result of the war.

SHIPPING.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry, having vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 307. The number of ships entered and cleared during the year 1914–15 is as follows:—

Entered	159
Cleared	169

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has proved of great use to those desirous of availing themselves of the opportunity offered for safe investment. The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1915, were:—

Deposits, £57. Withdrawals, £204.

The balances to the credit of depositors at the end of the year amounted to £418 7*s.* 8*d.*

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment amply proved its usefulness and has contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency. For the last six years it has been the mainstay of these islands and has been responsible for nearly one half of the total revenue. In 1914–15 the Post Office revenue amounted to £1,355; the total revenue being £3,343.

The sale of postage stamps to collectors forms a very appreciable item in its revenue. The inland postal service shows a steady and favourable increase in the amount of business transacted, while the large receipts in respect of the foreign mail are due to the number of Caymanians who have been compelled to seek a livelihood in the Canal Zone, Cuba, Central American Republics, and the United States.

POST OFFICE ORDERS.

All money order business is transacted through Jamaica, the issue of orders in the Cayman Islands being at present confined to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely, in June and December. The Commissioner presides as Judge. The court has an unlimited civil and criminal jurisdiction except in cases of capital felony—Jamaica Law 11 of 1911. Quarterly Petty Courts and Weekly Petty Sessions are held, in which two Justices sit. The former deal with smaller civil actions, and the latter take cognizance of minor offences. Cases of serious crime are few and isolated, while the minor offences are generally the result of drink. In all cases in the Grand Court there is a right of appeal to the Jamaica Supreme Court and in the Petty Court to the Grand Court.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly is styled "The Justices and Vestry," and is composed of all the Justices of the Peace (13 in number) and 27 Vestrymen. The Vestry meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year, beginning on the 1st October, and otherwise when summoned for the despatch of business.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review £740 has been expended on public works, which includes the upkeep and improvement of Government property and the maintenance and construction of roads. Owing to the urgent necessity of effecting repairs to the main road from Georgetown to Boddentown, a distance of twelve miles, no road construction was undertaken, the sum of £547 being devoted exclusively to repair and maintenance on an extensive scale. The road is, for the greater portion of its length, constructed of soft marl, and its condition by reason of the ordinary wear and tear of traffic and continual rains was far from satisfactory before these repairs were executed. Efforts will be made during the coming year to connect Georgetown and West Bay by a driving road. The latter town is fast becoming a busy and prosperous centre of trade, and the necessity of opening up this portion of Grand Cayman is urgent.

A sea wall was built in Georgetown and a large part of the ground in front of the Court House has been filled in, thus removing one of the most dangerous spots for vehicular traffic in the island. The Government pier at Northsound has also been put in a thorough state of repair.

In consequence of the damage done to the roads in various portions of Grand Cayman by the high seas, a result of the hurricane, an expenditure of about £250 has been necessary. The road for one mile and a half through Spotts having been completely obliterated and the sea wall demolished, this portion of road alone has cost £180 to restore.

A new and commodious two-storey building has been erected at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac, consisting of the Post and Customs offices on the ground floor and Court House above. Unfortunately, the building, completed two weeks before the hurricane, was forced from its foundation, unroofed, and damaged in other parts by the storm.

AGRICULTURE.

A branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was established in Georgetown in 1908, but does not appear to be progressing as satisfactorily as such a movement deserves. There is always a lamentable scarcity of ground provisions, though Georgetown affords a ready market for their sale. £18 a year is voted for agricultural purposes and for the granting of prizes at the annual Agricultural Show by way of encouragement. During the past year no meetings have been held. The attendance at meetings in the past has been most unsatisfactory, and it would seem that the members have lost interest in the subject.

The provision grounds throughout the Cayman Islands were, with very few exceptions, totally destroyed by the hurricanes and high seas. The larger portion of the land in Grand Cayman is devoted to the growing of guinea grass and the rearing of cattle and horses. There are in Grand Cayman about 2,000 head of cattle and about 250 horses.

POPULATION.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black. 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denomination the people are mainly Presbyterian, 3,364 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the Lesser Islands, and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God." During 1915 there were 171 births, 81 males and 90 females. Of these 143 were legitimate and 28 illegitimate. In the same period there were 44 deaths, 26 males and 18 females.

EDUCATION.

The state of education in the Dependency is far from satisfactory, especially in the country districts. £250 a year is devoted to education. The conditions obtaining at the present time do not offer any attractions to good and reliable teachers. The latter in all "registered" schools receive a capitation grant from the Government of 5*s*. a year for every pupil on his books, and a fee of 3*d*. up to the third standard, and 6*d*. from the fourth standard upwards in the case of destitute children. All parents and guardians pay a similar fee of 3*d*. and 6*d*. for the education of their children. While the Government grant is of great assistance to the teachers, they are largely dependent on the collection of fees from private individuals, who cannot always be relied upon to pay, and in a large number of cases offer payment in kind instead of cash. The result is that teachers, whether fit or unfit, must be tolerated or the schools must close, as in the case of Gun Bay, and East End, where children are growing up in ignorance. All children between the ages of six and fourteen years residing within two miles of a school are required to attend 75 per cent. of the sessions of the school every term. A Government school has been established at Northside during the past year. Owing to the increased price of foodstuffs and the probable effect on the revenue of the Islands in consequence of the war and the hurricanes, it has not been considered advisable to bring forward the contemplated Bill in respect of increasing the present *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. by 2½ per cent. to provide for free and compulsory education. The probability of this measure being adopted within the near future appears very remote.

HOSPITAL.

There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases but it is not generally used. Government Medical Officers are appointed for the Lesser Islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

There are no prisons in the Dependency. Prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent to Jamaica. There is very little crime, and offences are generally of a trivial nature, in most cases the result of excessive drinking.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an Inspector, five policemen, and one district constable, the services of the police in the country districts being utilized in the carriage of inland mails.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The death rate for the year was 8 per 1,000.

The following is the Government Medical Officer's Annual Report on the Cayman Islands:—

"I propose to deal with Grand Cayman as a whole there being nothing peculiar to any one district as regards temperature, situation, or vegetation.

"*Diseases of the Digestive System.*

"1. Acute Tonsilitis has been frequent, especially during the past three months. This, I should like to impress upon the inhabitants is a simple ailment, occasionally with serious and ever fatal complications, hence the necessity of immediate and careful treatment.

"2. Indigestion and Dyspepsia:—This is widespread and attacks all ages, even those of tender years. It is due to the excessive consumption of a carbohydrate or starchy diet in the form of the cassava and sweet potato. It being impossible to eliminate these from the every day dietary, I have advised the people to boil their cassava longer, also to eat it younger, and to use the sweet potato boiled instead of roasted.

"3. Dysentery:—During the months of June and July, 13 cases were brought to my notice, but I am glad to say there were no deaths, all being of the ordinary catarrhal type. Here I have advised the boiling of drinking water, this being the source of infection.

"4. Typhoid Fever:—Eight cases have occurred during the year, five in Boddentown, three in Georgetown. All were of a mild type with the exception of one case in Boddentown which proved fatal. Three of the Boddentown cases I traced to a common water supply. When one appreciates the number of ways typhoid fever may spread and be contracted, it is often a difficult matter to trace the source. It will be as well for me to offer a few words of advice here, at the same time stating some of the ways in which it may be contracted. (1) Water contaminated by proximity to closets; (2) Flies; (3) Typhoid carriers. By (3) is meant a person who has had typhoid fever, and though completely recovered harbours the causative bacillus, sooner or later to be passed into a closet, to become a prey for the housefly. It will therefore be seen how necessary it is to keep the closets well disinfected. A very cheap and effective method is to pour ordinary white lime on the deposits two or three times weekly.

"*Diseases of the Respiratory System.*

"Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption have come under my notice, three of which were far advanced and have since died. There are, however, many other early cases. Here the smoke-fire question is an important one. The irritating nature of the smoke tends to aggravate the persistent cough so often present and is most injurious. Equally so is this the case in the disease known as bronchial asthma, cases of which are quite as numerous as digestive troubles. The true cause of asthma not being definitely decided I may here venture an opinion.

"The cause I believe is geographical and geological. By this I mean the low-lying nature of the Islands and sandy nature of the soil in general —an atmospheric and an irritating cause. It is a common practice all over these Islands for children and others to go around at night with heads uncovered—this is an injurious habit for healthy people, still more so for asthmatical patients—the paroxysms well known to all who suffer from it being more severe at night.

"*Special Diseases.*

"I was struck on my arrival here with the anaemia or bloodless appearance of children and adults throughout the Island. This I believe has been attributed to the blood-sucking powers of the mosquito. I grant his powers are great in this direction, but it is quite impossible in my

mind to conceive such results. I would ask why these cases are met with both in the winter and the summer? The solution lies in this. The anaemia present here is what used to be called tropical anaemia and now known to be due to two small round worms known as *Ankylostoma duodenale*, and *Necator americanus*, the disease being known as Ankylostomiasis. These worms live and flourish in the soil, especially where it is of a sandy nature. They gain entrance to the body by two routes. (1) Through the skin of the hands and soles of the feet; (2) by the mouth. It is a common practice for young children to eat dirt and thus convey these worms direct to the intestine. The great numbers attacked will be appreciated by noting how many children and adults alike walk barefooted in these Islands. An effort is now being made and steps taken, on instructions from His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, to combat this disease.

"Rheumatism is very prevalent, being more of a sub-acute and chronic infection. A few cases of the acute type have, however, presented themselves.

"Malarial fever has occurred to the extent of four cases—two of these in persons who have never been away from the island. The other two cases were in patients infected on the Nicaraguan Coast. The small number of cases are accounted for by the very few mosquitos of the family anophelinae being found. The mosquito commonly seen belongs to the genus Stegomyia. This latter genus is concerned in the spread of yellow fever. I would, therefore, strongly recommend, that if at all possible, inhabitants should make their houses mosquito-proof. During the year several vessels and Caymanians visit the Gulf ports, and it is quite probable that any day we may be face to face with yellow fever.

"I should also recommend that the Isolation Hospital be made mosquito-proof in case of emergency, for should a case arrive it will be rather late to net it then, and there is always the possibility of there being no netting to be had in Georgetown.

"Fish-poisoning requires mention.

"Eighteen cases have, to my knowledge, occurred in the past seven months. I have had the opportunity of being present at seven of these. The period of incubation varies from 12 to 48 hours, and the onset in each case was sudden. The symptoms and duration are what one meets with in a typical case of ptomaine poisoning, and the illness is treated by me as such with most satisfactory results. The opinion held locally is that all fish caught inside the reef are poisonous. This I do not agree with, as I have had reliable information to disprove this. Baracoota, goat-fish, and jack, are the fish most commonly believed to be poisonous. In all seven of my cases I obtained a definite history pointing to the baracoota being the source of infection. In conclusion, I may state that I am of opinion that it is probably due to a toxin developed in the liver of the fish and akin to that found in certain forms of shell-fish. This, as far as I can see, can only be avoided by careful discrimination, and those fish which experience has shown to be harmful be discarded.

"There is yet another type of fever found all over the island and known locally as five-day fever. This, in my opinion, is a mild form of relapsing fever transmitted by ticks.

"I visited Cayman Brac twice and Little Cayman once during the year and find the existing conditions to be similar to those of Grand Cayman.

"In conclusion, I may say that, on the whole, the health of the islands is good."

CLIMATE.

The Cayman Islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness *attributable* to climatic conditions. The

weather is warm for the greater part of the year. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, when the cool season begins with a change of wind to the north and north-west in the early part of November.

The following table shows the average temperature :—

	Morning.	Mid-day.	Evening.
Hot months	83°	89°	86°
Cool months (Nov. to March)	71°	80°	74°

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

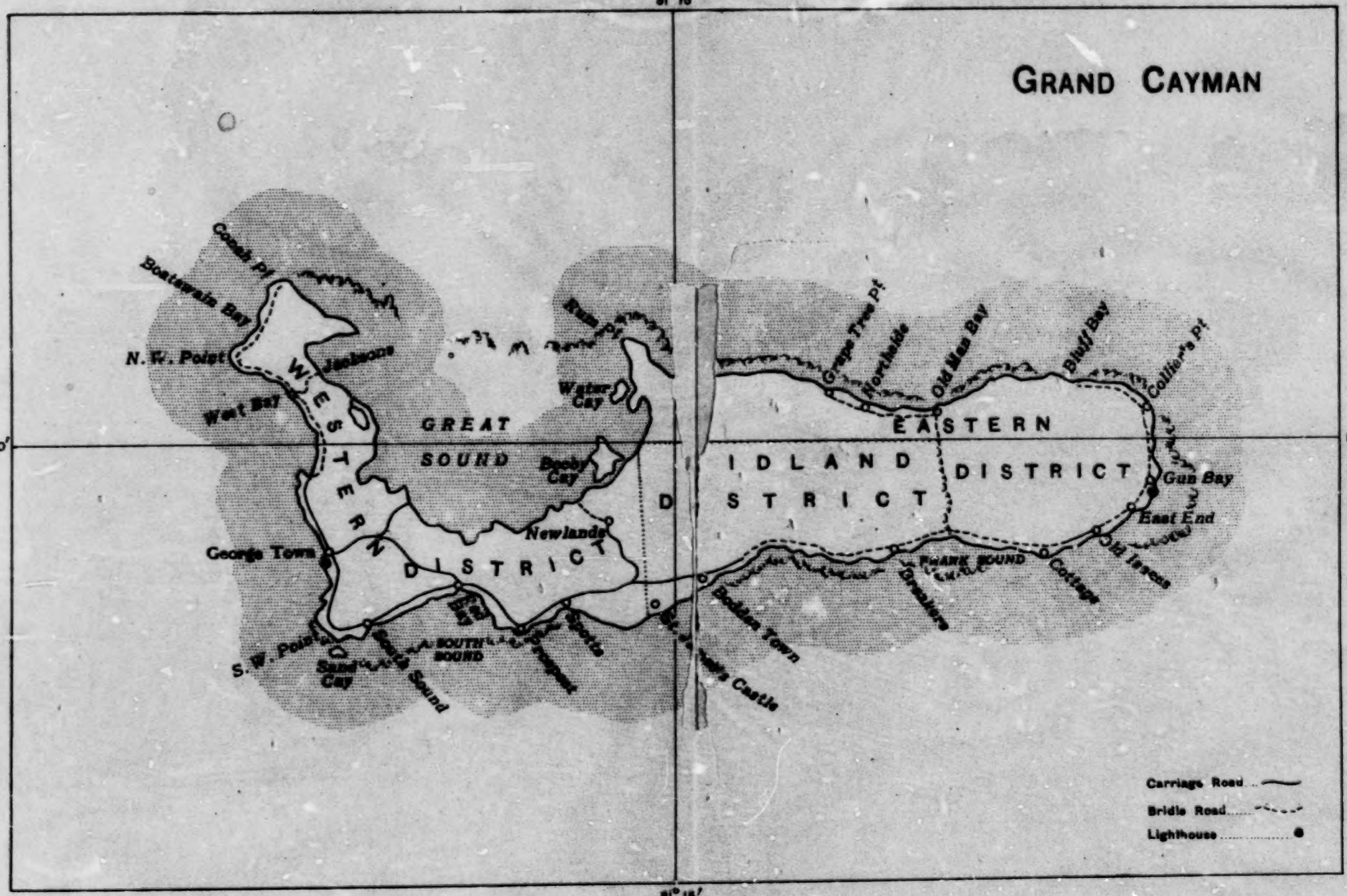
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
846	Seychelles	1914
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.



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Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1933.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 889.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 844.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty

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A map will be found in the last Report, No. 844. [Cd. 7622-35]

No. 889.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 844.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
1st June, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1915, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,

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REPORT ON THE

BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

FOR THE YEAR 1915.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £8,036 6*s.* 7*d.*, being £1,015 below that collected for 1914, which was £9,051.

The expenditure, including a further contribution of £500 to War Funds, was £9,133, as against £9,391 in 1914, a decrease of £258 during the year under review.

The surplus of assets on the 31st December was £7,737 13*s.* 10*d.*

There is no public debt.

The current coins are British gold, silver, and nickel. United States gold and silver coins are accepted at a discount of 1½ per cent. on the face value.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1915, were valued at £27,620, as compared with £28,191 in 1914.

The exports were valued at £30,487, as against £28,347 in 1914.

Classified under their respective headings, a comparative statement of the exports for the years 1914 and 1915 reads as follows :—

Articles.	1914. £	1915. £
lt: coarse	15,902	15,418
Salt: fishery	5,948	7,249
Sisal	2,212	3,801
Sponges	2,410	1,129
Conches	566	1,217
Canned lobster	558	421
Sea shells	18	50
Miscellaneous	1,022	1,329

The direction of trade, both imports and exports, during the same years may be thus summarized :—

Countries.	Year.	Imports	Exports.
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	1914.	3,757	61
British Colonies ..	—	5,528	5,129
Foreign Countries ..	—	18,906	23,157
Totals		£28,191	£28,347
United Kingdom ..	1915.	2,880	*Nil.*
British Colonies ..	—	4,391	7,785
Foreign Countries ..	—	20,349	22,702
Totals		£27,620	£30,487

Salt.—Progress continues to be made in the development of a trade in fishery salt, the export returns of which show an increase of £1,300 in value as compared with the output for the year 1914. The efforts of Mr. C. H. Durham and others in the erection of crushing mills for the preparation of this grade of salt will probably be further extended as time goes on.

Sponge.—This industry shows a falling off to the extent of £1,280, due entirely to the disastrous War now being waged in Europe. On the other hand, it is gratifying to mention that artificial culture of sponges continues to make satisfactory progress. Mr. George Silly, the lessee of Chalk Sound (Blue Hills, Caicos Islands), was able to report that at the close of the year 1915 his work in this direction extended to upwards of 250,000 cuttings, chiefly of the "reef" variety. The take of "wool" sponges has almost reached vanishing point, a condition of affairs for which no one seems able to ascribe a reason; it would be both interesting and valuable, did funds permit, to have this matter investigated scientifically.

Sisal.—An advance of 3½ cents per pound in the American market stimulated reaping operations in connection with the sisal industry, and resulted in an increase of £1,580, in the exports under this head, as compared with 1914.

Conches.—Not the least interesting among the subsidiary marine products of the Caicos Islands is the export of conches to the neighbouring republic of Haiti. This trade, which for some years had wavered between £500 and £700 per annum in value, reached its maximum during the year under review, when over one million conches, valued at £1,217, were shipped from the Dependency.

The lobster-canning industry shows a slight falling off in the value of produce exported, but on the other hand "sea shells," hitherto a waste product of the conch industry, for the fourth time finds a place among exports from the Dependency.

Cotton.—Considerable interest was shown by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands in connection with the cotton industry. Samples of the cleaned staple, grown in these islands, were submitted to London brokers and were favourably reported on. Difficulties in the way of shipping, owing to the War, at present prevent immediate results in this respect, but it is reasonable to anticipate that with the cessation of hostilities a development of the cotton industry will undoubtedly follow.

Shipping.

The number of vessels that entered at the various ports in the Dependency during the year was 287 with a tonnage of 180,418, as compared with 254 vessels and a tonnage of 192,811 in the previous year.

The following statement shows a total tonnage of shipping outwards during the past two years:—

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1914	260	192,786
1915	286	180,983

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1915, was 5,930, an increase of approximately, 315 since the last census—in 1911.

The number of births during 1915 was 194, and the number of deaths 81. The birth-rate was 35 per 1,000, and the death-rate 14 per 1,000, the latter being the lowest recorded for many years.

Forty-four marriages were registered during the year.

The health of the Dependency was good, and there were no serious cases of disease or epidemics of any kind. There were two inquests and one lunacy enquiry,

---

EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

At an annual expenditure of £600, the Government provided, through the medium of the Board of Education, for the needs of primary education throughout the Dependency. At the nine schools thus maintained by the Government, the average number of pupils on the registers during the year under review was 922, with an average attendance of 729, as compared with 898 and 679, respectively, for the previous year.

The number of children attending private schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, amounted to 113, and the records of the aided schools at the Bight and Five Cays in the Caicos Islands disclose an average attendance of about forty pupils during the year.

The total expenditure of the Board for management, books, materials, new buildings, and other expenses during the year amounted to £811 2*s*. 5*d*. Of this sum, the completion of the new school houses at Sandy Point and Lorimers absorbed about £205.

In his very instructive and interesting report on the work of the Education Board for the past twenty years, the Inspector of Schools states:—"It would appear that the maximum of result is being attained with the present limitations as to expenditure. The number of schools has increased, and the attendances are being steadily augmented; one naturally looks for an increased grant to carry on the work efficiently and to extend its benefits."

There is still, unfortunately, no State provision for Secondary Education.

POSTAL, TELEPHONE, AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Mails, to and from the United Kingdom, are transmitted and received twice a month by steamers of the Clyde Line, *viâ* New York. From the middle of the year the steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black resumed, at an increased subsidy, the monthly service connecting the Dependency with Halifax (Nova Scotia), and Jamaica. To the great regret of everyone this service has again been interrupted owing to the scarcity of tonnage caused by the European War.

The total revenue of the Post Office was £330 12*s*. 4*d*., or £328 below that for 1914, and the total expenditure amounted to £166 5*s*. 9*d*. In consequence of the War, receipts from foreign stamp dealers have entirely ceased. Hitherto the sale of postage stamps to philatelists abroad has constituted a considerable portion of the revenue of the Postal Department.

The inauguration of a small but thoroughly up-to-date telephone system is among the notable events of the year under the head above referred to. This service connects all Government institutions, as well as a few business places and residences, with a central exchange, and has proved a great boon to everyone concerned. On the 31st December, 1915, there were 19 connections on the system.

The submarine line of the direct West India Cable Company touches at Grand Turk and thus connects the Dependency with other cable systems of the world. The Company is paid a yearly subsidy of £120, in return for which they furnish a daily news bulletin. The rate to England is 3*s*. per word, to Halifax 2*s*., to Bermuda 1*s*. 6*d*., to Jamaica 1*s*., and to other places the Company's rate to the nearest place plus the connecting Company's rate to destination.

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1915, was 474. The total amount standing to their credit on that date was £4,972, or £991 in excess of the amount shown on the 31st December, 1914.

Deposits in 1915 amounted to £1,861, and withdrawals to £957, thus indicating a credit on the working of the bank of £904 during the year under review.

There was invested of Savings Bank funds the sum of £4,778.

The following is a comparative statement of the operations of the Savings Bank during the past two years :—

Year.	Number of depositors.	Deposits during year.	Withdrawals during year.	Balance due to depositors.
		£	£	£
1914	440	1,485	1,152	3,981
1915	479	1,861	957	4,972

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Offences reported to the Police	145
Persons brought before the Magistrates	144
Summary Convictions	105
Convictions in the Supreme Court	5
Number of persons acquitted :—	
In the Inferior Courts	34
In the Superior Courts	1

Prisons.

The number of prisoners of all classes committed to the prison during 1915 was 41, or three in excess of the number shown for the year 1914. Of this number 35 were males and 6 females.

The daily average in gaol increased from 1·33 in 1914 to 3·33 during the year under review. The cost of the maintenance of all prisoners for the year was approximately £49.

Police Force.

The Police Force of the Dependency consists, as hitherto, of an Inspector, a Sub-Inspector, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 2 Lance Corporals, and 14 Police, District and Revenue Constables. No changes have been made in the number and constitution of the Force, which performed its duties satisfactorily during the year.

METEOROLOGY.

The readings and statistics taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 21′ N. and longitude 71° 07′ W. at a height of 11·3 feet above sea level, were as follows :—

Rainfall .. .. 35·38 inches.

Highest temperature recorded for the year 93°.

Lowest temperature recorded for the year 61·2°.

The prevailing winds during the year are thus recorded .—

N. 21 days.	N.E. 57 days.	E. 195 days.	S.E. 44 days.
S. 17 days.	S.W. 5 days.	W. 13 days.	N.W. 9 days.

GENERAL

The year under review opened under circumstances of national sadness common to the Empire. Locally the year 1915 may be classed among the worst in the annals of the Dependency as regards salt raking, its chief industry. The situation was in great measure saved by the large stocks of salt on hand overcarried from the year 1914, but, as small rakings occurred in 1915, the exports for the coming year must necessarily be affected thereby. Constant rains during the raking season resulted in one of the shortest crops of salt on record, and such a condition of affairs, in a small community almost entirely dependent on this industry, could not be otherwise than severely felt. Owing, however, to the action of the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Hutchings, who shortly after the outbreak of the War influenced the peasantry of the Caicos Islands to plant increased areas in ground provisions, large supplies of cheap food were placed on the local market, thus greatly relieving a situation which, but for his foresight, might easily have become serious.

Although but a small unit of the British Empire, the full significance of the War now being waged in Europe is thoroughly appreciated by every class of the community, who manifest the keenest interest in every phase of the struggle.

Except sponging, local industries have not been affected to any extent by the War, although the question of how to obtain tonnage to convey the salt produce of the Dependency to northern markets during the coming year is causing grave concern. It is with the greatest difficulty that even an occasional vessel can now be obtained for the purpose at an advance of four hundred per cent. on the usual rate of freight.

The limited resources of this small Dependency debar the inhabitants from taking a more active part in the struggle, but by many acts of personal effort and generosity they have given ample proof that the same spirit of loyalty and devotion which characterises other and larger portions of His Majesty's Empire is not lacking among dwellers in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

15th April, 1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	"
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"
888	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
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86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 909.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 860.)

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November, 1916.

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A sketch map will be found in the previous Report, No 860: [Cd. 7622-51].

No. 909.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 860.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
25th August, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended 31st March, 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last two years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1914–15	980,174	1,054,969
1915–16	1,132,049	1,105,942

3. On the night of August 12th to 13th, the Island was visited by a severe hurricane, which passed along a line some fifty miles or so north of and parallel to the north coast of the Island. The full force of the wind was not felt in the Island, but it nevertheless succeeded in doing a considerable amount of damage to the growing crops and Government buildings and works, especially on the north side. The banana industry suffered a severe set back, practically all the cultivations being destroyed, so much so that it was not until after the close of the financial year under review, when the young plants which had survived the storm had grown up, that there were any ready for shipment. Coconuts were also damaged, but to a lesser degree, as also were the minor industries, *e.g.*, cocoa, coffee, and pimento. The sea rose to such a height along the north coast that the railway line between Hope Bay and Saint Margaret's Bay was washed away for some distance, rendering necessary a deviation of the line inland two and three quarter miles in length, and costing between £9,000 and £10,000. Considerable damage was also done to the coast roads on the north side.

(C313) Wt. 45316/1003. 1,000 & 90. 11.16. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2. B

4. The Legislative Council was called together and met on the 21st September, and Supplementary Estimates of the cost of repairing the hurricane damage to Government buildings and works were presented and passed. The estimates called for a total expenditure of £57,652.

5. In addition, there was a further sum of £5,986 estimated to be required for the repair of damage to main roads, which, as it was not expected to be expended before the 31st March, was not included in the estimate. The repair of hurricane damage was estimated, therefore, to cost £63,638.

6. Between the months of August and December severe flood rains were experienced in practically all the parishes of the Island, doing more or less serious damage to main roads and bridges, the cost of repairing which was estimated at £23,380.

7. The estimates for 1915–16 as originally passed were expected to work out as under :—

Expenditure	£1,011,331
Revenue	974,364

leaving a deficit of £36,967, which it was decided should be met out of the loan of £62,250 which it had been arranged should be obtained through the Imperial Government to reimburse the local Government the amount advanced from its cash balance on the construction of the Chapelton Branch Railway.

8. In consequence of the hurricane a revised estimate of revenue and expenditure was prepared and submitted to the Legislative Council at its meeting in September, together with a forecast of the financial position to the 31st March, 1916. The revised estimate of revenue showed that the receipts were expected to fall short of the budget estimate by £63,218, while the expenditure, inclusive of the cost of repairing hurricane damage, showed an increase of £61,574. Towards meeting this falling off of revenue and increase of expenditure, amounting in the aggregate to £124,782, sums amounting to £63,205 were available, leaving a deficit on the 31st March, 1916, of £61,577.

9. In view of all the circumstances, I decided that it was inadvisable to levy extra taxation at the Session in September to meet this expected deficit, thinking it better to wait till the ordinary Session in March, 1916, to deal with it and the next year's requirements together.

The second revised estimate prepared in February, 1916, showed an expected deficit on the 31st March, 1916, of £61,923, practically the same as that of the forecast in September.

10. The actual results of the year 1915–16, as shown by the final accounts, show the following :—The ordinary heads of revenue, *i.e.*, those shown in the statement, exclusive of Customs Export Duties, Insurance Fund, Chapleton Branch Railway Loan, Loan for the Redemption of the Railway Second Mortgage Bonds, and the transfer

from the Constabulary Pension Fund, show, as compared with the budget estimate for the year, a net decrease of £9,471. The decreases are £16,285 under Railway, £2,610 under Port, Harbour, and Light Dues, £2,064 under Miscellaneous, £1,997 under Post Office, and £1,311 under Interest, making a total decrease of £24,267 ; while the increases are £11,792 under Customs Import Duties, £1,461 under Fees of Office Stamp Duties, etc., £930 under Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue, £362 under Land Sales, and £251 under Rents, making a total increase of £14,796. The new Customs Export Duties for a portion of the month of March, 1916, amounted to £6,653. Of the total revenue a sum of £19,975 represents amounts received either on account or in consequence of the extra taxation imposed at the meeting of the Legislative Council in March, 1916. Particulars of the extra amount so received will be given later on when a comparison is being made between the actual revenue received, and the revised estimate of revenue prepared in February, 1916. If, therefore, this extra revenue be omitted the revenue received in 1915–16 would have been less than that received in 1914–15 by £29,446.

11. The expenditure was more than the budget estimate by £94,912 but, as stated above, supplementary appropriations amounting to £57,675 were voted after the hurricane in August, 1915, and the excess over the amounts actually voted was therefore £37,237. But if there be excluded the special payment of £45,000 for purchase of Railway Second Mortgage Bonds referred to later, which was met by a loan, the expenditure was less than the budget estimate plus the hurricane appropriation by the sum of £7,763.

12. There were savings on almost every head of expenditure in consequence of the exercise of the most rigid economy. If the payments are considered against the actual votes (including Supplementary Votes) the following are the chief points of difference, £1,000 and over only being taken, viz. :—Decreases : Railway, £9,563 ; Military, £4,412 ; Medical, £2,325 ; Police and Prisons, £1,630 ; Pensions, 1,210 ; Public Works Department, £1,157. Apart from an excess of £44,316 under Charges of Debt, which was the result of the bringing to account of the £45,000 paid for the purchase of the Railway Second Mortgage Bonds which was specially met by the raising of a loan, the only excesses of any consequence were £3,403 under Public Works and Buildings, £14,141 under Miscellaneous, of which £12,381 represents an amount for the purchase of sugar as the Colony's war contribution to the Imperial Government, which, when the estimates for 1915–16 were being prepared, it was expected would have been expended in 1914–15 ; the remainder of this excess (£1,760) is more than accounted for by a sum of £2,035, which was expended on relief works in the Vere District of Clarendon during the previous year, but not brought to account until 1915–16 ; and £1,952 under Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs.

If the payments are considered against those of the previous year, the following are the chief points of difference :—Increases of £53,428 under Charges of Debt, as to £45,000 of which see remarks above ; of

£13,737 under Railway (after including in the Railway expenditure for 1914–15, the amount of £6,290 for the Railway Pier No. 3 shown separately in the expenditure statement); £7,277 under Public Works and Buildings; and £4,845 under Military (Defence).

13. The chief decreases as compared with the preceding year were £12,503 under Miscellaneous. (In arriving at this figure there has been added to the total of Miscellaneous for 1914–15, the amount shown separately as expended for gift sugar to the Home Government in that year, for the reason that there is included under Miscellaneous in 1915–16 the amount of £22,948 expended in that year for gift sugar); £5,319 under Medical; £1,692 under Post Office and Telegraphs; £1,371 under Public Works Department; £1,281 under Education; £1,279 under Constabulary and Prisons; and £1,097 under Agricultural Services.

14. The total receipts during the year being £1,132,050 and the expenditure £1,105,942, there was a surplus on the year's transactions of £26,108. As, however, the balance in the Surplus and Deficit Account of the Colony on the 1st April, 1915, was a debit of £15,378, the year closed with a surplus balance of £10,730.

15. As already stated, it had been expected when the revised estimates for 1915–16 were prepared, prior to the passing of the estimates for 1916–17, that there would have been a deficit of £61,923 on the 31st March, 1916; but the revenue exceeded anticipations, £61,225 more than the revised estimate having been received, while the expenditure was less by £11,428.

16. In connection with the increase of revenue, it should be pointed out that the following items of additional taxation, which were approved at the March Session of the Legislative Council, came into force during the month of March and by the end of that month had yielded the amounts set opposite them, viz.:—

Transfers from Free List	£490
Export Duties	6,653
Surtax on Excise	322
	£7,465

17. Among the proposals for increased taxation originally submitted to the Legislative Council, was a 10 per cent. surtax on Import Duties, which was, however, withdrawn subsequently to the introduction into the Legislative Council of the necessary Bill to give effect to it. During the time it was in operation, however, a sum of £1,120 was collected.

18. The knowledge which prevailed from the time of the Special Session of the Legislative Council in September, 1915, that further taxation would be proposed at the ordinary meeting of the Legislative Council to meet the deficits, led to heavy clearances of goods from bond, and the additional duties thus brought to account by forestalling are estimated by the Collector General at £7,890 for Customs Duties, and about £3,500 for rum duties.

19. These amounts (£7,465, £1,120, £7,890 and £3,500) together come to £19,975, and if they be omitted from the calculation, the increase of revenue over that anticipated when the second revised estimates were made up in February, 1916, was (£61,225–£19,975) £41,250.

20. This amount is more than accounted for by increased collections under the following heads, viz. :—Customs duties (exclusive of the increases mentioned above), £17,292 ; Railway, £11,715 ; Licences, Excise and other Internal Revenue, £5,007 ; Fees of Office Stamp Duties, &c., £4,558 ; Post Office, £2,003 ; amount received from sale of Insurance Fund investments in excess of that estimated. £696.

21. The chief decreases of expenditure as compared with the second revised estimates were under the following heads, viz. :—Railway, £4,644 ; Charges of Debt, £2,609 ; Post Office and Telegraph, £1,235 ; Medical, £1,217 ; Public Works, Buildings, &c., £1,215 ; Constabulary, Prisons, and Reformatories, £1,052 ; with only one considerable increase of expenditure, viz., Excise, Internal Revenue, and Stamp Office, £3,640, other smaller increases and decreases bring the net result of the expenditure to a decrease of £11,428 as stated above. To summarise, therefore, while the position is nominally better at the close of the year by £72,653 (the expected deficit having been £61,923 and the actual surplus proving to be £10,730), which has been arrived at by an improvement of revenue of £61,225 and decrease of expenditure of £11,428, there must be remembered the forestalling of revenue which it is extremely difficult to say came only to the amount stated above, and some expenditure appears only to have been deferred. Undoubtedly the extra taxation imposed in the last month of the year, coupled with the improvement in trade, owing partly to the logwood boom in the last quarter of the year, produced a very real improvement in the position at the end of the year as compared with what had been expected.

22. The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,783,941 on the 31st March, 1916. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £963,771, leaving a net liability of £2,820,170. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £472,444, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £86,892.

23. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together for the last two years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1914–15	38,420	37,777
1915–16	37,712	37,835

	Kingston General Commissioners.		*Other Parochial Boards (14 Parishes.)*	
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1914–15 ..	49,919	52,074	136,116	129,194
1915–16 ..	45,293	44,700	130,681	125,045

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets, &c., amounted at the close of the year to £15,865.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a) *Imports and Exports.*

24. The total values of imports and exports for the last two years are as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1914	2,565,820	2,904,533
1915	2,327,458	2,228,664

The shortage of tonnage brought about by the European War was probably the most direct cause of the decrease in imports, but the hurricane of 1915 and its interference with the output of the banana-producing centres, undoubtedly restricted the spending power of the people in those areas. In the case of the exports, the relative importance of these factors is probably reversed. To the scarcity of fruit is to be attributed the greater portion of the decline in the value of the exports, comparison with 1914 showing a falling off on this item alone of £708,982. Against this falling off, however, there was an increase in the output of the products of the sugar cane of £220,362 ; in dye-wood and extract of £131,758 ; in cocoa of £77,058 ; lime

juice of £12,690; and annotto of £6,851. And, generally speaking, there was active demand for all agricultural products, and had tonnage been adequate and the banana crop normal there would have been little to complain of.

25. By way of gauging the growth of the Colony's business over a longer period than is comprised in the foregoing abstract, the imports and exports at ten years intervals since 1875 is here given:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1875	1,700,253	1,410,484
1885	1,325,602	1,413,722
1895	2,228,945	1,921,421
1905	1,941,937	1,843,180
1915	2,327,458	2,228,664

26. In the forty years, the total trade to and from the United Kingdom has declined from 69·3 per cent. to 35·6 per cent.; the United States has increased from 19·6 per cent. to 50·4 per cent.; Canada has increased from 6·0 per cent. to 8·3 per cent.; and Other Countries has increased from 5·1 per cent. to 5·7 per cent.

The figures in the Collector-General's report also show that the trade, which had before the War gone to enemy countries, has gone as regards imports more to the United States than to the United Kingdom, while as regards exports to the United Kingdom, these make a more favourable showing because of the enhanced value of the products.

27. In his remarks on the year's trade returns, the Collector-General calls attention to the scarcity of tonnage measured by a fall of 36·5 per cent. on Light Dues collections, and one of 48·7 per cent. in Harbour Dues; to the striking, though not unexpected, increase in percentage of imports from the United States of manufactured goods, the proportion having reached 52·9 per cent., while Great Britain's share of a trade that was formerly essentially her own had fallen to 44·9 per cent.: the failure of fruit exports, the value of bananas sent away having decreased by £708,982, this being chiefly due to the hurricane of August, 1915, improvements in the values of products of the sugar cane to the extent of £220,362, and in dyewoods and extracts to the extent of £131,758, cocoa £77,058, lime juice £12,690, and annatto £6,851; and the improved demand for ginger, hides and skins, tanning material, and pimento, and finally to the birth of a new industry, so far as the Colony is concerned, in the preparation and export of copra, no less than 1,222,817 lbs. of a value of £11,174 having been exported. In the case of another new minor industry, orange oil, there was an export valued at £13,608.

28. The agricultural statistics collated by the Collecting Officers of Taxes during 1915–16, compared with an average of the preceding four years' returns, produce the following figures under the four main divisions into which the information is grouped :—

	1915–16.	Average 1911–15.
	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	278,262	271,332
Guinea Grass	174,122	155,675
Commons	535,295	525,643
Wood and ruinate	1,221,526	1,210,025

A wholesome rate of progress is apparent under each grouping.

29. Lands subject to tillage are further classified under the particular crops which they produce, and the following is an abstract of each classification, showing the figures for 1915–16 against a four year average :—

	1915–16.	Average 1911–15.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	33,830	32,351
Coffee	18,383	21,236
Coconuts	30,072	19,036
Banana	89,477	83,707
Cocoa	11,432	11,630
Ground Provisions	64,082	66,587
Mixed Cultivation	28,103	30,871
Minor Items	2,883	4,018

30. The Collector-General is careful to explain the conditions under which agricultural statistics are collected and the scope for error which consequently exists, but as the chief groupings preserve a relationship to the annual output, there is no reason for believing that such statistics are more faulty than those collected in other parts of the Empire. The figures given reflect the dependence placed on bananas and coconuts in the Island's economics, and they register the improved outlook for the products of the sugar-cane.

31. Taxation on real property yields but a small fraction of the revenue required for the upkeep of the Central Government, but this source is the main dependence of the several Parochial Administrations. The combined levy for general and parochial purposes must in the main be considered very moderate, but notwithstanding this, or perhaps because of this, there appears never to be any provision beforehand for meeting recurring claims, and every disturbance of market and every hurricane, drought, or flood is immediately reflected

in the response to the tax collector's demands. For this reason the figures relating to the numbers of properties on which taxes are collected, or those on which they remain unpaid, are always interesting.

32. Analysis of the properties in arrears shows that in the eastern half of the Island, which is more dependent on the banana, the arrearage increased considerably owing to evil times upon which the fruit trade had fallen, while in the western half the improved outlook for sugar and rum, and the very active demand for logwood, resulted in a very appreciable reduction in the arrearage rate at the end of the year. For the whole Island the number of properties in arrear decreased from 13,463 to 11,679, so that on a balance the good outweighed the bad.

Blue Mountain Forest Reserve.

The purchase of Trafalgar by the Government has added a much needed area to this proposed reserve. Arrangements have been made in another case for an exchange of land, but generally the lack of funds has prevented any progress towards the establishment of this reserve.

AGRICULTURE.

33. The year has been one of favourable seasons, and but for the hurricane and storms in August and September very large crops would have been obtained.

34. The banana industry suffered severely from the hurricane, while the scarcity of ships has occasioned anxiety as to the immediate prospects of the fruit trade.

35. The exports of cacao showed a gain of one-third in value over those of the previous year, which were the greatest on record. A good deal of cacao has been planted during the year, and the plant nurseries issued 127,000 cacao plants to the public.

36. The demand by the public for plants of all sorts was brisk, and the various nurseries, despite retrenchment in their upkeep, established a record in the issue of plants for the year.

37. The sugar industry has enjoyed a successful revival, and, owing to the high values now ruling for both sugar and rum, the planters have realised a large sum for their produce, and are hopeful as to the future.

A good deal of planting of sugar cane has been undertaken, and schemes for the extension of sugar enterprises are being actively pursued.

38. While the storms damaged the coconut trees somewhat the actual loss of palms was small, and the trade in coconuts has been both brisk and profitable.

Some 600 tons of copra were exported during the year, and this would appear to be a new industry that will figure more largely in the exports of the Colony in the near future.

39. Owing to the blockade of Germany, logwood has been in strong demand, and high prices have ruled for wood both for export and for use in the local dye factories. The circulation of money through the brisk demand for logwood has served very greatly to counteract the severe losses to the banana industry resulting from the hurricane.

40. The Government Stock Farm at Hope has had a successful year, the balance sheet showing a gain of £980 for the operations of the year. At the public sale of stock held in February, 38 head of cattle, of all ages, realised an average of £15 per head.

41. The attendance at the farm school has fallen off slightly, due to war conditions. Sixteen of the students of this recently established institution are now serving in the Imperial Forces.

42. It had been decided by the end of the year to convert the station at Lititz into a sisal hemp plantation, as the land proved to be unsuitable for stock rearing or general cultivation. Preparations for planting about 600 acres in sisal and henequen have been made at this station.

Shipping.

43. The shipping returns do not, of course, include Admiralty shipping, and the comparative figures for 1915 and 1914 come out thus :—

1915—	914	vessels reported with tonnage of			1,251,722	tons.
1914—	1,434	,,	reported	,, ,, ,,	2,164,185	,,
The decrease being 520 vessels and the tonnage					912,463	,,

1915—	931	vessels cleared with tonnage of			1,304,687	tons.
1914—	1,424	,,	cleared	,, ,, ,,	2,142,663	,,
The decrease being 493 vessels and the tonnage					837,976	,,

44. Dividing the numbers of vessels reported in the two years between steamers and sailing craft the following figures are disclosed :—

1915—	738	steamers with tonnage of			1,213,317	tons.
1914—	1,261	,,	,,	,, ,,	2,122,083	,,
1915—	176	sailing vessels with tonnage of			38,405	,,
1914—	173	,,	,,	,, ,,	42,102	,,

and a similar division of the vessels cleared produces the following :—

1915—	759	steamers with tonnage of			1,266,317	tons.
1914—	1,253	,,	,,	,, ,,	2,101,603	
1915—	172	sailing vessels with tonnage of			38,370	,,
1914—	171	,,	,,	,, ,,	41,060	,,

45. These figures will show how badly the Colony was starved during the year in the matter of tonnage, the tonnage visiting being less than half of what it was in the years immediately preceding the War, and the following abstracts indicate that, as might have been expected, owing to the national demands arising directly out of the War, British ships have contributed more largely to the general decrease than have foreign ships.

	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British steamers in 1915 ..	141	338,454		
British sailing in 1915 ..	130	11,375		
			271	349,829
Foreign steamers in 1915 ..	597	874,863		
Foreign sailing in 1915 ..	46	27,030		
			643	901,893
British steamers in 1914 ..	445	1,115,934		
British sailing in 1914 ..	127	11,733		
			572	1,127,667
Foreign steamers in 1914 ..	816	1,006,149		
Foreign sailing in 1914 ..	46	30,369		
			862	1,036,518

III.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

46. The Director of Education furnished the following statistics :—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st March.	Percentage on Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
1915–16 ..	696*	97,290	54,928	66·85	£67,009
1914–15 ..	696	94,955	56,333	67·32	£67,440

(* These figures include five Industrial Schools which do not receive grants-in-aid under the code.)

47. The Director of Education makes the following remarks concerning open-air education which are very interesting and useful, especially at this juncture :—

" Open-air education has been receiving a great deal of attention in England and the subject occupies a place in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education.

"In England the scheme of open-air education was introduced for the benefit of weakly children, but it is found to have great advantages also for the robust and healthy. Classes are often held in Jamaica, with great advantage, under trees in the playgrounds, and, now that building grants from the Government cannot be looked for, it is suggested that at a school where the accommodation is insufficient to meet the requirement of Article 116 of the Code, a part of the playground should be chosen and an awning or temporary roof set up securely, the character of it being determined by the locality; a well-sloped thatched roof with wide eaves is sufficient; the ground may need to be levelled, hardened or concreted, allowing a very slight fall from the centre so that a heavy driving shower will leave no pools and a trench may be required to carry off the water; protection should be afforded on the weather side. The department is prepared, on the recommendation of the inspectors, to accept such additional simple accommodation under Articles 99. 1 and 116.

"The parents of the children in any neighbourhood will probably be able to give practical advice as to the best way of fashioning such an open-air class room and will, it is hoped, render gratuitous aid in putting it up."

48. The results of the annual examination of schools show that 267 were placed in the first class, 289 in the second, and 120 in the third. In the previous year the numbers were 250, 301 and 120, respectively. The failures are one less than last year. The number of first-class schools has increased by 43 per cent. during the last ten years, while third-class schools have decreased by 33 per cent.

49. On account of illness, Mr. J. R. Williams, the Director, was compelled, to my great regret, to retire on pension in January last after 32 years of service, during the last six of which he was head of the Education Department. To the great regret of the department, the Government, and the Island in general, Mr. Williams died on the 23rd April, 1916.

Industrial Schools.

50. The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was:—

Stony Hill	524
Alpha Cottage	245
Belmont	26
Happy Grove	11
Broughton	23
A total of ..	829

Secondary Education.

50a. The average total number of pupils in the endowed schools was 1,519, which include those receiving elementary education in the Titchfield Schools.

51. The Jamaica Scholarship for Boys for 1916 was won by a pupil from Potsdam, and that for girls by a pupil from Hampton (Munro and Dickenson). The £60 scholarship was awarded to a pupil from Wolmer's School.

196 boys and girls are reported to have passed the Cambridge examinations, 64 of whom did so with honours.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

52. Indoor patients treated, 3,264; outdoor patients, including paupers, 9,131; dressings done for outdoor patients, 28,882; prescriptions made up, 13,868; total surgical operations, 714; dental cases, 2,392; daily average number of inmates, 197; total cost of maintenance, £10,417; receipts, £862 9*s.* 6*d.*

53. During the year it was arranged that 20 beds should be kept for men training at Camp with the Jamaica War Contingent.

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in-Hospital.*

54. Number of patients admitted, 517; 9 pupil nurses were admitted for training, seven of whom passed and received certificates; average daily number of patients, 13; receipts, £465 2*s.* 6*d.*; expenditure, £1,199 12*s.* 10*d.*

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

55. Number of patients on 31st March, 1916, 1,441; an increase of 42 during the year. Total number of patients under treatment during the year, 1,731; daily average resident, 1,427; rate of recovery, 42 per cent.; admissions, 332; discharges, 144; deaths, 148; death-rate, 10·37 per cent.

Cost of maintenance, £22,946; receipts, £10,017.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1915..		118
Admitted during the year		30
		148
Discharged	6	
Absconded	5	
Died	16	
	—	27
On 31st March, 1916		121

The death-rate was 10·8 per cent.; cost of maintenance, £2,676 7*s.* 11*d.*; receipts nil.

56. The Acting Medical Superintendent reports that the drug "Antileprol" has been used during the year under review, and continues to realise very hopeful and excellent results.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

57. The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was decreased during the year by £18,485, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £22,930, and the increase in Government accounts £4,445.

58. The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £66,291, a decrease of £18,921, and the withdrawals to £89,221, a decrease of £22,978, as compared with the previous year. The balance-sheet on 31st March, 1916, shows a liability to depositors of £267,454.

59. The income and expenditure of the Bank for the year may be summarised as below.

Income.

Interest on investments..	£9,253	7	3
Allowance to meet loss on sale of investments	4,402	3	4
Miscellaneous receipts	12	19	8
	£13,668	10	3

Expenditure.

Interest on deposits	£6,304	4	5
Loss on sale of investments	7,364	5	10
	£13,668	10	3

The number of pass books examined was 3,894.

(f) *Registration of Titles.*

60. Work was steadily carried on; the number of titles registered during the year was 699. The Titles Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £6,548 approximately.

(g) *Administrator General and Trustee in Bankruptcy.*

Administration.

61. Letters of administration to the estates of five persons, and probate to the estates of two were granted to the Administrator General in the Supreme Court, and letters of administration to the estates of fifteen persons in the Resident Magistrate's Court.

The Administrator General was also appointed by the Court as trustee and guardian in the matter of one estate and infant; guardian of two infants, interim receiver in one estate of a deceased person, and receiver in one suit. He was also otherwise appointed to act under a power of attorney in one matter and guardian of seven infants' estates.

During the year the effects of three persons who died in the public hospitals were handed over to the Administrator General to be dealt with by direction of the Governor.

The estates of 136 persons who died abroad were referred to the Administrator General to be dealt with under Law 21 of 1906.

62. The work of the Custodian of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy Law (22 of 1915) has during the past year been attended to in the Department, and the moneys which have been received were invested with the approval of the Governor.

The cash transactions of the year were :—

Receipts	£81,540	5	5½
Disbursements	£55,768	19	1
Payments and balance carried forward to next account	£25,771	6	4½

At the close of the year there were 373 accounts open in the books, and the amount at credit of deceased persons, lunatics, Receiverships, Custodian of Enemy Property, etc., was £133,212 19*s.* 9½*d.*

£370 9*s.* 8*d.* was paid into the Treasury under the Casual Revenue Law for balances of Panama labourers, and other estates and commissions amounting to £2,512 3*s.* 11*d.* were earned.

Bankruptcy.

63. There were 18 provisional orders of bankruptcy made in the Supreme Court; 12 of these were made absolute, two were revoked and four were pending at the end of the year, and one was transferred from the lower courts.

The aggregate of the liabilities in these bankruptcies was £17,688 9*s.* 6*d.*

The cash transactions of the year were :—

Receipts	£19,719	1	1¼
Disbursements	£9,039	5	2½
Payments and balance carried forward to next account	£10,679	15	10¾

64. On 31st March, 1916, there were 179 accounts open in the books, and the amount at credit of bankrupt estates was £12,886 5*s.* 2¼*d.* Of this amount £12,422 was in the Government Savings Bank.

£464 12*s.* 10*d.* was earned for commission.

V.—COURTS, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

65. The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 99, as compared with 98 in the previous year; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts, 9,305, as compared with 8,234; and of summary convictions 16,005, as compared with 15,973.

There were 3,177 cases of prædial larceny in which a charge was preferred, as against 2,801 in the previous year, and there were 2,300 convictions as against 2,009 in 1914–15. A committee is at present considering the subject of "Authorised Persons" and the provisions of Law 4 of 1909 relating to them.

There were 5 convictions for murder during the year, comparing with 7 in the year 1914–15, and the death sentence was carried out in 4 of the 5 cases.

Prisons.

66. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 6,099, and to lock-ups for short terms 2,351, making a total of 8,450, as compared with 7,779 in the previous year, an increase of 671.

67. The re-convictions during the year amounted to 2,356, of which 721 were second convictions, 397 third, and 1,238 fourth and upwards. During 1914–15 the re-convictions numbered 2,470.

68. The daily average of prisoners in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 1,483 as compared with 1,314, in the previous year. There were 37 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 31 in 1914–1915. There were 4 executions for capital punishment, as against 3 last year.

Considering the institutions separately the daily average in the Penitentiary was 824, as against 779 during the previous year, and in the St. Catherine District Prison 659 as against 535. The deaths in Penitentiary were 17, representing a rate of 20·63 per 1,000, compared with 19, representing a rate of 24·39 per 1,000, in 1914–15; and in the St. Catherine District Prison 20, representing a rate of 30·35 per 1,000, as against 12, representing a rate of 22·64, per 1,000 last year. The Surgeon of St. Catherine District Prison reports that 15 of the 20 who died in that institution were received into the prison in a feeble state, and were unfit for hard labour, 3 were tubercular cases, 4 chronic Bright's disease, and the others chronic ailments, and that one prisoner was 80 years of age—senile decay.

69. The state and discipline of the prisons have been satisfactory; six corporal punishments were inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 58 lads on 31st March.

70. During the year 1915–1916, 147 persons were under supervision as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. From these probationers 701 reports were received. Six probationers were brought before the Court for subsequent offences, showing slightly over 4 per cent. of lapses, as compared with 8 per cent. in 1914–15.

71. The gross expenditure for the General Penitentiary amounted to £15,773, and for the St. Catherine District Prison to £8,134, total £24,907, as compared with £15,729 and £7,452, or a total of £23,181 in 1914–15. The gross earnings in the case of the General Penitentiary were £2,803, as compared with £3,225 last year, and of the St. Catherine District Prison, £1,505 as against £1,452. The yield of the St. Catherine District Prison Farm was valued at £1,228 as against £1,138 last year, the amount of the articles grown and consumed by the prisoners being £774 compared with £611.

Police.

72. The establishment, including officers, was 25 below the authorised strength on the 31st March, 1916, but the monthly average deficiency during the year was 13. The number of days absent from duty on account of illness was 10,185 as compared with 11,431, in 1914–15, and 9,790 in 1913–1914; 737 men were treated in hospitals, and 693 in barracks and private quarters. In 1914–15 the figures were 847 and 619, respectively.

73. The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 39,075, those prosecuted 32,793, and those in which convictions were obtained 21,328, as against 36,823, 31,069, and 21,394, respectively, in the previous year. 55 cases were under remand for trial; in the year before the number was 131. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of the population was 442·44, as compared with 425·76 in 1914–15, 440·70 in 1913–14, and 417·04 in 1912–13.

74. There were 30 habitual criminals under police supervision, and 2,638 under police surveillance during the year. In the previous year the figures were 33 and 2,461, respectively.

75. The sub-officers and men travelled 664,987 miles in the execution of their duty, as compared with 632,876 miles in the previous year.

The conduct and discipline of the members of the Force were on the whole good.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

76. The estimated population of the Island on the 31st March, 1916, was 894,735. This figure is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated population on 31st March, 1915		883,158
Births registered, 1915–16	30,854	
Deaths registered, 1915–16..	19,277	11,577
		894,735

77. The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th September, 1915, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census, was 890,424. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths have been calculated.

78. The following is the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year :—

		Rate per 1,000.	
	1915–1916.	1915–1916.	1914–1915.
Marriages ..	2,677 ..	3·0 ..	3·0
Births ..	30,854 ..	34·6 ..	38·9
Deaths ..	19,277 ..	21·6 ..	21·4

79. 20,653, or 66·9 of every 100 births registered, were illegitimate. This is slightly higher than the rate, 66·8 per cent. in 1914–15, which was the highest island rate recorded since the compulsory registration of births commenced in 1878.

80. The death-rate was 21·6 per 1,000 of population, an increase of 0·2 over that of the previous year ; but the proportion due to deaths of infants under 5 years of age shows a decrease of 2 per cent. Of the total mortality the deaths of infants were :—

Under one year	5,424	or	28·1 per cent.
One year ..	1,665	or	8·7 per cent.
Two years ..	560	or	2·9 per cent.
Three years ..	384	or	2·0 per cent.
Four years ..	295	or	1·5 per cent.
	8,328	or	43·2 per cent.
1914–1915 ..	8,502	or	45·2 per cent.

81. Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 30,854 infants were born, and 7,089 died at one year of age or under, equal to 22·9 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 26·9.

The highest birth rates were in Hanover 39·2 and Clarendon 39·1, and the lowest in Kingston 30·2 and St. Andrew 30·9.

The death rates in St. Andrew, 28·6; Portland, 24·2; St. Ann, 18·0; St. James, 23·4; Hanover, 22·9; Westmoreland, 21·7; St. Elizabeth, 17·8; Manchester, 16·3; Clarendon, 20·6; and St. Catherine, 24·1, were higher than those recorded in 1914–1915, and in the other parishes of the Island they were lower.

82. The percentage of uncertified causes of death was 73·3, as compared with 71·6 in 1914–1915; 70·0 in 1913–1914; 73·3 in 1912–1913, and 75·2 in 1911–1912, for the whole Island. In Kingston the figures were 16·7, as compared with 14·1 in the previous year.

Public Health.

83. The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £72,671, as against £77,183 in 1914-1915.

This does not include the cost of the maintenance of buildings, which was £1,908 in the past year, bringing up the total to £74,579. No new works of any importance on buildings were undertaken during the year.

84. Owing to the inability to obtain salvarsan for use in the treatment of yaws, the travelling dispensary and hospital which was established in the previous year, with a view specially to the treatment of this disease, was closed on the 12th June, 1915. During the time the dispensary was in operation, 1,498 patients were treated for yaws, 408 of whom received two injections and 60 three injections.

Of the 1,498 patients treated, 1,109 were cured, 385 were under treatment and 4 died at the time of the closing of the dispensary.

In consequence of the urgent need for economy and owing to the fact that the ordinary method of treatment of the disease was suspended during the year as being unsatisfactory and expensive, the treatment for yaws has been less than in the immediately previous year; the number of cases treated with salvarsan in the several public general hospitals and medical districts was 637.

85. From the reports of the District Medical Officers concerned, it would appear that the sanitary conditions on the estates employing East Indian indentured labour were generally satisfactory, but that there is still room for improvement.

On the majority of the estates quinine appears to have been regularly administered.

86. At the conclusion of the last Session of the Legislative Council in March, a sum of £2,500 was voted for the purpose of providing for the special treatment in Kingston of venereal diseases. From the reports of the District Medical Officers these diseases were very prevalent, and in some places, inclusive of Kingston, appear to be on the increase.

Hookworm.

87. There were 5,942 cases treated with thymol at the various country hospitals and 123 cases of East Indian immigrants on the estates.

There were also 142 prisoners so treated at the General Penitentiary, nearly 70 per cent. of whom were infected. During the year the treatment of the infection by oil of chenopodium was tried at this institution, and the surgeon reports that the results clearly demonrate that the oil is exceedingly powerful against both hookworm and the large ascaris, and that no ill effects after dosing were observed in any case.

88. The opportunity was taken during the year of studying, by examination of the fæces by the Government Bacteriologist, the effects of thymol, quassia, and oil of chenopodium on cases from other institutions, and establishing a comparison of the respective efficacies of these drugs, and the Bacteriologist states that conclusions to be drawn from these experiments are :—

"(1) That quassia is of very little, if of any, use against hookworm;

"(2) That thymol is not an ideal specific;

"(3) That oil of chenopodium appears to be a very powerful anthelmintic, though further observations are still necessary to establish this point;

"(4) That the best result is to be obtained by making use of both thymol and oil of chenopodium at a suitable interval;

"The problem of total eradication of ankylostomiasis is, however, not one to be solved by drugs only."

Vomiting Sickness.

89. 134 deaths were recorded as having been caused by this disease, 57, or 42·5 per cent. of which were medically certified. In the previous year 196 deaths occurred, 54 per cent. of which were certified. The largest number of deaths were in St. James, 23; St. Elizabeth and Manchester, 19 each; Clarendon, 18; and Trelawny, 16.

90. The investigations by Dr. H. H. Scott, Government Bacteriologist, in support of his theory that vomiting sickness was due to a poison contained in the fruit of unripe or unwholesome ackees (the fruit of *blighia sapida*), to which reference was made in my report of last year, were continued.

91. It so happened that while these investigations were being carried out there occurred a definite case of ackee poisoning, and Dr. Scott proceeded to the place where the case occurred and carried out a post mortem examination, which revealed changes practically identical with those observed in the animals experimented upon. This case, which was not described as one of vomiting sickness, showed typically the onset, course, and pathological changes of that disease.

A full account of the investigations and of the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Scott will be found in his report. As stated in that report all the characteristics of vomiting sickness find explanation in the view that the condition is an acute intoxication by unopened or unwholesome ackees.

Malaria.

92. As was the case last year, it was not found possible to continue the special vote of £2,000 for the abatement of malaria.

The number of cases admitted to the various hospitals other than in Kingston for malaria was 7,138.

As a result of the unusually heavy and prolonged rains, malarial fever was very prevalent throughout the island, and there was a great increase among the peasantry and labouring classes.

General.

93. In the several towns and villages the water supplies were on the whole satisfactory.

No special public works of improvement of sanitation were carried out during the year.

The system of the treatment of out-patients at hospitals which was instituted during 1910–11 continued to give satisfactory results.

During the year under review the number of persons so treated was as follows:—

At Kingston Hospital	9,131
At public general hospitals	16,767
In districts	41,067
Under the ticket system of reduced payment ..	917
	67,882

In 1914–15 the number was 75,561.

94. The total number of cases treated in public general hospitals during the year under review was 23,875. There were 516 deaths in hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,264, the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 517, the Lunatic Asylum, 1,733, the Lepers' Home, 148, the total number of patients treated in Government hospitals and asylums was 29,537.

95. Owing to the departure in November, 1915, of the bacteriologist, there has not been as much time for research work at the pathological laboratory as would have been desirable.

In addition to the investigations in connection with vomiting sickness, to which reference has already been made, special research work was carried out with respect to pellagra and peripheral neuritis.

Examinations of specimens for correct diagnosis of diseases, of rats for plague infection (in none of which, however, was any found), and for testing the purity of water supplies, were also conducted as in previous years.

The number of specimens examined was 12,720; during 1914–15 the number was 12,930.

96. 160 persons were detained at the Quarantine Station during the year; and 1,153 passengers were landed for inspection; 27 vessels were fumigated, and 1,971 packages of baggage were disinfected.

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

97. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1915-1916 with those of the previous year:—1914–15, £49,742; 1915–16, £48,053.

98. These statistics show a decrease of £1,689 in gross revenue as compared with the previous year. The expenditure of the year by the department amounted to £49,991, as against £52,651 in 1914–1915.

The progress of the department is illustrated by the following figures:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1895–1896.	29,726	35,701
1905–1906.	37,576	32,115
1915–1916.	48,053	49,991

99. There is an increase of 6,905 in the number of telegrams sent during the year, but a decrease of £187 in telegraph revenue.

Two new District Post Offices were opened during the year; the total number in existence was 201.

100. 3,829 Money Orders for £13,539 12*s.* 2*d.* were issued in Jamaica, and 25,814 orders for £60,633 17*s.* 3*d.*, the issues of other countries, were paid here. As in previous years the principal item in the payments is that in respect of orders issued on behalf of the United States of America on account of remittances from the Canal Zone, which amounted to £53,394 14*s.* 0*d.*

307,678 British postal orders were sold for £70,182 14*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £74,991 16*s.* 6*d.* in the year before, or a decrease of £4,809. Orders for £55,561 were cashed in the Colony.

48,614 parcels, of the declared value of £42,300 0*s.* 5*d.* were imported by parcel post, and 11,100, of the value of £13,075 17*s.* 0*d.*, were despatched.

VIII.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

101. The total revenue was £154,721 as compared with £179,381 in 1914–1915, a decrease of £24,660, or 13·6 per cent. The expenditure exclusive of debt charges amounted to £127,287 against £107,265 for 1914–1915, an increase of £20,022, or 18·7 per cent. The net profit for the year is £27,434 as against £72,117 for the previous year, a decrease of £44,683, or 38·0 per cent, The capital charges stand at £2,668,213, on which a sum of £119,905 is due for interest and sinking fund, leaving a deficit of £92,471 to be met from General Revenue as against £45,972 in 1914–1915.

102. Extensive damage was done to the railway at various places on the north side, where the track was laid in close proximity to the sea, during the hurricane of the 12th and 13th August by the sea, which rose to unprecedented heights. Sea walls were destroyed and the track badly damaged, at some places being completely washed away. It was thought advisable to remove the track at these places so as to get away from the sea altogether and the line was accordingly deviated inland, on one section for a distance of 2 miles 66 chains.

Considerable damage to cuttings and banks was also caused by the very heavy rains at different periods of the year, especially those in the months of April and November, 1915, and January 1916.

The expenditure incurred in repairing the hurricane and flood damage amounted to £26,500.

103. The loss of revenue is attributable to the block on the Rio Minho Valley branch for a period of 59 days on account of landslides, etc., caused by the heavy rains, to the break in communication with Port Antonio for three months as a result of the hurricane, and to the great damage done to crops especially bananas, by the hurricane. The amount of bananas carried by the railway was 52,785 tons, or 51 per cent. less than in the previous year.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

103a. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £155,553.

This amount is £5,269 18*s*. 7*d*. less than the expenditure of the previous year, and the smallest since 1907–1908.

104. The total length of main roads at the end of the year was 2,219 miles, 20¼ chains.

The average cost per mile of maintenance proper for the whole Island was £30 14*s*. 4*d*., and including special works of improvement, £49 17*s*. 6*d*., of which £16 19*s*. 7*d*. per mile, which is the highest expenditure per mile as compared with the preceding five years, was for flood damage.

The highest average cost per mile was in St. Mary £51 6*s*. 2*d*., and the lowest in Manchester £19 19*s*. 3*d*.

105. The average rainfall for the whole Island was very nearly 103 inches, being about 35 per cent. above the average. As a result of this rainfall main roads with few exceptions suffered severe damage on several occasions from repeated spells of flood rains, especially during the months of May, June, August (on the 12th and 13th of which a hurricane was experienced), September and November, 1915, and February, 1916.

106. In addition to the damage from floods, the coast roads on the north side suffered severely from the encroachment by the sea during the hurricane of 12th and 13th August, 1915. The parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary were the heaviest sufferers from both flood and hurricane, and all the northern parishes suffered from the hurricane.

One bridge each in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Thomas was destroyed, the approaches to one bridge in Portland demolished for a distance of three or four chains, and nearly the entire length of a partly-constructed retaining wall in St. Mary was carried away by the

flood rains; while from Rozelle in St. Thomas, round the east end of the Island to the Round Hill in Hanover on the west, nearly every retaining wall on roads bordering on the sea on the north side was damaged, if not destroyed, during the hurricane, the roads themselves being rendered impassable in some cases for weeks.

Of the total expenditure for roads maintenance, £37,686 is returned as having been incurred as a result of flood and hurricane.

107. Under these abnormal conditions the main roads were, it may be said, maintained in fair order, but extensive metalling and reconstruction is still necessary to restore many of them to their former condition.

108. The system of rolling the surfaces of the roads has been continued with good results; over 40 miles of surface were so treated.

109. A number of public buildings situated in the seaport towns on the north and north-east coast suffered damage during the hurricane of August, 1915, the damage in the towns of Port Maria and Port Antonio being particularly severe. The cost of repairs of hurricane damage to public buildings during the year is placed at £1,605, £468 of which was under Lighthouses and £1,137 for other Public Buildings.

110. The Folly Point lighthouse on the north side was badly hit by the hurricane, all the buildings except the tower itself being destroyed. or swept away, and the lamp partly destroyed. An acetylene gas lamp supplied by the American Gas Accumulating Company has been substituted and was put into operation on the 1st April, 1916. This light is of a flashing character, displaying light for two seconds with intervals of eight seconds, darkness between flashes, and it is expected to prove very economical both in maintenance and supervision charges.

The beacon at Galina Point, serving as a landmark for the entrance to Port Maria Harbour, together with the buildings appertaining thereto, was also completely swept away by the hurricane; a stronger and more permanent structure has been erected, and a temporary Wigham lamp installed pending the provision of a more powerful light.

The other lighthouses were maintained in good repair and services efficiently rendered.

111. No new works were undertaken during the year, due to enforced economy, and, as was the case last year, all works that could be postponed without loss to the Government were deferred.

112. The work undertaken for the Imperial Government, to which I referred in my Report on the Blue Book for 1914–15, was completed and maintained during the year.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

113. The Colony has passed through an exceptionally trying period during this year. The trade conditions of the Island have been abnormal since the outbreak of the Great War, but signs were not wanting that prospects were improving early in this year. Very seasonable weather had greatly advanced agricultural conditions; the sugar and rum industries had benefitted greatly by increased prices; the advance in the value of dyewoods had stimulated that industry; and better prices generally for most of the Island's products were being realised. The banana industry, however, had suffered from shortage of shipping and indifferent markets.

114. The hurricane of August, 1915, brought about a serious situation; the complete destruction of the banana crop, considerable damage to coconuts and to agriculture generally, very serious damage to the railways, roads, wharves, and buildings on the north side of the Island, and to roads generally throughout the Island. Torrential rains later in the year also did serious harm to bridges and roads throughout the Colony.

115. The results of the hurricane were practically to close down the export of bananas, with heavy losses to all engaged in that industry, and consequently to suspend that circulation of money for which this, the staple crop of the Island, is responsible, and to cause the natural restriction in trade which followed these conditions.

116. The necessity for heavy expenditure in restoring the damaged roads and railway, however, to an extent ameliorated the conditions of the labouring classes, and a great boom in logwood cutting also came to the assistance of those who were dependent upon the banana industry for a livelihood, with the result that the distress which must otherwise have followed the hurricane was considerably lightened, and in fact, owing mainly to the excellent wages earned by the cutting of logwood in most parts of the country, those who were employed in that industry were unusually prosperous.

117. An exceptionally good sugar-cane crop also gave ample employment to labourers, and on the whole the conditions following the hurricane were by no means so serious as had been anticipated for the labouring classes.

118. The larger proprietors, the smaller proprietors, and the settlers with small areas of bananas, had of necessity suffered heavy losses, but seasonable conditions with excellent rains which followed the hurricane it was hoped would ensue a resuscitation of the industry by May or June, 1916.

119. The financial statement for the year shows how an expected deficit of £61,923 has been turned into an actual surplus of £10,730, a very conclusive proof that the general conditions in the Island very materially improved during the latter part of the financial year.

120. The Colony's contribution in men to the forces of the Empire engaged in the Great War has been fixed, and a considerable number have already left for the seat of war, while further contingents are still in training to proceed to Europe.

121. In so far as the exigencies of the public service would permit, Government servants have been allowed to proceed to the United Kingdom in order to offer their services for the period of the War, and from every Government department volunteers have gone forward. Consequently, most departments are short of staff, but the extra work thus thrown upon those who have had perforce to remain has been cheerfully performed.

122. The loyalty of the people of the Colony has expressed itself in a number of ways, and most forcibly in the manner in which subscriptions for war funds, particularly for the Red Cross Fund, have been raised, and in addition, a stream of gifts of fruit, products, clothing, and comforts for the Navy and Army have been shipped to the United Kingdom.

123. The local defence forces of the Island have been maintained throughout the year; the members of these forces have very loyally given up their leisure to training for any eventualities, and a useful force is in existence.

I have, etc.,

W. H. MANNING,

Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
872	Falkland Islands ..	1914
873	Uganda ..	1914–1915
874	British Guiana ..	,,
875	Mauritius ..	1914
876	Leeward Islands ..	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago ..	,,
878	Nigeria ..	1914
879	Cayman Islands ..	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia ..	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute ..	1914
883	Nyasaland ..	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei..	1915
886	Zanzibar ..	,,
887	Fiji ..	,,
888	Sierra Leone ..	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia ..	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago ..	,,
892	Hong Kong ..	,,
893	Ashanti ..	,,
894	Gold Coast ..	,,
895	Malta ..	1915–1916
896	St. Helena ..	1915
897	Seychelles..	,,
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar ..	1915
900	Bahamas ..	1915–1916
901	Swaziland ..	,,
902	Somaliland ..	,,
903	Cyprus ..	,,
904	Ceylon ..	1915
905	Straits Settlements ..	,,
906	Grenada ..	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands ..	1915
908	Bermuda ..	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland ..	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute ..	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies ..	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon ..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute ..	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent ..	Roads and Land Settlement.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 889.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1917.

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A Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 844 [Cd. 7622–35].

No. 927.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 889.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
30th June, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1916, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Walter H. Long, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1916.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1916, which was estimated at £8,190, actually amounted to £8,632, an increase of £442 (entirely attributable to receipts under the head of Post Office), as compared with the estimate, or an increase of £596 in comparison with 1915, in which year the revenue collected amounted to £8,036.

The approved estimate of expenditure was £8,185, but actual expenditure, owing to the exercise of the closest economy in every direction, amounted to only £7,925—thus disclosing a saving on the year's transactions in this connection of £260. The expenditure in 1915 was £9,133 and included a contribution of £500 to the War Funds.

The balance of assets on the 31st December, 1916, was £8,091 11*s.* 11*d.*

There is no public debt.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year were valued at £29,009, as compared with an average of £27,744 for the five years 1910 to 1914, and as against £27,620 in the year 1915.

The exports were valued at £27,807, as against £30,487 during the year 1915 and an average of £26,053 for the quinquennium 1910 to 1915. The following table gives the values of the articles of local production exported during the past two years:—

	1915.	1916.
	£	£
Salt (coarse)	15,418	13,715
Salt (fishery)	7,249	6,388
Fish (salted and dried)	757	169
Fish (canned)	421	469
Conchs	1,217	1,715
Sisal	3,801	3,281
Shells	50	452
Sponges	1,129	1,012
Turtles	17	20

The direction of trade du the year under review may be gathered from the following table:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	2,046	—
British Colonies	2,813	5,283
Foreign Countries..	24,150	22,524

Salt.—The year was a favourable one for the salt rakers and, notwithstanding a scarcity of shipping due to the European War, which for some time caused great uneasiness, a fair quantity of salt was shipped to northern markets. This, as usual, went to the United States and Nova Scotia—over three-fourths of it going to the former market—where it has to compete not only with importations from the Dutch islands of Bonaire and St. Martin's but with a far more serious competitor in the ever increasing production of domestic salt within the Republic itself. Whereas in 1881 imported salt (from all sources) formed 39 per cent. of the total consumption in the United States, it had dwindled down to 6 per cent. in 1901 and not quite 2 per cent. in 1914.

Sponges.—The sponge industry, in consequence of the War, continues in an unsatisfactory condition. It is encouraging, however, to mention the steady development which continues to take place at Chalk Sound in the direction of artificial sponge cultivation. With the cessation of hostilities and the reopening of the sponge markets it is hoped that the enterprising efforts of Mr. Silly will meet with the success they so richly deserve.

Sisal.—The present outlook for this industry is of a most hopeful character. Prices having risen to the phenomenal figure of 16 cts. per lb., even peasant growers in the Caicos Islands, who some years ago were induced by the now defunct West Caicos Fibre Company to plant this product extensively, have for the first time been able this year to dispose locally of hand-cleaned fibre and thus obtain a return for labour expended in past years.

Conchs.—Exports of this food commodity to the neighbouring republic of Haiti show an increase of £500, or about 40 per cent., on the figures given for 1915. Upwards of one and three-quarter millions of conchs were exported during the year.

Cotton.—After considerable delay in consequence of shipping difficulties owing to the War, the first recorded shipment of Upland cotton from the Dependency (3 bales) was made to Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland, cotton brokers, of Liverpool, in December of this year. Reports received were most encouraging, the staple being described as of excellent quality and worth 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

At the time of writing upwards of 11,000 lb. of raw or seed cotton (equal to 10 bales) have been received at the Government ginnery from peasant growers in the Caicos Islands for the crop of 1917.

As there are thousands of acres of land in these islands suitable for cotton cultivation, it is hoped by the development of a cotton industry among the peasants—fostered and encouraged by the Government on the lines so successfully adopted at Carriacou and the St. Vincent Grenadines—greatly to ameliorate the lot of these islanders, whose impecunious condition has hitherto been the cause of much concern to the Executive.

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the various ports in the Dependency during the year was 307 with a tonnage of 209,882, as compared with 287 and a tonnage of 180,418 during the year 1915.

The following statement shows the total tonnage of shipping outwards during the past two years:—

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1915	286	180,983
1916	307	209,882

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population on the 31st December was 5,730, an increase of approximately 115 since the census of 1911.

The number of births during the year was 223, and the number of deaths 108. The birth-rate was 40 per 1,000, and the death-rate 19 per 1,000.

Thirty-eight marriages were registered during the year.

The health of the Dependency was good, and there were no serious cases of disease or epidemics of any kind.

There was only one inquest.

No lunacy enquiries were recorded.

EDUCATION.

The annual grant of £600, provided by the Government and administered through the medium of the Education Board, provided as in past years for the needs of primary education throughout the Dependency.

For the nine schools as above described, the average number of pupils on the register during the year 1916 was 937, with an average attendance of 718, as compared with 922 and 679, respectively, for the previous year.

The number of children attending private schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, during 1916, amounted to 76.

Preliminary arrangements were set on foot during the year for inaugurating a school of secondary education in the Dependency. Owing, however, to the War, it has not been found possible as yet to obtain the services of a competent teacher for the post of headmaster.

JUDICIAL.

Offences reported to the Police	200
Number of persons brought before the Magistrate	200
Summary convictions	140
Convictions in the Supreme Court..	2
Number of persons acquitted :—	
In the Supreme Court..	3
In the Inferior Court	32

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom are transmitted and received twice a month, by steamers of the Clyde Line, *via* New York.

The monthly service of Messrs. Pickford & Black's steamers, connecting the Dependency with Halifax and Jamaica, which in

consequence of scarcity of tonnage caused by the European War, has not been resumed.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other cable systems of the world. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily in respect of which a yearly subsidy of £120 is paid.

The charges under the Cable Company's Ordinance, 1898, are as follows:—

	s.	d.	
To England	2	6	per word.
„ Halifax, N.S.	1	6	„ „
„ Bermuda	1	6	„ „
„ Jamaica	1	0	„ „
„ New York	1	9	„ „

and to other places the Company's rates to nearest place plus the connecting Company's rate to destination. Non-urgent plain-language messages are sent at half-rates.

The estimated number of letters and postal matter dealt with in 1916 was:—

Letters	30,000
Post cards	1,300
Newspapers	2,700
Books	17,700
Parcels	1,404

The extent of money-order transactions was:—

	£	s.	d.
Issued in the Dependency..	1,331	2	11
Paid in the Dependency	254	8	4

The revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for the year 1916 were £1,228 and £179, respectively.

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on the 31st December, 1916, was 507; deposits during the year amounted to £2,099, and withdrawals to £1,271 18*s.* 3*d.*

The rate of interest was increased this year from 2 per cent. to 2½ per cent.

METEOROLOGY.

The readings taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 21′ N. and longitude 71° 07′ W. at a height of 11·3 feet above sea level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	26·37 inches.
Highest temperature recorded for year..	91·5°
Lowest temperature recorded for year ..	63·2°

The prevailing winds during the year are thus recorded:—

N., 10 days; N.E., 72 days; E., 199 days; S.E., 51 days; S., 19 days; S.W., 2 days; N.W., 7 days; calm, 2 days.

GENERAL.

Except for the high cost of most of the necessaries of life, which presses heavily on the poorer inhabitants, the Dependency has not suffered to any appreciable extent by the disturbance of general trade caused by the European War.

Both the productivity of the salinas and the demand for salt in northern markets were well maintained, and, except for a shortage of tonnage—which for some time caused considerable anxiety amongst shippers—the outlook for the chief industry of the Dependency is better to-day than it has been for many years past.

Greatly to the satisfaction of the inhabitants, the Dependency was favoured during this year with a visit from his Excellency Sir Wm. Manning, K.C.M.G. His Excellency arrived from Jamaica on the 23rd November, and during his stay of four days in the islands was busily engaged inspecting the salinas and discussing with proprietors measures to be adopted for placing the salt industry on a sounder and more prosperous basis than has hitherto been the case.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,
Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
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891	Trinidad and Tobago	"
892	Hong Kong	"
893	Ashanti	"
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectora	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
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923	Hong Kong	1916
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925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"

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81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
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85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 928.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

(For Report for 1914-15 see No. 879.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1917.

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A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 879: [Cd. 8172–5].

No. 928.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 879.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
27th July, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Cayman Islands for the year 1915–16 together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Walter H. Long, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C386) Wt. 47019/1099. 1000 & 90. 9.17. B. & F. Ltd. Gp. 11/2.

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

FINANCE.

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1916, amounted to a sum total of £2,891 and the expenditure to £3,558. The average revenue for the last five years is £3,694.

It will be observed that the revenue is somewhat below what it has hitherto been for the four preceding years; this is due in a great measure to the effects of the war and hurricanes which have during the year under review considerably curtailed the purchasing power of the people.

On Thursday, the 29th of June, His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, visited the Dependency, landing in Georgetown at 10 a.m., amid every manifestation of a cordial welcome to the shores of Grand Cayman on the part of the inhabitants.

A meeting was convened in the Court House at 3.30 p.m., at which addresses were presented to His Excellency embodying expressions of loyalty to the Throne and person of His Majesty, and directing His Excellency's attention to matters of local concern and interest. The complete isolation of the Dependency from the outside world in respect of steamship and cable communication together with the precarious means of communication with the parent colony of Jamaica and the necessity of the establishment of a wireless telegraph station in Georgetown were forcibly brought forward. The need of a more satisfactory light for shipping and the more thorough repair of the roads was also mentioned. His Excellency promised to give these questions his favourable consideration and there is every reason to believe that in the not far distant future certain improvements will be effected which the Dependency, owing in the past to the increasing necessity for economy in expenditure, has not been able to afford.

On the 16th August the islands were once again visited by a hurricane, the second within a period of two years. The ground provisions were almost totally destroyed and many fruit trees. Several schooners were driven on shore, fortunately no lives were lost, and the roads sustained but slight damage.

Export Duty.—There is an export duty of 1*s.* per 1,000 on coconuts.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1916, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £4,211.

The liabilities were £426 due to depositors in the Government Savings Bank, and £54 due to depositors in Treasury; Money Order Account, £720, making £1,200 in all.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the imports from all countries has been in :—

	£
1914–15	17,345
1915–16	28,414

Average for five years **£26,440.**

Exports.

The exports to all countries have amounted in value as follows :—

	£
1914–15	1,810
1915–16	11,566

Average for five years £8,739.

The increase in exports over that of the preceding year may be attributed chiefly to the export of 1,600 tons of logwood, for which there was a very considerable demand.

The average price received was £5 a ton, the total export realizing £5,900. The sale of turtle realized £3,438 and coconuts blown off the trees by the hurricane £1,052.

Trade has been comparatively dull during the year, the export of logwood having in a great measure practically saved the economic situation of the Dependency.

It is hoped that the cultivation of sisal hemp, for which the soil of the Cayman Islands is peculiarly adapted, will be established on a firm footing. In the past the staple commodities on which the welfare and prosperity of the islands depended have been coconuts and turtle.

The coconut industry is to all intents and purposes non-existent owing to hurricanes and disease, while the entire reliance on turtle, which is nothing less than a luxury depending on the taste of the epicure, renders the economic situation precarious in the extreme.

Sisal, for which the world's demand is increasing year by year and the market price of which is high, must therefore be made to take the place of coconuts to a very great extent—thus substituting one necessary commodity for another.

Shipping.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry, having vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 223. The number of ships entered and cleared during the year 1915–16 is as follows :—

Entered	238
Cleared	241

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has proved of great use to those desirous of availing themselves of the opportunity

offered for safe investment. The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1916, were :—

Deposits, £150. Withdrawals, £150.

The balances due to depositors at the end of each year have been :—

	£	s.	d.
1915	418	7	8
1916	426	1	8

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment amply proved its usefulness and has contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency. For the last six years it has been the mainstay of these islands and has been responsible for nearly one half of the total revenue.

Year.	*Post Office Revenue.*	*Total Revenue.*
	£	£
1914–15	1,355	3,347
1915–16	747	2,891

The sale of postage stamps to collectors forms a very appreciable item in its revenue. The inland postal service shows a steady and favourable increase in the amount of business transacted, while the large receipts in respect of the foreign mail are due to the number of Caymanians who have been compelled to seek a livelihood in the Canal Zone, Cuba, Central American Republics, and the United States.

Post Office Orders.

All money order business is transacted through Jamaica, the issue of orders in the Cayman islands being at present confined to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely, in June and December. The Commissioner presides as Judge. Quarterly Petty Courts and Weekly Petty Sessions are held, in which two Justices sit. The former deal with smaller civil actions, and the latter take cognizance of minor offences. Cases of serious crime are few and isolated, while the minor offences are generally the result of drink. In all cases in the Grand Court there is a right of appeal to the Jamaica Supreme Court and in the Petty Court to the Grand Court.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly is styled " The Justices and Vestry," and is composed of all the Justices of the Peace (15 in number) and 27

vestrymen. The Vestry meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year, beginning on the 1st October, and otherwise when summoned for the despatch of business.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the financial year most of the expenditure of £1,020 has been appropriated to the repair of damage wrought by the hurricane of August, 1915, which has amounted to about £1,000. Very little work beyond repairs was executed except that of an urgent and necessary nature.

AGRICULTURE.

A branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was established in Georgetown in 1908, but does not appear to be progressing as satisfactorily as such a movement deserves. There is always a lamentable scarcity of ground provisions, though Georgetown affords a ready market for their sale. £18 a year is voted for agricultural purposes and for the granting of prizes at the Annual Agricultural Show, by way of encouragement. During the past year no meetings have been held. The attendance at meetings in the past has been most unsatisfactory, and it would seem that the members have lost interest in the subject.

The provision grounds throughout the Cayman Islands were nearly all destroyed by the hurricane which occurred in August. This is the second occasion within a period of a year in which injury has been sustained by the people.

POPULATION.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black; 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denomination the people are mainly Presbyterian, 3,364 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the lesser islands, and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God." During 1916 there were 190 births, 97 males and 93 females. Of these 166 were legitimate and 34 illegitimate. In the same period there were 54 deaths, 21 males and 33 females.

EDUCATION.

The state of education in the Dependency is far from satisfactory, especially in the country districts. £250 a year is devoted to education. The conditions obtaining at the present time do not offer any attractions to good and reliable teachers.

All children between the ages of six and fourteen years, residing within two miles of a school, are required to attend 75 per cent. of the sessions of the school every term. A Government School has been established at East End during the past year.

Owing to the increased price of foodstuffs and the probable effect on the revenue of the islands in consequence of the war and the hurricanes, it has not been considered advisable to bring forward the contemplated Bill in respect of increasing the present *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. by 2½ per cent. to provide for free and compulsory education. The probability of this measure being adopted within the near future appears very remote.

HOSPITAL.

There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases, but it is not generally used. A Government Medical Officer is appointed for the lesser islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

There are no prisons in the Dependency. Prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent to Jamaica. There is very little crime, and offences are generally of a trivial nature, in most cases the result of excessive drinking.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an inspector, five policemen, and one district constable, the services of the police in the country districts being utilised in the carriage of inland mails.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The death rate for the year was 10 per 1,000.

The Government Dispenser, who has undertaken medical duties in respect of simple ailments and general health conditions during the absence of a Government Medical Officer, reports that the health of the islands continues to be quite satisfactory. There have been no epidemics of any form or diseases of a virulent nature.

CLIMATE.

The Cayman Islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness attributable to climatic conditions. The weather is warm for the greater part of the year. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, when the cool season begins with a change of wind to the north and north-west in the early part of November.

The following table shows the average temperature :—

	Morning.	Mid-day.	Evening.
Hot months	83°	89°	86°
Cool months (Nov. to March)	71°	80°	74°

A. C. ROBINSON,

Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,

24th February, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
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907	Falkland Islands	1915
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910	British Guiana	1915
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912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
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917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
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919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 943.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1916-17.

(For Report for 1915-16 see No. 909.)

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A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No 860 [Cd. 7622–51].

No. 943.

JAMAICA.

(For Report for 1915-16 see No. 909.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House, Jamaica,
25th August, 1917.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended 31st March, 1917.

1.—FINANCIAL.

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last two years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915-16	1,132,049	1,105,942
1916-17	1,154,349	1,076,237

3. Again during August of the year under review the Island was visited by a hurricane, this time on the 15th. Very serious damage was done throughout the Island; a very promising banana crop was completely destroyed and much destruction was caused to the coconut crop, the cocoa crop, and to agriculture generally. This hurricane followed a similar disaster in the same month of the preceding year (on the night of the 12th). While the ravages of the one in 1916 as regards agricultural prospects were greater, the damage to roads and railways was fortunately less than on the occasion in August, 1915. The Legislative Council had again to be called together in September for the purpose of passing the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure necessary and to review the financial position. It also so happened that, as in the previous year, severe flood rains were experienced in the later months of the year causing much damage to roads, to meet the expenditure necessary on which a sum of £10,000 had to be specially authorised. Fortunately it was found possible to meet this from savings on the vote for Relief Works subsequently referred to.

(C414) Wt. 47019/1099. 1,000 & 90. 12.17. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2. B

4. The estimates for 1916–17 as originally passed were expected to work out as under:—

Expenditure	£1,059,103	
Expected deficit of preceding year	£61,923	
		£1,121,026
Revenue (including extra taxation amounting to £178,250 to meet expected deficit of 1915–16 and what was expected otherwise to be a deficit in 1916–17)		£1,121,973

leaving a small balance to the good of £947.

5. In consequence of the hurricane in August, 1916, revised estimates of certain revenue and expenditure items were prepared and submitted to the Legislative Council at its meeting in September, together with a revised forecast of the financial position to the 31st March, 1917. The revised estimate of revenue showed that the net receipts were expected to fall short of the Budget estimate by £19,600, while the revised expenditure, inclusive of the cost of repairing hurricane damage, showed an addition of £38,610. The second revised estimate prepared in February, 1917, showed an expected surplus on the 31st March, 1917, of £71,297.

6. The actual results of the year 1916–17 as shown by the final accounts just received show that the surplus at 31st March, 1917, was £88,842 or an improvement of £17,545 on the last mentioned estimate, being accounted for by saving in expenditure of £9,500 and an increase in revenue of £8,045. A comparison in detail of the actual figures for 1916–17 with the budget Estimates (as reinforced by the additional taxation) shows the following:—as regards Revenue the chief excesses were Customs Import Duties, £15,173; Customs Export Duties, £15,902; Stamp Duties, £8,365; Post Office and Telegraphs, £2,802; and Interest, £7,423, while the chief decrease was £19,454 under Railway. An allowance was made in September of £35,000 for falling off in Railway Revenue owing to the hurricane, but in the result as just stated the net falling off from the original estimate was only £19,454. Another estimated decrease on account of the hurricane was in Harbour Fees and Light Dues, £1,500; the actual decrease under this head was £1,624. The total revenue as estimated originally was £1,121,973, the total actual revenue was £1,154,348, showing an excess over the original estimate of £32,375.

7. As regards Expenditure the chief differences as compared with the Budget Estimate were the following:—The chief excesses were Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs and Stamp Offices, £10,496 (being more than accounted for by excess under Refunds of Duties Overpaid); Education, £1,836; Harbours and Pilotage, £553; Printing Office, £1,259, chiefly due to enormously increased cost of supplies; Public Works and Buildings and Lighthouses, £11,847; Railway, £4,864; and Relief Works, £3,969. If compared with the Votes as supplemented in September the above figures would be altered as follows:—the excess in Education would be reduced to £336 and that in Harbours and Pilotage to £193.

8. As regards Public Works Expenditure there were additional hurricane Votes amounting to £8,750, so that the excess would be

reduced to £3,097 and, if the £10,000 for flood damages be also included in the authorised expenditure, the net result would appear as a saving of £6,903.

9. As regards Railway Expenditure the net excess shown above may be chiefly accounted for by excesses caused by flood damages, hurricane expenditure, cost of new locomotives, and extra repairs of rolling stock on account of exceptional logwood traffic, against which there were savings, the chief being due to the use of less coal and stores.

10. As regards Relief Works against the nominal excess of £3,969 (as of course the Budget Estimate had been nil) must be set the Vote of £21,000 which was taken in September, on the distinct understanding however that no money was to be spent except in cases where it was absolutely necessary. When the matter was gone into in detail, with this proviso borne in mind, it was expected that a sum of £6,000 might prove sufficient, of which amount only the £3,969 above referred to was spent in the year under review. The remainder of the £6,000 will be found in the expenditure of the present year. This saving rendered it possible to authorize the allotment of an additional sum of £10,000 for repairs of flood damages to roads, thus adding to the amount available for wages. In this way an extra sum of about £14,000 was available for the wage earning classes during the latter part of the year.

11. An examination of the column in the Finance Accounts showing the items of expenditure which were *less* than the Budget Estimates will make it evident that where possible the strict economy exercised in the two preceding years was continued.

12. The following are the chief decreases as compared with the previous year :—Charges of Debt, £49,920 ; Miscellaneous, £30,946 ; the former being due chiefly to the £45,000 raised by loan and expended in purchase of Jamaica Railway Second Mortgage Bonds and to the closing of the matter of the Jamaica Hotel Debentures in the previous year, and the latter being chiefly due to the absence of any expenditure under the items Losses on sale of Saving Bank Investments and Relief Works in Vere, and the closing up of the transactions relative to the purchase of sugar as a war gift to the Imperial Government. It may be mentioned here that the original Vote for this latter was £50,000 and that the total expenditure including all expenses was £49,970 3*s.* 5*d.* in the purchase of 2,499$\frac{3}{40}$ths tons, or at an average rate of about 1*d.* less than £20 per ton for the Sugar landed in the United Kingdom.

13. The total receipts during the year being £1,154,350 (with the help of the additional taxation elsewhere referred to), and the expenditure £1,076,238, there was a surplus on the year's transactions of £78.112. The balance in the Surplus Deficit Account of the Colony on the 1st April 1916 being £10,730 the year closed with a surplus of £88,842 as already stated above.

14. The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,771,949 on the 31st March, 1917. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £1,037,238, leaving a net liability of £2,734,611. Included in the debt were guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on

municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £479,259, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £99,938.

15. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last two years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915–16	37,712	37,835
1916–17	38,092	40,390

Kingston General Commissioners.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915–16	45,293	44,700
1916–17	45,444	44,954

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915–16	130,681	125,045
1916–17	132,111	135,713

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water-works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £8,166.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

16. The total values of imports and exports for the last two years are as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1916	3,107,004	2,821,234
1915	2,327,458	2,228,664

In the main, the increase in values is rather the result of greatly enhanced prices than increase in quantity, shortage of tonnage operating in this Colony, as elsewhere, to restrict exchange of commodities. The values of the total exports were maintained notwithstanding the very heavy loss in bananas occasioned by the destructive hurricane which occurred in the month of August, and practically brought the fruit trade to a standstill for the remainder of the year. But for this unlooked for disaster good crops of sugar and rum and a very strong demand at maximum prices for most of the exportable products of the Island would have created a record notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of obtaining freights. The items showing the principal improvements were sugar cane products, £606,603 ; dyewoods in bulk, £281,807 ; and dye extracts, £207,461 ; tobacco, £11,821 ; coconuts, £61,980 ; cocoa, £14,355 ; hides and skins, £28,854 ; and

honey, £9,963, the only two considerable items of the Island's agricultural produce showing any appreciable shrinkage in value being coffee, £37,028, and pimento, £22,643.

17. The imports and exports shown at ten-year intervals since 1876 produce the following results :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1876	1,552,339	1,517,015
1886	1,322,336	1,280,118
1896	1,856,377	1,873,105
1906	2,261,469	1,843,180
1916	3,107,004	2,821,234

18. At this juncture in the Empire's history the sources of supply of imports and destination of exports must possess particular interest and for this reason the figures in the foregoing table are thus further analysed viz :—

Sources of Supply of Imports.

	1876	1886	1896	1906	1916
United Kingdom	53·6	54·8	49·9	49·8	32·4
United States	29·2	33·6	39·4	38·2	57·4
Canada	12·4	8·4	8·2	8·1	7·5
Other Countries	4·8	3·2	2·5	3·9	2·7

Destination of Exports.

	1876	1886	1896	1906	1916
United Kingdom	80·9	39·9	27·7	19·4	43·4
United States	10·0	43·9	56·9	57·4	32·7
Canada	·2	3·5	1·6	6·1	13·7
Other Countries	8·9	12·7	13·8	17·1	10·2

Apart from the disturbing factor of the War and the restrictions arising therefrom, these figures express as clearly as words could do the supersession of the sugar industry by the banana, but the signs of the times indicate a revival of the former and of the dependence of the Colony being on two major industries operated side by side.

19. The Collector General in his report points out that measured in terms of quantity the imports have fallen off in many items, and in regard to foodstuffs he draws the conclusion that, if put to the test, the Island could be much more largely self-supporting than it is. Among what are called the Island's minor products he calls attention to the great activity in the demand for hides and skins ; annatto ; horses and mules ; limejuice ; cigars ; copra and essential oils ; leather and tanning materials ; nearly every item being capable of large expansion under favourable conditions.

20. The agricultural statistics collected by the collecting officers of taxes during the year compared with an average of the preceding four years' returns give the following results :

	1916–17.	Average 1912–16.
	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	274,824	270,826
Guinea Grass	168,318	163,308
Commons	536,603	351,508
Wood and ruinate	1,079,382	1,182,907

Classification of the tilled lands gives the dedication to crop as follows, the returns of the year last past being compared with a four year average, viz :—

	1916–17.	Average 1912–16.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	33,499	32,118
Coffee	20,427	19,714
Coconuts	30,189	24,464
Banana	78,890	85,468
Cocoa	12,131	11,149
Ground Provisions	70,336	63,927
Mixed Cultivation	27,189	30,356
Minor Items	2,162	3,809

In his separate report the Collector General gives a further acreage table embracing a more extended outlook and giving figures at ten-yearly intervals from 1876–77. The feature of this is that it emphasizes the transition from cane to banana already referred to, the cane acreage having fallen from 46,023 acres in 1876–77 to 33,499 in the year last past, and the banana acreage having grown from nothing to 78,890 acres. Among the more dependable of exportable crop-producing plants is to be noticed the healthy extension of the acreage returned as being in coconuts and cocoa respectively.

AGRICULTURE.

21. The chief feature of the year in relation to the agricultural interests of the Colony was the hurricane in August which practically swept the whole island from east to west so as to destroy the whole banana crop and to do a good deal of damage to coconuts, canes, and cocoa. For so serious a disaster to occur two years in succession has been a heavy blow to the banana industry. Owing to war conditions other staples such as sugar, rum, logwood, cacao, annatto, ginger, orange oil, and hides have sold for high prices, and it is now evident that but for the hurricane the exports of Jamaica for 1916 would probably have created a record in the history of the trade of the Colony.

22. The rainfall for the year was abnormally high and in the latter part of the year was so excessive as to be detrimental to both crops and stock.

23. The hopeful expectations as to the sugar industry were realised and 28,000 tons of sugar and 18,000 puncheons of rum, the largest crop since 1884, were exported. The revival of the sugar industry is now being prosecuted and, with an Imperial market for its produce, the Colony can be relied on to push this industry with enterprise and success whenever the conditions are favourable.

24. Remarkably good returns of sugar on the canes sent to the mills have been realised in Vere. The demand for cane tops by large and small planters has been brisk. The varieties "White Transparent" B. 208, J. 72, and B. 6450 have all done well and are in general demand.

25. Logwood experienced a period of unexampled prosperity owing to the lack of German synthetic dyes, and a sum of £800,000 was realised for logwood products during the year. Owing to the speculative operations abroad the market broke, and the prices and demand for logwood are now again on a moderate basis only.

26. The incidence of Panama disease of bananas during the year has shown a marked reduction, only 163 diseased plants having been reported on 40 separate spots, or an average of four plants per base. This disease is a very difficult one to control, but where the strict measures of quarantine provided under the Law have been successfullyenforced, the results have been quite satisfactory, and with care and watchfulness there is no reason for the planters of Jamaica to view this disease with serious apprehension. It has been demonstrated, however, that infected land appears to remain permanently unfit for the cultivation of the "Gros Michel" or "Jamaica Banana," although the "Chinese or "Canary" variety has been found to be immune to the disease.

A good deal of public alarm was engendered over the discovery of the banana borer as a somewhat widespread pest in three parishes of the Island. Special measures of quarantine and of barrier protection together with systematic field surveys have been carried out. Later experience supports the conclusion that this insect is not a serious pest where bananas are well cultivated and clean methods of management are adopted.

27. A few cases of Anthrax have been dealt with under the Law, but no serious epidemics have been reported. The Government Stock Farm at Hope had a successful year, showing a profit of over £800 on the year's work, with a surplus of assets amounting to £2,856. The Zebu-Jersey is proving a reliable breed of tropical cattle for dairy purposes and the productive capacity of the herd shows a progressive increase. The dipping tank was successfully operated at a cost of 4*d*. per head for the year. Ticks have now almost disappeared from the Farm.

28. The Farm School has had an average attendance of 29 students, as against 34 for the previous year. Two of the masters have received commissions in the Jamaica War contingent and the whole of the third year students enlisted *en bloc*. Owing to their knowledge of drill all seven of the Farm School recruits were appointed non-commissioned officers.

29. The Government Laboratory has operated as usual and has conducted special investigations with regard to the fat content of cacao from different parts of the Island and the composition of citrus

fruits in relation to the standard of maturation adopted for citrus fruits in the United States.

30. The plantation of sisal hemp at Lititz is most promising. At a small cost, 600 acres of fibre is being established on these derelict lands and the young plants are making such good growth that there is reason to anticipate the successful establishment of a fibre industry in this dry and distressful section of the Island.

III.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

31. The Director of Education furnished the following statistics :—

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List at end of Financial Year.	Average Number of Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance for Year ended 31st March.	Percentage on Average Attendance of Number on Books.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
1916–17 ..	696	97,467	53,447	64·09	£65,987
1915–16 ..	696	97,290	54,028	66·85	£67,009

32. During the year vocational training classes in tailoring, carpentry and metal working for the benefit of the disabled men of the British West Indies Regiment were started at the Government Technical and Continuation School ; to the close of the year, 60 men were enrolled and 50 were in regular attendance, and the men are reported to have made quite satisfactory progress.

33. The results of the annual examination of schools is as follows ; 277 were placed in the first class, 285 in the second, and 108 in the third, as compared with 264, 289, and 120 respectively in 1915–16. The failures numbered five as against six last year.

Industrial Schools.

34. The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was :—

Stony Hill	509
Alpha Cottage	334
Belmont	32
Happy Grove	12
Broughton	25
A total of ..	912

Secondary Education.

35. The expenditure of the endowed schools during the year was as follows:—

	£
Jamaica College	3,251
Munro and Dickenson's	7,029
Wolmer's	3,243
Manning's	849
Rusea's	348
Titchfield	1,962
Beckford and Smith's	430
Manchester Schools	344
Vere Schools	1,249
Montego Bay School	962
Guthrie Davidson's	71
	£19,738

The total average number of pupils in attendance at the endowed schools during the year was 930.

The Rhodes, Jamaica (Boys), and £60 Scholarships for 1917 were awarded to pupils from the Jamaica College.

256 boys and girls are reported to have entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, 202 of whom passed, 51 doing so with honours.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

36. Indoor patients treated, 4,184; outdoor patients, including paupers, 12,548; dressings done for outdoor patients, 30,583; prescriptions made up, 13,772; total surgical operations, 1,768; dental cases, 2,778; daily average number of inmates, 236; total cost of maintenance, £11,989; receipts, £1,327 13*s.* 1*d.*

37. During the year a ward equipped with 24 beds was provided for venereal disease cases and a system of evening clinics was introduced towards the end of the year at which 627 patients attended and 853 prescriptions were made up.

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in-Hospital.*

38. Number of patients admitted, 594; 10 pupil nurses were admitted for training, and passed their examinations and received certificates; average daily number of patients, 14; receipts, £577 15*s.* expenditure, £1,218 5*s.* 6*d.*

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

39. Number of patients on 31st March, 1917, 1,322, a decrease of 119 during the year. Total number of patients under treatment during the year, 1,730; daily average resident, 1,391; rate of recovery, 57·3 per cent.; admissions, 286; discharges, 174; deaths, 234; death-rate, 16·8 per cent.

Cost of maintenance, £23,787; receipts, £11,249.

The high death-rate is attributed to the cold weather with a sudden fall of temperature at night during the last six months of the year.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

Patients on 31st March, 1916..		121
Admitted during the year		20
		141
Discharged	6	
Absconded	2	
Died	11	
		19
On 31st March, 1917		122

The death-rate was 7·8 per cent.; cost of maintenance, £2,598 4*s.* 8*d.*; receipts, nil.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

40. The liability of the bank to its depositors on current account was decreased during the year by £7,252, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £13,348, and the increase in Government accounts £6,096.

41. The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £65,354, a decrease of £936, and the withdrawals to £74,648, a decrease of £10,518, as compared with the previous year. The balance sheet on 31st March, 1917, shows a liability to depositors of £260,201.

42. The income and expenditure of the Bank for the year may be summarised as below.

Income.

Interest on investments	£9,346	16	5
Miscellaneous receipts	13	15	11½
	£9,360	12	4½

Expenditure.

Interest on deposits	£6,088	19	8
Carried to General Revenue	3,271	12	8½
	£9,360	12	4½

During the year it was decided to reorganize the Bank so that it should become an institution of economic use to the Island, and a Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council during the financial year, but was not passed until after its close, which will place the management of the Bank in the hands of a Board to be appointed by the Governor.

It was also decided to increase the interest payable on deposits, from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent. per annum as from 1st April, 1917.

(f) *Registration of Titles.*

43. Work was steadily carried on; the number of titles registered during the year was 677. The Titles Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £7,203 16*s.* 7*d.*

(g) *Administrator General and Trustee in Bankruptcy.*

Administration.

44. As was the case in 1915–16 the work of the Custodian of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy Law (22 of 1915) has been attended to in the Department, and the moneys which have been received were invested with the approval of the Governor.

The cash transactions of the year were :—

Receipts	£88,865	14	0½
Lodgments in Government Savings and other Banks	40,188	13	4
Payments and balance carried forward to next account	48,677	0	0½

At the close of the year there were 379 accounts open in the books, and the amount at credit of deceased persons, lunatics, Receiverships, Custodian of Enemy Property, etc., was £146,693 6*s.* 1*d.*

£213 5*s.* 6*d.* was paid into the Treasury under the Casual Revenue Law for balances of Panama labourers, and other estates and commissions amounting to £1,899 17*s.* 7*d.* were earned.

Bankruptcy.

45. There were nineteen provisional orders of bankruptcy made in the Supreme Court; three of these were made absolute; six were revoked; and ten were pending at the end of the year, and one was transferred from the lower courts.

An absolute order in respect of proceedings commenced in previous years was made in one case and in three cases the provisional Orders were revoked.

The aggregate of the liabilities in these bankruptcies was £11,778 17*s.*

The cash transactions of the year were :—

Receipts	£26,974	0	11
Lodgments in Government Savings Bank	11,052	16	0
Payments and balance carried forward to next account	15,921	4	11

46. On 31st March, 1917, there were 218 accounts open in the books, and the amount at credit of bankrupt estates was £9,915 1*s.* 3¾*d.* Of this amount, £9,641 13*s.* 2*d.* was in the Government Savings Bank; £535 6*s.* 2*d.* was earned for commission.

V.—COURTS, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

47. The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 78, as compared with 99 in the previous year; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts, 9,750, as compared with 9,305; and of summary convictions, 15,819, as compared with 16,005.

The number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts was 40,875, as against 39,882 for last year, and the number of persons tried before the Superior Courts 14,693, as against 14,120.

There were 3,999 cases of praedial larceny in which a charge was preferred, as against 3,177 in the previous year, and there were 2,902 convictions as against 2,300 in 1915–16.

The possibility of the scarcity of food has caused even more than the usual attention to be given to this class of case, and further legislation on the subject has since been introduced at a special session of the Legislative Council, in July, 1917.

There were four convictions for murder during the year, comparing with five in the year 1915–16, and the death sentence was carried out in three of the cases.

Prisons.

48. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 6,551, and to lock-ups for short terms 2,473, making a total of 9,024, as compared with 8,450 in the previous year, an increase of 574.

49. The re-convictions during the year amounted to 2,847, of which 801 were second convictions, 486 third, and 1,560 fourth and upwards. During 1915–16 the re-convictions numbered 2,356.

50. The daily average of prisoners in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prisons was 1,565, as compared with 1,483 in the previous year. There were 78 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 20 in 1915–16. There were 3 executions of capital sentences as against 4 last year.

Considering the institutions separately, the daily average in the Penitentiary was 930, as against 824 during the previous year, and in the St. Catherine District Prison 635, as against 659. The deaths in the Penitentiary were 33, representing a rate of 35·48 per 1,000, compared with 17, representing a rate of 20·63 per 1,000 in 1915–16; and in the St. Catherine District Prison 45, representing a rate of 70·86 per 1,000, as against 20, representing a rate of 30·35 per 1,000 last year.

51. The very high mortality in the prisons during the year is stated by the surgeons of the Institutions to be due in part to the fact that a considerable number of the persons admitted were in poor health, appeared to be underfed, and of very poor physique, thus offering little or no resistance to the attacks of an acute disease, in part to the unhealthiness of the winter months brought about no doubt by the unusual cold and the results of insufficient nutrition caused by the effect of two disastrous hurricanes in two successive years, and also to the prevalence in the Institutions, as was the case generally throughout parts of the Island, of a particularly virulent type of pneumonia. The causes of this disease are referred to in more detail in the section relating to Public Health. The number of prisoners in both Institutions was abnormally high and much above the average.

An analysis of the deaths in the Institutions gives the following results:—

Of the 33 in the Penitentiary, only 6 were from Pneumonia, 2 from Enteric Fever and 2 from Dysentery. The remaining 23 were from Bright's Disease 8, Colitis 4, Pellagra 3, Tuberculosis 2, Neuritis 3, Pernicious Anaemia 1, Paralysis 1, Meningitis 1.

In the St. Catherine District Prison, 10 of the 45 deaths were caused from Pneumonia, 3 from Diarrhoea and 3 from Malarial Remittent Fever. The remaining 29 were caused from diseases from which the inmates were suffering on admission, and except in the cases of Bright's

Disease, which caused 5, and Senile Decay 4, no other single disease accounted for more than 3 deaths

52. The state and discipline of the prisons have been satisfactory; eight corporal punishments were inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 47 lads on 31st March.

Police.

53. The establishment, including officers, was 24 below the authorised strength on the 31st March, 1917.

54. The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 41,524, those prosecuted 33,958, and those in which convictions were obtained 22,001, as against 39,075, 32,793, and 21,328, respectively, in the previous year. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of the population was 462·22, as compared with 442·44 in 1915–16.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

55. It will be observed that the figures in respect of vital statistics have been furnished for the calendar year 1916 instead of the financial year 1916–17. The change has been adopted to admit of comparison with the reports of other countries most of which it is stated are compiled for the calendar year.

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1916, was 897,196. This figure is arrived at as follows:—

Estimated population on 31st March, 1916		892,406	
Births registered from 1st April to 31st December, 1916 ..	22,085		
Deaths registered from 1st April to 31st December, 1916 ..	14,748		
		7,337	
			899,743
Migration from April to December, 1916			
Arrivals—general	6,999		
Arrivals—East Indians	617		
		7,616	
Departures—general	10,019		
Departures—East Indians ..	144		
		10,163	
			2,547
			897,196

56. Of the general arrivals and departures, 4,303 and 4,378, respectively, were labourers, and show a net emigration of 75 persons of this class. The remainders, 3,313 arrivals and 5,785 departures, represent a net emigration of 2,472 persons, of whom 144 were East Indians.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries :—

	Departures.	Returned.	Excess Departures.	Excess Returns.
Central America	1,494	2,537	——	1,043
Cuba	2,571	1,054	1,517	——
Hayti	23	3	20	——
Other Countries (American and West Indian, etc.)	290	709	——	419
Total ..	4,378	4,303	1,537	1,462

57. The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th June, 1916, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the Census, was 898,341. On these figures, the marriages, births and deaths have been calculated.

58. The following is the number of marriages, births and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year :—

		Rate per 1,000. Year ending 31st December, 1916.	Year ending 31st December, 1915.
Marriages ..	2,964	3·3	2·9
Births ..	29,923	33·3	35·7
Deaths ..	20,195	22·4	21·7

59. Of the births registered, 20,221, or 67·5 per 100 were illegitimate. This is higher than the 1915–16 rate of 66·9, which was the highest Island rate recorded since the introduction of compulsory registration in 1878, and is the third time in succession that the record of the highest rate of illegitimate births has been broken.

60. The general death-rate increased by ·7 per 1,000. Of the total mortality the deaths of infants were :—

Under one year	5,265 or 26·0 per cent.
One year	1,843 or 9·1 per cent.
Two Years	679 or 3·4 per cent.
Three Years	394 or 2·0 per cent.
Four Years	294 or 1·4 per cent.
	8,475 or 41·9 per cent.
1915–16	8,328 or 43·2 per cent.

61. Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 29,923 infants were born, and 7,108 died at one year of age or under, equal to 23·7 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 28·3.

The highest birth-rate was in Clarendon (37·0), and the lowest, exclusive of Port Royal, in Kingston (28·1).

The death-rates in Portland (22·2) and St. James (21·8) are less than those in 1915; in Hanover and St. Catherine they remain the same, viz.: 22·8 and 24·2 respectively, while in the remaining parishes they have increased, the largest increases being in Port Royal (4·5), Kingston (4·0) and St. Ann (3·6).

62. In 71·5 per cent. of the deaths registered during the year in the whole Island the causes of death were not medically certified. The percentage in 1915–16 was 73·3; in 1914–15, 71·6; in 1913–14, 63·0, and in 1912–13, 73·3. In Kingston the percentage was 15·8 and inclusive of Port Royal, 20·8, as compared with 16·7 for the two parishes in 1915–16.

Public Health.

63. The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £78,523, as against £72,671 in 1915–16.

64. The number of students at the Dispensary School at the Public Hospital, Kingston has, as a result of the raising of the educational certificates required of them, been reduced by two-thirds.

Yaws.

65. This disease is reported to be still very prevalent throughout the Island. The treatment of it by salvarsan was systematically carried on at the Public General Hospitals and in the several medical districts with beneficial results. Hitherto cases of yaws had to be brought out by the District Constables, but in more than one district it is stated that the results of treatment by salvarsan are so marked that patients come of their own accord and apply for treatment.

2,911 cases were treated, in 2,677 of which it is reported that the symptoms of the disease were cured.

Hookworm.

66. 5,910 cases were treated at the various hospitals in the following manner:—

Thymol	2,807
Oil of Chenopodium	1,753
Quassia	1,326
Naphthol B.	8
Eucalypt	16

66 East Indians were also treated with thymol on the Estates.

58 cases were examined for hookworm at the General Penitentiary, 33 of which were positive, and 437 at the Spanish Town Prison, 378 of which were infected.

The Bacteriologist states that in 67·93 per cent. of the specimens examined, the ankylostome parasite was found, and that during the last 18 months, in spite of treatment, the figures show an upward tendency.

Malaria.

67. The total number of cases admitted to the Hospitals was 5,495.

The sale of quinine at a cheap rate through the Post Offices has been continued throughout the year. In spite of the very large increase in first cost owing to the War, the sale price was not increased.

The District Medical Officer for Kingston states that the incidence of cases of this disease was abnormally high.

Vomiting Sickness.

68. The number of cases recorded as having been caused by the so called "Vomiting Sickness" during the year 1916 was 68, of which 21 or 30·8 per cent. were medically certified. In the year 1915–16 the number of deaths was 134, 57 or 42·5 per cent. of which were medically certified.

The largest number of deaths were in Trelawny (15), St. Elizabeth (12), and Clarendon (11).

69. A special investigation into an outbreak in Trelawny was made by the Bacteriologist in the early part of the year 1917, the results of which only strengthen Dr. Scott's theory, which has been reported on at length in past years, that ackee poisoning is the cause of the residuum after elimination of those accounted for by well known diseases.

General.

70. In many of the smaller townships the water supply is derived from wells, ponds, and tanks, the quality of some of which, especially in the case of wells and ponds, is reported on as being questionable. In the towns and villages where water works are established, the supply is adequate and generally speaking satisfactory.

No sanitary improvements of a special nature were carried out during the year.

71. There was a very large increase particularly in Kingston in the numbers of cases of, and deaths from, pneumonia, the main factors in which are stated to be meteorological conditions and poverty, both of which combine to lower the vitality and restrict the resistive powers of the community. The possibility of a virulent strain of pneumococcus having been introduced from Halifax by home-coming convalescents of the Third Jamaica War Contingent has also been suggested as the reason for the prevalence of the disease.

72. The number of persons treated at the Out-patients' Departments at the several Hospitals was as under:—

At Kingston Hospital	12,548
At Public General Hospitals	18,088
In Districts	36,868
Under the ticket system of reduced payment	1,036
	68,540

73. The total number of cases admitted to Public General Hospitals during the year under review was 25,252. There were 620 deaths in Hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 4,184, the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 594, the Lunatic Asylum, 1,730, the Lepers' Home, 141, the total number of patients treated in Government Hospitals and Asylums was 31,901.

74. During the year under review, Dr. Catto, the Assistant Bacteriologist, resigned his appointment and Dr. H. H. Scott, who was serving in England with the Royal Army Medical Corps, had to be recalled.

12,572 specimens were examined as compared with 12,720 in the previous year.

The usual examinations for correct diagnoses of disease, for hookworm infection, of rats for signs of plague, and for testing the purity of water supplies were conducted as in previous years.

The Bacteriologist states that contrary to belief it has been found that amoebic dysentery does exist in Jamaica to such an extent as now to be a menace.

75. The investigation into peripheral neuritis which was commenced by Dr. Catto towards the end of last year was continued.

76. Towards the end of the year a special investigation was conducted by Dr. Scott into an epidemic of a peculiar nature in Spanish Town, in St. Catherine, but he stated that it would be premature even to hazard a conjecture as to the nature of the affection at the present time, though, arguing from the symptomatic basis merely, it would appear to be an acute infective condition analogous possibly to anterior poliomyelitis on the anterior corvual cells. The matter was still receiving attention when the year under review closed.

No passengers were detained at the quarantine station during the year, but 1,478 packages of baggage were disinfected.

VII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

77. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnishes the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1916–17 with those of the two previous years :—1915–16, £48,053 10*s.* 0*d.* ; 1916–17, £58,411 12*s.* 7*d.*

78. These statistics show an increase of £10,358 in gross revenue, as compared with 1915–16, due to the imposition of a War Tax on letters and parcel post packets and an increase in the cost of telegrams.

79. The expenditure by the Department during the year was £48,728 and by the Public Works Department for maintenance and construction of Telegraph Lines, £2,488, a gross total of £51,216. In 1915–16 the expenditure was £47,640 and £2,351, respectively, or a gross total of £49,991.

80. The Revenue and Expenditure of the Department in each tenth year since 1896–97 is as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1896–97	29,805	37,853
1906–07	39,891	32,194
1916–17	58,411	51,216

81. The number of telegrams sent was 48,662 less than last year, due to the cessation practically of the fruit (chiefly banana) export trade from hurricane and other causes. There is however an increase of £547 in telegraph revenue, the result of the minimum charge for a telegram having been raised from 6*d.* to 9*d.*

82. 4,113 Money Orders for £13,842 were issued in Jamaica and 33,162 Orders for £65,302, the issues of other countries, were paid.

279,915 British Postal Orders were sold for £64,609, as against £70,182, or £5,573 less than in 1915–16. Orders for £59,061 were cashed in the Colony as compared with £55,561 last year.

49,995 parcels of a declared value of £47,313 3*s.* 11*d.* were received and 13,369 of the declared value of £13,623 were dispatched through the Parcel Post.

83. The Telegraph Money Order Exchange between the United Kingdom and Jamaica, and the system of reply coupons, were adopted in the Colony during the year.

VIII.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

84. The total revenue was £141,571 as compared with £154,721 in 1915–16, a decrease of £13,150 or 8·49 per cent. The expenditure exclusive of debt charges amounted to £132,454 against £127,287 for 1915–16, an increase of £5,168 or just over 4 per cent. The net profit for the year is £9,116 as against £27,434 for the previous year, a decrease of £18,318 or 33·2 per cent.

85. The capital charges stand at £2,668,213 on which the annual charge in the year under review was £121,967. This is £2,062 more than in the previous year and is due to the reconversion of the Imperial Loan of £62,250 for the Chapelton extension under Law 3 of 1912.

86. For the second year in succession the Railway had to face the results of a hurricane which damaged the banana crop to a very serious extent, causing a great loss in revenue from this commodity. The damage to Railway property by the hurricane was on this occasion slight, however, being confined chiefly to Telephone and Telegraph Lines. The works rendered necessary by the hurricane of the previous year were completed during the year under review.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

87. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £175,574.

Owing to the necessity for economy as a result of the War, expenditure was deferred on every work which could be postponed without positive risk or loss to the Government.

The amount is £20,021 more than the expenditure last year, is higher than during any of the previous three years, and has only three times, namely between the years 1910–13, been exceeded in the history of the Department.

88. The total length of Main Roads under maintenance was 2,218 miles 44½ chains, a slight decrease on the previous year, due to exchanges with Parochial Roads, deviations and errors in previous measurements.

89. The expenditure on maintenance is the largest ever spent in one year by the Department under this head, and was due to the completion of the repairs rendered necessary by the hurricane in 1915, to the further repairs following on the hurricane of the 14th and 15th August, 1916, and to the extremely heavy rains of the year under review.

90. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £33 5*s.* 2*d.* and including special works of improvements, etc., £56 7*s.* 10*d.*, of which £17 5*s.* 9*d.* per mile was for flood damage.

As was the case last year, the highest average cost per mile was in St. Mary, £30 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the lowest in Manchester, £20 0*s.* 11*d.*

91. The average rainfall during the year was 104·09 inches as against an average of 102·98 in the year before and of 72·71 for all previous years; not only was the rainfall heavy but it was concentrated into the first eight months of the year. With certain few exceptions, all repairs to the roads were practically made good before the end of the financial year.

92. The rolling of road surfaces was continued as in previous years and 45½ miles of road surface were so dealt with.

93. The rebuilding of one bridge each in St. Thomas, St. Mary, and St. Catherine was undertaken.

The restoration of damage done to public buildings by the hurricane entailed an expenditure of £1,137.

94. No vote was taken for New Works under this head, but certain amounts were authorised to meet necessary and urgent requirements, the chief of which were the purchase of the Queen's Hotel and the reconstruction of the Out-patients' Department of the Public General Hospital, Kingston.

95. The Lighthouses were maintained in good order during the year.

The substitution of acetylene for oil at the Folly Point Lighthouse has been satisfactory.

96. Considerable damage was done to the Telegraph Lines by the hurricane of August, 1916, but repairs were promptly made.

The lines generally are reported as having been well maintained.

97. The Queen's Hotel was taken over by the Government and fitted out as a home for discharged men of the British West Indies Regiment who were receiving technical training.

98. A sum of £21,000 was voted for relief works consequent on the hurricane, to be spent, however, only when "absolutely necessary." Against this sum, expenditure of £5,363 was approved, and before the close of the year £3,619 was actually spent. This necessity provided the opportunity for the putting in hand of certain deferred works on main roads in the parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

99. The agricultural outlook for the Island up to August, 1916, was in every respect most promising. The hurricane of that month, however, very seriously modified that prospect. The effects of this disaster are referred to generally in the preceding parts of this report, and the evidence accumulated goes to show that but for this misfortune the year under review would have been one of considerable prosperity.

100. The effects of the War as influencing the demand for sugar, rum, and logwood, have very materially assisted in averting the full weight of disasters following one another in two successive years.

101. Very strict economy in expenditure and increases in taxation, assisted by the high prices reached for produce less affected by storm, have resulted in a much stronger financial position being disclosed than could be anticipated when measures for meeting an unprecedented situation were under discussion.

102. It has been found possible to maintain fully all departments of the public services, and, by confining expenditure in Public Works to maintenance and repairs, the cost of which has been unprecedently heavy as a consequence of hurricane and floods, to provide for the efficiency of this department, and at the same time to meet all expenditure out of current revenue with a surplus balance to be carried forward, a circumstance which must be considered as very satisfactory in the face of the difficulties of the situation.

103. Conditions generally during the early months of 1917 point to good prospects for the forthcoming year, and, should the Island be spared any further visitation, it is likely that the misfortunes encountered during the past two years will have been successfully surmounted, and that their traces will rapidly be obliterated, such is the recuperative power of the Colony.

104. The high prices of imported foodstuffs, and the uncertainty as to their supply, in view of the shortage of shipping and the demands of the Allies in Europe, rendered it advisable to take steps to urge the planting of ample foodstuffs in the Island, to render the population independent of an imported supply, should there be any failure in that supply.

The measures taken have ensured that, if supplies from outside are obtainable in decreasing quantities, there should be ample food for all, and it is stated that never before have such quantities of provisions been planted out as during the year under review. It has furthermore been generally impressed that the present situation will not be confined to the period of the War alone, but that it appears to be increasingly probable that for some time after there will be a world-wide shortage of food for man and that surplus supplies may be in great demand.

105. The Colony has continued to provide contingents of men for duty in the various theatres of the War, and uniformly good reports of the value of their services have been received.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

W. H. MANNING,

Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
908	Bermuda..	1915
909	Jamaica ..	1915–1916
910	British Guiana ..	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda ..	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria ..	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar..	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago ..	"
931	Gibraltar ..	"
932	Bahamas ..	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon ..	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia ..	1916
937	British Guiana ..	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus ..	1916–1917
942	Grenada ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland ..	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon ..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria ..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 959.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1916-17.

(For Report for 1915–16 see No. 928.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1918.

LONDON:
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1918.

[Cd. 8973-8.] *Price* 1*d*. *Net.*

No. 959.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FOR 1916-17.*

FINANCE.

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1917, amounted to a sum total of £3,220 and the expenditure to £3,553. The average revenue for the last five years is £3,579.

The amount received from Import Duty and the sale of stamps, especially the War Stamps recently issued, has been most satisfactory. It was hoped that the financial year would come to a close without the occurrence of any unfortunate disaster, but hurricanes would appear to have become almost an annual event in the Cayman Islands. On Monday, the 24th of September, Grand Cayman was struck by a severe hurricane, the third visitation within four years in these Islands —the wind blowing with great force and intensity from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

The most serious feature of the storm has been the complete destruction of all provision grounds. Very few fruit and bread-fruit trees were left standing. Breadfruit has been the mainstay of the poorer classes owing to the high price of foodstuffs and it can well be realised how serious their position is. Unfortunately two lives were lost. All the available vessels in Grand Cayman—fourteen in number—were driven on shore, thus adding to the difficulty of communication with Jamaica. Fortunately but a few days elapsed before a schooner arrived from the turtle fishing grounds off Nicaragua, which proceeded to Montego Bay with mails. A supply of foodstuffs was sent down as quickly at possible by His Excellency the Acting Governor of Jamaica. In the meantime a Relief Committee was appointed to distribute supplies and everything possible was done to alleviate suffering and distress. Approximately one hundred houses were demolished beyond all hope of repair, and a grant of money will be given to those most deserving of help in order to enable them to rebuild. The east end district of the Island sustained the most damage, about sixty houses were blown down in this portion of the Dependency. Very little Government property was destroyed, and the roads, though strewn with debris, were left intact.

Relief work on the roads was immediately begun, thus rendering it possible for those willing to work to purchase food, while the steps taken by owners in salving schooners driven on shore, involving an expenditure of some hundreds of pounds, provided labour for a large number of the able-bodied men.

The Lesser Cayman Islands have recently shown unmistakeable signs of a gradual, but slow recovery from the hurricane of August, 1915, and very fortunately escaped the recent visitation.

Export Duty.—There is an export duty of 1/- per 1,000 on coconuts.

*NOTE.—A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 879: [Cd. 8172-5].

(C471) Wt. 11/42. 1,000 & 90. 6.18. B. & F. Ltd. Gp. 11/2.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1917, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £4,454.

The liabilities were £549, due to depositors in Government Savings Bank and £27 due to depositors in Treasury.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the Imports from all countries has been in

1915–16	£28,414
1916–17	29,108

The average for five years is £26,573.

Exports.

The value of the exports to all countries amounted in

1915–16	£11,566
1916–17	8,169

The average for five years is £7,909.

The turtle trade during the current year has been far from satisfactory, the total amount exported has been 833 turtles, value £1,666. Trade still continues very dull, while the high price of food-stuffs has necessitated a considerable reduction in the amount imported.

The customs revenue, however, has not fallen off, inasmuch as the import duty is 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the increased price of commodities has compensated for the decreased importation.

As was stated in the report last year, sisal is the only commodity that can resuscitate the economic life of these islands. The soil is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of this plant, as it has been analysed and found to be of limestone formation. Strenuous efforts have been made during the year under review to encourage the establishment of the industry.

The Government obtained a pre-emption on all bulbils and suckers of the Henequen variety growing in Grand Cayman, and by this means the price was kept down and the plants distributed to the people at cost price varying from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per thousand for bulbils and 8*s.* to 10*s.* per thousand for suckers. Approximately one hundred thousand bulbils were distributed and ten thousand suckers.

Pamphlets were circulated containing all available information on planting, care, cutting, and manufacturing of sisal. A government nursery of fifty thousand bulbils was established.

It has been a very difficult matter to stimulate an interest in a commodity that takes four years to yield a return, there being a tendency among the people to require something from which they can quickly derive a profit. However, a very encouraging beginning was made, the enlightened portion of the population quickly perceived the advantages to be derived from a plant that would undoubtedly flourish in a limestone soil.

It is to be hoped that the recent hurricane will not tend to discourage the efforts already made, as the plants that have been growing for some years in Grand Cayman have sustained no appreciable

damage from the storm. The industry is so important to the islands and means so much to the future prosperity of the inhabitants that any relaxation of effort is to be deplored.

SHIPPING.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry, having vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,324.

The number of ships entered and cleared during the year 1916–17 is as follows :—

Entered	108
Cleared	109

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank, established in 1908, has proved of great use to those desirous of availing themselves of the opportunity offered for safe investment. The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1917, were :—

Deposits, £407. Withdrawals, £283.

The balances to the credit of depositors at the end of the year amounted to £565.

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office Department has since its establishment amply proved its usefulness and has contributed largely to the finances of the Dependency. For the last six years it has been the mainstay of these islands and has been responsible for nearly one half of the total revenue. In 1916–17, the Post Office revenue amounted to £1,291 ; the total revenue to £3,220.

The sale of postage stamps to collectors forms a very appreciable item in its revenue. The inland postage service shows a steady increase in the amount of business transacted, while the large receipts in respect of the foreign mail are due to the number of Caymanians who have been compelled to seek a livelihood in the Canal Zone, Cuba, Central American Republics, and the United States.

During the current year an additional War Tax of one halfpenny has been imposed on all letters leaving Grand Cayman for various parts of the Empire.

POST OFFICE ORDERS.

All Money Order business is transacted through Jamaica, the issue of the orders in the Cayman Islands being at present confined to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review the encouraging returns from revenue have permitted the execution of more urgent works of public utility than would otherwise have been possible.

The main road from Georgetown to Boddentown, a distance of twelve miles, has been completely repaired, with the exception of small portions which require filling up and sanding. Most of the

estimated vote has been appropriated to this urgent necessity, as a great amount of traffic passes over this road. The school houses at Prospect and West Bay have been enlarged to accommodate the increased number of children. At West Bay a long felt want has been supplied by the erection of a landing pier, which was completed just before the recent hurricane, and which sustained no damage. The bonded warehouse in Georgetown has been repaired and enlarged, and an upper floor added.

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely, in June and December. The Commissioner presides as Judge.

Quarterly Petty Courts and Weekly Petty Sessions are held, in which two Justices sit. In all cases in the Grand Court there is a right of appeal to the Jamaica Supreme Court and in the Petty Court to the Grand Court.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Legislative Assembly is styled "The Justices and Vestry," and is composed of all the Justices of the Peace (15 in number) and 27 Vestrymen. The Vestry meets by statute in September in each year to make provision for the next financial year, beginning on the 1st October, and otherwise when summoned for the despatch of business.

AGRICULTURE.

A branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was established in Georgetown in 1908, but so little interest has been taken of recent years in this movement, that the usual sum of £18 appropriated annually for the granting of prizes at the annual Agricultural Show by way of encouragement was not included in the Estimates of last year. As there appears to be an evident desire to revive the society, £18 has been voted for its resuscitation next year, and it is hoped that some effort will be made to stimulate interest in agricultural pursuits.

POPULATION.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black.

During 1917 there were 167 births, 91 males and 76 females. Of these 27 were illegitimate and 140 legitimate. In the same period there were 49 deaths, 24 males and 25 females.

EDUCATION.

The state of education in the Dependency is far from satisfactory, especially in the country districts. £250 a year is devoted to education. The conditions obtaining at the present time do not offer any attractions to good and reliable teachers.

HOSPITAL.

There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases, but it is not generally used. A Government Medical Officer is appointed for the Lesser Islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

There are no prisons in the Dependency. Prisoners sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment are sent to Jamaica. There is very little crime, and offences are generally of a trivial nature, in most cases the result of excessive drinking.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an inspector, five policemen, and one district constable. The services of the police in the country districts are utilised in the carriage of inland mails.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The death-rate for the year was 7 per 1,000, while the birth-rate was 26 per 1,000. The general health of the Island is good.

A. C. Robinson,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
6th December, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
925	Zanzibar	1916
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 969.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 927.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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1918.

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No. 969.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 927.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1917.*

TAXES, DUTIES, ETC.

There is no direct taxation in the Dependency. The sources of revenue are import duties (collected under the most liberal tariff of any West Indian Colony), a royalty of one-third of a penny per bushel on all salt exported, port dues paid by vessels entering at the rate of 4*d.* per ton, and the usual internal and miscellaneous receipts.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1917 is, with the exception of the years 1896 and 1913, the highest that has ever been recorded in the annals of the Dependency and under most heads shows satisfactory results. The total amount collected was £9,626 as against £8,684 in 1916, and exceeded the estimate by £1,336. This result is largely due to increase in receipts under the head of Post Office, but other sources of revenue also shew an upward tendency.

The expenditure amounted to £8,722 and exceeded the estimate by £505. It, however, included a contribution of £200 towards the Halifax Sufferers Relief Fund and the payment of a War bonus to all officers in receipt of salaries below £100 per annum, in order to enable them to meet the increased cost of living due to the great War.

After defraying outstanding liabilities there remained a credit balance—on the working transactions of the year—of £903. This, added to the credit balance at the end of the previous year, £8,091, discloses a total available sum to the credit of the Dependency of £8,995. In a small and comparatively barren group of islands, having no developed resources worth mentioning, such a result may well be viewed with satisfaction.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1917, were valued at £34,930, as compared with £29,009 in 1916.

The exports were valued at £42,085, as against £27,807 in 1916.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 884: [Cd. 7622–35.]

(C501) Wt.11/42. 1000/90. 10.18. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp. 11/2.

Classified under their respective headings, a comparative statement of the principal exports for the years 1916 and 1917 reads as follows :—

	1916.	1917.
Salt, coarse	£13,715	£14,560
Salt, fishery*	6,388	17,178
Sisal	3,281	5,950
Sponges	1,912	872
Conchs	1,715	1,956

* Newfoundland purchases fishery salt only.

The direction of trade, both imports and exports, during the year under review may be summarized as follows :—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom	£1,604	nil
British Colonies	4,090	£13,021
Foreign Countries..	29,176	29,064
	£34,930	£42,085

Salt.—The year 1917 will ever be memorable in the annals of the salt industry as that in which the demand exceeded the supply, and when the selling price reached a figure unknown for very many years. Especially welcome, as the result of Government effort, was the reappearance of Newfoundland as a purchaser, after an absence of about 22 years. It is sincerely hoped that every effort will be made by salt producers to capture and retain this market within the Empire, a market, too, which alone is able to absorb more than one half of the entire salt output of the Dependency. As the result of correspondence between the Commissioner and the British Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro, it was found that the prospects of extending the salt trade of Turks Islands to the markets of the Brazilian Republic were of a most hopeful character. The magnitude of trade requirements in this direction, however, placed it beyond the capacity of our present salt producers to handle, and I am glad to say that arrangements have been concluded with Mr. F. W. Huestis, a capitalist of New York, to take the matter up. Mr. Huestis has leased from this Government (for a term of 21 years) the extensive but abandoned salinas at West Caicos (Caicos Islands) and arrangements are already on foot to commence work on them at an early date. As the output of the West Caicos salinas is estimated at not less than one million bushels of salt per annum, the addition to the revenue in the shape of royalty from this source at no very distant date, will be considerable.

Owing to the abnormal demand above referred to, the stock of salt on hand at the end of the year was almost nil and the prospects for 1918 are therefore entirely dependent on the coming season.

Sponges.—The sponge industry, in consequence of the War, shows a further falling off. Exports to the value of only £872 are recorded. These figures show a decline of £140 below those of the previous year, and are the lowest given for many years.

The industry also suffered a severe blow this year through the sudden death of Mr. George Silly, the enterprising and capable lessee of the artificial sponge beds at Chalk Sound in the Caicos Islands. This valuable industry, having, however, passed the experimental

stage, will doubtless be conducted on right lines by his succesor.s Nevertheless, pioneers of Mr. Silly's type are rare in the West Indies and cannot well be spared.

Bell Sound (Caicos Islands), another shallow water creek—about 8 miles in extent—belonging to the Government, was leased to Mr. Clement Mudge, of New York, in November of the year under review, for the purpose of artificial sponge-growing. It is expected that operations in this connection will be commenced during the coming summer months.

Sisal.—This industry continues to show most satisfactory progress, the natural result of the phenomenally high prices which are now obtained for cleaned fibre in the markets of the United States. Exports to the value of £5,950 are recorded, an increase of £2,669 over those for the previous year. In this connection it may be mentioned that Mr. Huestis has become interested in the lease of 5,000 acres of land in the Caicos Islands for the purpose of fibre-growing.

Conchs.—Exports of this food commodity to the neighbouring Republic of Haiti show an increase of £240 over the figures given for the previous year. Over three million conchs were exported during the year under review.

Lobster-Canning.—Owing to the difficulty of obtaining tin and other materials, this promising industry has had perforce to be suspended for the duration of the War.

Sea Shells.—This industry is likewise at a standstill owing to the great War. These shells are re-exported through New York to Italy where they are used for cameo work and in the manufacture of buttons.

Cotton.—The cultivation of cotton is steadily increasing among peasant landholders in the Caicos Islands. The crop of 1917, amounting to eight bales (an increase of five bales over the first effort), was shipped to Liverpool, via New York, and sold for 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.—realizing the very handsome sum of £237. After deducting all expenses including freight charges (via New York) which for magnitude almost take one's breath away, there yet remained the sum of £165 for distribution among the growers.

This industry has also passed the experimental stage and will in future regularly appear among the recognised exports of the Dependency.

Shipping.

The number of vessels that entered at various ports in the Dependency during the year was 407, with a tonnage of 217,610 as compared with 307 and a tonnage of 209,882 during the year 1916.

The following statement shows the total of shipping outwards during the past two years :—

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1916	307	209,882
1917	405	216,307

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population on the 31st December was 5,600.

The number of births during the year was 194 and the number of deaths 124. The birth-rate was 35 per 1,000 and the death-rate 22 per 1,000. Fifty-one marriages were registered during the year.

The health of the Dependency was good and there were no epidemics of any kind.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

There is no hospital or asylum. It is, however, hoped that this long-standing reproach will be removed during the coming year. It is proposed to convert the old "Poor House" at the north end of the Settlement at Grand Turk into a small but properly equipped hospital of eight beds. In addition, the Honourable B. C. Frith has generously contributed, at his own expense, a private ward of two beds for paying patients.

EDUCATION.

In consequence of an increase in the number of schools it was found necessary to augment the grant for educational purposes to £660 and this sum, administered through the Board of Education, provided for the needs of primary education throughout the Dependency. At the nine schools thus maintained by the Government, the average number of pupils on the register during the year was 923 with an average attendance of 666, as compared with 937 and 718 respectively for the previous year.

The number of children attending private schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour was 52, and the record of the aided schools at the Bight and at Five Cays (in the Caicos Islands) discloses an average attendance of about 40 pupils during the year.

The furniture of the school at Grand Turk was renewed, it being impossible any longer to use the dilapidated writing desks and benches which have done duty for so many years.

As one travels among the remote islands of the Caicos group the good work accomplished by these isolated schools and the powerful influence for good which their teachers (mostly females) have on the communities in which they reside cannot fail to impress even the most casual observer.

In scattered settlements whose very names never reach the outside world, where the only representative of law and order is frequently a single rural constable (selected from the people themselves), and where, except for the yearly visit of the Inspector of Schools and Medical Officer, the inhabitants are cut off from most civilizing influences, the presence of these teachers, who for a bare living wage are content to labour on in such places and, apart from their teaching duties, to radiate so wholesome an influence over their fellows, is truly remarkable and is an asset to the Government which should never be lost sight of. Mr. Hutchings, the Inspector of Schools, is to be congratulated on the happy results which have attended his unwearied efforts on behalf of education in these islands.

Owing to the War, it has not been possible to carry out the scheme of Secondary Education referred to in my last report.

JUDICIAL.

Offences reported to the Police	127
Number of persons brought before the Magistrate	127
Summary convictions	94
Convictions in the Supreme Court	3
Number of persons acquitted :—	
In the Supreme Court	1
In the Inferior Court	26

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONES.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom still continue to be transmitted and received twice a month, via New York, by steamers of the Clyde Line. Such irregularities in this connection as have occurred from time to time during the great War are trifling as compared with other islands of the West Indies and are not worthy of mention. There is no direct steamer service between Halifax and Jamaica, owing to the scarcity of tonnage caused by the European War.

The local telephone service at Grand Turk, inaugurated in 1915, continues to give entire satisfaction. It is hoped shortly to link up the Government Offices at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour with Grand Turk by wireless telephone. The importance of so doing is sufficiently obvious when it is remembered that the only means of communication between these islands is by open boats and small sloops, and that frequently, for days together, the channel is impassable for craft of this description.

The estimated number of letters and postal matter dealt with in 1917 was : Letters, 30,000 ; postcards, 1,300 ; newspapers, 2,700 ; books, 1,700 ; parcels, 1,404.

The extent of money order transactions was :—

Issued in the Dependency	£950
Paid in the Dependency	747

The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1917 was £1,812 and the expenditure £148.

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on the 31st December, 1917, was 472. Deposits during the year amounted to £2,726 and withdrawals to £1,946.

METEOROLOGY.

The readings taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 21′ N. and longitude 71° 07′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	27·61 ins.
Highest temperature recorded for year ..	89°
Lowest temperature recorded for year ..	61°

The prevailing winds during the year were :—

N., 12 days ; N.E., 50 days ; E., 204 days ; S.E., 71 days ; S., 15 days ; S.W., 2 days ; N.W., 4 days ; W., 6 days ; Calm 1 day.

GENERAL.

The year 1917 was one of great financial prosperity, and the general condition and outlook of the Dependency at the close of it are brighter than has been the case for many years, owing to the great demand for salt and the high price that now obtains for it. This has been brought about by the European War in the course of which the activity of submarines off the coast of Europe has considerably interfered with shipments of salt from Spanish ports to markets along the North Atlantic sea-board of the United States and Canada.

The Commissioner was absent from the Dependency from the 15th September to the 15th November on an official visit to Newfoundland in connection with the salt industry. During this period his duties were performed by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner.

In common with other islands of the West Indies the Dependency shares in the general anxiety with respect to obtaining food supplies from the United States. In our case the feeling is intensified by a knowledge of the fact that these islands are unsuitable for provision-growing to any extent and are therefore dependent on outside sources for even the barest necessaries of life. So far, thanks to the generosity of the United States War Trade Board, shipments of the common foodstuffs have been regularly maintained and at no time has there been any danger of a food crisis.

Except for the occurrences above mentioned the year was a quiet and uneventful one and there are no other matters calling for special remark.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,

Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
937	British Guiana	1916
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 980.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916–17 see No. 943.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1919.

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1919.

[Cmd. 1-3.] *Price 2d. Net.*

No. 980.

JAMAICA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917-1918.

I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended 31st March, 1918.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The total revenue and expenditure for the last two years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1916–1917	1,154,349	1,076,237
1917–1918	1,052,485	1,098,409

2. Again during the year under review the Island was visited by a hurricane, this time on the 23rd September. This followed on the hurricanes of the 15th August, 1916, and 12th August, 1915. This third hurricane naturally affected the revenue and expenditure of the Island during the latter half of the Financial Year.

3. In the prefatory minute attached to the Estimates for the year 1917–1918 there was shown an anticipated deficit of £5,182 subject, however, to this being turned into a surplus if a certain proposal to obtain further revenue was adopted. In the course of the consideration of those Estimates the proposal for increased revenue was extended so as to cover an anticipated net yield of further revenue to the extent of £43,600. This figure was arrived at by extra taxation to the extent of £93,600, against which there had to be set an estimated falling off of ordinary revenue to the extent of £50,000, owing to conditions which had suddenly arisen out of matters connected with the War. The expected surplus at 31st March, 1917, being £71,297, and the revenue during 1917–1918 (modified as shown above—that is to say, £1,005,270 less £50,000 plus £93,600) being £1,048,870 and the expenditure as finally passed in Council being £1,083,018, the surplus at 31st March, 1918, was estimated at £37,149.

4. When the revised Estimates for 1917–1918 were made up in February, 1918, in order that the Estimates for 1918–1919 might be laid before the Legislative Council, the position as then estimated stood thus :—

(C519) Wt. 1/155. 1,000 & 90. 2.19. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

Surplus on 1st April, 1917, was	£88,842
Revised estimate of Revenue for 1917-1918 was	1,051,228
	£1,140,070
Revised Estimate of Expenditure for 1917-1918, including special expenditure rendered necessary by the hurricane of September 23rd, 1917, came to	£1,110,291
Leaving an expected surplus on 31st March, 1918, of	£29,779

The Finance Accounts for the year 1917-1918 show the actual results to have been as follows :—

Surplus, 1st April, 1917 (as stated above)	£88,842
Revenue, 1917-1918	1,052,485
	1,141,327
Expenditure, 1917-1918	£1,098,410
Leaving a surplus on 31st March, 1918 ..	£42,917

This surplus is an improvement of £13,138 on that expected according to the revised Estimates, and of £5,768 on the original Estimates.

5. The improvement of £13,138 on the revised Estimates is made up as follows :—An increase of Revenue amounting to £1,257 plus a decrease in Expenditure of £11,881.

6. This net excess of Revenue is accounted for chiefly by increases of £1,356 under Sugar Excise Duty, and £1,978 under Property Tax. The chief decreases were £4,736 under Export Duties and £2,114 under Rum Duty (Excise).

7. With regard to the net decrease in Expenditure of £11,881, the chief increases are £1,585 under Judicial, £8,885 under Constabulary and Prisons, and £1,122 under Printing Office ; decreases, £1,007 under Public Works Department, £1,772 under Post Office and Telegraphs, and £15,028 under Public Works and Buildings and Lighthouses.

8. *Comparison with actual figures of preceding year.*—If the actual figures for 1917-1918 be now compared with those of the preceding year 1916-1917 the following important differences appear, viz., Revenue increases of £5,084 under Rum Duty, £2,324 under Tobacco Duty, and £2,113 under Sugar Duty; decreases, £53,509 under Import Duties, £51,288 under Export Duties, and £5,408 under Interest.

9. Under Expenditure the chief increases are £14,739 under Medical, £16,829 under Constabulary and Prisons, £2,267 under Printing Office, £3,612 under Miscellaneous, and £3,917 under Railway; decreases, £4,423 under Defence, £9,482 under Public Works, and £3,780 under Relief Works.

10. The expenditure rendered necessary by the hurricane of September 23rd was referred to in detail in the Acting Governor's despatch, dated the 10th November, 1917, and the enclosures to that despatch subsequently laid before the Legislative Council, at the Special Session on the 18th December.

This session of the Legislature dealt with the question of loans to Agricultural Loan Boards and to planters direct. At this meeting

the Council assigned the sum of £7,000 for loans to Agricultural Loan Societies to enable them to make loans of a special class and £2,000 to the same Societies to make loans under the provisions of Law 6 of 1912, and £10,000 for loans of a special class when such loans exceeded £200 in each case. The Council also on the same date passed the necessary special Law to enable the Societies to make the loans of a special class above referred to.

11. The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,757,612 on the 31st March, 1918. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £1,092,922, leaving a net liability of £2,664,690. Included in the debt guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings, amounting to £437,042, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £104,018.

12. The totals of the revenue and expenditure of the City Council of Kingston, of the Kingston General Commissioners, and of all the Parochial Boards taken together, for the last two years, are shown in the following comparative statements :—

Kingston City Council.

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1916–17	38,092	40,390
1917–18	37,897	43,319

Kingston General Commissioners.

1916–17	45,444	44,954
1917–18	46,783	41,986

Other Parochial Boards (14 *Parishes*).

1916–17	132,111	135,713
1917–18	132,587	139,543

The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury for advances made for water works and markets amounted at the close of the year to £6,400.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

13. The imports and exports for the two last past years and for 1913, the last of the pre-War years, are as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
1917	£3,323,942	£2,479,107
1916	3,107,004	2,821,234
1913	2,837,446	2,430,207

14. The value of the Island's trade is maintained at its former level rather by increased prices than increase in the volume of the commodities imported and exported. Either compared with the imports of the four years next preceding, or with those anterior to the Great War, the volume of imports in 1917 showed a very great shrinkage, and especially in foodstuffs was there apparent a material response to the behest to the Colony to be self-supporting. In the

case of manufactured goods, where value is the only measure of increase or decrease, the diminution in volume is not so easily traced; but having regard to the great advance in prices and in freight and charges it may be safely said that in these items, too, has there been a very large falling-off in volume. Commodities for export promised well but were affected adversely by the hurricane of September, by the British embargo on the importation into the United Kingdom of certain main items of our produce, and by the general insufficiency of tonnage. To the first of these causes must be attributed a loss in the value of banana export on comparison with the figures of a four year average of no less than £597,728; and in the value of coconuts of £13,251. To the second a diminution of £129,495 in the value of rum exported, £32,757 in the value of coffee, and £42,004 in the value of cocoa; while high freightage contributed to diminution in the logwood exports by £55,873. However, these losses received compensation in increased values for the following:—Sugar increased by £452,154; dye extracts by £153,190; cigars by £23,086; honey by £28,122; ginger by £33,806, and fustic by £9,478.

15. The imports and exports given at ten-year intervals produce the following table. With regard to the latter, however, it should be remembered that the figures for 1917 are, of necessity, very much affected by "War prices":—

	Imports.	Exports.
1877–78	£1,492,722	£1,458,669
1887–88	1,695,605	1,509,010
1897–98	1,660,667	1,470,241
1907–08	2,914,013	1,992,007
1917	3,323,942	2,479,107

16. Another line of enquiry to which attention may usefully be directed at the present crisis in the Empire's history is the source and distribution of the Island's imports and exports respectively; accordingly the following calculations are presented:—

Sources of Supply of Imports.

	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917
United Kingdc	50·7	62·	46·7	47·4	19·5
United States	31·6	28·3	43·3	43·6	70·1
Canada	13·9	6·6	7·2	5·5	6·7
Other Countries	3·8	3·1	2·8	3·5	3·7

Destination of Exports.

	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917
United Kingdom	79·5	38·6	27·5	21·5	44·8
United States	15·1	44·0	56·6	57·2	28·1
Canada	—	1·3	1·2	7·6	15·1
Other Countries	5·4	16·1	14·7	13·7	12·0

17. Among the newer exports of the Island the Collector General calls attention to the large quantity of copra and orange oil which found a place in the export statistics of the year, the value of the former being £34,284 and of the latter £46,518—not an inconsiderable addition to the Island's trading account.

18. The agricultural statistics collected by the Collecting Officers of Taxes during the year compared, with the average of the preceding four years, give the following result :—

	1917–18.	Average 1913–17.
	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	285,757	272,713
Guinea Grass	145,249	167,255
Commons	590,969	539,951
Wood and ruinate	1,030,712	1,147,077

The tilled area is again sub-divided into the following heads of cultivation, viz :—

	1917–18.	Average 1913–17.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	37,951	32,554
Coffee	20,280	19,:52
Coconuts	35,923	25,534
Bananas	67,987	84,922
Cocoa	14,590	11,375
Ground Provisions	77,092	64,973
Mixed Cultivation	29,503	28,783
Minor Items	2,431	3,345

The propaganda for growing more home foods is reflected in an increase of area in native foods of nearly 13,000 acres. Possibly a census of cultivation taken up just at the sowing season might give more favourable returns, but the figures published are useful as showing the general trend of agriculture, and they have been helpful to those charged with the duty of stimulating food production.

19. Other statistical tables show the number of real property holdings upon which taxes were paid during the year to have been 159,867 ; the number in respect of which the occupiers were relieved 1,508 ; and the number in arrear at end of year as being 15,437 ; also that the maximum rate of taxation payable in respect of about 74 per cent. of the properties does not exceed 14*s.* 8*d.* per annum, a sum which may be paid in quarterly instalments.

20. In connection with the local food situation and under a Defence of the Island Regulation a census of cattle and live stock was taken shortly after the close of the financial year and has shown the position in that respect to have been better than was popularly estimated. The figures came out thus :—

Cattle, viz.: Bulls ..	3,457	
Cows	60,120	
Steers	41,492	
Heifers	25,943	
Calves	35,527	
		166,539
Sheep		11,910
Pigs		31,966
Goats		29,679

21. The Surveyor General observes that the progress of the sale of lands to small settlers has been checked on account of the lack of money due to conditions brought about by the Great War, and the hurricanes of August 1916 and September 1917.

The supplying of hardwood sleepers from the Crown lands to the Government railway has been taken up, and is being tried as an experiment.

On account of the shortage of roofing materials brought about by the lack of ships, it was found necessary, late in the year, to cut shingles on some of the Crown lands for the use of Public Departments. 12,000 cedar shingles and 14,650 Santa Maria shingles have accordingly been supplied to the Director of Public Works, and the Director of the railway, respectively. Lack of labour has, however, considerably handicapped the undertaking.

In the parishes of Portland and St. Thomas, which were devastated by the hurricane of September, 1917, offers have been made by the Department to supply shingles, scantlings, and boards from the Crown lands for the rebuilding of houses, &c.: The production of lumber and shingles for this purpose would have provided labour to some extent but the people showed a great lack of appreciation and in some districts refused to work altogether, although the prices offered were considerably higher than what they were accustomed to receive for similar work before the War. Even in the two or three districts where an attempt has been made the result is entirely negligible.

The Loan Boards which were formed during the past year, in the parishes of St. Elizabeth, St. James, Trelawny, St. Ann, St. Catherine, Portland, and St. Thomas, consisting of the member of the Legislative Council for the parish, the Chairman of the Parochial Board, the Collector of Taxes, and two other members appointed by the Governor, have more or less given their attention to matters affecting the sale of Crown lands in their respective parishes.

The duties of the Boards are to consider and advise the Government as to the best means of opening up Crown lands for settlement, and as to the methods of providing means for making and maintaining roads into such Crown lands.

AGRICULTURE.

22. For the third year in succession the Island was swept by an autumnal hurricane and again a general destruction of the banana fields resulted, while in the Eastern parishes cyclonic effects approaching in gravity those brought about by the great hurricane of 1903 took place.

The most serious damage was the destruction of many thousands of coconut trees, for besides those actually fractured by the storm

many trees subsequently became affected with "Bud-rot" and other parasitic diseases which gained an entry into the lacerated hearts of the palms.

23. The restrictions as to coffee and cacao rendered necessary in the United Kingdom in consequence of War conditions have reacted on these two staples so as to affect adversely a large number of small producers, while the extraordinary depression of the banana industry through three successive years of hurricane has made serious inroads on the capital and savings of a large section of the agricultural community.

24. The sugar industry has, however, stepped into the breach, and, stimulated by high prices and assisted by favourable conditions for crop production, has established a modern record for sugar in Jamaica with an export of 32,000 tons for 1917, estimated to have realised £672,000. This represents almost double the value of the sugar crop of Jamaica 40 years ago when sugar was the chief staple of the Colony and fruit was still an unimportant minor product.

25. Every effort was made by the planters to reduce the output of rum in favour of sugar. Most of the rum crop was sold at good prices in the Island, to large buyers in England who foresee a profitable market for Jamaica rum when acute war conditions have subsided.

26. Three new sugar factories have been provided for in St. Catherine and many projects for sugar developments are being actively considered by planters and capitalists so soon as machinery is again procurable.

27. Considerable interest is now being taken in the growing of improved canes and the Nurseries at Hope and Montpelier have had heavy calls for the supply of improved varieties of canes.

28. The copra industry was extended during the year and drying plants are being erected in ever increasing numbers in coconut districts. Allowing for nuts converted into copra, the exports of coconuts for 1917 amounted to 30 million nuts, and but for the hurricane a remarkable progress in the records of the coconut industry would have been established in 1917. Large numbers of young trees are now coming into bearing and with average good fortune the exports of coconuts from Jamaica should show a progressive increase during the next 10 years.

29. Very good prices were obtained for hides, orange oil, and honey during the year. Pimento made a good recovery from its previous depression during the War period, while the substantial sum of £540,000 was recorded as the value of the exports of logwood and its extracts.

30. The Government Stock Farm at Hope has continued to progress. During the year it was able, out of its current revenue, to finance the purchase of "Kintyre Pen," formerly a portion of Hope Estate, for addition to the Government estate at Hope, to import four pedigree dairy bulls from America at a cost of over £400, to initiate a motor service for the quick delivery of milk to the public institutions in Kingston, and to expend £500 in establishing 50 acres of common pasture in sweet potatoes for the reinforcement of local food supplies.

31. A considerable economy has resulted from the replacement of imported condensed milk at the Lunatic Asylum by fresh milk from the Farm.

32. The use of dipping tanks for the control of ticks has progressed during the year, and plans of a " Standard Dipping Tank " suitable for general use in Jamaica have been prepared for the use of pen-keepers who desire to erect dipping tanks on their properties.

The herd of cattle at the Government Farm was dipped every three weeks during the year at a cost of twopence per head.

33. The records of Panama Disease for the financial year show a total incidence of 125 diseased plants for the whole Island, the smallest annual record since this disease was taken in hand by the Government on systematic lines. Arrangements for monthly inspections of all cases under quarantine by the Director of Agriculture and the Microbiologist alternately, and for one Inspector of Plant Diseases to spend his whole time on this work, were made during the last half year and the results have been encouraging.

34. The banana borer is now generally recognised by planters who have had experience of this insect on their plantations not to be a serious pest and to be controllable by methods of clean management so as to be negligible in commercial banana cultivation.

The Order of 1916 enforcing compulsory measures of a drastic nature for this pest has therefore been withdrawn.

35. The attendance of the students at the Farm School declined from an average of 29 students for last year to 23 students for 1917–18. Many parents have found themselves unable to pay for their sons at the Farm School on account of adverse agricultural and commercial conditions.

36. The work of the Deputy Island Chemist shows a decided increase, 1,198 samples having been dealt with as against 988 in the previous year.

37. The Government Botanist discovered 15 species of plants new to science and 38 species new to the flora of the Island by his explorations during the year.

38. The sisal plantation at Lititz is progressing, about one million plants now being established at this site so as to supply the requirements of the whole area of 900 acres available for sisal on this land. The present prospects for sisal hemp are most encouraging and very high prices have recently been obtained for small parcels of this fibre which were produced in the parish of Clarendon.

39. The Microbiologist has discovered a Phytophora-like fungus to be the cause of the Bud-Rot disease of coconuts, which has been a good deal in evidence as a sequel to hurricane damage.

40. The " Black Fly of Citrus " which had recently been reported to be doing great damage to citrus plants all over the Island is now apparently under control by the " Dugald Campbell " ant and certain entomogenous fungi in combination.

Thousands of trees have been freed from this troublesome pest by these natural agencies and their distribution by artificial means is now being undertaken.

SHIPPING.

41. As was to be expected, the figures referring to commercial shipping show serious decline, and to this the hurricane of 1917 has

been contributory as well as the Great War. The number and tonnage of ships reported in 1917, compared with the figures of 1916, stand thus :

1917 ..	901 vessels with tonnage of		1,045,443
1916 ..	977	,,	,, 1,230,803

The corresponding figures in regard to vessels cleared were :—

1917 ..	874 vessels with tonnage of		1,019,490
1916 ..	948	,,	,, 1,208,775

The numbers of steam and sailing vessels reported are shown by the following figures :

Steam.	1917 ..	485 vessels with tonnage of		992,116
	1916 ..	577	,,	,, 1,162,865
Sail.	1917 ..	416	,,	,, 53,327
	1916 ..	400	,,	,, 67,938

The corresponding figures for vessels cleared were :—

Steam.	1917 ..	471 vessels with tonnage of		970,227
	1916 ..	566	,,	,, 1,142,267
Sail.	1917 ..	403	,,	,, 49,263
	1916 ..	382	,,	,, 66,508

III.—LEGISLATION.

42. Of the Laws passed during the calendar year 1917, the most noteworthy is :—

Law 5 *of* 1917.—A Law to provide for the payment to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury of the sum of £60,000 a year for forty years as a contribution from Jamaica in reduction of the War Debt of the United Kingdom.

This sum is intended to cover the cost of the Jamaica War Contingents, and should it prove more than sufficient for the purpose, the balance is to be regarded as an additional contribution from this Colony towards the expenditure incurred by the Mother Country on account of the Great War.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

43. The Director of Education has furnished the following statistics :—

	1917–18.	1916–17.
Schools on annual grant list at end of financial year	696	696
Average number of scholars on books	99,910	97,467
Average attendance for year ended 31st March	50,730	53,447
Percentage on average attendance of number on books	63·22	64·09
Total payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers	£67,804	£65,987

The annual examination of Teachers and Training College Students shows the following results :—

The total number of candidates presented was 113, 20 of whom obtained Honours.

For the Pupil Teachers' Examination, 476 candidates were presented, 341, or 72 per cent. of whom passed; 2,514 volunteer candidates were presented, and 1,095, or 43 per cent. passed.

44. The total amount expended on Elementary Education through the Estimates of the Department was £87,217, as against £83,528 in 1916–1917, and by the Public Works Department in the building of Government Schools and Teachers' Houses, £3,701, as compared with £527 last year.

45. Very serious damage was done to school buildings, teachers' houses, and out-offices by the hurricane of 23rd September, 1917, especially in St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary.

A vote of £2,770 for the restoration of the damaged buildings was passed by the Legislative Council, and Grants amounting to £2,767 10*s.* have been paid.

46. The results of the Annual Examination of Schools are as follows: 295 were placed in the first-class, 286 in the second, and 100 in the third, as compared with 277,285 and 108, respectively, in 1916–17. The failures numbered five, as against a similar number last year.

Industrial Schools.

47. The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, was:—

Stony Hill	563
Alpha Cottage	381
Belmont	33
Happy Grove	12
Broughton	23
A total of	1,012

Secondary Education.

48. The expenditure of the endowed Schools during the year was as follows:—

	£
Jamaica College	3,716
Munro and Dickenson's	8,212
Wolmer's	3,479
Manning's	798
Rusea's	374
Titchfield	1,801
Beckford and Smith's	454
Manchester Schools	351
Vere Schools	1,280
Montego Bay School	899
Guthrie Davidson's	69
	£21,433

The Jamaica (Boys) and £60 Scholarships for 1918 were awarded to pupils from the Jamaica College and the Girls' Scholarship to a pupil from Hampton School.

The winners of the Boys' Scholarships who are of military age are only allowed to take up the Scholarships if they are found to be medically unfit for Military Service; otherwise the Scholarships are kept in abeyance for them during the period of their military service.

224 boys and girls are reported to have entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, 177 of whom passed, 46 doing so with Honours.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

49. Indoor patients treated, 3,951; outdoor patients, including paupers, 15,035; dressings done for outdoor patients, 41,236; prescriptions made up, 14,507; total surgical operations, 1,842; dental cases, 3,283; daily average number of inmates, 262; total cost of maintenance, £13,542 10*s.* 10*d.*; receipts, £1,585 10*s.* 4*d.*

50. During the year the number of patients who attended the evening clinics in connection with the treatment of cases of Venereal Disease was 7,903. 10,920 prescriptions were made up and 500 doses of Diarsenol were administered.

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in-Hospital.*

51. Number of patients admitted, 593; 11 pupil nurses were admitted for training, of whom 10 passed their examinations and received certificates, and one left on account of ill-health; average daily number of patients, 14; receipts, £529 19*s.*; expenditure, £1,340 11*s.* 9*d.*

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

52. Number of patients on 31st March, 1918, 1,351, an increase of 29 during the year. Total number of patients under treatment during the year, 1,637; daily average resident, 1,330; rate of recovery, 50·64 per cent.; admissions, 310; discharges, 160; deaths, 120; death-rate, 9·1 per cent. Cost of maintenance, £28,416; receipts, £12,749.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

53.

Patients on 31st March, 1917		122
Admitted during the year		19
		141
Discharged	1	
Absconded	7	
Died	20	
		28
On 31st March, 1918		113

The death-rate was 14·2 per cent.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

54. The liability of the Bank to its depositors on current account was increased during the year by £18,541, the decrease on ordinary accounts being £2,130, and the increase on Government accounts, £20,671.

55. The ordinary deposits amounted during the year to £67,814, an increase of £2,460, and the withdrawals to £69,944, a decrease of £8,758, as compared with the previous year.

The balance-sheet on 31st March, 1918, shows a liability to depositors of £278,742.

56. The income and expenditure of the Bank for the year may be summarised as below :—

Income.

Interest on investments	£9,640	11	0
Miscellaneous Receipts	10	13	3½
	£9,651	4	3½

Expenditure.

Interest on deposits	£7,217	14	9
Carried to General Revenue	2,433	9	6½
	£9,651	4	3½

The number of pass books examined was 3,806.

On the 1st April, 1917, the rate of interest payable on deposits was increased from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent. per annum.

(f) *Registration of Titles.*

57. Work was steadily carried on ; the number of titles registered during the year was 520. The Title Assurance Fund amounted at the end of the year to £7,713 9*s*.

VI.—COURTS, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

58. The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 116, as compared with 78 in the previous year ; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates Courts, 12,763, as compared with 9,750 ; and of summary convictions, 15,906, as compared with 15,819.

The number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts was 45,931, as against 40,875 for last year, and the number of persons tried before the Superior Courts 19,280, as against 14,693.

There were 6,530 cases of praedial larceny in which a charge was preferred, as against 3,999 in the previous year, and there were 4,787 convictions, as against 2,902 in 1916–17.

There were two convictions for murder during the year, comparing with four in the year 1916–17; the death sentence was carried out in both of the cases.

Prisons.

59. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 8,354, and to lock-ups for short terms, 2,666, making a total of 11,020, as compared with 9,024 in the previous year, an increase of 1,996.

60. The re-convictions during the year amounted to 4,448, of which 1,986 were second convictions, 851 third, and 1,611 fourth and upwards. During 1916–17 the re-convictions numbered 2,847.

61. The daily average of prisoners in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 2,192, as compared with 1,565 in the previous year. There were 271 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 78 in 1916–17. There were three executions for capital punishment, as against a similar number in the previous year.

Considering the institutions separately the daily average in the Penitentiary was 1,216, as against 930 during the previous year, and in the St. Catherine District Prison, 976, as against 635. The deaths in Penitentiary were 76, representing a rate of 62·45 per 1,000, compared with 33 representing a rate of 35·48 per 1,000 in 1916–17; and in the St. Catherine District Prison, 198, representing a rate of 199·79 per 1,000, as against 45, representing a rate of 70·86 per 1,000 last year.

62. As a result of the scrutiny of quarterly returns furnished by the Inspector-General of Police and Prisons of the deaths in these prisons, he was called on to furnish a special report on the large increase in the case of the St. Catherine District Prison. The Inspector General forwarded a report by the surgeon of that Institution in which he attributed the high rate of mortality to over-crowding and to the very poor physique of a large number of the persons committed to the prison.

The Inspector General also reported that efforts were being made to relieve the over-crowding by the erection of a large association ward within the prison walls, the expenditure in connection with which had been previously authorised, and the Director of Public Works was requested to give expedition to the work.

The high death-rate in the Prisons was still receiving close attention and investigation at the close of the financial year to which this Report relates and is being separately reported upon.

63. The state and discipline of the prisons have been satisfactory; eighteen corporal punishments were inflicted for breaches of discipline.

The reformatory branch at the District Prison contained 41 lads on 31st December.

64. During the year 1917–18, 248 persons were under supervision as probationers under Law 27 of 1909. From these probationers 1,032 reports were received. Nineteen probationers were brought before the Court for subsequent offences, showing about 8 per cent. of lapses, as compared with 5 per cent. in 1916–17.

Police.

65. The establishment, including officers, was 29 below the authorised strength on the 31st March, 1918, but the monthly average deficiency during the year was 19. The number of days of absence from duty on account of illness in hospital was 14,405, as compared

with 11,336 in 1916–17, and 10,185 in 1915–16; 892 men were treated in hospitals and 539 in barracks and private quarters. In 1916–17 the figures were 836 and 742, respectively.

66. The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 46,400, those prosecuted 38,854, and those in which convictions were obtained 25,043, as against 41,524, 33,958, and 22,001, respectively, in the previous year. 110 cases were under remand for trial; in the year before the number was 101. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of the population was 516·51, as compared with 462·22 in 1916–17, 442·44 in 1915–16, and 425·76 in 1914–15.

67. There were 34 habitual criminals under police supervision, and 2,602 under police surveillance during the year, as compared with 35 and 2,869, respectively, in 1916–17.

68. The sub-officers and men travelled 734,184 miles in the execution of their duty, as compared with 683,950 in the previous year.

The conduct and discipline of the members of the Force were on the whole good.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

69. The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1917, was 893,884. This figure is arrived at as follows:—

Estimated population on 31st December, 1916			897,196
Births registered in 1917	30,557		
Deaths registered in 1917 ..	21,167		
			6,390
			903,586
Migrations in 1917:—			
Arrivals—General	10,194		
„ East Indians	—		
		10,194	
Departures—General	18,869		
„ —East Indians ..	—		
		18,869	
			8,675
			894,911
Less persons on board British Ships of War and the tourist ship "Avon," who were included in the Census of 1911 ..			1,027
			893,884

70. Of the general arrivals and departures, 6,771 and 7,140, respectively, were labourers, and shew a net emigration of 369 persons of this class. The remainders, 3,423 arrivals and 11,729 departures, represent a net emigration of 8,306 persons. It is to be remembered that this period includes the departure of certain Jamaica War Contingents.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries :—

	Departures.	Returned.	Excess Departures.	Excess Returns.
Central America	2,181	3,582	—	1,401
Cuba	4,532	2,750	1,782	—
Hayti	38	14	24	—
Other Countries (American and West Indian, etc.)	389	425	—	36
Total ..	7,140	6,771	1,806	1,437

71. The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th June, 1917, ascertained by adding to the Census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the Census, and by deducting the excess of emigration over immigration from the Census in 1911, was 895,692. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year were :—

		Rate per 1,000. Year ended 31st December, 1917.	Year ended 31st December, 1916.
Marriages	2,966	3·3	3·3
Births ..	30,557	34·1	33·3
Deaths ..	24,167	26·9	22·4

72. Of the births registered, 20,708, or 67·7 per 100 were illegitimate. This is slightly higher than the 1916 rate of 67·5, which was the highest Island rate recorded since the introduction of compulsory registration in 1878, and is the fourth time in succession that the record of the highest rate of illegitimate births has been broken.

73. The general death-rate of 26·9 per 1,000 is 4·5 higher than the 1916 rate of 22·4, and has only been exceeded three times since the present system of registration commenced in 1878. Of the total mortality the deaths of infants were :—

Under one year	5,644	or 23·3 per cent.
One year	2,074	or 8·6 per cent.
Two years	914	or 3·8 per cent.
Three years	589	or 2·4 per cent.
Four years	450	or 1·9 per cent.
	9,671	or 40·0 per cent.
1916	8,475	or 41·9 per cent.

74. Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 30,557 infants were born, and 7,718 died at one year of age or under, equal to 25·2 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 31·6.

The highest birth-rate was in Clarendon (37·3) and the lowest, exclusive of Port Royal, in Kingston (27·5).

St. Ann is the only parish in which the death-rate was lower than in 1916. In all the other parishes the rate has increased, ranging from 1·7 in the case of St. Elizabeth to 9·1 in the case of St. Catherine.

Public Health.

75. The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £94,843, as against £78,523 in 1916–17.

The expenditure of this Department in the course of the last two years is as follows :—

1916–17	£78,523
1917–18	94,843

This does not include the sum of £2,158 spent by the Public Works Department for maintenance, &c.

There were nine students—5 men and 4 women—at the Dispensary School at the Public Hospital, Kingston, during last year.

Yaws.

76. This disease is reported to be still very prevalent throughout the Island. 8,227 cases were treated, various drugs being used.

Venereal Diseases.

77. These diseases still continue prevalent throughout the Island. During the year an order was issued to District Medical Officers in charge of Public Hospitals, allowing the free treatment in such Institutions of all cases of venereal disease in an infective condition, and the Medical Officers were also informed that any specimens of blood, discharge, &c., would be examined and reported on free of charge. In addition to the male Venereal Ward opened in 1916, two other wards were being built on land adjoining the Kingston Public Hospital.

Hookworm.

78. 4,361 cases were treated at the various hospitals in the following manner :—

Thymol	3,294
Oil of Chenopodium	1,046
Quassia	15
Napthol B.	6

44 East Indians also were treated with thymol on the Estates. 19 severe cases were treated for hookworm at the General Penitentiary, and 48 examined at the Spanish Town Prison, all of which were infected.

Malaria.

79. The total number of cases admitted to the Hospitals was 4,288. The sale of quinine at a cheap rate through the Post Offices has been continued throughout the year. In spite of the very large increase in first cost owing to the War, the sale price has not been increased.

The District Medical Officer for Kingston states that this disease showed a decrease both in incidence and fatality.

Vomiting Sickness.

80. The number of cases reported during the year 1917 as Vomiting Sickness was 172, of which 158, or 91·86 per cent,, were instances of ackee poisoning. The Bacteriologist has fully investigated the so-called "Vomiting Sickness," and the majority of cases so reported have proved to be caused from ackee poisoning. Dr. Scott states that the outbreak during the past year has been exceptionally severe, but the mortality is estimated to be about 30 per cent. compared with between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in former years. The reduced mortality is attributed to the propaganda issued in the form of pamphlets and notices.

General.

81. Dr. H. H. Howard, Director of the Rockefeller International Health Board in the West Indies, paid a visit to Jamaica in February, in connection with the campaign to be undertaken by that Institution for the eradication of hookworm in the Colony. The Rockefeller International Health Board will carry out the treatment and provide its own staff and the Legislative Council has voted the funds for purchasing the necessary medicines, &c., and for otherwise taking part in the campaign.

82. The number of persons treated at the Out-Patients' Departments at the several hospitals was as under :—

At Kingston Hospital	15,035
At Public General Hospitals	23,609
In Districts	35,145
Under the Ticket System of reduced payment	789
	74,578

83. The total number of cases admitted to Public General Hospitals during the year under review was 20,109. There were 532 deaths in Hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,951 ; the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 593 ; the Lunatic Asylum, 1,637 ; the Lepers' Home, 141 ; the total number of patients treated in Government Hospitals and Asylums was 26,431.

84. The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the Public General Hospitals were as follows :—

Diseases.	1917–18. Cases.	1917–18. Deaths.	1916–17. Cases.	1916–17. Deaths.
Malarial Fever—				
Intermittent	3,909	26	5,714	45
Remittent	174	8	114	12
Pernicious	9	6	12	12
Skin Diseases	1,777	6	3,089	5
Diseases of the Digestive System	1,452	—	1,752	87
Local Injuries	1,574	28	1,754	37

85. The Bacteriologist reports that the investigation into the epidemic of a peculiar nature in St. Catherine which he conducted and which is referred to in the last Report—has proved it to be an

acute outbreak of "Central Neuritis," which when it has become chronic, has for a long time been designated in Jamaica as Peripheral Neuritis.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

86. The Postmaster for Jamaica furnished the following figures, comparing the postal revenues for 1917-18 with those of the previous year :—

	1916-17.			1917-18.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Postage	47,127	12	9¾	44,517	17	5¼
Commission on Money Orders	331	17	10½	288	15	11
Local Commission on British Postal Orders ..	863	13	5½	789	2	6½
Miscellaneous	1,473	0	2	2,870	5	1½
Telegraph	8,615	8	4	8,811	8	7
	£58,411	12	7¼	£57,277	9	7¼

87. The expenditure by the Department during the year was £48,725, and by the Public Works Department for maintenance and construction of Telegraph Lines, £2,371, a gross total of £50,646. In 1916-17, the expenditure was £48,728 and £2,488, respectively, or a gross total of £51,216.

88. The Revenue and Expenditure of the Department in each tenth year since 1897-98 is as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897-1898	27,969	36,961
1907-1908	41,162	33,471
1917-1918	57,277	50,646

89. As compared with the two previous years the numbers of letters and postcards were :—

	At General Post Office.		
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Outwards	4,151,708	4,119,592	3,890,084
Inwards	5,376,988	5,195,402	5,097,452
Total ..	9,528,696	9,314,994	8,987,536

	At District Post Offices.		
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Total	1,697,412	2,134,620	2,662,234
Grand Total ..	11,226,108	11,449,614	11,649,770
Telegrams sent and received	235,077	186,415	189,739

90. 3,624 Money Orders for £10,234 were issued in Jamaica and 35,501 Orders for £76,111, the issues of other countries, were paid.

There is a decrease of £3,062 in respect of Orders payable in the United Kingdom, which is attributed to the check on trade between

the two countries, due to the War, but there is an increase of £9,060 in the Orders issued in the United States of America and the Canal Zone, mainly due, it is considered, to the larger number of remittances received from persons who have emigrated to these countries.

267,071 British Postal Orders were sold for £59,480, as against £64,609, or £5,129 less than in 1916–17. Orders for £60,212 were cashed in the Colony, as compared with £59,061 last year.

44,698 parcels of a declared value of £52,592 8*s.* 4*d.* were received, and 13,002 of the declared value of £13,062 10*s.* were despatched through the Parcel Post.

IX.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

91. The total revenue was £142,899, as compared with £141,571 in 1916–17, an increase of £1,328. The expenditure, exclusive of debt charges, amounted to £136,388, against £132,455 for 1916–17, an increase of £3,933 or 2·96 per cent. The net profit for the year was £6,511, as against £9,116 for the previous year, a decrease of £2,605.

92. The capital charges stand at £2,669,371, on which the annual charge in the year under review was £121,955. This is £12 less than in the previous year.

93. For the third year in succession the Railway had to face the results of a hurricane which damaged the banana crop very considerably, causing a great loss in Revenue from this commodity. The damage to Railway property by the hurricane was estimated to be about £2,400, and the work rendered necessary thereby was completed during the year under review.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

94. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £162,202, summarised as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries and other Departmental charges	17,203	15	6½
Main Roads and Bridges—Maintenance	98,183	8	3
Main Roads and Bridges—New Works	11,685	1	2
Public Buildings—Maintenance ..	9,287	6	11
Public Buildings—New Works ..	5,496	11	10
Lighthouses	1,383	5	3
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	2,749	4	0
Spanish Town Water Works	837	0	9
Government Schools	2,701	18	2
Telegraph and Telephones	2,370	13	11
	£152,898	5	9½
Adding the work done for other Departments and Parochial Boards and paid for from other Votes and for Relief Works	9,304	4	11
	£162,202	10	8½

95. The total length of main roads under maintenance was 2,229 miles, 06¼ chains, an increase of 10 miles, 41¾ chains on the previous year, due to deviations and exchanges with Parochial Boards.

96. The expenditure on maintenance shows a considerable reduction on the two previous years owing to the exercise of strict economy, and to the absence of any widespread flood or hurricane damage.

97. The average cost of ordinary maintenance of roads per mile for the whole Island was £35 0*s.* 3*d.*, and including special works of improvement, &c., £44 0*s.* 6*d.*, of which £4 3*s.* 6*d.* per mile was for flood damage and £4 16*s.* 9*d.* per mile was for special works. Many of these special works under Maintenance were undertaken for the purpose of providing relief after the hurricane in September, 1917. They will be of great value in the near future, and consist chiefly of improvements to the road between Kingston and Port Antonio, via Morant Bay, with the bridging of numerous small streams.

98. The average rainfall during the year was 82·16 inches, as against an average of 104·09 in the year before, and 76·25 for all previous years. The rainfall was in every way normal, except in the month of September, when it was about double the average.

99. The rolling of road surfaces was continued as in previous years, and 35¾ miles of road surface were so dealt with.

100. The restoration of damage done to Public Buildings by the hurricane in September, 1917, entailed an expenditure of £1,965.

101. The total expenditure authorised under New Works on Public Buildings was £11,368, while £5,496 was spent, leaving £5,872 unexpended. The principal works carried out were the erection of temporary barracks at the St. Catherine District Prison, and the continuation of the construction of the new Ward at the Kingston Public Hospital for the treatment of venereal diseases.

102. The hurricane in September caused considerable damage to the telegraph lines in the parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary, but repairs were promptly effected, and the lines have been maintained in good order.

103. The Rio Cobre Hotel has been converted into a Home for children of men of the British West Indies Regiment.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

104. Most of the remarks made by Sir W. H. Manning under this head in respect of the year 1916–17, apply with greater or less force to the year 1917–18. Again a hurricane swept over the greater portion of the Island (on this occasion in September), affecting most severely the eastern half, wherein is to be found the greater portion of the banana cultivations. The effects of the hurricane have been alluded to in other portions of this Report, as well as the action taken in consequence. The banana cultivation had been promising very well, but the hopes of the banana planters were again dashed to the ground in the early hours of the 23rd September. To have a hurricane for the third year in succession was an almost unprecedented event in Jamaica history, and entirely so since the banana industry had become one of permanent importance to the Island.

105. Last year it was stated that the effects of the War in influencing the demand for sugar, rum, and logwood, had very materially assisted in averting the full weight of disasters following one another in two successive years. This is true in respect of the year under review, with the qualification that disasters have occurred now in three successive years, that the price of logwood had been lower than in the earlier days of the War, and that there has been an embargo against the entry of rum into the United Kingdom, the effect of which has been not to prevent the sale of Jamaica rum, but to retain in the Island rum after it had been sold to merchants in the United Kingdom.

106. The Colony continued during part of the year to provide contingents of men for duty in the various theatres of the War, and uniformly good reports of the value of their services have been received. Sir W. H. Manning reported to the Legislative Council, after his return from leave of absence in December, and after a visit he had paid to the battle areas in France, that it would be a source of pride to Jamaica to learn that he heard nothing but praise of their soldierly qualities and the value of their services.

ROBT. JOHNSTONE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
11th October, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
947	Basutoland..	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast ..	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1003.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 959.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1919.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1919.

[Cmd. 1-26.] *Price* 1*d. Net.*

No. 1003.

REPORT ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1917-18.*

FINANCE.

The revenue of the Cayman Islands for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1918, amounted to £4,423, and the expenditure to £5,162. The average revenue for the last five years is £3,784.

In Grand Cayman the year has been spent in recuperating from the effects of the hurricane of 24th September, 1917. The first five months of 1918 were dry, and home-grown food was very scarce, so that at the north and east ends of the Island relief work on roads had to be provided. Since April, 1918, seasons have been most favourable, and the only sources of distress the cultivators now have are the rats and agoutis. Breadfruit-trees have recovered well, but other fruit-trees will take years to recuperate. It is to be regretted, however, that the necessity of providing food has fully occupied the energies of the few men who remain at home to till the soil, and they have been quite unable to spare any energy for cultivation of sisal or other industries. Of the fourteen vessels driven ashore in the storm all but one, a very old schooner, were refloated.

Hurricane relief and drought relief have caused a heavy increase of expenditure, and the high price of foodstuffs has caused an increased revenue from import duties.

The Revenue has been further helped by the issue of War Stamps, which have found a ready sale to collectors.

Wages of mariners, which form the principal source of income of the Cayman Islanders, have been high, and the Islands do not appear to have lacked some measure of prosperity.

The smaller Cayman Islands have been very diligent in shipbuilding, notwithstanding the high prices of materials. At the end of the year under review they had five vessels approaching completion.

As in Grand Cayman, however, recent hurricanes have much discouraged other than hand-to-mouth-cultivation.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 30th September, 1918, the assets of the Dependency amounted to £5,363.

The liabilites were £2,159 due to Government Savings Bank and £91 due to depositors in Treasury.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 879: [Cd. 8172-5].

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

The value of the Imports from all countries has been in

1916–17	£29,108
1917–18	37,949

The average for five years is £29,163.

Exports.

The value of the Exports to all countries amounted in

1916–17 to	£8,169
1917–18	5,229

The average for five years is £6,954.

Trade in thatch rope has afforded remunerative employment to the women in those districts which most needed help, there being considerable demand in Jamaica for such ropes owing to the high price of hemp and other fibres.

The trades in turtle and hawksbill-shell have necessarily continued dull, as freights have been high and ship-owners have not cared for the uncertainty of this industry when they have certain profit in the carrying trade.

Shipping.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of registry, having on its register 47 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,242.

During the year under review only one new ship has been registered, but there have been nine in process of building, most if not all of which will be registered in the year 1918–19.

SAVINGS BANK.

People still neglect to make themselves familiar with the Savings Bank. It has been found difficult with the smallness of our staff to provide those conveniences of deposit and withdrawal which have made Savings Banks so popular in other communities. The balance on hand has trebled, but the deposits are chiefly of larger sums, and not of small savings.

The transactions for the financial year ended the 30th September, 1918, were :–

Deposits, £1,952. Withdrawals, £698.

The balances to the credit of depositors at the end of the year amounted to £1,851.

POST OFFICE.

The War tax of an additional halfpenny on letters within the Empire has been continued, and the sum of £1,906 has been collected for stamps.

(C589). Wt.1/155. 1000 & 90. 10.19. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11.

Money Orders.

The money order service, which is transacted through Jamaica, continues to be a necessity in the absence of a local bank, and is very largely used by merchants, and by sailors remitting money home.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The execution of public works has been confined to maintenance and to relief work rendered necessary by hurricane and drought. Considerable progress has been made in widening the road from West Bay to Batabano. The improvement of the road to the Hut Village at Northside is nearly completed. In the East End District a piece of road at Whitesand has been deviated from the seaside, and repairs have been done in East End Village and over Gun Bluff.

JUDICIAL.

There are two sittings of the Grand Court in each year, namely in June and December. The Commissioner presides as Judge.

The Court was during the current year adjourned from time to time as there was some complaint of praedial larceny, but the fact that there have been only six cases of stealing before the Grand Cayman Courts, and only four in the smaller Islands in twelve months would indicate that the people are very law-abiding.

A law has been passed to regulate the hearing of appeals from the Petty Courts to the Grand Court.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Vestry meeting was held in September as usual, and lasted a day and a half.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture here appears to be carried on under a perpetual protest, for the Caymanians' home is amongst the ships, and he does not take kindly to the curse pronounced on Adam.

The Agricultural Society is feeling its way, and it is hoped will make great progress as soon as enough material can be found for a show to bring members together.

POPULATION.

In June 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 were white, 2,211 coloured, and 1,031 black.

During 1918 there were 138 births, 73 males and 65 females. Of these 30 were illegitimate and 108 legitimate. In the same period there were 61 deaths, 34 males, and 27 females.

EDUCATION.

Education has not improved. Two teachers left after the hurricane, greater inducements being offered them in foreign parts. The Dependency is, however, legislating for the necessary inducements to teachers, coupled with a system of free education.

HOSPITAL.

The hospital or lazaretto has been kept in repair.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

The Lockups at Georgetown in Grand Cayman and Stakes Bay in Cayman Brac are the only Prisons, to which short term prisoners are committed.

Prisoners for terms longer than six months would be sent to Jamaica, but there have been none such for several years. Serious crimes amongst Caymanians, whether against persons or property, are generally the result of drinking, of which, however, but little is done in the Dependency.

POLICE.

The police force consists of an inspector, five policemen, and one district constable. There is but little police work, so that other uses are found for the policemen, chiefly in connection with the Post Office and Customs Departments. The Justices have authority to appoint special constables.

LIGHTHOUSES.

A triple wick Wigham lamp with a fixed white light has been erected at Gorling Bluff, at the east end of Grand Cayman, on an iron tower, at an elevation of seventy-two feet above sea-level. This is in substitution for the lamp on the mast at Gun Bluff. The work was carried out by Mr. T. E. Terrier, under direction of the Public Works Department of Jamaica.

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shing company, inc.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The death-rate for the year was 12 per 1,000, while the birth-rate was 27 per 1,000.

The report of Dr. J. L. Hydrick on his hookworm-survey of the Cayman Islands conducted during the previous year under the auspices of the International Health Board, Rockefeller Foundation, has been received. It is found that the hookworm infection is not great and not likely to be serious except in one or two districts.

The difficulty of obtaining lumber has hindered the most effective remedy of compelling the building of closets.

Dr. G. N. D. Overton has been confirmed in his appointment as Government Medical Officer for the Cayman Islands, and presented his annual report to the Vestry, from which it would appear that typhoid fever, represented by 22 cases with 4 deaths, has been during this year the most serious enemy to the people's health.

There has not been found to be any indigenous malaria or other insect-borne disease in the Islands.

CLIMATE.

The Cayman Islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness attributable to climatic conditions. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, when the cool season begins with a change of wind to the north and north-west in the early part of November.

The following table shows the average temperature :—

	Morning.	Mid-day.	Evening.
Hot months	83°	89°	86°
Cool months (Nov. to Mar.)	71°	80°	74°

C. E. MELLISH,
Acting Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
4th March, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
973	Zanzibar	1917
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	"
976	British Guiana	"
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settements	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
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87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
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89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1009.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 969.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1919.

LONDON:
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23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1919.

[Cmd. 1-32]. *Price* 1*d*. *Net*.

No. 1009.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 969.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1918.*

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year 1918 exceeded the Estimates by £246, and amounted to £8,671. Expenditure fell short of the Estimates by £333 and amounted to £8,323.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1917	£9,626	£8,722
1918	8,671	8,323

Expenditure under Head Miscellaneous includes contributions to Imperial Funds towards the cost of the Great War of £1,000 in 1914, £500 in 1915, and £200 to the Halifax Sufferers Relief Fund in 1917.

Assets stood at £20,120 and Liabilities at £10,776 17*s*. 1*d*., thus disclosing a balance of Assets amounting to £9,343 2*s*. 11*d*.

There is no Public Debt.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 257 births or 46 per thousand, and 161 deaths or 29 per thousand.

According to the Census of 1911, which may still be taken as a fairly accurate estimate of the population of the Dependency, there were 2,505 males and 3,110 females of a total population of 5,615 souls.

In common with the rest of the world the Dependency was visited with an outbreak of Spanish influenza during the year under review. Happily, however, it proved to be of a mild type and except at the settlement of Bottle Creek, North Caicos, gave little cause for anxiety.

EDUCATION.

The control of Primary Education continues to be administered by a Board to which the Government makes an Annual Grant of £700 for that purpose.

There is still no provision for Secondary Education. The scheme for the inauguration of such a school, sanctioned by Sir William Manning, in 1916, has not yet materialized owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a Head Master from England consequent on the Great War.

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846: [Cd. 7622-37].

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Manning Hospital—affording accommodation for six patients (3 males, 3 females) in the public wards and two patients in the Frith private ward—was opened on the 8th October of the year under review.

The Institution has already been instrumental in saving many lives, to say nothing of temporary relief afforded to human suffering, and one is led to wonder however it was possible to have existed without it in past years.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports to the value of £39,276 10*s*. 11*d*. and £25,594 1*s*. 8*d*. respectively, are recorded for the year.

The following table gives particulars in this connection for the past two years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1917	£34,930	£42,085
1918	£39,276	£25,594

The direction of trade during the same period may be gathered from the following table :—

IMPORTS.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Br. Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
1917	£1,664	£4,090	£29,176
1918	1,347	8,368	29,560

EXPORTS.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Br. Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
1917	——	13,021	29,864
1918	360	12,243	13,041

Salt.—334,184 bushels of coarse salt, value £6,888, and 526,185 bushels of fishery salt, value £13,346, were exported during the year.

Compared with past records these figures indicate that, with regard to exports of its chief product, the year 1918 was the worst in the annals of the Dependency since 1879. On the other hand, the year was again an ideal one for the salt raker and but for the scarcity of tonnage, owing to the Great War, exports of this commodity would have been up to the average. The stock of salt on hand at the close of 1918 was estimated at one and three quarter million bushels, (value £17,500) and was probably one of the largest on record.

Sisal.—The maintenance of high selling prices continued to stimulate the dying embers of this industry, and with the contemplated shutting down of the East Caicos Fibre Company next year, it is practically certain that sisal cultivation in the Caicos Islands will receive its death blow, at any rate for some years, since no effort is being made to replant or to open up fresh areas for planting. Difficulties of a purely private nature are, it is said, responsible for this action on the part of the East Caicos Company, but it is none the less regrettable that an industry, at present full of promise and so especially suitable to climatic conditions in the Caicos Islands, should pass out of existence. The abandonment of sisal cultivation will be a severe blow to the island

(602) Wt.1/155. 1000 & 90. 11.19. B.&F.,Ltd. G/11.

of East Caicos, whose inhabitants mainly depended on the Fibre Factory for a livelihood. Sisal to the value of £942 was exported as against a value of £5,950 in the year 1917.

Canned Lobster.—Owing to the difficulty of obtaining cans, in consequence of the Great War, the industry, which had been languishing since 1916, received its finishing stroke through the death of Mr. George Silly, its originator, in September of the year 1917. It is doubtful whether it will ever be revived, unless outside capitalists can be induced to turn their attention to these islands. Pioneers of the Silly stamp are not easily obtainable for such lonely and out-of the-way spots as the Caicos Islands. Canned lobsters do not appear among exports for the year 1918.

Cotton.—The appearance of cotton for the first time on record, among the exports of the Dependency, seems to call for more than a passing remark—for this reason—quite two thirds of the population of the Turks and Caicos Islands reside in the Caicos Islands where, under conditions of almost unbelievable hardships owing to the absence of any agricultural industries, the inhabitants are compelled to eke out a precarious existence by conch and sponge fishing, and for many years have constituted a continual source of anxiety to the Government. Especially do they become so during years of drought when, their scanty store of ground provisions having become exhausted, a period of utter destitution and starvation ensues, which only prompt Government aid in the shape of "emergency labour schemes" can avert.

It would seem that at the time of the settlement of the Caicos Islands, soon after the Revolutionary war between the United States and Great Britain (1784–1785), a number of gentlemen residing in the British Provinces of America obtained grants of land from the British Government in the Caicos Islands, which at that time formed part of the Bahamas. The white settlers have long passed away. The descendants of their slaves constitute the bulk of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands to-day. These settlers brought with them seeds of the Sea Island and Upland Cottons, but for various reasons the cultivation of the plant never assumed the proportions of an industry. Cotton plants were, however, allowed to grow up untended in waste places near to the settlements where, amid the cactus scrub, they for over a century pursued a struggle for existence, evolving eventually a type of cotton plant that for hardiness, freedom of disease, and heavy cropping qualities, under almost unbelievable conditions of sterility and neglect, cannot be surpassed anywhere.

In the year 1915, during a visit of inspection to these islands, the Commissioner's attention was attracted to this unusual type of cotton, and a sample of the lint was procured and forwarded to Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland, of Liverpool, for report. This proved so satisfactory that efforts were made in 1916 to induce peasants to take up cotton cultivation on systematic lines.

It was an arduous task at first, owing to the ignorance of the people of even the simplest agricultural methods. By degrees, however, they began to make headway and the first shipment of three bales of cotton in 1916 proving satisfactory, they were led to realize that after all there was a value attached to land and were stimulated to further effort in this direction. An output of eight bales in 1917, twelve bales in 1918, and fourteen bales in 1919 mark the progress, which although

slow, is being steadily achieved in this connection. The "deadpoint" or "experimental stage" of the industry having now been passed it would seem that if carefully fostered and encouraged, the cotton industry will before long completely change the fortunes of these islanders, since there are thousands of acres of land in the Caicos Islands suitable for its cultivation. It was, however, recognised at an early stage that the only hope of establishing a cotton cultivation among the peasants of the Caicos Islands lay in the Government becoming sponsor for the industry, on the lines so successfully adopted in the Grenadines, and that every precaution should be taken to prevent the introduction of cotton seed from outside with its attendant dangers. The native type, although possibly not the highest grade of "Upland cotton"* is especially suitable to the habits of a people who would not look at the industry if the plants required any care whatever beyond sowing and reaping. In these days when experimental work plays so large a part in the prosecution of all agricultural industries, it might be interesting to ascertain what the Caicos Islands type of cotton would do under more favoured conditions of growth and treatment. Cotton to the value of £617 (which sum includes an amount of £257 for the year 1917) are recorded among the exports of 1918.

Conchs.—Over three million dried conchs of an estimated value of £3,371, were exported to the neighbouring Republic of Haiti during the year.

Sponges.—Sponge culture and the operations at Chalk Sound Farm received a severe set-back through the death of Mr. George Silly, in 1917. Although the plantation is still in existence, yet, lacking proper management, it cannot be any longer considered a valuable asset among the minor industries of the Dependency. Such a condition of affairs is the more regrettable as there is no doubt whatever that sponge culture under skilful management, can be carried on successfully and developed to a large extent in the shallow-water creeks of the Caicos Islands.

Exports of sponge for the year 1918 were valued at £503, as against £872 for the year 1917—a falling off of £369.

Sea-Shells also show a decline in value amounting to £211, as compared with the year 1917, when exports to the value of £351 were recorded.

A review of the export trade of the Dependency discloses the unpleasant fact that, except in the direction of cotton, there has been a steady decline in all the minor industries as compared with the previous years. Even the salt industry shows unmistakable signs of weakness, particularly in the direction of cheapening the cost of production (which still remains about the same as it was 50 years ago) and the employment of improved and up-to-date methods of manufacture. It would therefore seem to be a matter for serious consideration by all who have the real interests of the Dependency at heart, how best to meet the situation when peace is restored and the conditions of trade again become normal.

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* It may be interesting however to mention that the shipment of Caicos Cotton in 1918 sold for 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb. and was reported by the brokers as being of good quality and strength, with the remark that there was always a fine market for this quality of cotton.

It is a fact beyond dispute that the sisal, sponge, and lobster canning industries are all severely handicapped owing to lack of enterprise and capital, and that in this respect also the salt industry is likewise a great sufferer. Salt manufactured on such expensive and antiquated lines as obtain in the Turks Islands must always be at a great disadvantage when brought into competition with that from more progressive salt-exporting countries. As salt producers admit their inability to do anything owing to lack of funds, it would seem that only the introduction of fresh capital and the adoption of better and more up-to-date methods of manufacture can restore prosperity to these islands, and check the stream of emigration which has been steadily going on since the early days of January of the year under review.

Agricultural Society.—It is pleasant to turn from this somewhat gloomy picture and to allude to the work of the Agricultural and Industrial Society of these islands. Starting in November, 1916, with 110 members, it now has 263 names on its register. Already two very successful Exhibitions have been held in the island of Grand Turk, and under the capable guidance of Mr. H. H. Hutchings (the Assistant Commissioner), its Secretary and Treasurer, the Society has done much to foster and encourage a taste for agriculture among peasant growers throughout the Dependency.

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the various ports in the Dependency during the year was 276, with a tonnage of 186,798, as compared with 407 vessels and a tonnage of 217,610 during the year 1917.

JUDICIAL.

Offences reported to the Police	171
Number of persons brought before the Magistrate	170
Summary convictions	116
Convictions in the Supreme Court	2
Number of persons acquitted :	
In the Supreme Court	1
In the Inferior Court	51

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

SAVINGS BANK.

Deposits during the year	£2,736 10*s.* 3*d.*
Withdrawals during the year	2,023 6*s.* 1*d.*
Total amount at credit of Depositors on 31st Dec., 1918	7,571 14*s.* 6*d.*
Number of Depositors	637
Rate of Interest paid to Depositors ..	2½ per cent.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This Institution continues its good work and, in a community where there are practically no amusements, is regarded with the warmest approval by every section of the inhabitants.

The annual Government grant in aid is £50.

POSTAL, TELEPHONE, AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom are transmitted twice a month by steamers of the Clyde Line, via New York, as heretofore.

The monthly service of Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers connecting the Dependency with Halifax and Jamaica has not yet been resumed. Great inconvenience has been caused by the cessation of this steamship service.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other systems of the world. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily in respect of which a yearly subsidy of £120 is paid.

The local telephone service, inaugurated in 1915, continues to give satisfactory service and has proved a great boon to the community at large.

The Revenue of the Post Office for the year 1918 was £2,193 7*s.* 9*d.*, while Expenditure for the same period amounted to £181 0*s.* 4*d.*

METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in Lat. 21° 21′ N. and Long. 71° 07′ at a height of 11·3 feet above sea level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	25·35 ins.
Highest temperature recorded for year ..	90·2°
Lowest temperature recorded for year ..	60·5°

The prevailing winds during the year are thus recorded :—

N., 14 days ; N.E., 38 days ; E., 209 days ; S.E., 80 days ; S., 6 days ; S.W., 4 days ; W., 7 days ; N.W., 3 days ; Calm, 4 days.

GENERAL.

Except for an outbreak of influenza of a mild type and the scarcity of tonnage, already alluded to, no events of importance mark the year 1918. In common with every part of the British Empire a deep feeling of relief and thankfulness prevailed among all classes over the signing of the Armistice in November, and great is the hope that the coming year may bring with it the blessings of a restored peace.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, 11th June, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonia Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	,,
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	,,
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	,,
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	,,
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	,,
997	Basutoland	,,
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1024.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917–18 see No. 980.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1920.

LONDON.
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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No. 1024.

JAMAICA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF JAMAICA, 1918–1919.

I have the honour to report on the Blue Book Returns of this Government for the financial year ended 31st March, 1919.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The total revenue and expenditure for the last two years have been as shown below :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1917–1918	1,052,486	1,098,410
1918–1919	1,157,304	1,228,608

If the figures for 1918–1919 be compared with those of the preceding year 1917–1918, the following important differences appear, viz. :—

Revenue.—Increases—Spirit Licenses £1,601 ; Agricultural Produce Dealers' Licences £1,248; Rum Duty £27,225; Sugar Duty £8,519; Stamp Duty £16,737; Lunatic Asylum Fees £2,766; Prison Sales £5,432 ; Reimbursement of Debt Charges (Balance Debt, Myrtle Bank Hotel) £2,881 ; Post Office and Telegraphs £3,272 ; Railway £31,146 ; Interest £3,042 ; Miscellaneous Receipts £3,409 ; Nickel Coin £1,515. Decreases—Import Duties £4,692 ; Export Duties £5,190 ; Reimbursement for Debt Charges (Railway Debt Amortization Annuities) £1,377.

Expenditure.—The chief increases were Pensions £1,138 ; Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs £1,600 ; Post Office and Telegraphs £1,978 ; Judicial Department £1,025 ; Medical Department £16,641 ; Constabulary and Prisons £15,363 ; Industrial Schools £2,152 ; Agricultural Services £5,186 ; Miscellaneous (including War Bonus £33,238) £55,244 ; Defence £1,088; Railway £37,018 ; Manufacture of Nickel Coin £1,270 : decrease—Public Works and Buildings £11,575.

2. The public debt of the Island (most of which is represented by productive investments) amounted to £3,732,500 on the 31st March, 1919. The accumulated sinking funds on the same date amounted to £1,165,587, leaving a nett liability of £2,566,912. Included in the debt are guaranteed public loans for local purposes, secured on municipal rates and undertakings amounting to £432,788, the sinking funds in respect of which amounted to £112,986.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

3. The total value of imports and exports for the last two years are as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1918	3,375,798	2,684,897
1917	3,297,665	2,478,916

The slight increase must be attributed to continued enhancement of prices rather than increase in quantity, as tonnage remained restricted throughout the year, the Shipping Returns disclosing that during last year only 772 ships entered the ports of this Island against 901 in 1917. The value of the exports was maintained principally by the continued high prices obtained for our cocoa and coffee.

4. The sources of supply of imports and the destination of exports may be analysed as under :—

Source of supply of Imports.

United Kingdom	16·1
United States	67·6
Canada	9·6
Other Countries	6·7

Destination of Exports.

United Kingdom	50·2
United States	23·3
Canada	14·4
Other Countries	12·1

5. The agricultural statistics collected during the year compared with an average of the preceding four years' returns give the following result :—

	1918–19.	Average 1914–18.
	Acres.	Acres.
Tilled Lands	298,411	296,069
Guinea Grass .. .. .. } Commons .. .. .. }	749,813	603,181
Wood and ruinate	978,667	1,127,641

The tilled lands may be further classified as under :—

	1918–19.	Average 1914–18.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes	41,067	34,252
Coffee	19,654	19,316
Coconuts	39,783	29,526
Bananas	60,585	80,552
Cocoa	16,978	12,310
Ground Provisions	83,549	68,787
Mixed Cultivation	33,450	28,349
Minor Items	3,445	2,977

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The increase in coconuts and decrease in bananas arise principally from the fact that these two products are planted simultaneously in the same land, and when the former come to maturity the banana cultivation can no longer be maintained.

6. The Surveyor General makes the following observations with regard to the sale of Crown Lands, &c., during the year :—

Sale of Land.

During the year 26 instalment purchasers who bought 220 acres under the rules for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers, have been given registered titles to their lands on completion of payment of their instalments of purchase money. There were also 37 cash purchasers who bought 169 acres, and to 16 of these Common Law titles have been issued. To 31st March last of the total of 40,452 acres that have been sold partly on credit since 1897, about 29,089 acres have been paid for in full, about 1,573 acres have been taken back for failure to pay, and about 9,880 acres still remain in possession of the purchasers to be paid for.

Agriculture.

7. The Island has made good progress in retrieving the successive disasters of the past three years, and, on the whole, the agricultural history of the year 1918 has been a satisfactory one.

The rainfall was generally below the average, and conditions of drought served to restrict the general output of the major crops of the Island.

8. The exports of sugar fell to 26,000 tons, or about 6,000 tons less than in the previous year. The demand for rum has steadily increased so as to raise the price of this product to a lucrative standard.

The large Central Factory in St. Catherine is expected to start grinding in December next with an output of 15,000 tons of sugar for the first crop.

A Government Co-operative Central Sugar Factory for St. Thomas in the East has now reached the stage of approval by the Legislature and a 10,000 ton factory is now in prospect for this productive area, where hurricanes and storms render banana cultivation so hazardous an enterprise.

There are also demands for a similar enterprise in Portland to be served by the Government Railway.

It is therefore clear that the Colony is exerting itself to increase the output of sugar to a marked extent, so as to justify the granting of the Imperial preference. The work of producing and testing new seedling canes which has been in abeyance during the War is now being taken up again by the Agricultural Department and the sugar industry will now receive the attention which its recent developments should justify.

The station at Hope made a special effort to supply new canes to the public and a record output of 158,000 cane tops was issued during the year. The "UBA" cane from Africa was found to be a meritorious variety of remarkably quick growth and is receiving the attention of planters. Six new cane seedlings of promise were received from the Barbados Department for trial.

9. The banana industry is now recovering and the prospects for the future are encouraging. The trade in "Evaporated Bananas" has been revived and with care in manufacture and packing a useful outlet for the smaller bunches of fruit should thus be afforded.

10. The coconut industry shows the effect of the hurricane of 1917 by an export equivalent to 22 million nuts as against 30 million in the previous year. The storm-damaged trees at the Eastern end of the Island became so seriously affected with *phyhophthora* fungus, causing one form of bud-rot disease, that the Department carried out a wholesale campaign in the cutting down and burning of all diseased and damaged trees. Some 80,000 coconut palms were dealt with in this campaign and the eastern end of the island is now almost free from coconut diseases.

To assist the small growers in restoring their coconuts 15,000 selected seed nuts obtained from a healthy area in St. Mary were distributed at the nominal price of one penny each. The peasantry responded well to this effort and no case of misuse of the seed nuts was brought to notice.

11. Logwood and its extracts experienced a further shrinkage in values from £540,000 to £400,000.

12. The citrus trade had a moderate success, orange oil still being in good demand.

13. Honey achieved a remarkable record during the year owing to the demand for it in the United Kingdom.

The records show that 1,175 tons of honey were exported at a value of £154,700.

Owing to the transhipment of infected honey from Cuba in the Port of Kingston, the disease known as "American Foul Brood" unfortunately gained an entrance into the Colony through the access of local bees to the Cuban honey in the port. Fortunately, this contingency had been foreseen and an area of approximately 3 miles in diameter from the Parish Church, Kingston, having been declared under Law 9 of 1918 and kept under systematic inspection the first cases of the disease were speedily detected. As the disease was spreading rapidly it was decided to destroy all hives of bees in the declared area and this was done on the 16th and 17th January 1919. The sum of £3,800 was provided for compensation and costs of this treatment.

To date the reports received indicate the complete success of these operations.

14. Interest has again been aroused in the cacao industry and demands for cacao seedlings are again brisk.

The Imperial preference and the good prices now obtainable for cacao will doubtless lead to a considerable development of this industry which, in Jamaica, can be so cheaply established in connection with the cultivation of bananas.

15. Coffee has risen again to a position of importance and this valuable staple now merits greater care and effort on the part of the smaller growers to produce a high-class product.

16. Pimento has been in firm demand at improved prices. The manufacture of "oil of pimento" for use in England as a substitute for "oil of cloves" for the manufacture of artificial vanilla has been one of the minor industries of the War.

The new species of "wild pimento" discovered by the Government Botanist and now named *Anomis Jamaicensis* has been found to yield an essential oil quite distinct from either the oil of pimento or the oil of "bay rum." The commercial possibilities of this species of *Anomis* are still being investigated.

17. Ginger and annatto sold well during the year and thus benefited the small growers who produce these products.

18. Sisal hemp is now attracting a good deal of attention. Plantations are being established both by private landowners and the Government. This industry should enable large areas of land on the limestone formation, at present of small productive value, to grow a valuable product resistant to drought and peculiarly suitable for the more populous areas of the Colony where there are large numbers of women and children who should find a congenial and remunerative occupation in the sisal industry.

Samples of fibre from the Government Plantation at Lititz were sent to New York and valued at £75 per ton, being classed as "of unusually good type."

This land had hitherto been so unproductive that no one could be found willing to pay taxes for its ownership.

19. The Government Stock Farm at Hope continues to progress and has recently imported five valuable dairy bulls and four first-class foundation cows of the Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, and Red Poll breeds.

Through the substitution of cows' milk from the Hope Farm for condensed milk, at the Lunatic Asylum, a saving of £1,200 a year has been effected in the cost of maintaining the inmates.

The farm motor service has continued to be operated with success, a standard of over 30 miles per gallon of gasolene having been maintained during the year.

A large number of blue prints of a standard dipping tank were issued to the public and a number of tanks are now in process of erection.

The Entomologist has taken an active part in assisting pen-keepers with advice on this matter.

20. The incidence of Panama disease of bananas for the year has shown a regrettable increase to a total of 273 diseased plants as against 125 for the previous year. The parish of Portland has been the chief site of this disease. By the increase of the staff of inspection and a more continuous control of suspected areas it is hoped to strengthen the measures of quarantine against the further spread of the disease.

21. The work of the Government Laboratory shows a further increase in official analyses, the samples dealt with during the year having risen to 1,234 as against 921 in 1916–17.

The Microbiologist has made frequent visits of inspection to banana and coconut estates during the year and has been in constant touch with the field work of the inspectors of plant diseases. The Entomologist has reported the results of the investigation of insects affecting sugar cane, citrus, mangoes, leguminous crops, yams, Irish potatoes, corn, and stored flour.

SHIPPING.

22. The returns under this heading do not include shipping controlled by the Admiralty, and most of those conveying our products to the United Kingdom during the War would come under this exception.

The figures for the past two years show :—

Vessels reported.

1918 ..	772 vessels with tonnage of	593,328	tons.
1917 ..	901 „ „	1,045,443	„

Vessels cleared.

1918 ..	746 vessels with tonnage of	583,697	tons.
1917 ..	874 „ „	1,019,490	„

Classified between British and Foreign Steamers and Sailing Vessels, gives the following :—

	No.	Tonnage.	TOTAL. No.	TOTAL. Tonnage.
British Steam, in 1918 ..	51	134,823		
British Sailing, in 1918 ..	373	26,905		
	—	———	424	161,728
Foreign Steam, in 1918 ..	286	416,979		
Foreign Sailing, in 1918 ..	62	14,621		
	—	———	348	431,600
British Steam, in 1917 ..	141	408,780		
British Sailing, in 1917 ..	350	25,804		
	—	———	491	434,584
Foreign Steam, in 1917 ..	344	583,336		
Foreign Sailing, in 1917 ..	66	27,523		
	—	———	414	610,859

British steamers show a falling-off for the reason given above, whilst the increase in sailers is due to the large migration of the labouring classes to Cuba.

III.—LEGISLATION.

23. Of the Laws passed during the calendar year 1918, the most important were :—

Law 6 *of* 1918.—"A Law relating to Venereal Diseases."—This Law provides for the compulsory treatment of venereal disease. It is drastic in its provisions, and is an attempt to treat the venereal disease problem according to the approved methods of scientific medicine. It is a bold attempt to mitigate an evil which is largely responsible for the deplorable health conditions in the Colony. It has not yet been actually brought into operation, pending the obtaining of a sufficient supply of the necessary drugs to ensure the possibility of its enforcement.

Law 16 *of* 1918—"A Law to provide for the Registration of Firms and Persons carrying on Business under Business Names and for purposes connected therewith." This law follows, *mutatis mutandis*, the provisions of the Imperial Act, 6 & 7 Geo. V, chap. 58, the

registration of Business Names Act, 1916. This Law contains provisions for the registration of information which will be very useful in times of war and peace to the Government and community at large.

Law 17 *of* 1918—"A Law to amend Law 27 of 1904 entitled 'The Currency Note Law, 1904.'" The proposal to issue currency notes in the Colony, to provide for which Law 27 of 1904 had been passed, had lain in abeyance but on representations from the Treasurer the matter was again taken up with the result that it appeared desirable to make some amendments to the old Law and then to proceed to the issue of currency notes.

The new Law provides, inter alia, for the issue of notes of any denomination approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it is now calculated that the demand for small notes of the denominations of 10*s*. and 5*s*. is such that the issue of these notes will not only fill a long felt want but will result in profit to the Colony. In dealing with this matter the Colony has had the benefit of the experience of the Governments of Trinidad and British Guiana in the issue of similar notes. The notes have not yet been issued in Jamaica but have been ordered from the Crown Agents and are expected shortly.

IV.—PUBLIC EDUCATION.

24. At the end of the financial year there were 693 schools on the annual grant list with a total average attendance of 45,941 pupils. The total payments to Elementary Schools and teachers during the year amounted to £66,793.

25. The annual examination of Teachers and Training College Students shows the following results :—

The total number of candidates presented was 134, 21 of whom obtained honours.

For the Pupil Teachers' Examination 436 candidates were presented, 244, or 56 per cent., of whom passed ; 2,538 volunteer candidates were presented and 1,062, or 42 per cent., passed.

26. The total amount expended on elementary education through the Estimates of the Department was £83,560, as against £87,217 in 1917–1918, and by the Public Works Department in the building of Government Schools and Teachers' Houses, £1,056, as compared with £3,708 last year.

27. The number of inmates of the Industrial Schools, male and female, on 31st March, 1919, was 964.

28. The expenditure of the endowed schools (secondary education) during the year was £22,009.

During the year it was decided that in future the examination for the Jamaica (Boys) and £60 Scholarships should be the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination instead of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination. The new examination is only held in July each year and it was further decided that the first award under the new arrangement should be made on the results of the July 1919 Examination. No award of these Scholarships was therefore made during the year under review. Hitherto the examination for these Scholarships had been held in December.

216 boys and girls are reported to have entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, 160 of whom passed, 33 doing so with honours.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

29. During the year 3,800 indoor and 16,106 outdoor patients were treated. The daily average number of inmates was 277 and the total cost of maintenance was £15,499. Receipts amounted to £925.

The number of patients who attended the evening clinics in connection with the treatment of cases of venereal disease was 2,731 and the number of attendances was 9,909. 17,153 prescriptions were made up and 1,598 intravenous injections were administered.

(b) *Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital.*

30. 680 patients were admitted during the year; 11 pupil nurses were admitted for training, of whom 10 passed their examinations and received certificates and one left at her own request; the average daily number of patients was 16; expenditure amounted to £1,572, and receipts to £549.

(c) *Lunatic Asylum.*

31. The total number of patients under treatment during the year was 1,727; the daily average number resident was 1,392; 372 patients were admitted; 154 were discharged; there were 159 deaths. The cost of maintenance amounted to £33,045, and receipts to £15,480.

(d) *Lepers' Home.*

32. There were 113 patients on the 31st of March, 1918, and 20 were admitted during the year. During the year one patient absconded and 16 died.

(e) *Government Savings Bank.*

33. During the year under review steps for the reorganization of the bank were taken under Law 7 of 1917, the Government Savings Bank Law, 1917. A board of managers, known as the Savings Bank Board, was appointed, of which the manager of the bank was made the chairman, and rules for the governance and carriage of the bank were drawn up and approved. Steps were taken to advertise the bank and to bring it more into line with the other banks operating in the Colony and arrangements were made for branches to be opened at several of the more important Post Offices. The calender year was also adopted as the financial year of the bank.

The ordinary deposits amounted during the 9 months ended 31st December, 1918, to £53,257, and the withdrawals to £50,636, as compared with £67,814 and £69,944 respectively, during the whole year 1917–1918.

The balance sheet on 31st December, 1918, shows a liability to depositors of £286,627.

VI.—COURTS, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

34. The judicial statistics show that the total number of convictions in Circuit Courts was 134, as compared with 116 in the previous year; of convictions in the Resident Magistrates' Courts 12,950, as compared with 12,763; and of summary convictions 15,089, as compared with 15,906.

There were 6,051 cases of praedial larceny in which a charge was preferred, as against 6,530 in the previous year, and there were 4,574 convictions, as against 4,787 in 1917–1918.

There were two convictions for murder during the year, the same number as in the year 1917–1918; the death sentence was not, however, carried out in either case, but was commuted to imprisonment for life.

Prisons.

35. The committals to the prisons during the year numbered 7,018, and to lock-ups for short terms 3,308, making a total of 10,326, as compared with 11,020 in the previous year, a decrease of 694. The daily average of prisoners in the Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison was 2,282, as compared with 2,192 in the previous year. There were 336 deaths in the prisons, as compared with 271 in 1917–1918. There were no executions for capital punishment during the year. In the previous year there were three.

36. The death-rate at the St. Catherine District Prison continued high during the first two quarters of the year, the number of deaths being 81 and 95 respectively. Results of steps taken in connection with the matter commenced to be seen, however, in the December quarter when, despite the epidemic of influenza which visited the Island during that quarter, the number of deaths was reduced to 55. In the last (March) quarter of the year the number of deaths had fallen to 11, which was less than during any quarter of the previous year, and in fact during the 3 months ending 28th February there were no deaths at all.

In a report written during the month of March the acting surgeon of the institution attributes the improvement in the death-rate to the steps taken for the reduction of the excess of the population of the prison—namely, the extension of the period for which prisoners may be confined in lock-ups and to improvement in the general physical condition of the prisoners on admission. This latter was probably due to improvement in the food situation throughout the Island.

37. The state and discipline of the prisons have been satisfactory; three corporal punishments were inflicted for breaches of discipline. The Reformatory Branch at the District Prison contained 42 boys on 31st December, 1918.

Police.

38. The number of cases reported to the Police and Magistrates was 46,276, those prosecuted 37,297, and those in which convictions were obtained 24,633, as against 46,400, 38,854 and 25,043 respectively, in the previous year. 120 cases were under remand for trial; in the year before the number was 110. The incidence of crime per 10,000 of the population was 510·35 as compared with 516·51 in 1917–1918, 462·22 in 1916–1917, and 442·44 in 1915–1916.

The conduct and discipline of the members of the force were on the whole good.

During the earlier portion of the year there was a certain amount of labour unrest in the Colony, resulting in strikes amongst labourers in several districts. One such strike occurred on sugar estates in the district of Vere in the Parish of Clarendon and terminated in open

riot in the month of July, and the police, after exercising the utmost patience for over 24 hours in trying to maintain order, were eventually compelled to fire on the rioters, 3 of whom were killed and several wounded. The aid of the military had also to be invoked so that an overwhelming force might be present in the disturbed district.

There was also about the same time an outbreak against the Chinese in certain districts, chiefly in the parish of St. Catherine, as a result, primarily, of a rumour (which proved to be untrue) that a constable in the village of Ewarton had been murdered by a Chinaman. This rumour was made the excuse by the villagers for looting all the Chinese shops in the district, and this example was quickly followed by the peasantry in other districts. The police, however, assisted by the military, shortly got the situation in hand and stopped all further looting.

In both of these cases the police officers and men behaved most admirably. They received the special commendation of His Excellency the Governor, and as a result the King's Police Medal was subsequently awarded to 7 members of the Force, viz., 3 officers and 3 sub-officers and 1 man.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

39. The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December, 1918, was 891,040. This figure is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated population on 31st December, 1917			893,884
Births registered in 1918.. ..	30,598		
Deaths registered in 1918 ..	29,580		
			1,018
			894,902
Migrations in 1918—			
Arrivals—General	6,586		
Arrivals—Military	309		
		6,895	
Departures—General	10,720		
Departures—Military	37		
		10,757	
			3,862
			891,040

The high proportion of deaths to births during the year is due largely to an epidemic of influenza, as to which see paragraph 41 of this Report.

40. Of the general arrivals and departures, 5,102 and 8,773, respectively, were labourers and show a nett emigration of 3,671 persons of this class. The remainders, 1,484 arrivals and 1,947 departures, represent a nett emigration (exclusive of military) of 463 persons.

Migration of labourers took place chiefly in respect of the following countries :—

	Departures.	Returned.	Excess Departures.	Excess Returns.
Central America	1,160	1,061	99	—
Cuba	7,351	3,599	3,752	—
Hayti	57	15	42	—
Other Countries (American and West Indian, etc.)	205	427	—	222
Total ..	8,773	5,102	3,893	222

The mean Island population for the year, that is, the population on the 30th June, 1918, ascertained by adding to the census figures the excess of births over deaths registered since the census and by deducting the excess of emigration over immigration from the census in 1911 was 895,578. On these figures the marriages, births, and deaths registered during the year, with the rates per 1,000 for this and the preceding year were :—

		Rate per 1,000. Year ended 31st December, 1918.	Year ended 31st December, 1917.
Marriages..	2,776	3·1	3·3
Births ..	30,598	34·1	34·1
Deaths ..	29,580	33·0	26·9

Of the births registered, 20,990 or 68·6 per 100 were illegitimate. This is still higher than the 1917 rate of 67·7 which was the highest Island rate recorded since the introduction of compulsory registration in 1878, and is the fifth time in succession that the record of the highest rate of illegitimate births has been broken.

The general death-rate of 33·0 per 1,000 is 3·1 higher than the 1917 rate of 26·9.

41. During the December quarter influenza and pneumonia visited Jamaica and spread swiftly through the Island. With the exception of Port Royal, in which there was one death from influenza and one from pneumonia, the epidemic claimed a heavy toll in every Parish. It reached the greatest intensity about the middle of the quarter and then began gradually to subside, until at the end of the quarter it had all but disappeared in a virulent form.

Five thousand and twenty-two (5,022) deaths were registered during the quarter as having been caused from influenza, and 547 from pneumonia, but it is probable that a larger number of deaths actually occurred from these causes as a considerable proportion of the deaths registered in this Island are not medically certified, and a large number of deaths that occurred during the prevalence of the influenza epidemic were registered as having been caused merely by "fever and cold."

As among the poorer and less educated people the "fever and cold" stage of influenza would appear as the outstanding feature of the disease it may safely be assumed that a large proportion of these deaths were due to influenza. In addition to the deaths from this cause registered during the December quarter, 150 deaths which actually occurred during that quarter were registered during the months of January and February.

Of the deaths caused by the epidemic 2,702 were of persons of the ages of 20 to 45 years, and 1,150 of children under 5 years of age.

42. Comparing the infant mortality with the births during the year, 30,598 infants were born, and 7,546 died at one year of age or under, equal to 24·6 per cent. The percentage under 5 years was 32·2.

Public Health.

43. The expenditure of the Medical Department during the year amounted to £109,902, as against £94,843 in 1917-1918.

This does not include the sum of £2,118 spent by the Public Works Department for maintenance, etc., bringing up the total to £112,020.

Yaws.

44. This disease is still very prevalent throughout the Island; £5,142 was spent on its treatment during the year.

Venereal Diseases.

45. These diseases still continue prevalent throughout the Island. During the year a Law was passed (see paragraph 23) providing for the compulsory treatment of these diseases, but for various reasons this could not be brought into operation before the year expired. Free treatment was, however, continued at the public hospitals.

Hookworm.

46. A preliminary survey as to the extent of hookworm infection in the Island was made during the year under the auspices of the International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation). It was intended to have followed this up very shortly afterwards by a demonstration campaign against the disease in the parish of Clarendon, but owing to war conditions and other unavoidable delays it was not possible for a start to be made before the close of the year under review. Preliminary steps were being taken when the year closed, however, and it was expected that the actual campaign would be commenced early in the present year.

Malaria.

47. The total number of cases admitted to the hospitals was 2,797. The sale of quinine at a cheap rate through the Post Offices has been continued throughout the year except for a short time during 1918 when the supply ran short. In spite of the very large increase in first cost owing to the War, the sale price has not been increased.

Vomiting Sickness.

48. The number of cases reported during the year as the so-called "Vomiting Sickness" was 257, of which 242 or 94·16 were found to be instances of ackee poisoning.

In the other cases the true causes of death were found by the Government Bacteriologist to be as follows:—

Cerebral malaria	8
Gastritis	2
Malaria and ackee	1
Ptomaine poisoning..	1
Fish poisoning	1
Nephritis	1
Convulsions	1
	15

General.

49. The total number of cases admitted to Public General Hospitals during the year under review was 21,100. There were 1,165 deaths in hospitals. Adding the cases treated in the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,800; the Jubilee (Lying-in) Hospital, 680; the Lunatic Asylum, 1,727; the Lepers' Home, 133; the total number of patients treated in Government hospitals and asylums was 27,440.

The principal diseases for which patients were admitted into the Public General Hospitals were as follows:—

Diseases.	1917–18. Cases.	1917–18. Deaths.	1918–19. Cases.	1918–19. Deaths.
Malarial Fever—				
Intermittent ..	3,909	26	2,367	20
Remittent ..	174	8	298	20
Pernicious ..	9	6	18	15
Blackwater Fever	2	—	1	—
Skin Diseases ..	1,777	6	590	4
Diseases of the Digestive System ..	1,452	—	1,034	80
Local Injuries ..	1,574	28	1,532	29

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

50. The expenditure by the Department during the year was £50,527, and by the Public Works Department for maintenance and construction of telegraph lines £1,865, a gross total of £52,392. In 1917–1918 the expenditure was £48,275 and £2,371 respectively, or a gross total of £50,646.

The total number of letters and postcards (outwards and inwards) dealt with during the year was 10,307,734, as compared with a total of 11,649,770 in the year 1917–18.

51. 2,655 money orders for £9,503 were issued in Jamaica and 37,018 orders for £87,483, the issues of other countries, were paid.

There is a further decrease of £654 in respect of orders payable in the United Kingdom which is attributed to the check on trade between the two countries, due to the War, but there is an increase of £9,019 in the orders issued in the United States of America and the

Canal Zone, mainly due, it is considered, to the larger number of remittances received from persons who have emigrated to these countries.

270,956 British postal orders were sold for £61,189, as against £59,480, or £1,709 more than in 1917–1918.

48,243 parcels of a declared value of £57,184 were received, and 22,641 of the declared value of £55,061 were despatched through the parcel post.

IX.—GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

52. The total revenue was £174,004, as compared with £142,899 in 1917–1918, an increase of £31,145. The expenditure, exclusive of debt charges, amounted to £173,399, against £136,388 for 1917–1918, an increase of £37,011. The net profit for the year was £645, as against £6,511 for the previous year, a decrease of £5,866.

The capital charges stand at £2,669,371, on which the annual charge in the year under review was £122,366. This is £411 more than in the previous year.

The large increase in expenditure was due to the very great increase in the cost of materials, especially of coal, and to the grant of a War bonus to employees drawing up to £200 per annum. To help to meet this heavy increase of expenditure the freight and passenger rates were increased in the latter part of the year.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

53. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year under review was £158,197.

The total length of main roads under maintenance was 2,225 miles, a decrease of 4 miles on the previous year, due to deviations and exchanges with Parochial Boards.

The expenditure on maintenance in the previous year had shown a considerable reduction on the two previous years owing to the exercise of strict economy and to the absence of any widespread flood or hurricane damage, and in the year under revision a further small reduction was made.

The average rainfall during the year was 69·55 inches, as against an average of 82·16 in the year before and 76·29 for all previous years. This average was the lowest since 1914–1915 when it was 62 inches.

The rolling of road surfaces was continued as in previous years and 33 miles of road surface were so dealt with.

The total expenditure authorised under New Works on Public Buildings was £12,958, while £11,268 was spent, leaving £1,690 unexpended. The principal work carried out was the completion of the construction of the new ward at the Kingston Public Hospital for the treatment of venereal diseases.

54. In connection with the efforts made in the Colony to augment the supply of home-grown foodstuffs, granaries and dehydrating plants were erected in Spanish Town and Montego Bay, the plant in each case consisting of an engine and boiler with a Hess drier for corn and a Bowsher grinder for the manufacture of cornmeal.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

55. The Island can be congratulated that no hurricane visited it during the year under review. For the past three years reference has had to be made in this section of the Report to the devastating effects which have been caused by such visitors, but this year it is possible for brighter conditions to be spoken of. As a result of the more favourable conditions, the banana industry again brightened up, and altogether the agricultural history of the Island for the year may be regarded as satisfactory. There was healthy activity shown in connection with the sugar industry, preliminary steps being taken for the erection of a large privately-owned Central Factory in St. Catherine with an output of 15,000 tons, while the subject of a Government-aided Factory in St. Thomas with an output of 5,000 or possibly 10,000 tons was under the consideration of the Legislative Council.

During the year conditions in regard to the food supply grew, if anything, worse, prices continuing to rise steadily, and in January, 1919, the Food Control Law, No. 1 of 1919, was passed and assented to. Under this law the Honourable J. H. W. Park, O.B.E., Director of Public Works, was appointed to be Food Controller.

As a result of the continued rise in prices it became necessary during the year for some financial assistance to be rendered to Public Officers and Government employees, and this was done by the grant of a War bonus to all Officers and employees in receipt of emoluments of £200 and under. The Government had suggested a limit of £400, but in Legislative Council the amount was reduced to £200 and a bonus to elementary school teachers was also granted.

56. The chief local events of the year, most of which are referred to in more detail in the foregoing chapters, may be summed up as follows, the good progress made in retrieving the successive disasters of the past three years, the reorganization of the Government Savings Bank, the campaign on behalf of increased production of home-grown foodstuffs, the occurrence of certain short-lived riots and the epidemic of Spanish influenza. The most outstanding event of the whole year was, of course, the Armistice of the 11th November, bringing to a practical close the greatest war known in history, and there has also to be recorded as one of the events arising out of the War, the approval by the Imperial Government of the principle of Imperial preference, which included several of the chief articles of produce in the Island, and which actually was put into operation after the close of the year under review.

ROBT. JOHNSTONE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

5th November, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
993	Uganda	1917–1918
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1042.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1009.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1920.

LONDON:
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No. 1042.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1919.*

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £11,164 0*s.* 0*d.*, being £2,493 in excess of that for the year 1918, and exceeded the Estimates by £2,999.

The expenditure, including a further contribution of £500 to Imperial Funds towards the expenses of the Great War, disbursements of over £300 in connection with the Peace Celebrations, and the relief of the relatives of those who perished in the "YUNA" disaster, and the payment of over £400 as War Bonus to subordinate public officers, was £9,263 as against £8,323 in 1918 and exceeded the Estimate by £1,340.

The surplus of assets on the 31st December was £11,244 14*s.* 9*d.*, the highest on record in the annals of the Dependency.

There is no public debt.

The current coins are British gold and silver. United States gold and silver are accepted at a discount of 1½ per cent. on their face value.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1919, were valued at £38,343, as compared with £39,276 in 1918.

The exports were valued at £33,554, as against £25,594 in 1918.

Classified under their respective headings, a comparative statement of the exports for the years 1918 and 1919 reads as follows :—

Articles.	1918.	1919.
Salt (coarse)	£6,888	£10,827
Salt (fishery)	13,346	13,290
Sisal	942	1,233
Sponges	503	1,015
Conchs	3,371	3,005
Conch Shells	211	1,256
Cotton and Cotton Seed	617(a)	580
Tortoiseshell	——	1,079
Dried Fish	——	47
Dye Woods	——	89
Miscellaneous	460(b)	1,073
Totals	£26,338	£33,554

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846: [Cd. 7622-37].

(a) Represents shipments for 1917 and 1918.

(b) British, foreign and other Colonial produce.

The direction of trade, both imports and exports, during the year may be thus summarised :—

Countries.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom	1919	£2,140	£580
British Colonies	,,	8,748	14,802
Foreign Countries	,,	27,455	18,172
	Totals	£38,343	£33,554
United Kingdom	1918	£1,347	£360
British Colonies	,,	8,368	12,937
Foreign Countries	,,	29,561	13,041
	Totals	£39,276	£26,338

Salt.—This industry, although exports are slightly in excess of those given for the year 1918, show a decided falling-off as compared with the average of past years, a condition of affairs chiefly due to the flooding of North American markets with salt from Mediterranean ports which had been tied up there during the Great War, and also to the world-wide shortage of vessels which has hampered trade in every direction for the past five years.

It is, however, satisfactory to mention that the early months of the year 1920 already show a rapid return to normal conditions.

The year 1919 was again an ideal one from the salt producers' point of view, and the stock on hand at its close (over two million bushels) was one of the largest on record.

Sponges.—Exports to the value of £1,015, as against £503 in 1916, are recorded.

Conchs.—Again do the records disclose that over three million of these edible molluscs—value £3,005—were exported to the neighbouring Republic of Haiti during the year 1919.

Conch Shells.—From the United States there came a greatly increased demand for conch shells during the year 1919. The highly polished inner surface of these shells is greatly prized by cameo cutters, and exports to the value of £1,256, as compared with £211 in 1918, testify to the extent and development of this interesting marine industry.

Cotton.—Exports for the year amounted to 15 bales of lint and 94 bags of cotton seed, value £580. Of this quantity 14 bales were consigned to Liverpool, and one bale to the United States. In both markets practically the same figure (2*s.* 10*d.* per lb.) was realized. Cotton brokers on both sides of the Atlantic were, moreover, unanimous in recording their testimony as to the high quality of the staple grown in these islands, and the following letter received from Mr. C. C. Cowan, a New York cotton broker, to whom the " lone " bale above referred to was shipped, is full of interest and significance in this connection :—

" March 5, 1920.

Mr. G. Whitfield Smith,
Turks Island, B.W.I.

Sir,

It may interest you to know that we have had scientific tests made at the New Bedford State Textile School, where 50 lbs. of the bale you

(708). Wt.32596/354. 1,250 & 90. 10.20. B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/14.

shipped us went through the pickers, carders, and combs, and was spun into yarn. They found that it had a breaking strength higher than that of American Poolers with which it was compared. In fact, it shows the highest breaking strength of any cotton known, with the exception of one grade of Peruvian. Considering that this bale was made up of cotton of all ages I think this rather remarkable, and I am sure that with proper ginning on the rollers the new cotton from new lands will show up even better.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) Chas. C. Cowan,
President W.I. Development Co."

The lease of Haulover Estate, Middle Caicos (8,000 acres) by a body of American capitalists for the purpose of cotton-growing quickly followed the appearance of Turks Islands cotton on the United States markets and augurs well for the future development of this industry in the Caicos Islands.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered at the various ports in the Dependency during the year was 336, with a tonnage of 188,195, as compared with 276 vessels, and a tonnage of 186,798 during the year 1918.

JUDICIAL.

	1918.	1919.
Offences reported to the Police	171	150
Number of persons brought before the Magistrate	170	148
Summary convictions	116	116
Convictions in the Supreme Court	2	10
Number of persons acquitted :		
In the Supreme Court	1	2
In the Inferior Court	51	19

VITAL STATISTICS.

There is nothing calling for notice during the year as no serious epidemic or outbreak of sickness was reported. The number of births and deaths was 173 and 169, representing 30·8 and 30 per thousand of the population respectively, while 45 marriages are recorded. On January 9th, sixty-four natives of the Dependency perished at the stranding of the s.s. "Yuna" on Mouchoir Bank, which accounts for the abnormally high deathrate.

EDUCATION.

The sum of £700 is placed annually at the disposal of the Education Board for the provisions of the Ordinance, but the details of expenditure are left entirely to the Board. Hard times and the high cost of food and clothing are responsible for the resignation of several members of the Teaching Staff who elected to try their lot in the larger fields of labour offered in the United States, and caused a slight falling-off in the average attendance at all the Government schools. The average number on the rolls in the Dependency was 884.

LEGISLATION.

The only legal enactment during the year was the usual Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. H. H. Hutchings, Assistant Commissioner, was appointed Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, and left the Dependency to take up his new duties in May of the year under review.

PENSIONS.

The pension list was reduced during the year by the sum of £81 11*s.* 1*d.* in consequence of the death of Sir Robert Llewelyn, a former Commissioner of these islands.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Savings Bank.

	£
Deposits during the year	5,318
Withdrawals during the year	3,472
Total amount at credit of Depositors on 31st Dec. 1919	9,627
Number of Depositors	749
Rate of interest paid to Depositors..	2½ per cent.

Manning Hospital.

This Institution continues to minister to the needs of suffering humanity in a most satisfactory manner. Fifty-five cases are stated by Dr. H. H. Purinton to have received treatment at this Hospital during the Quarter ending 30th September, 1919, and the acting Government Medical Officer concludes his report by saying: "There are few, if any, public expenditures in the Island of Grand Turk, and in fact, in the whole Colony, which have been of greater benefit to the population than the money spent for the support of the Manning Hospital."

Postal, Telephone, and Telegraph Services.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, via New York, and parcels from Great Britain (only) are transmitted regularly twice a month by steamers of the Clyde Line. Except, however, by an occasional sailing vessel to Jamaica, by which Post Office parcels from Turks Islands for Canada are transmitted, the Dependency is still in the unique position of being without a Parcel Post Service to anywhere save the places mentioned above. Great inconvenience is obviously occasioned

thereby. The Revenue of the Post Office for the year 1919 was £4,205, and Expenditure for the same period £172. The abnormal Revenue was caused by the demand from foreign collectors for Postage Stamps of the War Tax issue.

The telephone service (approximately 25 miles of lines) continues to give useful and satisfactory service.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other telegraph systems of the world. The Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, in respect of which a yearly subsidy of £120 is paid.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings and statistics taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 21′N. and longitude 71° 97′W. at a height of 11·3 feet above sea level, were as follows:

Rainfall.	24·88 ins.
The highest temperature recorded for the year ..	91°
Lowest temperature recorded for the year ..	61·5°

The prevailing winds during the year were:

N., 17 days; N.E., 49 days; E., 162 days; S.E., 71 days; S., 8 days; S.W., 2 days; W., 12 days; N.W., 9 days; Calm, 1 day, Variable, 34 days.

GENERAL.

The year under review opened under circumstances of much local sadness, and will long be remembered by the people of these islands. On the 9th January, the Clyde steamship "Yuna" on a voyage from Santo Domingo to Grand Turk with upwards of 100 stevedore labourers and tally clerks—natives of the Dependency—on board, struck on Mouchoir Reef, about 45 miles to the southwest of Grand Turk, and foundered shortly afterwards. On improvised rafts these unfortunate people made a bold fight for life, but when discovered by the American steamship "Anna" 48 hours after the disaster, it was found that 64 of them had perished. The loss of so many breadwinners, many of them fathers of large families, was keenly felt in this small community and caused a feeling of intense gloom, which the disbursement of $13,000 by the Company to the stricken relatives can only faintly remove.

The outstanding event of the year 1919 was the official celebration of the restoration of Peace which, in common with other parts of the Empire, took place on the 19th and 21st of July, and was enthusiastically entered into by every section of the community.

The return to the island on demobilization of Captain G. H. Frith and Private Henry (B.W.I.R.) and Able Seaman Jeremiah Williams of the Motor Boat Patrol Service was another of the notable events of the year 1919. It is true that in this remote Colony the echoes of war were heard but faintly, nevertheless the call of the Motherland in her hour of need was answered in the early days of the War by no less than

21 of the sons from the Turks Islands, mostly humble fisherfolk from the Caicos Islands, and the Dependency has therefore no need to feel ashamed of the small but steadfast part which she played in the Great War.

It may not be out of place in conclusion to allude briefly to the present high cost of living, which presses heavily on every section of the community. Especially severe is the strain in a Colony where every article of food supply has to be imported, and where the prices of even the commonest necessaries of life have reached almost impossible figures.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, 19th April, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	"
1030	Nigeria	"
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	"
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern Part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

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No. 1067.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1919-20.

(For Report for 1918-19, see No. 1024.)

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MARCH, 1921.

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No. 1067.

JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1920.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of the Island of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, namely :—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston	7	St. Catherine	470	St. Elizabeth	462
St. Andrew	166	St. Mary	249	Trelawny	333
St. Thomas	274	Clarendon	474	St. James	234
Portland	285	St. Ann	476	Hanover	167
		Manchester	302	Westmoreland	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,587 acres, of which, approximately, 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl, and swamps.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° at the sea coast the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° on the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of atmosphere that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suitable to the most delicate constitution.

The midland parts of the island are the highest. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak, attaining an elevation of 7,360 feet.

From this range subordinate ridges or spurs run northerly to the north side of the island and southerly to the south side; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening gullies.

4. There are numerous rivers and streams, from which Jamaica derived its aboriginal Arawak name of Xaymaca, which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. The majority have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. There are many mineral springs in Jamaica, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body.

The two principal are, the spring at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, and the spring at Milk River in Clarendon.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours in the Island, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

7. The following are dependencies of Jamaica, viz.,—The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands, also the Guano Islands, Pedro and Morant Cays.

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, it remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1660 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward Doyley Governor-in-Chief, with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds, and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century the

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island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who inhabited mainly the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the slave trade was abolished, in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave-owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre with unnecessary violence, and he was recalled. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake, which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened, and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.* chiefly in aid of rebuilding, was authorised from the Home Exchequer. Two buildings, the General Post Office and Treasury, and the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, were completed in 1910, and the Law Courts in 1913.

Constitution.

9. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., in 1662, which after existing for nearly 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, a Privy Council, a Legislative Council, and an Assembly of 47 elected members. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the constitution, but was defeated, and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the constitution was fixed in the following manner :—

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) and five *ex officio* members, viz., the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Director of Public Works, and Collector-General, and such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint, or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an Executive Council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, and Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

10. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886 was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island.

Local Administration.

11. There are elective Parochial Boards in the town of Kingston and 14 other parishes, under Laws 13 of 1900 and 17 of 1901, with jurisdiction over roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, waterworks, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1911, 57,379), Port Royal (population 1,268), Spanish Town (population 7,119), Port Antonio (population 7,074), Montego Bay (population 6,616), Falmouth (population 2,288), Port Maria (population 2,833), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,400).

12. The Parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own parochial Institutions, viz., poor-houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board of the parish, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The several direct taxes received on property, horses, carriages, etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the colony.

13. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature, together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of

the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

14. During the year under review the people of Jamaica probably enjoyed greater material prosperity than has hitherto fallen to their lot in the history of this Colony. This is due, chiefly, to the great demand for bananas, cane-sugar, cocoa, coffee, logwood dyes, and other economic products, and to the good prices obtained for these commodities in the world's markets.

15. The good prices obtained for exported produce and the consequent increases of salaries and wages have, however, been counter-balanced by the enhanced cost of commodities, especially of imported articles; *e.g.*, the pre-war retail price of salted cod-fish, which was one of the staple foods of the poorer classes, has been increased from 4½d. per lb. to, approximately, 1/- per lb.

16. Unfortunately, a prolonged drought, embracing the greater part of the Island, acted as a setback to increased production of native-grown foodstuffs. In spite of this setback, however, the total area under cultivation has considerably increased. It is a cause of thankfulness that no hurricane devastated the plantations during the past year.

17. There has been a marked decrease in Simple and Praedial Larceny, which is usually an indication of the increased prosperity of the masses.

18. The privately-owned Central Sugar Factory in St. Catherine referred to in the last Annual Report has now been completed, and it is intended to proceed with work on the Government (10,000 ton) Factory in St. Thomas. Other sugar factories are in the course of erection, but difficulty has been experienced in obtaining prompt delivery of the necessary machinery.

19. There has been a great demand for the extension of the Government Railway and for the construction of new roads to open up districts in which increased activity has been manifested in the production of sugar and other foodstuffs. Every effort, so far as the finances of the Colony permit, is being made to meet these demands. The Government has given, and continues to give in increasing measure, active practical help, financial and otherwise, in furthering the policy of acquiring plantation properties to be split up and sold to small settlers in lots not exceeding fifty acres. This land policy is being carried out with the co-operation of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, the Agricultural Loan Banks, and the local "Citizens' Associations" which have been established with excellent results in most of the parishes.

Emigration and Immigration.

20. In spite of the better opportunities for employment and better wages paid during the past year, the tide of emigration of

the labouring population to neighbouring republics was, unfortunately, higher than in the preceding two years, the labour emigration figures being :—

In 1917—7,140. In 1918—8,773. In 1919—23,618.

The arrivals during the same years were as follow :—

In 1917—6,771. In 1918—5,102. In 1919—8,786.

The marked increase during the year under review of persons leaving the colony may, in part, be accounted for by the return to the Island of some 7,000 demobilised soldiers of the British West Indies Regiment, who, in many cases, were not satisfied to revert to conditions that existed before their departure to participate in the recent war. It is hoped that conditions here will so improve in the near future that there will be fewer inducements for the labouring population to leave the Island for the development of foreign countries.

Public Health and Sanitation.

21. Matters in connection with the health and sanitation of the Island have been receiving, for some time past, the earnest attention of the Government, and active steps were taken during the year under review for dealing with such matters.

22. The Rockefeller Foundation began extensive operations in Jamaica in connection with the treatment of hookworm (ankylostomiasis), and the United Fruit Company inaugurated a system for medical attendance on their employees. Both these organisations have materially contributed to improve general health conditions in the Island.

23. A step in furtherance of the movement for dealing effectively with hookworm, and one that is fraught with great potentialities in sanitary matters generally, has been the appointment of a Superintending Inspector under the provisions of "The Health Law," Law 35 of 1910.

Vital Statistics.

24. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1919 was 893,580, which is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated population on 31st December, 1918 ..			891,040
Births registered in 1919		29,917	
Deaths registered in 1919		19,857	
			10,060
			901,100
Total Migrations in 1919—			
Total Arrivals—General	13,690		
Military	7,233		
		20,923	

Total Departures—General	28,070		
Military	373		
		28,443	7,520
			893,580

25. 3,305 marriages were registered during 1919, the rate being 3·7 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3·1 for 1918. During the same period 29,917 births were registered, of which 15,323 were boys and 14,594 girls. The birth rate works out at 33·5 per 1,000, as against 34·1 during 1918.

26. 19,857 deaths were registered, of which 10,023 were males and 9,834 females, the death rate being 22·2 per 1,000, which is the normal rate for the Island. That for 1918 was 33·0, but the high rate in that year was due to a severe epidemic of Influenza and Pneumonia.

During 1919, 6,459, or 32·6 of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age ; and of these 4,838, or 24·4, were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1918 were 25·5 and 18·2. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16·1, as compared with 17·5 in 1918.

The principal causes of death among the inhabitants of Kingston, the capital, were :—Phthisis, 11·3 ; Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 10·4 ; Heart Disease, 7·0 ; Atrophy, Itherus and Scleroma of the new born, 6·9 ; Pneumonia, 4·0 ; Influenza, 3·2.

Imports and Exports.

27. The amount collected for Import Duties during 1919-20, the largest collection in the history of the Island, was £691,023, as against £391,914 in 1918-19. The main factors which produced this large amount was the low rate of exchange which existed between Jamaica and the United States of America and the continued rise in value of all imported goods. However, after these factors have been discounted, the balance of the increase in collections is due to a real increase of trade.

28. The amount collected for Harbour and Light Dues in 1919-20 was £5,310, as against £2,979 in 1918-19. The increase of £2,331 is due, in part, to the revival of the banana industry and in part to the increased shipping facilities caused by the cessation of hostilities.

29. The special Customs Duties imposed as temporary measures due to conditions arising out of the War and a succession of hurricanes, *i.e.*, Export Duties and temporary additional Import Duties, amounted to £41,247 and £34,145 respectively, as against £42,674 and £16,004 in 1918-19.

30. The value of the exports in the year 1919 reached the phenomenal figure of £5,627,329, as against £2,684,897 in 1918, an increase of £2,942,431. The principal items conducing to the total of 1919 are: Sugar, £1,317,547; Bananas, £1,141,479; Rum, £924,170; Logwood Extract, £358,485; Coffee, £356,190; Cocoa, £286,784; Coconuts, £285,324. The usually remunerative prices received for the products of the Island are the main cause of the great increase of over 100 per cent. in the export trade; still, quantities also took a decided upward step. The re-establishment of the banana industry following the disastrous hurricanes which visited the Island in 1916, 1917 and 1918, played no inconsiderable part in producing this gratifying result, the average for the years 1915-18 being 4,313,101 stems, as against 9,673,557 in 1919.

31. The grant during the year by the Mother Country of preferential duties in the case of sugar and other chief products of the colony resulted in an increase of exports to the United Kingdom from 50·2 per cent. in 1918 to 63·4 per. cent. in 1919.

32. For the purpose of comparison there is set out below the value of the imports and exports of the Island during the last forty years and the amount collected as Import Duties:—

	1879.	1889.	1899.	1909.	1919.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports..	1,347,300	1,397,600	1,844,300	2,561,700	5,085,600
Value of Exports..	1,357,600	1,614,800	1,868,100	2,628,300	5,627,300
Import Duties ..	232,000	284,400	361,600	469,500	656,900

33. The Import Duties, are, however, not an exact gauge of the value of the Imports, for the reason that they include specific duties on rated articles and that in such cases, while the value of an article may have gone up three or four times, the duty received has not increased.

34. Although, as already stated, the financial conditions of the Island have greatly improved recently, and there are good prospects of even greater progress being made in the future, it might be as well to mention here that it is inadvisable for persons to emigrate to Jamaica unless they are in possession of a fair amount of capital and have had some training in tropical agriculture. The cost of living is at least as high as in England.

35. A General Election was held in the month of January, 1920, for the purpose of electing members to represent the fourteen parishes of the Island in the Legislative Council. The elections were contested in only five parishes, viz.: St. Mary, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and St. Catherine.

The number of registered voters throughout the Island was as follows:—Males, 41,930; Females, 173; Ex-Soldiers, 164. It is interesting to note that the franchise on a limited scale was extended to the women of this Island by Law 22 of 1919, which is more fully referred to later on under the heading "Legislation."

The total number of votes polled in the parishes in which the elections were contested was:—for the successful candidates,

2,427, and for those who were unsuccessful, 1,238. There were, in all, 203 spoilt votes. The average percentage of the number of votes recorded in the parishes in which the elections were contested to the number of registered voters in those districts was 21%.

36. The Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom on the 21st June, 1919. During the absence of His Excellency the Government was administered by Mr. Robt. Johnstone, C.M.G., I.S.O., from the 22nd June to the 17th August, and by Colonel H. Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., from the 18th August to the 17th November, 1919.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

37. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years :—

	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ..	1,132,049	1,154,349	1,052,485	1,157,304	1,802,778
Expenditure..	1,105,942	1,076,237	1,098,409	1,228,608	1,444,818

38. The amount of the Public Debt outstanding on the 31st March, 1920, was £3,912,574. The Assets and Liabilities on the same date were £1,228,708 and £899,133, respectively. The balance of the account at the close of the year under review is therefore, £329,574 ; which, together with the deficit of £28,386 on the 1st April, 1919, makes up the total surplus of Revenue over Expenditure of £357,960.

Taxation.

39. Law 9 of 1919 imposed a temporary tax for the year 1919-20 on packages.

40. Law 10 of 1919 increased the duty payable on every Bill of Sight under the Customs Consolidation Law 1877 (Law 18 of 1877), where the value of the goods exceeds £5 to 10/, except on Bills of Sight in respect of parcels transmitted to Jamaica through the Post Office.

41. Law 11 of 1919 amended the Tariff (Temporary Increase) Law 1916, so as to increase by 17½% the surtax on the Import Duties upon Spirits, Brandy, Whisky, Gin, Spirits of Wine, Alcohol and all other distilled spirits, Bitters, Cordials, Liqueurs, and sweetened or mixed spirituous beverages, and upon certain spirituous compounds and wines.

42. Law 14 of 1919 imposed a duty on Entertainments to which the public are admitted on payment.

43. Law 15 of 1919 increased the Excise Duties on Rum by raising the surtax to 60 per cent. until and including the 31st March, 1920.

44. Law 18 of 1919. The Law temporarily increased the duties on Trades and Business as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Merchant, General Factor or, Wholesale Dealer	50	0	0
Auctioneer or Commission Agent ..	5	0	0
Wharfinger	10	0	0
Retailers—where the duty paid under Law 7 of 1908 is £7 10*s*. 0*d*.	20	0	0
Where the duty paid under Law 7 of 1908 is less than £5, but not less than £2 10*s*. 0*d*.	5	0	0
Where the duty paid under Law 7 of 1908 is less than £2 10*s*. 0*d*.	0	10	0

This Law remained in force until and including the thirty-first day of March, 1920.

Income Tax.

45. Law 24 of 1919.—During the year under review there was enacted for the first time in Jamaica history an Income Tax Law. It was assented to by the Governor on the 20th June, 1919, and under Section 2 of the Law by Proclamation came into force on the 1st January, 1920. The rates imposed by the Law are the following :—

(*a*)	On the first £100	Nil
	On every pound of the income beyond	
(*b*)	£100 and up to — £400	2½d.
(*c*)	£400 and up to — £500	3d.
(*d*)	£500 and up to — £750	4d.
(*e*)	£750 and up to — £1,000	6d.
(*f*)	£1,000 and up to — £1,500	9d.
(*g*)	£1,500 and up to — £2,000	1/
(*h*)	£2,000 and up to — £5,000	1/3
(*i*)	£5,000 and up to — £8,000	1/6
(*j*)	£8,000 and up to — £10,000	1/9
(*k*)	On every pound beyond £10,000	2/

The first collection of this tax is to be made in the year 1920 in repect of income derived or received during the year 1919.

46. Law 26 of 1919 increased temporarily the Tax payable under the Property Tax Law 1903 (Law 15 of 1903) to fourpence on every ten pounds or fractional part of ten pounds, of the value of such property.

This Law continued in force until and including the 31st day of March, 1920.

Currency.

47. Under Law 27 of 1904, local Currency Notes, which are made legal tender under Section 5, have been issued to the extent of £17,500 in denominations of 5/- and 10/-.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

48. In spite of the high cost of manufactured articles and materials abroad the trade of the Island, instead of having declined, has, on the contrary, shown a steady rise. A comparison of the values of the Imports for the last five years, which of course has been swelled, so far as imports from the United States of America are concerned, by the high rate of exchange, will fully support this.

	£
1915	2,327,458
1916	3,107,004
1917	3,323,865
1918	3,381,758
1919	5,085,615

49. The difference between the average value of the Imports for the years 1915-18 and 1919 of £2,050,594 would unquestionably not entirely be accounted for by increased cost, but would undoubtedly point to a greater volume of trade. There have been no marked changes with regard to sources of supply, or destination of our products. The trade of the Colony—in respect of Exports—with countries in the Continent of Europe for the period under review, has not yet been resumed to any extent, only France, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Switzerland and Spain taking any of our productions, and that only to the extent of £120,717.

50. There is an undoubted wave of prosperity (although not amongst all classes) throughout the Colony, which is not confined to any one particular class. The spending power of the peasantry has increased considerably, due, in part, to the very considerable sums remitted by the thousands of their relatives in Cuba who are earning very high wages, and also to the highly remunerative prices obtained by those who remain for all products grown in the Island.

Agriculture and Industry.

51. The period under review has marked the greatest revival in the industrial progress of Jamaica during the past century. This is indicated by the records of exports, which show an increase of over 100 per cent. in value over those of the previous year.

52. Agriculturally, the year was one of low rainfall. Large areas of land suffered from drought in the summer months and from inadequate autumnal rains. Despite these disadvantages of the seasons the *Sugar Industry* made marked progress with an export of 38,000 tons and a total value from Rum and Sugar of two and one quarter million pounds. The profitable aspect of sugar production, due to the world shortage, has reacted strongly on the industry in Jamaica and developments are now in hand

that should eventually result in an increased production in the neighbourhood of 100,000 tons of Sugar per annum.

53. The *Banana* industry has made a welcome recovery and in the absence of hurricane a crop of nearly 10 million bunches of bananas was exported. With the advent of trade competition in the buying of the fruit prices have been raised to a firmer standard and the growers have been encouraged to plant and cultivate their fruit. An export of 20,000 boxes of Evaporated Bananas, valued at £25,000, has been an interesting feature of the year's trade.

54. *Coconuts* show a progressive recovery from the effects of the Cyclone of 1917 by an export of 24 million nuts and 700 tons of Copra, indicating an increased output of 6 million nuts for the year, while the value shows a gain of 100 per cent. over that for coconuts in the previous year. Owing to the careful and systematic watch that has recently been organised for the control of coconut diseases the health of the trees is now reported to be excellent and it is considered that at no time in its history as a coconut-producing country has Jamaica been so free from coconut diseases as at the present time.

55. *Logwood* and its extracts have, contrary to expectations, enjoyed a revival of prosperity under post-war conditions and an improvement to the extent of £60,000 in the values for logwood products has been recorded for the year.

56. *Orange Oil* was in great demand and the crop realised about double that of the previous year. Latterly, orange oil has been selling at very high prices, owing to a shortage of supply, and many owners of wild orange trees have reaped a welcome harvest.

57. *Cacao* has had a good year with a record of values 90 per cent. greater than in 1919, which was again about 25 per cent. in excess of the previous year's record. A revival in the establishment of cacao has been started and the Department of Agriculture is seeking to supply the demand for plants by an extension of nursery operations in suitable centres.

58. *Coffee* has also shared in the general prosperity, with a gain of about two-thirds in gross value. The satisfactory prices now obtainable for Jamaica coffee in the English market should lead to a resuscitation of this old staple, which was, a century ago, one of the most valuable products of the Colony.

59. *Cotton* has again received some attention, due to the attractions of high prices. A small cultivation of Sea-Island cotton in Vere brought in a handsome profit to the grower, while the perennial "Cauto" cotton grown in St. Elizabeth was sold for 3/- a lb. Planters are again experimenting with cotton and if the prices are maintained a moderate output of cotton from Jamaica may be expected.

60. *Pimento* was in good demand abroad and the large sum of £184,000 was received for this product, which is practically a

monopoly for Jamaica in the markets of the world. Experiments in the production of Vanillin from Pimento leaves are now being carried out on a small industrial scale by the Agricultural Department. An industrial Chemist with special qualifications is in charge of this work. A bag of Pimento leaves, weighing 60 lbs., previously of no commercial value, will yield one pound of an oil containing 92 per cent. of "Eugenol," which can be transformed readily into the isomeric "Iso-Eugenol." The latter oil by oxidation yields "Vanillin," which is at present selling for 80/- per lb. The basis of a new industry, which should add to the value of Jamaica's groves of wild pimento trees, is therefore in evidence.

61. *Sisal Hemp* is rapidly being extended, an area of 2,285 acres being now ready for harvesting in the May Pen District. Plantations are also being established on the limestone soils of St. Ann. The Government has embarked on a fibre enterprise at Lititz on the derelict Savannah lands of St. Elizabeth and a factory, to produce 500 tons of fibre per annum, has been provided on the estimates. At the end of the year 500 acres of Sisal had been established over a period of 3 years, at a cost of £4 per acre. A test of 1,000 plants, grown under extremely hard conditions, was made during the year and a yield of 1,000 lbs. fibre per annum was obtained. The plants have since grown with greater vigour and an even larger yield should be obtained at the next cutting within 12 months of the first test. The Sisal industry should enable large areas of non-productive lands on the limestone to be turned to good account, while the industry affords employment to large numbers of women and children at present almost unemployable in these districts, where the ordinary staples of the Colony cannot be grown for commercial purposes.

62. *Hides* have been in good demand abroad, goatskins alone realising £44,000. A Law which has recently been passed making compulsory the dipping of stock should enable the tick-pest to be so reduced as greatly to add to the intrinsic value of the hides of cattle from Jamaica.

63. *Tobacco* has shared in the Imperial Preference, while the Jamaica cigar is gaining an increasing market in various parts of the world. The cigars exported during the year were valued at over £100,000. The tobacco naturally produced in the islands is of a light cigar type and the industry flourishes on light alluvial soils in districts with moderate rainfall. The prospects of the cigar trade in Jamaica are encouraging and the growing of tobacco is now being taken up with eagerness by many small growers.

64. *Brewery.*—There is a proposal to start a brewery in Kingston. The actual work has not yet been started, but it is expected that it will be an accomplished fact at no distant date.

65. *Biscuits.*—The Jamaica Biscuit Company continues to hold its own to an almost total exclusion of the imported article.

66. Departmentally, the year has been mainly one of the laying of plans for appreciable development in various lines of agricultural work for which the Legislature has provided appreciable sums of money.

67. A new era has dawned for the industries of this ancient British Colony which, after a century of stagnant industry and depressed finances, to-day faces the future with hope and confidence that real progress and success in all branches of social and economic effort will ensue.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

68. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,405,949 acres have been alienated, leaving 286,531 neither alienated nor in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

69. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian régime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, inter alia, that, " Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.* to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards and ten acres for every other male or female, etc."

The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century, on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

70. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused abandonment of large numbers of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

71. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of it has been restored to its rightful owners, some has been sold, and some still remains in possession of the Government.

72. During the year 1899 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government land for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911, this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,500.

73. Within recent years, Government has granted to 296 time-expired East Indian immigrants 3,283 acres in lieu of return passage to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional care for each child born in the Island.

74. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the end of March, 1920, 42,433 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grants which have been made during the past twelve months, have been 360 acres in Westmoreland to one purchaser, and 4,182 acres in Clarendon to another. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid, the purchasers have received title from the Government.

75. There is a large number of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12/- to 16/- per nominal acre per annum.

76. While the value of private property has greatly increased during the past three years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of War, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

77. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S. on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1869; and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

78. There is no Forestry Department in this Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains, and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

79. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "It is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially

increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day, as when they were written 34 years ago.

80. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

" Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the " Controller " of Jamaica to " report every year as to the gold smelteries " and in 1521 the Spanish Sovereign announced that, " colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601 Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that " in the Bastidas Mountains " (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was " a large amount of gold."

81. At this time, it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because in 1597 Pedro de Acuna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena " for the founding of artillery." He refers to " mines situated at sea ports " and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of smallpox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

82. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts were, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

83. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross copper mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, The Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

84. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called " lignite " may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared

to be " lignite," were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

85. The geological formations of Jamaica being in many respects similar to those of Cuba, where iron and copper mines have long been successfully worked, there is some reason for entertaining the hope that scientific research may result in the discovery of valuable deposits in this Island.

Fishing.

86. Fishing, which was started in the Penitentiary in 1919, has had to be abandoned, as a popular and very justifiable objection was raised against the use of the seine within the harbour limits, on account of the unavoidable destruction of immature fish, and operations could not be carried out outside the harbour with prisoners. It was hoped that the high price of imported salted fish might induce local fishermen to operate on a large scale in outside waters, where the catches are generally good A few trials were made with satisfactory results, but the cured fish did not command a ready sale, the public for some reason preferring the imported article. It would appear that, with proper management, there should be a great possibility in deep-sea fishing in these waters, especially as there is always a demand for fish and the cost of imported salted fish even at pre-war prices, leaves a good margin of profit for the local article, provided it is properly cured.

87. The supply of fresh fish at present available is well up to the average. A start has been made along the Yallahs coast between Kingston and Morant Bay, to increase the supply, and the catches are being sent down to Kingston by motor van daily. It is understood that the person interested in the scheme, intends to extend the business to the curing of fish on a large scale. The chief drawback is the difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of capable fishermen who would be willing to fish continuously and thus ensure a constant supply. No properly organised attempt has yet been made to reap the rich harvest of the sea which is within our immediate reach and which is ever inviting gatherers.

88. Our fishing interests cannot be intelligently understood without a comparison between imports and the state of our local production. The value of the fish imported in 1918, (the latest figures available), including canned fish, was £249,014. It appears therefore, that this Island with a population of about nine hundred thousand, introduces cured " fish-stuffs " of different kinds of the value stated.

89. When it is borne in mind that we have a coast-line of nearly 400 miles, accessible at almost all points for fishing boats and

canoes—to say nothing of the possibilities of deep-sea fishing, already referred to—that every parish has a sea front ; that the out-lay required for boats and tackle is trifling ; that the fish is good and plentiful *all the year round*, it is evident that we are neglectful of our particular advantages in regard to local fisheries. Unfortunately, we have no estimate, even approximate, of the value of the fish caught locally, but keeping it within convincing limits it can hardly exceed £40,000 a year, if even so much. It is, therefore, evident that our fishing industry requires stimulation in some form or other and it is to be hoped that this matter will be taken up seriously in the near fututre.

MANUFACTURES.

90. The principal items of our manufactures are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars and Cigarettes, Aerated Waters, Ice and Leather.

91. *Sugar.*—Previous to the war the bounty-fed sugar had crippled our industry so that we find in 1914 an output of only 20,820 hogsheads, while in 1919 there was an output of 38,449 hogshead, with a tendency to still further increase. The general trend is towards centralization, resulting in large Central Factories with the most modern machinery being established in many localities and many of the smaller estates dismantling their machinery and becoming Cane Farms, to feed the Centrals. The largest of these Centrals already established is the Bernard Lodge Central in St. Catherine.

92. *Rum.*—This valuable by-product of the Sugar Industry has also made rapid strides since the outbreak of war as the following figures show. Output in 1914, 13,788 puncheons. Output in 1919, 18,415 puncheons.

93. *Copra.*—This industry has only been developed in the past six years. It is one which is largely dependent on the market value of the coconut. If the price is high in the market of the United States of America, it pays better to ship the nuts than to make Copra, certainly the large nuts, and then the small nuts are made into Copra.

94. *Banana Figs.*—This is an industry in its infancy, but considerable improvement developed in 1919 and there are factories still being established.

95. *Orange Oil.*—This industry is proving of great value and is a means of getting Revenue from the oranges, which formerly went to waste.

96. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—This is an important industry which has been greatly developed in recent years as the exports of these items indicate.

97. *Ice and Aerated Waters.*—May be regarded as manufactures for local consumption chiefly.

98. *Leather.*—There are tanneries at various centres in the Island and sole and harness leather forms an item of our exports.

Latterly the finer grades of leather have been manufactured to a small extent.

Water Power.

99. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island which is operated by water power, is that of the West India Electric Company, Ltd., for the pu pose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston : d lower St. Andrew.

There is, however, a scheme under consideration for utilizing the water power from two or more rivers with a view to operate the Government Railway by electrical energy in place of the present system of steam locomotion. A careful investigation of many of the water-courses in the Island has recently been carried out with this object in view, but no decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

V. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

100. The commercial banks doing business in the island are the Colonial Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank of Canada. The Canadian Bank of Commerce will shortly open also. The Jamaica Head Offices are all in Kingston.

101. The Colonial Bank has sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Brown's Town, Falmouth, Linstead, Lucea, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Port Morant, St. Ann's Bay, and Sav.-la-Mar.

The average weekly note circulation rose from £53,261 in 1915 to £112,717 in 1919.

102. The number of branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Jamaica is 12; they are established at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar, Spanish Town, Brown's Town and Linstead. The amount of notes outstanding increased from £96,814 at the end of March quarter, 1914, to £211,706 at the end of December quarter 1919 following the increased demand for circulating media in the Colony. The notes outstanding at this date (July 26th) have been reduced to £146,268.

103. The Royal Bank of Canada is, comparatively, a newcomer to Jamaica. The average circulation at the end of March quarter, 1918, was £27,127, and at the end of December quarter, 1919, £62,548. There are sub-branches at Cross Roads and Spanish Town

104. The Government Savings Bank was started in 1870. On the commercial Banks entering the field, starting Savings Branches, and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities, the deposits in the Government Savings Bank declined. By Law 7 of 1917, the management was entrusted to a Board. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy

Council on the 4th February, 1919. The renewed activities of the Bank may be said to date from the beginning of 1919, in which year the deposits increased by 71%. The policy of the Board is that the savings of the people should be used to develop the Island. The telegraphic address "Our bank, Kingston," sufficiently indicates the lines followed to obtain the support of the public. The funds of the Bank may be invested (1) In British and Colonial securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Funds for financing land settlement schemes, whereby Loan Banks are enabled to buy large properties, cut them up, and sell the lots to small settlers, have been provided by the Bank. Funds for making loans to Loan Banks, to be lent to members for developing their holdings, have also been provided.

105. There are 40 Branches and Postal Agencies throughout the Island, 19 of the latter having been opened during the current year. Stamp Savings Cards have induced many children and adults to open accounts. Savings Certificates are issued for 16/6, maturing to £1 in five years. Postage and registration to the Bank are free; and no revenue stamp is required on receipts. The same rate of interest as that given by the commercial banks, viz. 3% per annum, compounded half yearly, is allowed on deposits. There are 40 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc. for agricultural and industrial purposes; *e.g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a longfelt want among the small settlers.

106. The following figures referring to the 30 banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations :—

	£	s.	d.
Loans made and repaid prior to 31.12.19. ..	17,972	8	6
Loans made on which balances amounting to £26,094 7*s.* 2*d.* are outstanding	69,343	18	10
	£87,316	7	4

107. The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1919, a sum of nearly £24,000 share capital. It is evident, therefore, that they have come to stay; and it is expected that the more ambitious of them will extend their sphere of usefulness. Indeed, one Bank during the current year has obtained a loan of £30,000 for the purpose of purchasing two adjoining properties and selling them in lots to small settlers. This scheme has every promise of success.

VI. LEGISLATION.

108. Laws passed during the calendar year 1919, included besides those already mentioned under Heading II. :—

(1) Law 1 of 1919, "The Food Control Law, 1919," which was enacted in order to provide for the appointment of a Food Controller. The duty of this Officer is to regulate the supply and consumption of food in such manner as he thinks best for maintaining a proper supply and to take steps with a view to encourage the production of food in the Island.

(2) Law 22 "The Registration of Voters Law, 1908, Further Amendment Law, 1919," which entitles literate female persons who have attained the age of 25 years, and who are otherwise qualified, to be registered as voters and to enjoy all the rights and privileges of voting to which male persons registered as voters are entitled.

(3) Law 34, "The Former Enemy Aliens (Restriction of Admission) Law, 1919," which was enacted in order to prevent the landing in Jamaica and its Dependencies, without a permit in writing signed by the Colonial Secretary, of the subject of any State with which His Majesty was at war in 1918. This Law, however, does not apply to subjects of newly-created States.

(4) Law 35, "The Employer's Liability Law, 1919," which gives to a workman, in certain events, or in the case of his death, his personal representatives, the same right of compensation and remedies against the employer as if the workman had not been in the service or engaged in the work of the employer, when personal injury is caused to him in a factory where the machinery is operated by steam, gas, electricity, petroleum oil or other similar means, or by a combination of such.

(5) Law 36, "The Immigration Restriction Law, 1919," which was enacted to prohibit the entry into the island of certain classes of undesirable persons; *e.g.*, those who are unable to write from dictation not less than 50 words in a prescribed language (English, French, Spanish or such other language as the Governor may from time to time approve), persons suffering from serious disease or defect, idiots, &c.

(6) Law 37, "The Trade Union Law, 1919," which removes the taint of illegality from Trades Unions, provides for their

registration and arrangement and renders lawful an agreement or combination of two or more persons to do or procure to be done any act in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, if the commission of such act by one person would not be a crime.

(7) Law 38, "The Naturalization Law, 1919," which provides the procedure for recalling or revoking local naturalization granted to an alien, no such provision having hitherto existed.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

109. During the year under review little actual progress can be recorded on education—elementary, secondary, technical, or industrial. In the earlier months the elementary schools were still feeling the effect of the Spanish Influenza epidemic, whilst want of food and clothing affected the attendance of the children in some parts of the Island. Another disturbing element was dissatisfaction amongst a large section of the teachers owing to the old scale of remuneration which resulted in many of them leaving the profession. Two of the Manual Training Centres were in abeyance owing to lack of qualified instructors, and the staff of Inspectors has also been below its normal strength owing to the difficulty experienced in filling the vacancies, of which there were three at the time of the outbreak of war.

110. The weaknesses, however, of the system of elementary education have long been recognised and during the year the Board of Education gave much consideration to the introduction of changes (since adopted) with a view to bringing the system more into line with modern views and practice.

111. It was hoped that the improved system of classification and payments would have been introduced before the end of the financial year; but this proved impracticable, though, by means of a bonus, something was done to relieve the financial difficulties of the teachers.

112. The new curriculum for elementary schools came into full operation during the year, and when the teachers generally show a more adequate appreciation of the nature and use of a scheme of work, the results will indicate a considerable improvement throughtout the Island. So far, it cannot be said that the general body of teachers has shown any marked ability in dealing with new requirements.

113. The Training Colleges for Teachers were greatly handicapped during the year, the Mico College having lost both Principal and Vice-Principal, owing to ill-health, and the Principal of Shortwood College resigned and left the Colony. The newly appointed Principal of the Mico College remained only three months, and the appointment of the new Principal at Shortwood College caused a serious blank in the staff of the Bethlehem

(Moravian) College. The results of the annual examinations, however, show that very creditable work was done in the circumstances.

114. The Departmental Expenditure on Education was £93,935, as compared with £83,650 during the previous year.

Secondary.

115. The work of the Secondary Schools also has been adversely affected by straitened means and weakness in staffing, the inducements offered being insufficient to attract suitable men. The enhanced prosperity of the island, however, is reflected in the increasing number of pupils who apply for admittance, notwithstanding a considerable increase in fees ; and the proposed Government grant-in-aid should result in a more general spread of secondary education amongst classes which hitherto have not come under its influence.

116. The Jamaica Scholarships, boys and girls, have been increased in value during the year from £200 and £150 per annum, respectively, to £250 and £200.

Technical.

117. The Government Technical and Continuation School has been greatly handicapped by the absence on Army service of the Head of the Boys Technical Department, and the difficulty in filling the vacant position of the Head of the Girls Technical Department. Much useful work was however done with extemporised staff, and the school added greatly to its usefulness by providing classes in handicrafts for disabled men of the British West Indies Regiment, a large number of whom were trained in Bootmaking, Tailoring, &c.

Industrial.

118. Whilst much useful work is done in the few industrial schools, improved equipment and staffs are required before any great progress can be reported; for example, the woodwork at Stony Hill is excellent as far as it goes, but all turning work has to be given out owing to lack of a lathe. The instruction would obviously be much more complete and valuable to the boys if it included turning. The accommodation at the present institutions being now inadequate to meet the requirements it will probably be necessary to establish new ones in the country districts.

VIII. METEOROLOGICAL.

119. For the year, 1919, the total actual rainfall for the island was 69·45 inches, and the average is taken as 76·26 inches ; so that the deficiency was not more than 6.81 inches or about nine per cent. short, only. The total rainfall for Kingston for the year was 27·72 inches, the 50 year average being 33·57 inches.

Temperature.

120. The records for Kingston show that the mean temperature for the year was half a degree above the average. But on the 9th August the record showed 97·5 degrees, the highest maximum yet experienced, the previous highest being 96·7 degrees on the 20th August, 1891. The lowest minimum for the year was 62·6 degrees in February.

Weather Disturbances.

121. No hurricane passed over the island, but there were atmospheric depressions to the west of the island in May, also in the east Carribbean from about the 9th August. Then during the period from the 3rd to the 14th September, the severe hurricane which destroyed the Gulf cities and some towns in Florida, U.S.A., passed to the noth-east of Jamaica. This is described as the most terrific hurricane in the history of Key West. On the 9th August, at the time when disturbances were in the neighbourhood, a squall broke over Jamaica at about 3 p.m., doing considerable damage to the bananas in the parish of St. Mary and causing quite unnecessary alarm.

Solar Halo.

122. On the morning of the 24th May, a very fine solar halo was visible in Kingston and surrounding places, which attracted great attention. The halo was complete and showed up some of the prismatic colours. There was also a segment of a larger concentric halo which gave a radius of a little over the usual 46 degrees.

Earthquakes.

123. No earthquakes of any appreciable degree of intensity occurred at any part of the island during the year, 1919.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

124. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main branches :—

(*a*) Kingston to Montego Bay.
(*b*) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two minor branches running into the interior of the Island, viz., from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Branch ; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main branch, Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

The total length of the railway track at present is 197¼ miles. The gauge is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

125. The revenue for the year ending 31st March, 1920, was £308,244, and the expenditure £302,959; no provision is made for depreciation.

126. The total goods carried during the year were 253,863 tons, as compared with 167,669 for the year 1913-14; the number of passengers carried increased from 592,883 in 1913-14, to 651,216 in 1919-20.

127. A survey of the proposed extension of the Railway from Chapelton to Frankfield, a distance of about 9 miles, has been made; reconnaissances of the proposed extensions from Chapelton to Falmouth and Montego Bay, and from Highgate to Gayle, have also been made.

128. On account of the excessive rise in the price of coal, and the difficulties experienced in obtaining adequate supplies, an expert from the Westinghouse General Electric Company visited Jamaica during 1919, and he went very thoroughly into the question of electrification of the railway and submitted a favourable report. Since then, two English experts arrived towards the end of the year to advise on the same project, but their reports had not been received at the time of writing.

The question of utilizing oil fuel is also under consideration with the view of reducing the excessive coal bill.

129. It was found necessary during the year to augment materially the wages of employees, and to meet this increased expenditure, it was decided to increase the rates.

130. So as to meet the growing demands of the public it will be necessary in the near future to carry out a large programme of new works, chargeable to Capital Account, and it is hoped that provision will be made for this during the coming year by raising a loan.

131. The management of the railway is assisted by an advisory board of 10 members, consisting of the director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

Shipping.

132. During the year 1919, 1,152 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,046,961 tons entered at ports in the Colony and 1,148 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,037,981 tons cleared at ports in the Colony. In 1918, 772 vessels, steam and sail, of 593,328 tons entered, and 746 of 583,697 tons cleared; 1919 shows therefore the following appreciable increases:

Vessels, Steam and Sail—entered 380, of 453,633 tons.
Vessels, Steam and Sail—cleared 402, of 454,284 tons.

133. The following are the figures for the past seven years :—

1913	entered	1,401	=	2,548,296 tons	cleared	1,400	=	2,569,827 tons
1914	,,	1,434	=	2,164,185 ,,	,,	1,424	=	2,142,663 ,,
1915	,,	914	=	1,251,722 ,,	,,	931	=	1,304,687 ,,
1916	,,	977	=	1,230,803 ,,	,,	948	=	1,208,775 ,,
1917	,,	901	=	1,045,443 ,,	,,	874	=	1,019,490 ,,
1918	,,	772	=	593,328 ,,	,,	746	=	583,697 ,,
1919	,,	1,152	=	1,046,961 ,,	,,	1,148	=	1,037,981 ,,

These figures point to the fact that shipping is on the high road to recovery.

134. The following well-established Steamship Lines are now serving the Colony, viz.:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, New Zealand Shipping Co., Pickford and Black, Canadian Government Mercantile Marine and Pacific Steam Navigation Co. (British Companies).

United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., Tropical Steamship Co., Caribbean Steamship Co., Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co., Windward Island Line, United Steamship Co., Black Star Line (U.S.A. Companies).

The Royal Dutch West India Mail (a Dutch Company).

135. It will be interesting to observe that there were in 1913 the following nine Steamship Lines engaged in business with this Colony :—

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., The Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black (British Companies).

Hamburg-American Line, Atlas Service and Hamburg-American Line (European Service) (German Companies).

United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co. (U.S.A. Companies).

136. In 1919, there were, as enumerated above, eighteen steamship lines—an increase of nine lines, made up of four British and five foreign.

137. A word may be said on the subject of ship-building activities in a small way. The following are the figures :—

Ships built :—

1913	1 ..	21	tons
1914	1 ..	62	,,
1915	1 ..	33	,,
1916	3 ..	110	,,
1917	Nil ...	Nil	
1918	2 ..	64	,,
1919	2 ..	355	,,

A growing trade, requiring additional craft around the coast of the Island and the call for vessels to go to the neighbouring Islands, accounts for the increase noted above.

Roads.

138. The Island is intersected by system of good water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (*a*) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,226 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (*b*) Parochial Roads amounting to 3,300 miles, of which 1,230 miles are suitable for motor traffic, and 2,070 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter class of roads is maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

139. During 1919-20, the main roads were maintained at an average cost of £42 per mile, but on account of the large increase in traffic generally, and more particularly to the large number of heavy mechanically-propelled vehicles now operating on the roads the cost of maintenance will in future be very much greater.

140. With few exceptions these roads were originally constructed without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic, but this type of construction is totally inadequate to meet the increased traffic requirements of the present day. Many new roads are being constructed and existing roads improved, with a view to develop the industrial and natural resources of the Island. For this purpose a loan of £40,000 was raised, and the expenditure during the year under review amounted to £15,252.

Canals.

141. There are no navigable canals in the Island. There is, however, a system of canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the Parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour, and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

142. In the Parish of Clarendon an irrigation scheme has recently been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate the various sugar estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE AND AERIAL SERVICES.

143. The Government Island Postal Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879, there being 1,091½ miles of lines, with a complement of 47 offices Since then progress has been rapid

and the current year, 1920, finds the Island equipped with an efficient Government Telegraph and Telephone Service.

There are now 1,114¼ miles of telegraph and 904¾ miles of telephone lines, with 60 and 54 offices respectively.

144. The charge at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

In 1916, the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to ninepence for the first twelve words or under and a half-penny for each additional word including the address.

145. The Railway Telegraphs, in connection with which there are 38 offices, assist considerably towards placing communications within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph System, but are controlled by the management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

146. The progress and popularity of the Telegraph and Telephone system as a public utility may be readily seen from the following brief comparisons :—

During the year 1909-1910, with approximately 100 offices, 112,515 messages were signalled, and in 1919-20 the number of messages had increased to 299,879. The receipts in 1914-15 totalled £8,255 4s. 11d., while in 1919-20 they showed an increase of £6,765.

147. It is anticipated that at least twelve new telephone and phantophone offices will be opened during 1920-21, which will increase materially the facilities for inland communication.

148. There are two wireless stations in the Island, one of which is situated at Christiana and is owned and controlled by the Royal Navy. This Station does not communicate with merchant shipping and handles traffic for British Honduras, Nassau and British Guiana only.

149. The second Wireless Station is situated in Kingston and is owned and controlled by the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, under Government licences. This station communicates with merchant shipping on a 600 metre wave. It is understood that the Company contemplates increasing the plant in order to communicate with shipping at a much greater distance than at present.

150. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

X. PUBLIC WORKS.

151. No public works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review.

XI. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

152. A list of Official publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of general interest, is given below :—

	Price.	*Where obtainable.*
Handbook of Jamaica	8s.	Edward Stanford, 12, 13 & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1920	1s.	H. Sotheran & Co., London.
Annual Report of the Collector-General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1s.	do. do.

H. BRYAN.
Colonial Secretary.

11th December, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
1051	Somaliland	,,
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	,,
1056	Swaziland	1919–1920
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	,,
1061	Seychelles	1919
1062	Mauritius	,,
1063	St. Vincent	April-December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	,,
1066	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1092.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917–18 see No. 1003.)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
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23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from EASON & SON, LTD., 40 & 41, LOWER SACKVILLE STREET, DUBLIN.

1921.

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No. 1092.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1919.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying North West of Jamaica and approximately mid-way between that island and the South-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The islands lie between 79·83 and 81·30 west longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is 11 miles long by one and a quarter miles at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the bluff, showing that the lowland surrounding the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat and is largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The 100 fathom ocean depth closely encircles the islands.

HISTORICAL.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this animal being at one time numerous in the smaller islands. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen wrecked either in the islands or on the neighbouring coasts of Cuba who remained domiciled in the islands.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 879; [Cd. 8172–5].

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CONSTITUTION.

In the days of early settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally elected "Governor." To this body elected vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognizing the existence of Acts and Resolutions passed by the local body and validating such as should be afterwards assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty Acts, passed at various times between 2nd January, 1832 and 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 23rd March, 1865. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the power of three Justices of the Peace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The commercial and social life of the islands appear to have been little disturbed by the world war, but in the period under review these remote communities became more and more affected by influences from the outside. United States gold and notes, which largely constituted the circulating medium, rapidly disappeared, and the rise in the price of food and other necessaries in America upset business arrangements.

Emigration and Immigration.

There is no immigration, but emigration to the southern ports of the United States, while not great, is steady. Labourers find employment in Cuba, but return to their homes about twice a year.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The health of the people is generally good. The culex mosquito is an intolerable pest and occasions a restriction of proper ventilation in dwellings, especially in the summer time and at night. There are no anopheles and consequently no malarial fevers other than the imported. By close observation of all arrivals from abroad and the isolation of all suspected cases, the influenza from which so many communities suffered was kept out of the Dependency.

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Vital Statistics.

The census of 1911 showed a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 were white, or nearly so, 2,211 were returned as coloured and 1,031 as black. There were 148 births (27 per 1,000), 63 deaths (11 per 1,000) and 30 marriages in the year under review.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports reached a figure substantially above that of the year before, itself well above the average for the previous five years.

The imports from all countries—

	£
In 1917–18 amounted to	37,949
In 1918–19 amounted to	44,828

If one excepts the building of small vessels, which are occasionally sold abroad, the making of thatch rope from the leaves of a palm indigenous to the islands is practically the only local industry with an export. A total of 1,196,000 fathoms, valued at £1,836, was exported, 95 per cent. to Jamaica. Over 5000 lbs. of hawk's-billturtle-shell were taken in the waters of the Caribbean Sea and on sale, mainly in Jamaica, realized £7,000. Very few green turtles were taken in the waters of the Dependency and only an occasional schooner returns to the islands with the catch of a voyage. The fishing grounds are off the Nicaraguan coasts and the turtles caught there are sent from the kraals on outlying cays to the United States. Approximately 1,000 were taken in 1918–19 and realized at Key West an average of £2 each.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1913–14	5,047 ..	3,012
1914–15	3,347 ..	3,486
1915–16	2,891 ..	3,558
1916–17	3,219 ..	3,568
1917–18	4,423 ..	5,162
Average of 5 years ..	3,785 ..	3,757
1918–19	5,520 ..	4,837

The revenue is larger than in any previous year. Post Office (£2,650) contributed the larger part of the receipts, Customs (£2,310) and Licences and Internal Revenue (£495) coming next in order, and other sources show inconsiderable figures. The expenditure was much above the average and may be summarized in Departments, £2,013; Public Works, £1,779; and Other

Services, £1,645. In Public Works is included a sum of £1,000 transferred to a special fund for the erection in the near future of a new Court House and Town Hall as a Peace Memorial.

At the close of the year under review, the balance of assets stood at £3,796 2*s*. 7*d*. The assets included £3,524 in the Jamaica Treasury and £3,394 balance in Money Order Account, and amounted to £7,599 11*s*. 1*d*. The liabilities were made up of £29 deposits in the Local Treasury, £2,775 5*s*. 11*d*. due depositors in the Government Savings Bank, and £1,000 set apart in the Peace Memorial Fund, total £3,803 7*s*. 6*d*. There is no Public Debt.

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

The value of imports has more than doubled in the last five years as is shown in the following table :—.

Year.	*Imports.* £	*Exports.* £
1914–15	17,346	1,810
1915–16	28,414	11,566
1916–17	29,108	8,169
1917–18	37,949	5,229
1918–19	44,828	11,324

The value of the exports depends on the catch of hawk's-bill turtle and the price of the shell in the open markets.

Shipping.

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is a port of Registry, having on its register 52 small vessels built locally with an aggregate tonnage of 2,620 tons. Nine vessels with a total tonnage of 689 were launched and registered during the year.

No steamships, other than ships of the Imperial Navy, visited the Dependency in the year. The following table shows the total number and tonnage of sailing ships entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	163	8,912	161	8,830
Cuban	1	10	1	10
Honduranean	3	74	4	103
Panamanian	2	92	1	46
American	25	6,160	27	6,628
Totals	194	15,248	194	15,617

Banking Facilities.

There are no commercial banks in the Dependency. The Post Office Money Order system is largely made use of both by residents in remittance for goods to be imported and by seamen, labourers and others abroad who forward their earnings for the maintenance of dependents in the islands. The orders issued in the Dependency amounted to £7,540, and the orders paid aggregated £10,067.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank have increased to 46; the deposits for the year have been £2,330; and the withdrawals £1,461. The balance at the credit of the depositors at the end of the year amounted to £2,774. A sum of £1,500 has been invested in Imperial Loan Stock by the Crown Agents as trustees.

LEGISLATION.

There were eight enactments in the year, all but one being of purely local interest. Law 2 of 1919, The Cayman Islands Lighthouse Law 1919, provides for the erection and maintenance of a lighthouse on the eastern end of Grand Cayman. The light now established in consequence is visible in fair weather a distance of twelve miles and affords ample warning of approach to the off-shore reefs.

EDUCATION.

New legislation dealing with this important matter is now in train. A system of free and compulsory primary education is proposed at a cost not to exceed £1,500 per annum. While the majority of the schools are at present styled Government, only a small proportion of the maintenance is a public charge. Four buildings are, however, maintained, and grants amounting to £204 were distributed amongst five district teachers. The number of children returned as attending school is 635.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall for the twelve months amounted to 48·77 inches. May (9·96 in.) and September (8·10 in.) showing the heaviest precipitation. February (·67 in.) and March (·23 in.) were, as usual, the dry months. The temperature ranges from 80 to 90 degrees in the hot months, and from 70 to 80 degrees in the cooler, November to February inclusive. The islands enjoyed a freedom from hurricanes or severe gales which have in recent years done so much damage to growing crops. The climate is equable and generally good. The summer months, April to September, are rainy and hot, and the prevalence of mosquitoes (*culex fatigans*) makes screening or the closing of houses, or the use of smoke, obligatory. The indoor temperature is thus increased. In the months October to March there is little rain and cool N. and N.E. winds prevail.

COMMUNICATIONS.

There are neither railways nor canals within the Dependency. A carriage road extends the length of Cayman Brac and half the length of Grand Cayman. Horseback riding is the usual means of locomotion along bridle-paths which connect the several localities. Intercourse with the outside world is maintained by small trading schooners which voyage to Jamaica, Cuba, the Central American Republics and the Gulf ports of the United States.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Regular foreign mails are received only through Jamaica, and average 24 per annum. In mid-year, however, during July, August and September, there is seldom more than one mail. A period of forty-three days of isolation occurred in the year. In addition to the outgoing mails sent through Jamaica, sailings of vessels to Cuba and the Gulf ports of the United States are made available for the sending of correspondence abroad. Tri-weekly mails are maintained throughout Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, but communication between these two islands continues to be infrequent and irregular. A telephone line between the towns on Grand Cayman was destroyed by hurricane in 1917. Steps are now being taken to reconstruct.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
8th July, 1921.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1055	Malta	1919–1920
1056	Swaziland	"
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	"
1061	Seychelles	"
1062	Mauritius	"
1063	St. Vincent	April–December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	"
1066	Gold Coast	"
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1070	British Honduras	"
1071	Hong Kong	"
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	"
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	"
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	"
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	"
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1104.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1042.)

LONDON:
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No. 1104.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Owing to their geographical position—at the extreme south-east end of the Bahamas Archipelago, and to the absence of direct communication with the Mother Country, less is known about this Dependency than most other West Indian Colonies; while the absence of any literature dealing with its early history, except such as may be gleaned from official papers and records, renders it difficult for anyone in quest of information concerning these interesting, but little known, islands to ascertain exactly from what source to obtain it.

As nothing could supersede the value of the reports of Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O. (Commissioner of the Dependency during the years 1906–14), concerning the Salt and Sisal Industries† of these islands (in which is included everything that is reliable concerning the early history of the Dependency), it is not considered necessary to repeat what has been so lucidly described by this gentleman; but, on the other hand, it is proposed to quote freely from the information supplied by Mr. Watkins whenever it is necessary to do so.

SITUATION AND AREA.

The Dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to Mr. Watkins, belongs geographically (and ecclesiastically) to the Bahamas; officially to Jamaica; and socially to Bermuda. They lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude, and 71° 50′ and 72° 50′ W. longitude, and are therefore just on the edge of the Tropics. They really consist of two distinct groups, the Turks Islands proper and the Caicos Islands. The two groups are separated by a channel, 21 miles in width—the Turks Island passage, or Le débouquement des Isles Turques, of the old French cartographists. The entire area is stated officially to be 166 square miles, but as no survey of the group has ever been made, these figures are probably below the mark. The islands are

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; [Cd. 7622–37].

† Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous, No. 49 and 56.

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distant about 720 miles from Bermuda on the north, about 450 miles from Jamaica on the south-west, and about the same distance from Nassau, Bahamas, on the south-east.

As the Dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands really consists of two distinct groups, it will be convenient to review the character of each group separately. The Turks Islands group proper consists of two inhabited cays, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited cays, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank surrounds the group and offers serious dangers to navigation. This bank has been the scene of frequent shipwrecks for many years. The islands derive their name from the Turks Head Cactus (*Melocactus communis*), found abundantly on the rocky shores, the scarlet head of which is supposed to represent a Turkish fez.

On the western side of the Turks Island passage lie the Caicos Islands. These surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular expanse of shallow white water, 58 miles long on its northern side, and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow channels, in most cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. There can be no doubt that the bank will, in course of time, become a large island, since its " interior is already represented by a low salty plain only a few feet below sea-level." (De Booy).

The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos. The group of islands forming the Dependency extends for a distance 75 miles from east to west, and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks, extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad bank, lying north of the east end of Haiti. The banks and islands forming this archipelago rest on a vast submarine platform, those portions of it above sea-level representing the last that have risen above the surface. Beyond the Turks and Caicos Islands to the south-east lie three of these banks. Two of them, Mouchoir (the handkerchief) and Silver Bank, are in some places awash, while the third, the Navidad Bank, is entirely submerged. Although accurate data is not available to prove that these banks are being gradually uplifted, the fact that the Caicos Islands bank, and other banks in the Bahamas, are constantly building up, " warrants the conjecture that the same tidal and geological conditions govern them all, and that in course of time three additional island groups will come into being." (De Booy, *Geographical Review*, Vol. No. 1).

HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands, together with the Bahamas, were probably discovered by Columbus in the year 1492.

(5330) Wt. 26290/1046 625 - 2/22 Harrow G. 75 2

The archæological researches of De Booy demonstrate that the Turks Islands proper—that is, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, with their adjacent islets—were uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil, the scanty rainfall, and other difficulties in the way of agriculture which obtain in the easternmost group of islands.

The Turks and Caicos Islands would appear to owe their existence as a British Colony entirely to the Salt Ponds that are found at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos, as from the time of their discovery up to the year 1678 they remained unclaimed and uncolonised by any nation. In that year a party of Bermudians, attracted by the advantages to be derived by establishing a salt industry to supply the demands of the fisheries in the New England States, came to the Turks Islands, and inaugurated the first systematic attempt at salt raking. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to Turks Islands to rake salt. "They returned to Bermuda about November, where they remained until February or March, because salt could not be raked at that time of the year; and other industries were out of the question on islands composed of little more than burning sands and barren rocks. The salt industry, in the absence of the present flourishing vegetable export trade of Bermuda with the United States, afforded the Bermudians with little capital the staple so necessary for maintaining their carrying trade, and allowed sufficient time in each year for the cultivation of vegetables (at Bermuda) for their own consumption." (Watkins).

The conditions of life under which the industry was pursued, and the circumstances of their existence, are graphically portrayed in the Annual Register of 1764, which, in alluding to the recent invasion of Grand Turk by the French, states, "These islands are many in number, most of them being low, sandy, and barren, with very little, if any, fresh water, without any vegetation except lizards, iguanas, and land-crabs, but the coast abounds with fish and turtle and the beach is covered with sea-fowl. . . ."

"The business of salt raking is chiefly carried on by Bermudians who come here in the month of March and continue during the dry season, leading a life that the idea of liberty only can render preferable to slavery itself. They live in little huts . . . they have a knife in their pockets and a kettle in their kitchens; their wardrobe consists of nothing but a straw hat, a check shirt, and a pair of oznaburg trousers; their food is salt pork, and now than then a iguana (a sort of large lizard), when they have time to catch them, and very often they are without bread; yet in this way of life they enjoy health, nor do they ever differ about property or religion, for they have neither priest, lawyer, or physician among them. The New Englanders come here with sloops and schooners in great numbers to load salt for their fisheries; they buy it from 4d. to 6d. sterling the bushel, and they pay the poor Bermudians a small part in money, the

rest in stinking rum, rotten pork, and musty biscuits, now and then throwing them a cask of sour water into the bargain."

Those wishing to follow in detail the varying fortunes of the salt industry in these islands are referred to the report by Mr. Watkins already mentioned.

It need only be stated here that, while the Turks Islands proper (Grand Turk and Salt Cay) were from the first used solely for the exploitation of salt, the Caicos Islands owed their settlement to the American War of Independence and to the agricultural establishment of loyalist refugees to whom lands were granted after the loss of their holdings in Georgia and the other Southern States. These refugees, together with their slaves, devoted their energies almost exclusively to the raising of cotton. The loyalist settlers have long since disappeared, but the remains of their substantial stone houses and the roads which they traced out remain to this day. Successive hurricanes, together with the havoc wrought among the cotton plants by destructive insects, put an end to the prosperity of the planters, and caused all systematic agriculture to be abolished during the early part of the nineteenth century.

Shortly after this, in the year 1838, we learn that the salt ponds at Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos) were brought under cultivation. These ponds, under careful management, have now developed to such an extent as completely to overshadow all other salt-producing settlements of the Dependency.

From the year 1799 to the year 1848 the Turks and Caicos Islands were incorporated with the Bahamas Government.

In 1848, at the earnest request of the inhabitants, they were separated from the Bahamas and placed under the supervision of the Government of Jamaica, where they still remain. The first President (since changed to that of Commissioner) of the Dependency under the new arrangement was Captain Forth, and under his capable administration, we are told by Mr. Watkins, vigorous efforts were made to develop and extend the salt industry of the Caicos Islands.

CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board, comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica, which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks Islands, take effect there. The subjects of currency, bills of exchange, patents, and the custody of prisoners and lunatics have been so dealt with.

CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY.

The climate is equable and healthy and rarely unpleasantly hot, owing to the strong and never-failing sea breezes which

sweep across the islands. The average temperatures taken from the records of five years, disclose a maximum of 90° and a minimum of 61·5°.

The maximum temperature recorded during the year under review was 85·4° and the minimum 61·5°.

July to October are the hottest months of the year and of nearly equal temperature.

January, February, and March are the coldest months and of nearly equal temperature.

As the Turks and Caicos Islands lie within the Tropics, atmospheric pressure acts upon the same principle as is observed in other places similarly situated ; that is to say, there is a regular rise and fall of about one-tenth of an inch every six hours, except in case of a hurricane, when a considerably increased falling of the mercury results.

Generally, however, it may be said that the mean height of the barometer, from daily readings taken from the Grand Turk Weather Bureau Station—11 ft. above sea-level—is almost exactly 30 inches. As a general rule, the barometer rises for northerly and falls for southerly winds.

Lying within the Tropics, the Turks and Caicos Islands are within the influence of the trade winds, but in the winter months, *i.e.*, from about the end of November to the end of March, the trade wind is frequently interrupted by north-east and north winds. Indeed, in December and January this change may be expected almost weekly.

Previous to the change, the wind will draw round to the south and south-east. About 24 hours after, or less, dark masses of cloud will be seen rising from the westward, and in a short time the wind will rush suddenly from that quarter with the force of a stiff breeze. It soon veers round to the north-east and north, with clear weather, and remains within these points sometimes two or three days. It will then veer gradually to the north-east and wear itself out east, in the course of a few days. (*West Indian Pilot*, Vol. II.)

The barometer is scarcely any guide at such times, but so regular and so certain is the action of the wind, that vessels can seek shelter with easy confidence in the change that will follow.

The rainfall for the year 1920 is recorded as being 26·04 inches. The Turks and Caicos Islands share in the delightful winter climate of the Bahama Islands and in the attractiveness of the sea water round their shores. Few people who visit these islands but are charmed by the wonderful sea bathing and express the desire to return, a wish, however, which will never materialize until hotels or hostelries of some kind, with an adequate and suitable food supply, are provided for their accommodation.

It goes without saying in such low-lying coral islands, with a scanty rainfall, constantly swept by sea breezes, and where no freshwater swamps are found, that malaria, that is, as it is known in other islands of the West Indies, does not exist. The few cases

which occur from time to time, chiefly in the island of North Caicos, and the origin of which can usually be traced to the neighbouring republic of Haiti, are of the mildest description.

This is conclusively proved by the small death-rate in these islands from diseases of this character.

There are no freshwater ponds in these islands, and the inhabitants in the Settlements at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour depend entirely on rainwater tanks with which most houses are provided. Scattered throughout the Caicos Islands are wells of more or less brackish water, in most cases potable to those accustomed for generations to water of this character.

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk, formerly known as Grand Cay, is situated on the eastern boundary edge of the Turks Island passage. In shape it is said to resemble the blade of a butter knife, and it contains an area of 10 square miles, with a population of 1,581 souls, of whom about three-fourths are of African descent. Grand Turk is the seat of government, and it is here that the Commissioner of the Dependency resides. The only settlement at Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, situated on the western side of the island, and it contains the entire population.

There is no harbour, and vessels are obliged to lie in an open roadstead at some distance from the shore. In stormy weather, with the wind from the north-west, such an exposed anchorage presents grave danger to shipping, and during a " norther " the loading and unloading of cargo become impossible. At such times vessels engaged in work of this character have no alternative but to seek safety in the open sea. The greatest elevation at Grand Turk is about 70 feet above sea-level, and the scanty vegetation is typical of the flora of the adjacent Bahama Islands. Here and there one finds stunted specimens of such hardy trees as corkwood (*Thespesia populuca*), tamarind, cordia (*Cordea sebestena*), and casuarinas ; but, for the most part, the island is covered with a low scrubby vegetation, in which plants of the cactus and euphorbia families largely predominate.

At Grand Turk there is a lighthouse, erected on a bluff at the north point of the island. It exhibits, at an elevation of 108 feet above sea-level, a white flash-light every half-minute. This light can be seen for a distance of 15 miles in clear weather.

The " Victoria Jubilee Library and Free Reading Room " ministers adequately to the literary tastes of the reading public, and, as its name implies, is an institution commemorative of the year 1887, the Jubilee year of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

Grand Turk is fairly well supplied with churches, for such a small population, there being two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist places of worship. Baptists are in the majority among the lower classes, but the attendance at the churches of all the denominations is exceedingly poor.

At Grand Turk is located, beside the usual public offices, the Council Chamber, the Court House, the Hospital, and the Gaol.

A telephone system, inaugurated in 1915, gives connection between the various stores and residences of the island, and a wireless telephone installation, now in course of erection, will shortly connect the seat of government with the district Treasuries at Salt Cay and South Caicos, eight and twenty-one miles away respectively.

The "Manning Hospital," affording accommodation for six patients in the public wards and two in the private wards, was opened in October, 1918. This institution possesses a well-equipped operating theatre, and is up to date in other respects. The hospital, which ministered to the wants of no less than 65 patients in the year 1919, is fulfilling a most useful purpose in relieving the needs of suffering humanity.

The only industry at Grand Turk is the production and manufacture of salt, and although there are several localities on the island where cotton could successfully be grown no attempt at systematic cultivation has ever been attempted. Owing to a scarcity of labour, it is unlikely that agriculture of any kind will ever make much headway in Grand Turk.

The salt of the Turks Islands is of exceptional purity, and is therefore greatly in demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. On account of its good name, a considerable quantity of the salt imported from other places is sold in the northern markets under the name of Turks Island salt.

The various stages in the process of salt manufacture have been so very carefully and fully described by Mr. Watkins in his report already referred to that it is unnecessary in a general report of this nature to do more than give a broad outline of the industry.

The salt ponds, or salinas, vary in size, and are anywhere from five to 25 acres in extent, but the "making pans"—that is, the pans where final evaporation takes place—are usually from one-half to one acre in size.

The method of making salt from sea-water by solar evaporation (the method pursued in the Turks Island) is simple in the extreme, and may be thus briefly described: sea-water, having a density of 10, is let in through sluices or canals into the common or storage reservoirs, situated at or slightly below sea-level. Here it remains until it reaches 30 by the salinometer. From the common reservoir it is run off into what may be described as the Number 1 pond, a shallow pan, which may be anywhere from five to 15 acres in extent. There it remains until the salinometer indicates 60. In the main pond a great many impurities of the sea-water, such as vegetable matter, magnesia, and lime, are precipitated, and the water now assumes a saffron hue. At this stage the "pickle," as it is now called, has been reduced in quantity by evaporation to about one-half of the original volume of sea-water.

From the main pond the "pickle" is next passed into pond Number 2, or "strong pond." Here it remains for about 20 days, until, by further evaporation, its strength has been reduced to 90. The water is now pink in colour, and only about one-sixth of the original volume of sea-water. Being by this time freed of the lime it contained, the pure brine is next passed into the "making pans," where, after about 10 to 15 days' further evaporation, the salt commences to granulate on the sides and bottoms of the pans. After two weeks more, according to the weather, the salt is ready to be gathered, or raked, as it is called. Wooden rakes are used for this purpose, and by means of these and scuffle hoes, the salt is raked up into small heaps on the level floor of the "making pans," from whence it is carted to the "depositing ground." These are usually situated in close proximity to the shipping place, and here the salt is piled up in huge mounds awaiting shipment.

The average quantity of salt raked annually from an acre of pans varies from 3,000 to 8,000 bushels. At Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, where the pans are carefully worked, an average of 5,000 bushels per acre is the usual crop under favourable weather conditions, but at Grand Turk, where through careless management the industry is steadily declining, it is doubtful if even an average of 2,000 bushels per acre can be counted on.

The annual output of salt from the entire Dependency varies between 1½ million bushels, in poor seasons, to 2½ million bushels in good years:

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, situated about eight miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Island group. In area it is about four square miles, with a population of about 300 souls. The output of salt from this island averages 450,000 bushels annually.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the extreme south-east end of the Caicos Islands, and it is the only island of the group on which the salt industry is conducted. There are about 400 acres of salt ponds (including reservoirs), and the annual output varies between 700,000 and 800,000 bushels.

East Caicos.

This island, up to the year 1919, was the centre of the sisal industry of the Dependency. In this year the East Caicos Company, who had conducted the cultivation of sisal on a large scale since 1891, were compelled for various reasons to shut down their factory and abandon the plantation. It would seem that the rocky and barren soil of this island, together with the

cost of labour, proved an effective bar to the prosecution of the sisal industry on a remunerative scale. Thus an enterprise, which afforded employment to upwards of 200 hands, has been scrapped.

Middle Caicos.

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos, or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long, with an extreme breadth of 12 miles. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with an aggregate population of 500 souls.

At or near Lorimers is the Haulover Estate, where there has been in operation since 1918 the very promising cotton cultivation of the Caicos Development Company of New York. This Company, composed mainly of Americans, has upwards of 500 acres under cultivation, and it would seem that only careful handling is necessary to ensure successful results. At Conch Bar there is situated the cotton plantations of Mrs. Robert O'Reilly (200 acres in extent), while round the settlements above mentioned there is quite a large area of this product in the hands of peasant cultivators.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles east and west, and eight miles north by south. In comparison with the other islands of the Caicos group, North Caicos is fertile, and the remains of old sugar factories indicate that it evidently in the past was divided into large plantations.

" The inhabitants, 366 in number, probably owing to having more to do with the soil, preserve more than elsewhere in the group the traditions of ' Old Massa ' and the Southern States traditions. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek ; the former near the middle of the island, three miles from ' Belfield Landing,' on the southern shore, and the latter on the eastern side, on a broad and picturesque creek of that name. Near to Kew is ' Wades Green,' the former residence of the Magistrate of the Caicos Islands. In the neighbourhood of Kew is a considerable area of good soil, and the remains of the old sugar works are still to be seen." (Watkins.) Bottle Creek, a settlement of about 300 inhabitants, is approached from the north side in light-draught boats, by a narrow channel connecting the creek with the open sea. In the vicinity of this settlement are to be seen the ruins of the old estate mansions belonging to the Bellevue, Windsor, and Richmond estates. These plantations all date their origin from the time of the War of American Independence, and were granted by the British Government of that day to loyalist refugees from Georgia and other Southern States.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and Others.

Lying to the west of Middle Caicos are several small cays, the most deserving of mention being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. At Parrot Cay, in the hands of the "Parrot Cay Cotton Company" (another American concern), there are under cultivation upwards of 250 acres of cotton; while at Dellis Cay is situated the sponge-buying enterprise of Mr. George Dellis, a gentleman of Greek extraction.

Providenciales or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles in width, and contains a population of about 900 inhabitants.

The settlements are Blue Hills about the middle of the north shore, Five Cays to the south-east, and The Bight on the northern shore, about three miles to the east end of Blue Hills.

On the southern side of Providenciales is Chalk Sound, an immense shallow-water creek, extending over an area of about nine to ten square miles. Here is situated the promising sponge-rearing and lobster-canning enterprises of Mr. George Silly (deceased). The sudden death of Mr. Silly in 1917 has caused a temporary closing down of the lobster-canning factory, but the artificial rearing of sponges is still prosecuted by Mr. C. W. Kursteiner, Mr. Silly's partner. At the time of writing there are upwards of half a million sponges under cultivation.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. In area it is about eight miles from north to south, with an average breadth of two miles. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, a large salt-water expanse nearly two miles long.

This island, as the name "Belle Isle" implies, is probably the most attractive of the Caicos group, and this fact probably accounts for the immense and wasteful expenditure of capital which has taken place on it during the past 60 years.

The West Caicos Company, the last of the many companies which from time to time have buried fortunes on this little island, passed out of existence in 1916. For some years prior to this, however, the island had been practically abandoned. Fine buildings, erected at great cost, had been demolished and spoliated by passing sloops; and to-day there is the pitiable spectacle of roofless buildings and valuable machinery, representing thousands of pounds, gone to ruin amid the scrub—striking testimony to incompetent management.

The island of West Caicos is free from malaria, contains probably the finest salinas in the Dependency, and possesses the best shipping facilities of any island in the group. On the western side of West Caicos vessels can load and discharge in deep water within a cable's length of the shore. There seems every reason to anticipate that, if ever this island falls into capable hands, the resources thereof can be most successfully developed.

Financial—Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year ended 31st December, 1920, was £11,294, as compared with £11,164 in the year 1919, and exceeded the estimates by £2,744. The expenditure was £10,780, as compared with £9,263 in the year 1919, and there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure, after providing for the cost of three wireless telephone installations, of £514.

The surplus of assets on the 31st December was £11,758, which is again the largest on record in the annals of the Dependency.

There is no public debt.

There is no direct taxation.

The current coins are British gold and silver. United States gold and silver are accepted at a discount of 1½ per cent. on their face value.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The imports during the year ended 31st December, 1920, were valued at £59,753, as compared with £38,343 in 1919.

The exports were valued at £46,865, as against £33,554 in 1919.

Classified under their respective headings, a comparative statement of the exports for the year 1919 and 1920 reads as follows :—

Articles.	1919	1920.
	£	£
Salt (coarse)	10,827	21,187
,, (fishery)	13,290	17,148
Sisal	1,293	3
Sponges	1,015	2,027
Conchs	3,006	2,385
Conch Shells	1,256	1,077
Cotton and Cotton Seed ..	580	382
Tortoise Shell	1,079	263
Dried Fish	47	18
Dye Woods	89	—
Miscellaneous	1,063	2,377
Totals	£33,544	£46,865

The direction of trade as regards imports and exports, during the years 1919 and 1920, may be thus summarized :—

Countries.		*Year.*	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
			£	£
United Kingdom	..	1919	2,140	580
British Colonies	..	,,	8,748	14,802
Foreign Countries	..	,,	27,455	18,172
Totals..	..		£38,343	£33,554

Countries.		*Year.*	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
			£	£
United Kingdom	..	1920	3,672	382
British Colonies	..	,,	6,961	20,994
Foreign Countries	..	,,	49,115	25,489
Totals..	..		£59,748	£46,865

SALT.

Exports nearly doubled those of last year, 1919, and amounted to 1,905,042 bushels.

The year closed with a firm demand for the staple product of the Dependency at remunerative prices.

In consequence of heavy shipments during the last quarter of the year, the stock of salt carried over on the deposits on the 31st December scarcely amounted to one million bushels, a lower figure than has obtained for some time.

Weather conditions during 1920 were again ideal for the production and manufacture of salt.

SPONGES.

Exports to the value of £2,383, as against £1,015 in 1919, indicate that the industry is making steady progress. At present there are three sponging establishments in the Caicos Islands. At Cockburn Harbour, Dellis Cay, and Five Cays sponges are purchased, cured, sorted, baled, and shipped. The gathering of the sponges from the Caicos banks is carried on by more than fifty local sloops, belonging mostly to Blue Hills, each of which employs three to nine men, according to the number of boats on board. The best months for sponging are April, May, September, November, and December. After being cured, the sponges, carefully graded, are pressed in bales, averaging 50 lb. in weight, and exported. They are bought at the three stations in two strands of 15 pieces each, the total weight being 1½ to 2 lb. Although inferior to those imported from the Mediterranean, these sponges find ready sale, at remunerative prices, in the United States.

Grade.	*Local Prices per double strand.*	*Prices in New York per double strand.*
	Cents.	Cents.
Sheep's Wool	50–125	70–250
Reef (local)	20–25	75–120
Yellow and Hard Head ..	11–15	30–40
Velvet	10–12	40
Grass	10–12	20–40

Conchs.

A slight falling-off is noticeable under this head, the value of conchs shipped in 1920 being £622 less than the figures given for the year 1919. Conchs are a favourite article of diet among all classes in the Dependency, and properly dressed and cooked can be made exceedingly palatable. When dried they are exported in large quantities to Haiti, where they find a ready sale. Occasionally those engaged in the trade find inside the conch shells pink pearls, for which high prices are obtained.

Cotton.

Exports for the year amounted to 13 bales of cotton, and bags of seed, value £382. A slight falling-off of two bales below the exports for the year 1919, in no way, however, indicates a decline of the industry, but is due entirely to lack of shipping facilities to the United Kingdom.

On the contrary, it is satisfactory to recall that the cotton industry continues to make steady and satisfactory progress. Exclusive of hundreds of peasant holdings, there were in the hands of three American capitalists upwards of 1,000 acres under cultivation on the 31st December. On the other hand, it is to be regretted that the produce of these large growers must inevitably find its way into the markets of the United States, because, until better arrangements can be made for getting into connection with the Mother Country, it seems hopeless to expect that trade within the Empire can ever be successfully developed in this Dependency. The only channel of communication at present with the United Kingdom is through New York, and everything sent that way is subject to freight rates that are extortionate and prohibitive.

Sisal.

An export of only £3, as against £1,293, indicates that this industry has ceased to exist. It is difficult to understand why the cultivation of sisal should have been abandoned after so much money has been expended on it. Various reasons are given, but it is to be feared that at the bottom lies the question of transport, and that until some means can be found to connect this

Dependency with the markets of the United Kingdom other than through New York neither sisal nor any other industry can be successfully developed. This is all the more to be regretted, because for both cotton and sisal, especially the former industry, there is an abundance of suitable soil now lying idle.

Sea Shells.

The export of conch shells during 1920 shows a falling-off of £179 in value, as compared with the year 1919.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered at the various ports of the Dependency during the year was 399, with a tonnage of 279,067, as compared with 336 vessels and a tonnage of 183,195 during the year 1919.

Vital Statistics.

No serious epidemic or outbreak of sickness of any kind occurred during the year. The number of births and deaths were 219 and 116, representing 39 and 21 per thousand, respectively, of the population. Twenty-five marriages are recorded.

Education.

The sum of £700 is placed annually at the disposal of the Board of Education for the upkeep of primary schools throughout the Dependency. At the eight schools thus maintained by the Government the average number of pupils on the registers during the year under review was 889. It is, indeed, gratifying to be able to state that a school of secondary education under Government auspices has at last been inaugurated. In April of the year under review a commencement was made with this school under the care of the Reverend Stanley Cannon, "Wesleyan minister," as headmaster. At the close of the year there were 36 pupils in attendance.

Postal and Telegraph Services.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world are transmitted and received on an average four times a month by steamers of the Clyde and Columbus lines, via New York.

The Dependency still suffers from the great disadvantage of being able to receive parcels from the United States and Great Britain only, and to send parcels to the United States only, except by a sailing vessel to Jamaica three or four times a year.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1920 was £918, and expenditure for the same period, £177.

The telephone service, inaugurated in 1915 (approximately 28 miles of lines), continues to give useful and satisfactory service. The demand for new installations now exceeds the capacity of the present switchboard, and arrangements are being made to greatly extend the existing system.

A complete outfit of wireless telephone installations for three stations was received during the year, and are now being erected.

The system can be used either for telephoning or telegraphing, having a sending range of 50 and 150 miles respectively.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, touches at Grand Turk, and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, in respect of which a yearly subsidy of £120 is paid.

Meteorological.

The readings and statistics taken at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 97′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	26·04 inches
The highest temperature recorded for the year	86·5°
Lowest temperature recorded for the year	61·5°

General.

No events of importance marked the year under review. The cost of living still continues high, and is keenly felt by the poorer classes, who are able to purchase only the barest necessaries of life.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,

Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent Reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1066	Gold Coast	1919
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1070	British Honduras	"
1071	Hong Kong	"
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919
1076	Falkland Islands	"
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	"
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	"
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	"
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	"
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	"
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	"
1098	Nigeria	"
1099	New Hebrides	"
1100	Somaliland	"
1101	Straits Settlements	"
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey,
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1116.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919-20, see No. 1067.)

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of the Island of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, namely:—

Surrey.

			Sq. Mls.
Kingston	..	..	7
St. Andrew	..	..	166
St. Thomas	..	..	274
Portland	..	..	285
Total	..	..	732

Middlesex.

			Sq. Mls.
St. Catherine	..	..	470
St. Mary	..	..	249
Clarendon	..	..	474
St. Ann	..	..	476
Manchester	..	..	302
Total	..	..	1,971

Cornwall.

			Sq. Mls.
St. Elizabeth	..	..	462
Trelawny	..	..	333
St. James	..	..	234
Hanover	..	..	157
Westmoreland	..	..	308
Total	..	..	1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,587 acres, of which, approximately, 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° at the sea coast the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° on the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of atmosphere that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suitable to the most delicate constitution.

The midland parts of the island are the highest. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak, attaining an elevation of 7,360 feet.

From this range subordinate ridges or spurs run northerly to the northside of the island and southerly to the southside; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening gullies.

4. There are numerous rivers and streams, from which Jamaica derived its aboriginal Arawak name of Xaymaca, which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. The majority have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. There are many mineral springs in Jamaica, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body.

The two principal are, the spring at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, and the spring at Milk River in Clarendon.

6. Jamaica posseses several good harbours in the Island, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

7. The following are dependencies of Jamaica, viz.—The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands, also the Guano Islands, Pedro and Morant Cays.

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, it remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Pen and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1660 a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward Doyley Governor-in-Chief, with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the bucaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds, and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who inhabited mainly the east of the island,

among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished, in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave-owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre with unnecessary violence, and he was recalled. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake, which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened, and contributions poured in from all partes of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.* chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer. Two buildings, the General Post Office and Treasury, and the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, were completed in 1910, and the Law Courts in 1913.

Constitution.

9. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., in 1662, which after existing for nearly 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, a Privy Council, a Legislative Council, and an Assembly of 47 elected members. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1829, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the constitution, but was defeated, and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change, by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they ware enlarged to eight and a ninth was added in 1881.

By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the constitution was fixed in the following manner:—

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) and five *ex-officio* members, viz. the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Director of Public Works and Collector General, and such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint, or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secre-

tary, and Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

10. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886 was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island.

Local Administration.

11. There are elective Parochial Boards in the town of Kingston and 14 other parishes, under Laws 13 of 1900 and 17 of 1901, with jurisdiction over roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921, 62,562), Port Royal (population 1,004), Spanish Town (population 8,694), Port Antonio (population 6,272), Montego Bay (population 6,580), Falmouth (population 2,136), Port Maria (population 2,758), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442).

12. The Parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial Institutions viz: poor-houses, etc., etc., managed by the Parochial Board of the parish, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The several direct taxes received on property, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

13. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

14. During the year under review the prosperity of the Colony, as judged by the values of the Imports and Exports, exceeded even that of the previous year (which was a record one), the value of the Imports during 1920 being £10,313,300, as compared with £5,085,600 during 1919; while that of the Exports was £7,146,000 during 1920, as against £5,627,300 during 1919.

But this is consequent on the extraordinarily high prices that prevailed during the year, rather than to the vast increase in quantity which the figures might be taken to indicate.

The causes which led up to these increases are dealt with fully under the sub-head "Imports and Exports."

15. In April, 1920, the Legislative Council passed a Resolution agreeing to send a representative from this Colony, accompanied by two advisers, to a Conference proposed to be held at Ottowa to consider the question of trade relations and transport facilities between the Dominion of Canada and the British West Indies. The Hon. E. St. J. Branch, K.C., Attorney General, was selected as this Colony's representative, and the Hon. Robt. Johnstone, C.M.G., I.S.O., Collector General, and the Hon. J. H. Phillipps, Member of the Legislative Council for St. Thomas, were appointed advisers.

The result of the Conference was that a Trade Agreement was entered into between the representatives of the Dominion and all the British West Indian Colonies, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of the Parliament of Canada and of the Legis-

iatures of each of the Colonies concerned. The Legislative Council of Jamaica approved of the Agreement on the 14th October, 1920.

Emigration and Immigration.

16. The Departures in 1918 were 8,773; in 1919, 23,618; in 1920 21,343.

The arrivals in 1918 were 5,102; in 1919 8,786; in 1920 23,783.

The marked increase during 1920 in the number of emigrants who returned to the Island, as compared with the two previous years, is due in great measure, to the considerable drop in the prices paid abroad for Sugar and Rum; many of the persons who returned to the Island went to Cuba on account of the high wages offered in that Republic to those engaged in the Sugar industry before the slump took place.

Public Health and Sanitation.

17. Matters in connection with the health and sanitation of the Island have been receiving, for some time past, the earnest attention of the Government, and active steps were taken during the year under review for dealing with such matters.

18. The Rockefeller Foundation began extensive operations in Jamaica in connection with the treatment of Hookworm (ankylostomiasis), and the United Fruit Company inaugurated a system for medical attendance on their employees. Both these organisations have materially contributed to improve general health conditions in the Island. During the year under review the Government instituted a Sanitary Survey in one of the parishes, and the treatment of Hookworm is being actively carried out in this parish by the Foundation.

19. A step in furtherance of the movement for dealing effectively with hookworm, and one that is fraught with great potentialities in sanitary matters, generally, has been the appointment of a Superintending Inspector under the provisions of "The Health Laws," Law 35 of 1910, and Law 48 of 1920.

20. The outstanding Medical feature during the period under review was an epidemic of an eruptive fever known as Alastrim or Kaffir Milk Pox, which broke out in Kingston, in May, and from Kingston spread to the other parts of the Island. It is satisfactory to note that the death rate was exceptionally low.

A satisfactory feature in connection with this epidemic is that better protection now exists against small pox, (an ever present menace) than ever before in Jamaica, very large numbers of the inhabitants having been vaccinated and re-vaccinated.

Vital Statistics.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1920 was 862,543, which is arrived at by taking the actual Census count of 24th April, 1921, adding thereto the Births and Arrivals and deducting therefrom the Deaths and Departures in the intervening period, 1st January, 1921, to date of Census.

22. 4,124 marriages were registered during 1920, the rate being 4.8 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.7 for 1919. During the same period, 34,943 births were registered, of which 17,841 were boys and 17.102 were girls. The birth rate works out at 40.8 per 1,000, as against 33.5 during 1919.

23. 21,707 deaths were registered, of which 10,936 were males and 10,771 females, the death rate being 25.3 per thousand. That for 1919 was 22.2

24. During 1920, 7,630, or 35.2 of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 6,028, or 27.8, were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1919 were 32.6 and 24.4. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.2, as compared with 16.1 in 1919.

The principal causes of death among the inhabitants of Kingston, the capital, were:—

Phthisis, 12.4; Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 10.9; Heart Disease, 6.8; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 8.6; Chronic Brights Disease, 4.6; Enteric Fever, 4.5; Pneumonia, 4.1; Dysentery, 4.1.

Imports and Exports.

25. The amount collected for Import Duties during 1920-21 completely eclipsed the record yield of the previous year, being £957,324, an increase of £266,301 over that of 1919-20. When compared with the yield in 1918-19 it will be seen that the yield in 1920-21 was nearly two and a half times as much, the figures being £957,324 and £391,914 respectively. The value of the Imports in 1920 was £10,313,300, as against £5,085,600 in the year 1919 and £2,837,043 in the year 1913, so that in the year 1920 the value was three and a half times that of the previous year 1913.

The chief factors which were responsible for the increase were practically the same as those of last year, only more accentuated by conditions arising out of the War. In addition to the low rate of exchange between Jamaica and the United States of America and the continued soaring upwards of the values of goods which pay ad valorem duties, a third factor was the arrival of large quantities of merchandise ordered from twelve to eighteen months previous to their shipment. However, after discounting these factors, there was on the whole a very fair increase of trade.

26. The amount collected for Harbour and Light Dues in 1920-21 was £6,938 as against £5,310 in 1919-20. The increase of £1,628 was due partly to several new vessels plying between the Colony and the Dominion of Canada as the result of the Trade Agreement with that Dominion referred to afterwards, to vessels trading between Australasia and Europe calling here and lastly to a succession of large Tourist Boats which included Jamaica in their itinerary.

27. The Special Customs Duties imposed as temporary measures due to conditions arising out of the War and a succession of hurricanes i.e., Export Duties and additional Import Duties amounted to £35,502 and £56,305, respectively, as against £41,247 and £34,145 in 1919-20. The decrease in the former was due to the falling off of the export of Logwood Extract and Hides during the latter half of the year. The Package Tax Law 9 of 1919, continued by Law 7 of 1920, realised a total of £61,718. Three-fourths of this is allocated by Law to General Revenue, viz: £46,288 and the remaining one fourth to Parochial Revenue, viz: £15,430.

28. As in the case of Imports the value of the Exports during the year 1920 quite eclipsed that of the previous year reaching the phenomenal figure of £7,146,010 as against £5,627,329 in 1919, being an increase of £1,518,681 or 26%. If a comparison is made with 1918 the year under review shews a value of over two and a half times as much. Paragraph 25 of this report shews that the yield of Import Duties in 1920 was nearly two and a half times that in 1918 and the value of the imports three and a half times that of the pre-war year 1913. The principal items conducing to this enormous total are:—Sugar £2,994,256,

Bananas £1,626,665, Logwood Extract £431,451, Coconuts £387,656, Rum £288,147, Logwood £268,662 and Cocoa £211,882. These seven items alone amount to £6,148,719, being fully 86% of the whole, leaving £997,921 to be divided amongst the minor products and re-Exports (£123,815).

The abnormally high prices obtained for our products during the first three-quarters of the Calendar year are largely responsible for the increase. Those of September Quarter, where they reached their zenith, are worthy of notice, viz:—

Sugar £75 per ton, Bananas £20 per 100 bunches, Logwood Extract £20 per package, Coconuts £14 per 1,000, Rum 8/ per gallon, Logwood £9 per ton and Cocoa 100/ per cwt. As to quantities, Bananas again reached the nine million mark as in the previous year; coconuts reached twenty eight millions; while sugar totalled 733,287 cwt. or 36,664 tons.

29. During the year 1920 the Legislature, acting on the report of a Select Committe, enacted Law 17 of 1920, thereby giving a preference of 40% to the United Kingdom in respect of Cotton piece-goods and a further preference of 10% if such goods were made entirely of cotton grown within the British Empire. This preference was subsequently extended to the rest of the British Empire. The concession (although only in force for the latter half of the year) together with the partial reversion of the trade back to the United Kingdom after the close of the war, succeeded in lifting the proportion of British Trade in this commodty from the very low figure of 16% in 1919 to 36% in 1920. In the year 1914 the figure had been 64%.

30. For the purpose of comparison there is set out below the value of the Imports and Exports of the Island during the last forty years and the amount collected as Import Duties:—

	1880.	1890.	1900.	1910.	1920.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports—	1,475,200	2.190,700	1,652,700	2,614,900	10,313,300
Value of Exports—	1,513,000	1,902,800	1,797,000	2,568,200	7,146,000
Import Duties—	253,900	366,700	337,500	4[illegible],8400	927,700

31. It will be seen that in respect of the years taken for comparison, except the last, the value of the Exports was from five to six times the Import Duties collected, the variation being from 5.3 to 5.9 times. During the year 1920 the exports were in value 7.7 times the amount collected in Import Duties. Taking the thirty years from 1880 to 1910 as more or less normal times, it is seen that on the average the Import Duties were 17% of the value of the Exports, while in the year 1920, although there was a considerable increase in Import Duties, yet the value of the Exports had reached such a high figure that the percentage was only about 12%. If the more usual proportion between Import Duties and the value of Exports above referred to had prevailed, the Import Duties in 1920-21 would have amounted to £1,286,300 instead of £927,700, or £358,600 more.

32. Particularly in the year 1920 it would not be correct to gauge the value of Imports from the Import Duties collected as they include specific duties on rated articles, the fluctuation of their values in no way affecting the duties collected.

33. On the whole the year 1920 was a very prosperous one and greatly improved the financial conditions of the Island. During the last quarter of the year, however, a slump occurred in the markets abroad and the prices of our products came down with a rush, thus forcing the planters either to sell at a loss or withhold shipments. But for this it would be safe to assume that the value of our exports would have been more on a par with the value of Imports. A remark made in last year's Report may be repeated here, viz: that it is inadvisable for persons to emigrate to Jamaica unless they are in possession of a fair amount of capital and have had some training in tropical agriculture. Notwithstanding a decline in wholesale prices the cost of living still remains nearly as high as the year before, as far as the consumer is concerned.

34. The balance of trade against Jamaica for the Calendar year 1920 was £3,167,300:—

Value of Exports	..	£ 7,146,000
Value of Imports	..	10,313,300
Balance . ..	..	£ 3,167,300

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

35. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

REVENUE.

1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
£	£	£	£	£
1,154,349	1,052,485	1,157,304	1,802,778	2,347,362

EXPENDITURE.

1,076,237	1,098,409	1,228,608	1,444,818	2,332,635

The total surplus of Revenue over Expenditure during the year 1920-1921 was £14,727.

36. The Assets and Liabilities were £1,078,403 and £734,102, respectively. The credit balance at the close of the year was therefore £344,301.

37. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1921, was £4,011,561.

TAXATION..

38. *Law* 13-1920. *A Law further to amend the Stamp Duty Law* 1903 (*Law* 40 *of* 1903).—The principal features of this Law are, that it reduces the rates on Foreign Marine Insurances very considerably and remits entirely the duty on Coastwise Policies.

The Fire, Life and Accident Policies, however remain the same as in Law 17 of 1910.

39. *Law No.* 15-1920. *A Law to amend and make permanent the duty on entertainments imposed by Law* 14 *of* 1919.—Certain minor alterations were made in the rates of Taxation in the 1919 Law and instead of being only of a temporary nature the law of 1920 has been made permanent.

40. *Law No.* 40-1920. *A Law to amend Law* 21 *of* 1916 *entitled a Law to provide for the payment of Estate Duty on property passing on the*

death of any person.—The principal feature of this amending Law is that it exempts Estates up to £500 value from taxation for Estate Duty.

41. *Law No.* 17-1920. *The Tariff Amendment Law,* 1920.—This Law was assented to on 10th June, 1920 and provides that Cotton piece-goods (as defined in Section 2 of the Law) manufactured in the United Kingdom when imported direct into this Island from the United Kingdom or when imported in accordance with regulations made by the Governor in Privy Council shall be subject to a duty of £10, on every £100 value, and any such Cotton piece-goods so manufactured and imported shall, if made entirely of cotton grown within the British Empire be subject to a duty of £8 6s. 8d. on every £100 value.

By a subsequent resolution of the Legislative Council on the 15th June, 1920, this preference, as provided for in the law, was extended to all other parts of the British Empire. The general rate at present is 16 and two thirds per cent. advalorem so that the preference above given is one of 40% and 50% respectively.

42. *Law No.* 43-1920. *A Law further to amend the Property Tax Laws and to make provision for the Imposition of a Super-Tax.*—The principal features are (1) that it exempts properties of less value than £200 from being further taxed by reason of the erection on such property of a dwelling house including domestic outbuildings or by improvements to a dwelling house including its domestic outbuildings unless the value of such property is thereby increased beyond the amount of £200 and (2) that it imposes a Super-tax on properties owned by any person the total values of which as shewn on the Valuation Roll amounts to or exceeds in the aggregate the sum of £15,000.

Income Tax.

43. As soon as the original Income Tax Law No. 24, 1919 reached the stage of practical working, it was found to require amendment in certain respects. The following Laws designed to effect the required purpose were accordingly enacted, viz:

Income Tax Amendment Law, No. 39 *of* 1920: In addition to strengthening existing provisions, and introducing new sections to cover liabilities not dealt with, or fully dealt with in the original Law, the amendment law extended exemption from duty to the incomes of Parochial Boards, the Kingston General Commissioners, and any Government Institutions, also to the pay and allowances of members of His Majesty's Regular Forces on the Active List, wounds and disability pensions and War gratuities.

No provision was made in the original law for repayment of duty, except (under Section 13) in the case of incomes "doubly assessed." This omission was remedied in the Amendment Law.

Income Tax Amendment Law 1920 (*No.* 2) *No.* 50-1920:—This consisted of only one section, introduced at the instance of the Insurance Companies doing business in this Island, in order to lay down the precise basis on which the returns of the assessable incomes of life and other Insurance Companies should be rendered.

Currency.

44. Under Law 27 of 1904, local Currency Notes, which are made legal tender under Section 5, have been issued to the extent of £206,212 15/ in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 notes			5/ notes			10/ notes			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
29,787	15	0	101,950	0	0	74,475	0	0	206,212	15	0

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

45. Although the year 1920 shews a balance of Trade against us to the extent of over three million pounds, yet it must be remembered that the high cost of manufactured articles and materials abroad, together with the low rate of exchange existing between the Colony and the United States of America, helped to force the value of Imports up to a phenomenal figure. A comparison of the Imports for the last five years will fully support this:—

1916	..	..	3,107,004
1917	..	..	3,323,865
1918	..	..	3,381,758
1919	..	..	5,085,615
1920	..	..	10,313,282

46. After however discounting all the factors peculiar to the times, there can be no doubt that there was an actual increase of trade particularly in the first nine months of the year, a year which bids fair to stand alone for many years in many of the statistics relating to trade in Jamaica. There have been a few changes with regard to sources of supply, and destination of our products. In the case of Imports the United Kingdom shows a substantial increase in percentage while the United States of America shows a decided decrease. As regards the Exports, Canada absorbed 21.9% of the total, as compared with 6.9% the year before, a very appreciable increase. On the other hand there was a decrease of about 20% in the case of the United Kingdom, which points to the fact that her loss was Canada's gain for the most part, while the United States' share of the Exports increased by 4.4%. Canada's gain was mostly in respect of Sugar and Rum. There was also a slight increase of Exports to "Other Countries" due mainly to France taking the largest quantity of our Logwood and to the Bahamas which took a larger quantity of Spirits.

47. The wave of prosperity referred to in the last report (although not amongst all classes) continued throughout the Colony in the first half of the year now under review. The peasantry received highly remunerative prices for their products and during this period large sums of money steadily flowed into the Island from the labourers who had emigrated to the cane fields of the neighbouring Republic of Cuba. The slump in the prices of native grown products, however, and the collapse of the Cuban Sugar Industry somewhat altered this condition of affairs as is referred to elsewhere in this Report.

Agriculture and Industry.

48. *The Year* 1920 was remarkable for the serious lack of rainfall which was the lowest average recorded for the past 48 years. The agriculture of the Island therefore experienced a serious set-back. Coincident with this bad fortune for the producers of the Colony, however, arose a condition of unprecedented inflation in the world's markets for all descriptions of tropical produce, whereby the export trade of the Colony achieved a record in value.

A year that would otherwise have been one of very low returns, has thus stood out as the banner year in the trade of the Colony. Sugar, Rum, Logwood, Cacao, Coffee, Coconuts, Bananas and an array of

minor products all sold at high prices, and every class of the agricultural community shared in this good fortune. The natural reaction on the value of land resulted from this era of high prices, and properties, both great and small, changed hands at large increases over former values.

49. *The Sugar Industry* suffered somewhat severely from the drought, so that the exports did not exceed 37,000 tons of Sugar, which was a good deal below the original estimates for the crop, and even less than that for 1919 despite a large increase in cultivation and factory capacity. So high was the price of Sugar, however, that this reduced crop, after providing for local consumption, brought in three million pounds (£3,000,000), while 7,400 puncheons of rum were exported to the value of £290,000.

The capacity of the factories now in existence, or in process of erection, is sufficient to maintain an export of about 60,000 tons of Sugar per annum, if a remunerative market can be assured. The recent revival in the prosperity of the Banana Industry has checked the transfer of Banana Cultivaton to Sugar Cane, and, under present conditions, the tendency is rather to extend the production of Bananas in Jamaica than to plunge too deeply into Sugar.

50. The *Bananas* exported during the year amounted to over nine million stems, valued at £1,630,000. Fortunately, no serious storm visited the Island, and this result, when the drought conditions are considered, must be regarded as remarkable.

The incidence of 'Panama Disease' shows an increase, due mainly to the discovery of neglected areas of small settlers' Bananas in the parish of St. Ann. In the main commercial areas this disease has been kept under reasonable control by the strict system of inspection and qurantine th t has been maintained during the past ten years. Owing to the shortage of fruit the trade in Evaporated Bananas fell off, and only 8,000 boxes were shipped, as against 20,000 boxes in 1919.

51. The *Coconut* crop showed an increase in Exports of four million nuts over that for 1919. Copra stood steady at 700 tons. The value of Coconuts and Copra exported in 1920 was £356,000, as against £300,000 for the previous year. The health of the trees has remained good in the main Coconut areas, and it is considered that the Coconut trees in Jamaica have ne er been so free from dangerous diseases as at the present time. A strict system of inspection by Inspectors of Plant Diseases has assisted in securing this favourable situation.

52. The *Logwood* Industry experienced a year of great prosperity, with an Export trade to the value of £700,000.

53. *Orange Oil* sold at very high prices, and a revenue of £90,000, was received by the owners of wild oranges for this product. Citrus fruits remained an unimportant feature of the trade of the Colony. It is hoped that the trade arrangements with Canada will serve to encourage a revival in the cultivation of Oranges and Grape Fruit in the near future.

54. *Cacao* showed a reduction of about 30 per cent. in quantity over the records of 1919. Prices, however, ruled high, and the Exports during 1920 were valued at £212,000. The new Cacao nurseries established by the Department of Agriculture in Portland, St. Mary, and Hanover were the means of distributing a large number of plants, which were eagerly accepted by the public.

55. *Coffee* suffered from the unfavourable season, but with about half a crop a financial return higher than the average was received. The high-class "Blue-Mountain" Coffee sold for record prices in England, and a favourable stimulus was afforded to the resuscitation of this old staple.

56. *Cotton* was under a cloud during the year, and the small revival recorded in 1919 failed to restore this staple to the status of a minor industry.

57. *Pimento* was in demand, but the supply was only about half that exported in 1919.

58. The Industrial Chemist has carried out researches on the preparation of Oil from Pimento leaves and the manufacture of Eugenol, Iso-Eugenol, and Vanillin therefrom. The yield of oil and content of Eugenol have been found to vary considerably with the season of the year and the source of the pimento leaves. Experimental shipments of Pimento Leaf Oil—about 130 lbs. in all—have been made from the Government Laboratory, and sales have been effected in London and New York at 10/ per lb. The state of the market, however, was such that it was not possible to place large forward contracts for Pimento Leaf Oil that would justify the erection of a factory to produce this oil on a large scale. The Industrial Chemist has succeeded in making Vanillin from Pimento Leaf Oil, and an organised effort is being made to explore thoroughly the possibilities of the new industry.

59. *Sisal Hemp* is now beginning to figure in the list of Exports of the Colony. Two Factories have already commenced to manufacture fibre in Clarendon. The machinery for the Government Co-operative Sisal Factory at Lititz in St. Elizabeth, with a capacity of 500 tons of fibre per annum, has been landed, and the Factory is expected to operate in 1922.

60. *Jamaica Cigars* were in strong demand, and shipments to the value of £119,000 were made in 1920. This industry continues to progress, and is one of considerable promise for the future.

61. *Live Stock.*—The chief event in the records of the Department of Agriculture has been the purchase of "Grove Place," a Cattle pen of 3,362 acres, situated on the Railway line in Manchester, for the purpose of a Public Stud Farm, and its equipment with an impressive array of imported sires. This enterprise has become an immediate success, and the response of the public has been quite remarkable, all classes of the community having sent cows and mares to the Stud Farm in numbers far exceeding all expectations.

The Department of Agriculture organised a co-operative importation of Zebu bulls from India, whereby 56 bulls of the Hissar, Gujerat, Ongole, Mysore (Amrit Mahal) and Montgomery (Sihawal) breeds were purchased in India through the Crown Agents, the Government of India and His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore. Eleven of these bulls were landed during the year.

It is considered that in 1920 the cattle industry made the greatest progress in its history in the importation of fresh blood of the finest breeds of cattle for Beef, Milk and Draught.

62. The establishment of Dipping Tanks has steadily progressed so that already 51 have been registered with the Department of Agriculture which supplies the Paranaph and Arsenite of Soda and the testing solutions required to keep the dipping liquid at the correct strength. But for the high cost of Cement in 1920 the Order under the new Law would have been issued whereby some 350 dipping tanks would have been constructed so as substantially to deal with the larger herds of cattle in the Colony for purposes of tick destruction.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

63. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been pro-

perly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,410,429 acres have been alienated, leaving 282,051 neither alienated nor in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

64. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, inter alia, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards and ten acres for every other male or female, etc., etc., etc."

The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century, on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

65. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of Sugar, caused abandonment of large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

66. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of it has been restored to its rightful owners, some has been sold, and some still remains in possession of the Government.

67. During the year 1899 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government land for every mile of Railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911, this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,500.

68. Within recent years, Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passage to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

69. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st Decr., 1920, 46,954 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 4,182 acres in Clarendon to one purchaser. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

70. There is a large number of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12/ to 16/ per nominal acre per annum.

71. While the value of private property has greatly increased during the past three years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of War, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

72. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by Government

beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1869; and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E.D.M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

73. There is no Forestry Department in this Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains, and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

74. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "It is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 34 years ago.

75. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians "in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the "gold smelteries" and in 1521 the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay "one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold "smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601 Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas "Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large "amount of gold."

76. At this time, it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because in 1597 Pedro de Acuna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situ-"ated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

77. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts were, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

78. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross copper mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

79. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite" were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

80. The geological formations of Jamaica being in many respects similar to those of Cuba, where iron and copper mines have long been successfully worked, there is some reason for entertaining the hope that scientific research may result in the discovery of valuable deposits in this Island.

Fishing.

81. It is to be regretted that this Industry still continues to languish notwithstanding the fact that the value of imported saltfish of all descriptions has gone up from £249,014 in 1918 to £337,323 in 1919.

82. The hope was expressed in last year's report that some effort would be made to establish a fish curing industry, but nothing has yet been done, and it is feared that without some outside subvention or encouragement, matters are likely to remain as at present. The supply of fresh fish has been up to the average, but this has little or no effect on the importation of "salt" fish, as owing to climate and the absence of refrigerating facilities the former cannot be conserved for distributing purposes and must be consumed shortly after it is landed within a restricted area.

83. Shark-fishing, on account of the value of the skin and oil and the bye-products for other purposes, has been in existence at Port Antonio for some time and is being worked successfully. This is understood to be a branch of a very large enterprise started in the U. S. of America with unlimited possibilities for the utilisation of fish "hides," fish oils, fertilisers, etc.

84. The capture of large seafish for these and other purposes promises to become, in the near future, of world-wide significance, and is expected to revolutionise the manufacture and uses of leather obtained from land animals. Our tropical seas teem with this class of fish, and it remains to be seen how far advantage will be taken of the opportunity to develop this industry.

Manufactures.

85. The principal Items of our manufactures are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars and Cigarettes, Aerated Waters, Ice and Leather.

86. *Sugar*:—Previous to the War the bounty fed sugar had crippled our industry so that we find in 1914 an output of only 20,820 hogsheads, while in 1920 there was an Output of 40,212 hogsheads, with a tendency to a still further increase. The general trend is towards centralization, resulting in large Central Factories with the most modern machinery being established in many localities and many of the smaller estates dismantling their machinery and becoming Cane Farms, to feed the Centrals. The largest of these Centrals already established is the Bernard Lodge Central in St. Catherine.

87. *Rum*:—This valuable by-product of the sugar industry has also made rapid strides since the outbreak of War, as the following figures shew. Output in 1914, 13,788 puncheons. Output in 1919, 18,415 puncheons; but owing to the desire to manufacture as much sugar as possible the output in 1920 fell to 14,439 puncheons.

88. *Copra*:—This industry has only been developed in the past few years. It is one which is largely dependent on the market value of the coconut. If the price is high in the market of the United States of America, it pays better to ship the nuts than to make Copra, certainly the large nuts, and then the small nuts are made into Copra.

89. *Banana Figs*:—This is an industry in its infancy, but considerable improvement developed in 1919 and several factories have been established.

90. *Orange Oil*:—This industry is proving of great value and is a means of getting Revenue from the Oranges which formerly went to waste.

91. *Cigars and Cigarettes*:—This is an important industry which has been greatly developed in recent years as the exports of these items indicate.

92. *Ice and Aerated Waters*:—May be regarded as manufactures for local consumption chiefly.

93. *Leather*:—There are tanneries at various centres in the Island and sole and harness leather form an item of our exports. Latterly the finer grades of leather have been manufactured to a small extent.

Water Power.

94. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the West India Electric Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

There is, however, a scheme under consideration for utilizing the water power from two or more rivers with a view to operate the Government Railway by electrical energy in place of the present system of steam locomotion. A careful investigation of many of the water courses in the Island has recently been carried out with this object in view, but no decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

95. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

96. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Jamaica Head Offices are all in Kingston.

97. The Colonial Bank was established and Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836.

Subscribed Capital	..	£3,000,000
Paid up Capital	..	900,000
Reserve Fund	..	400,000

Head Office.—29 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

This Bank has sub-branches at the following town of the Island:—

Annotto Bay	Montego Bay
Falmouth	Morant Bay
Linstead	Port Antonio
Lucea	Port Maria
May Pen	Port Morant
Sav.-la-Mar	St. Ann's Bay

The Colonial Bank also has Branches in most of the other West Indian Islands, in British Guiana, and on the West Coast of Africa.

The average weekly note circulation rose from £53,261 in 1915 to £127,004 in 1920.

98. The Bank of Nova Scotia was incorporated in 1832, and holds its charter under the Canadian Banking Act. The number of branches in Jamaica is 12; they are established at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar, Spanish Town, Brown's Town and Linstead. The amount of notes outstanding increased from £96,814 at the end of March quarter, 1914, to £211,706 at the end of December quarter, 1919, following the increased demand for circulating media in the Colony. The notes outstanding at this date (July 31) 1921 have been reduced to £121,438. The issue of this Bank's notes is governed by the Canadian Bank Act and the amendments thereto. The notes of any Canadian Chartered Bank are a first charge on all the assets of all the Canadian Chartered Banks. A Canadian Bank may issue notes up to the amount of its paid up capital. Notes issued in excess of this figure are secured by gold deposited with the Canadian Government in a Central Gold Reserve.

On June 30, 1921, the Bank's paid up Capital was	$9,700,000
Reserve Fund	18,000,000
Total Assets	228,428,471

99. The Royal Bank of Canada (incorporated in 1869) is, comparatively, a new comer to Jamaica.

Capital authorized ..	$25,000,000
Capital paid up ..	20,350,000
Reserve Funds ..	20,789,000

This Bank has sub-branches at Cross Roads, Montego Bay, Annotto Bay, Spanish Town.

The average circulation at the end of March quarter, 1918, was £27,127, and at the end of December quarter 1920, £86,430.

100. The Canadian Bank of Commerce (Incorporated in 1867) has recently opened a Branch in Kingston.

Paid up Capital	£3,082,191
Reserve	3,082,191

101. The Government Savings Bank was started in 1870. On the commencial Banks entering the field, starting Savings Branches, and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities, the deposits in the Government Savings Bank declined. By Law 7 of 1917, the management was entrusted to a Board. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council on the 4th February, 1919. The renewed activities of the Bank may be said to date from the beginning of 1919, in which year the deposits increased by 71%, and during 1920 by 34%. The deposits on 31st Dec., 1920 amounted to £573,497. The policy of the Board is that the savings of the people should be used to develop the Island. The telegraphic address 'Our bank, Kingston," sufficiently indicates the lines followed to obtain the support of the public. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Bank may be invested (1) In British and Colonial securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Funds for financing land settlement schemes, whereby Loan Banks are enabled to buy large properties, cut them up, and sell the lots to small settlers, have been provided by the Bank. Funds for making loans to Loan Banks, to be lent to members for developing their holdings, have also been provided.

102. There are 54 Branches and Postal Agencies throughout the Island, 19 of the latter having been opened in 1920. Stamp Savings Cards have induced many children and adults to open accounts. Savings Certificates are issued for 16/6, maturing to £1 in five years. Postage and registration to the Bank are free; and no revenue stamp is required on receipts. The Same rate of interest as that given by the Commercial Banks, viz., 3% per annum, compounded half yearly, is allowed on deposits. There are 42 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such monies being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc. for agricultural and industrial purposes; e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long-felt want among the small settlers.

103. The following figures, referring to the 31 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Loans made and repaid prior to 31.12.19	£17,972	8	6
Loans made on which balances amounting to £25,490 18s. 5d. were outstanding on 31.12.20.	81,013	18	10
	98,986	7	4

104. The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1919, a sum of nearly £24,000 share capital. It is evident, therefore, that they have come to stay; and it is expected that the more ambitious of them will extend their sphere of usefulness. The Legislative Council voted a sum of £50,000 for the purpose of making loans to the Banks for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. In 1920, £38,734 was advanced to 4 Banks under this head; and during the current year this has increased to £47,116 to 7 banks. This scheme was hailed with delight; and promises to be successful.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

105. A brief summary is given below of those Laws passed during the calendar year 1920, which might be considered of general interest:

(1.) Law 2 of 1920—Currency Note Amendment Law, 1920—Provides that Currency Notes issued under The Currency Note Laws 1904 and 1908 may be issued and re-issued in exchange for British Treasury notes and also providing that British Treasury notes to be deemed to be current coin for the purposes of the Currency Note Laws 1904 and 1908.

(2.) Law 3 of 1920—War Emergency Laws (Continuance) Law, 1920—To continue temporarily certain emergency enactments and regulations made during the War.

(3.) Law 7 of 1920—A Law to continue various expiring Laws

dealing with Excise Duties and to impose an Excise Duty upon Sugar manufactured in the Island.

(4.) Law 8 of 1920—A Law to increase the Excise Duty on Cigarettes.

(5.) Law 9 of 1920—A Law to increase temporarily Duties of Excise on Rum Duty, Beer Duty, Cigars and Pipe tobacco, Matches and King's Warehouse Fees.

(6.) Law 10 of 1920—Prices and Profits Regulation Law, 1920. A Law to prevent profiteering.

(7.) Law 11 of 1920—Food Control Law, 1920. Enables the Governor to appoint some person, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor, to regulate the supply and consumption of food and to encourage the production of food. It also continues certain Regulations made under the Defence of the Island Law, 1915 (Law 9 of 1915). Repeals the Food Control Law, 1919 (Law 1 of 1919.)

(8.) Law 14 of 1920—A Law to amend the Laws relating to Praedial Larceny (Law 4 of 1909 and Law 10 of 1915). This Law gives power to an Authorised Person to call on any one to assist him in the execution of his duty. It also provides for civil actions brought against an Authorised Person for any act done in pursuance or execution or intended execution of this or any enactment.

(9.) Law 15 of 1920—This Law amends and makes permanent the duty imposed on Entertainments by Law 14 of 1919.

(10.) Law 17 of 1920—Tariff Amendment Law, 1920. To make provision for a Preferential Tariff in respect of goods the growth, produce or manufacture of any part of the British Empire.

(11.) Law 18 of 1920—Local Clearing Office Law, 1920. To establish a Local Clearing Office in respect of the collection and payment of enemy debts.

(12.) Law 28 of 1920—Foreign Banks Laws, 1920. A Law to regulate the carrying on of banking business in the colony by Aliens.

(13.) Law 37 of 1920—Firearms (license to keep) Law, 1920. A Law to regulate the grant of Licenses to keep and use Firearms.

(14.) Law 38 of 1920—Boy Scouts Association Law, 1920. To further and protect the activities and interests of the Boy Scouts Association.

(15.) Law 39 of 1920—A Law to amend the Income Tax Law, 1919. (Law 24 of 1919).

(16.) Law 40 of 1920—This Law amends the Law to provide for the payment of Estate Duty on property passing on the death of any person (Law 21 of 1916).

(17.) Law 41 of 1920—Tick (control and eradication) Law, 1920. Provides for the control and eradication of ticks among cattle.

(18.) Law 42 of 1920—Aliens (Expulsion) Law 1920. Provides for the expulsion of Undesirable Aliens out of the Colony.

(19.) Law 45 of 1920—Census Law, 1920. Provides for the taking of the Census in the year, 1921.

(20.) Law 48 of 1920—A Law in aid of the Public Health Law, 1867. This Law repeals section twenty-one of Law 6 of 1867 as amended by Law 30 of 1908 and substitutes a new section dealing with contagious or infectious diseases when they become prevalent.

(21.) Law 5 of 1920—A Law further to amend the Income Tax Laws. The amendment deals with Income Tax on Insurance Companies.

VII. EDUCATION.

Elementary.

106. During the year under review many of the schools were affected by the epidemics of Alastrim or Kaffir Pox and Measles, several being closed for some weeks by order of the Health Authorities, whilst others were seriously affected in attendance. This resulted in a slight fall in the total average attendance for the year, although the average number on the registers showed an increase of over 2,000.

107. The staff of Inspectors continued to be incomplete, with two vacancies, but the provision for nine Assistant Inspectors, five of whom were appointed during the year (1920), enabled the Department to exercise much more supervision over the schools than had been possible formerly.

108. The new system of classification and grading of schools and teachers received legislative sanction during the year with financial effect as from 1st January. This should result in great improvement in elementary education throughout the island when the rather drastic changes have had time to take full effect. At present the greatly increased importance of school garden and nature study work in correlation with other subjects is hardly appreciated by many of the teachers.

109. The vacancies on the staffs of the Training Colleges, mentioned in the last report, were filled during the year.

110. The Departmental expenditure on Education was £123,012 as compared with £93,935 during the previous year.

Secondary.

111. The Secondary Schools after the war-period of straitened means and weakness in staffing, received timely help in the Michaelmas Term from Government grants-in-aid. The increase in salaries made possible by the grant still leaves them below those under the Burnham Scale and the difficulty of obtaining competen masters and mistresses, though lessened, is still serious.

112. The question of making adequate provision for pensions is (necessary and the subject is) under consideration: it is anticipated also that the services in Jamaica of Teachers coming from England will be made qualifying service under the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act. 1918.

Technical.

113. The Government Technical and Continuation School, Kingston, was able, on the return from war-service of the head of the Boys' Technical Department, to resume its normal courses and a short course in Woodwork for Elementary School Teachers was held towards the end of the year. The classes for disabled men of the B.W.I. Regiment were continued and in addition a special course of vocational training for time-expiring soldiers was started. Provision was made for improvement in both staff and equipment.

114. The Manual Training (Woodwork) centres were all in operation during the year, most of them doing some very useful work.

Industrial.

115. The Industrial Schools continue to do good work, though in some the accommodation is taxed to the utmost. The boys get useful training in Agriculture, Carpentry and Joinery, Tailoring &c. and

the girls in Domestic subjects, but the much needed improvement in equipment referred to in last year's report has not yet been effected.

116. Towards the close of the year steps were being taken for the establishment of two new Industrial Schools, one for boys and the other for girls in the country parishies.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

117. For the year 1920 the total actual rainfall for the Island was was 51.10 inches, and the average may be taken as 76.26 inches, so that the deficiency shews 25.16 ins., or about 67 per cent. of the average. The total rainfall for Kingston, for the year was 9.11 inches.

Temperature.

118. The records for Kingston show that the mean temperature for the year was half a degree above the average: similar to the year 1919. The highest maximum was 95.4 degrees in July, and the lowest minimum 63.9 degrees in February.

Weather Disturbances.

119. No hurricane passed over the Island during 1920. A small depression passed to the far west of the Island in April, occasioning a little rain. Another small depression passed between Jamaica and Cuba about the 26th May, moving from West to East, also causing precipitation. Then the U.S. Weather Bureau notified, on 28th October, indications of a weather disturbance some distance E.S.E. of Jamaica, but the depression appeared to have passed by. Rains and high winds were experienced.

Hailstorms.

120. Hailstorms occurred in Kingston and Newport on 5th Aug., also at Gilnock in St. Elizabeth on 9th Sept. and at Cabbage Valley on 5th Oct.

Earthquake.

121. No earthquakes of any degree of intensity were reported from any part of the Island.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

122. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main branches:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two minor branches running into the interior

of the Island, viz., from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Branch; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main branch, Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track at present is 197¼ miles. The gauge is Standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

123. The Revenue for the year ended 31st Dec., 1920, was £404,257, and the Expenditure £393,469: no provision is made for depreciation.

124. The total goods carried during the year were 263,967 tons, as compared with 199,389 for the year ended 31st December 1914; the number of passengers carried increased from 590,050 in 1914, to 703,650 in 1920.

125. During the current year the following Locomotives and Rolling-stock which had been ordered during 1919-1920 were erected and put into service, viz:

16 Locomotives, 60 Cane Wagons, 12 Flat Waggons and 30 Covered Waggons. The balance, consisting of 30 Cane Waggons and 50 Covered Waggons, will be put into service during 1921. Three of the eight Passenger Coaches referred to in par. 131 of the last Annual General Report were constructed in the Kingston Works and put into service during this year.

126. A survey of the proposed extension of the Railway from Chapelton to Frankfield, a distance of about 9 miles, has been made; and reconnaissances of the proposed extensions from Chapelton to Falmouth and Montego Bay, and from Highgate to Gayle, have also been made.

127. On account of the excessive rise in the price of coal, and the difficulties experienced in obtaining adequate supplies, an Expert from the Westinghouse General Electric Company visited Jamaica during 1919, and he went very thoroughly into the question of Electrification of the Railway and submitted a favourable report. Since then, two English Experts arrived towards the end of the year to advise on the same project, but their reports had not been received at the time of writing.

128. Oil Fuel fittings were ordered to enable tests to be made as to the suitabillity of oil fuel for Jamaica Railway conditions but they had not arrived by the end of the year.

129. It was found necessary during the year to augment materially the wages of employees, and to meet this increased expenditure, it was decided to increase the rates.

130. So as to meet the growing demands of the public it will be necessary in the near future to carry out a large programme of new works, chargeable to Capital Account, and it is hoped that provision will be made for this during the coming year by raising a loan.

131. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

132. During the year 1920, 1,307 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,778,256 tons entered at ports in the colony and 1,285 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,755,532 tons cleared at Ports in the Colony. In 1919, 1,152 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,046,961 tons entered and 1,148 of 1,037,981 tons cleared; 1920 shews therefore the following appreciable increases:—

Vessels, steam and sail—entered 155 of 731,295 tons.

Vessels, steam and sail—cleared 137 of 717,551 tons.

133. The following are the figures for the past seven years:—

1914	entered 1,434—2,164,185 tons
1915	entered 914—1,251,722 tons.
1916	entered 977—1,230,803 tons.
1917	entered 901—1,045,443. tons.
1918	entered 772—593,328 tons.
1919	entered 1,152—1,046,961 tons.
1920	entered 1,307—1,778,256 tons.
1914	cleared 1,424—2,142,663 tons.
1915	cleared 931—1,304,687 tons.
1916	cleared 948—1,208,775 tons.
1917	cleared 874—1,019,490 tons.
1918	cleared 746—583,697 tons.
1919	cleared 1,148—1,037,981 tons.
1920	cleared 1,285—1,755,532 tons.

These figures point to the fact that shipping is on the high road to recovery.

134. The following well-established Steamship Lines are now serving the Colony, viz:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, New Zealand Shipping Company, Pickford and Black; Canadian Government Mercantile Marine and Pacific Steam Navigation Company; these are British Companies.

United Fruit Company, Atlantic Fruit Company, Clyde Steamship Company, Pacific Mail Steamship Company, Caribbean Steamship Company., Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company, Windward Island Line, United Steamship Company, these are U.S.A. Companies.

The Royal Dutch West India Mail; A Dutch Company.

135. It will be interesting to observe that there were in 1913 the following nine Steamship Lines engaged in business with this Colony:

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. the Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black; British Companies.

Hamburg American Line, Atlas Service and Hamburg American Line (European Service); German Companies.

United Fruit Company; Atlantic Fruit Company, U.S.A. Companies.

136. In 1920 there were, as enumerated above, seventeen Steamship Lines—an increase of eight Lines, made up of four British and four Foreign.

137. A word may be said on the subject of ship-building activities in a small way. The following are the figures:—

Ships Built.

1913	1	21 tons
1914	1	62 tons
1915	1	33 tons
1916	3	110 tons
1917	Nil	
1918	2	64 tons
1919	2	355 tons
1920	2	88 tons

A growing trade, requiring additional craft around the coast of the Island and the call for vessels to go to the neighbouring Islands, accounts for the increase noted above.

Roads.

138. The Island is intersected by a system of good water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,226 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads amounting to 4,341 miles, of which 1,301 miles are suitable for motor traffic and 3,040 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter class of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

139. During 1920-21, the main roads were maintained at an average cost of £66 per mile, but on account of the large increase in traffic generally, and more particularly to the large number of heavy mechanically propelled vehicles now operating on the roads the cost of maintenance will in future be very much greater.

140. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic, but this type of construction is totally inadequate to meet the increased traffic requirements of the present day. Many new roads are being constructed and existing roads improved, with a view to develop the industrial and natural resources of the Island. For this purpose a loan of £50,000 was raised and the expenditure up to the end of the year under review amounted to £37,920.

Canals.

141. There are no navigable canals in the Island. There is, however, a system of canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the Parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long: subsidiary channels of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 ares, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

142. In the Parish of Clarendon an irrigation scheme has recently been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate the various Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and Aerial Services.

143. The Government Island Postal Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the Calendar year 1920 there were 927 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 and 54 telegraph and telephone Offices, respectively. Further extensions of lines and the opening of new offices have been authorised for the current year.

144. The charge at the inception of the Telegraph System was one shilling for the first 20 words, and three pence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

145. In 1911 the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to nine pence for the first twelve words or under, and half penny for each additional word, including the address, at which it still remains.

146. The Railway Telegraphs, in connection with which there are 38 Offices, assist considerably towards placing communication within the reach of all. These Offices work in collaboration with the Island Tele-

graph System, but are controlled by the management of the Jamaica Government Railway. The public avail themselves increasingly of this public utility as is evidenced by the following comparisons:—

147. During the year 1909-1910, with, approximately, 100 offices 112,515 messages were signalled, and in 1919-20 the number of messages had increased to 299,879, which was further increased to 332,965, during the Calendar year 1920. The receipts in 1914-15 totalled £8,255 in 1919-20 £15,020, while during the Calendar year 1920, £18,391 was collected.

148. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island, one of which is situated at Christiana, and is owned and controlled by the Royal Navy. This Station does not communicate with Merchant Shipping, but handles traffic for Trans-Atlantic points, and North America, also for British Guiana.

149. The other Wireless Station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government licenses. This Station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600 Metre Wave. The Company is putting down a more powerful installation which, when completed, will give a greater radius of communication than obtains at present.

150 There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

X. PUBLIC WORKS.

151. No public works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review.

XI. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

152. A list of Official publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of general interest, is given below:—

	Price.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica	8s.	Edward Stanford, 12, 13 & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1920*	1s.	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1s.	do do

H. Bryan,
Colonial Secretary.

11th February, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hong Kong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the islands by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

(6401) Wt. 3509/131 625 5/22 Harrow G. 75/2

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1143.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1116.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 23 Forth Street,
Edinburgh.

Price 1s. 3d. Net.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1921.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of the Island of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, namely:—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston	7	St. Catherine	470	St. Elizabeth	462
St. Andrew	166	St. Mary	249	Trelawny	333
St. Thomas	274	Clarendon	474	St. James	234
Portland	285	St. Ann	476	Hanover	157
		Manchester	302	Westmoreland	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,587 acres, of which approximately, 646 square miles or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that 2,692,587 acres is slightly larger than the total area of the six Welsh Counties:—Cardigan, Brecon, Radnor, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh. Jamaica is more mountainous than Wales, the hills being more precipitous, and the Blue Mountain Peak (7,388 feet) is rather more than double the height of Snowdon (3,571 feet). Oddly enough, the population is also double that of the six Welsh Counties.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° at the sea coast the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° on the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of atmosphere that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suitable to the most delicate constitution.

The midland parts of the island are the highest. Through the County of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak, attaining an elevation of 7,360 feet.

From this range subordinate ridges or spurs run northerly to the northside of the island and southerly to the southside; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening gullies.

4. There are numerous rivers and streams, from which Jamaica derived its aboriginal Arawak name of Xaymaca, which is supposed

to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. The majority have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. There are many mineral springs in Jamaica, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body.

The two principal are, the spring at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, and the spring at Milk River in Clarendon.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours in the Island, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

7. The following are dependencies of Jamaica, viz.—The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands, also the Guano Islands, Pedro and Morant Cays.

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca— well watered.) The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, it remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1660 a regular civil government was estalished by Charles II, who appointed General Edward Doyley Governor-in-chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the bucaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who inhabited mainly the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished, in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.*, granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave-owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre with unnecessary violence, and he was recalled. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake, which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.* chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer. Two buildings, the General Post Office and Treasury, and the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, were completed in 1910, and the Law Courts in 1913.

Constitution.

9. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., in 1662, which which after existing for nearly 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, a Privy Council, a Legislative Council, and an Assembly of 47 elected members. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1829, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the constitution, but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change, by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11 November, 1869. established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the constitution was fixed in the following manner:—

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) and five *ex-officio* members, viz. the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Director of Public Works and Collector General, and such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fouteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

10. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886 was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island.

Local Administration.

11. There are elective Parochial Boards in the town of Kingston and 14 other parishes, under Laws 13 of 1900 and 17 of 1901, with jurisdiction over roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921, 62,707, Port Royal (population, 1,004), Spanish Town (population 8,694), Port Antonio (population 6,272), Montego Bay (population 6,580), Falmouth (popu-

lation 2,136), Port Maria (population 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442).

12. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial Institutions viz: poor-houses, etc., etc., managed by the Parochial Board of the parish, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor was 7,713, being a decrease of 332 as compared with last year, and 704 less than in the year 1919. The present figures are slightly below the total of 1917, and indicate that the upward tendency of pauperism has been broken. The several direct taxes received on property, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

13. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

14. During the year under review Jamaica in common with other portions of the world, experienced difficultiy and stress due to economic conditions brought about by the aftermath of the Great War. The sudden, and generallly unexpected, drop from the high prices realized in the previous year for cane sugar and other staple products of the Island affected adversely the financial prospects of planters, merchants, labourers and others engaged in agricultural industries. This depression was inevitably reflected in trade statistics generally and in the Revenue of the Colony. The price paid for sugar dropped from £75 to £14 per ton; that for bananas from £20 to £8 per 100 stems; that for coconuts from £14 to £4 per 1,000 nuts, and that for rum from 8/ to 1/9 per gallon. On the other hand, as regards quantities, the exports compare not unfavourably with the preceding year; e.g., 24,000,000 coconuts were exported, as against 28,000,000 in the previous year; bananas show an increase of nearly 1,000,000 stems, the total exportation being nearly 10,000,000; cocoa an increase of 14,000 cwt. coffee of 21,000 cwt.; Pimento of 12,000 cwt.; and Rum of 215,200 gallons. On the whole, the trade results of the year proved better than was anticipated, a result which is due in great measure to the seasonable weather that obtained in most parts of the Island, and to increased shipping facilities.

15. The Sugar Industry, which had been enjoying comparative prosperity since the year 1915, suffered more severely than any other, and it was found necessary to enact legislation in order that temporary financial aid might be afforded for its preservation and to enable loans to be raised and used for the purpose. The Governor accordingly appointed a Board, termed the Sugar Industry Aid Board, with the Attorney General of the Colony as Chairman, to make loans under the provisions of Law 10 of 1921, to such owners of Sugar Plantations and cane farmers as were in need of assistance.

16. So far as Jamaica is concerned the year 1920 should be regarded as abnormal from an economic point of view, and the year 1921 showed a tendency to a return to more normal conditions. As an illustration, it should be noted that the amount collected for Import Duties during 1921-22 was nearly £297,000 below the amount collected in 1920-21;

while compared with the year 1919-20, which marked the beginning of abnormal conditions, the Import Duties collected during the year under review were less by some £30,000, but exceeded the amount collected in 1918-19 by over £268,000. Factors responsible for this decrease as compared with the previous year, were the decline in value of advalorem goods; the imporvement in the rate of exchange between this Colony and the United States of America, which rose from 3.36 in November, 1920, to 4.21 in December, 1921, and diminished purchasing power following the decrease in the value of agricultural products.

17. Jamaica did not, during the year 1921, give preference to Canada, although the Dominion extended to this Colony, during the greater portion of the year, the preference enjoyed by British West Indian Colonies under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1920. It might here be mentioned that a law was passed in this Colony during the early part of the year 1922 (Law 2 of 1922) to give a preference, generally speaking, of 25% to the United Kingdom and Canada, and to provide for the extension of this preference to other portions of the British Empire, subject to Resolution by the Legislative Council.

18. In keeping with the desire expressed by the Home Government that a census should be taken throughout the British Empire on the same date, a Census was taken in this Island on the 25th April, 1921. The result shows that the population of Jamaica has increased by 26,735 since the last census in 1911; the figures being 858,118 in 1921, as against 831,383 in 1911; the intercensal rate of increase being 3.215. The average number of persons to a square mile was 193 in 1921, as against 186 in 1911; 143 in 1891, and 138 in 1881. Apart from Kingston and Port Royal, the most thickly populated parish is St. Andrew, with 299 persons to the square mile; and Trelawny with 99 persons to the square mile is the most thinly populated parish.

19. As regards distribution, one tenth of the population lives within the metropolitan area of the Port of Kingston and the vicinity: in addition, the chief country towns (12 in all) account for 38,000 people: whilst the remainder are scattered throughout the Island; indeed, wherever the mountain land is rich, there you are likely to find a cottage the door of which is flanked with flowering shrubs, and, not far away, you will probably find a spring.

20. The Census of 1921 is illuminating with respect to the character of the people's dwellings:—

	1911.	1921.
(1) Number of dwellings with shingle metal or concrete roof and floored	91,183	109,876
(2) Number of dwellings with thatch roof and floored	47,637	46,748
(3) Number of dwellings unfloored and mostly with roofs of thatch .	42,214	32,785
(4) Unspecified	2,873	1,894
(5) Number of dwellings ..	183,934	191,303
(6) Number of "windowed rooms" in the dwellings—		
(a) 1 room only ..	75,670	80,654
(b) 2 rooms	72,671	74,681
(c) more than 2	35,593	35,968
Total	183,934	191,303

These statistics show that some progress has been made during the last decade, and that resolute efforts must be made during the present decade to induce builders to make the utmost use of local materials, thereby lessening the cost of poviding hygienic dwellings for the less weathly classes. On this account the Government has been, and still is, making experiments with a view to finding out how far it is possible to make walls and floors out of local material, in lieu of imported timber. Thus far, it has been found that a strong wall can be made by mixing the local "marl" with cement in the proportion of 15 to 1. Three buildings have been erected the walls of which are of "terre pise." The "red earth" of Jamaica is another promising material in fact, its value was brought to notice by the Royal Society of Arts as far back as the eighteenth century. A difficult problem is to construct a cheap hygienic floor. Thus, a roughly made wooden floor is certain to harbour insects: and a concrete floor is objected to because it is a cold and chilly. By way of compromise and experiment, the Government is making some floors of marl-concrete mixed with charcoal.

21. Towards the latter part of the year 1921, the Government of of Canada appointed a resident Trade Commissioner for the Dominion in Jamaica. This step has already been instrumental in fostering mutual commercial relations, and it is confidently expected that, in future, the practical outcome will be the steady development of trade between the two countries. The Canadian Trade Commissioner also took over the duties of Imperial Trade Correspondent which had hitherto been performed by the Colonial Secretary.

22. During the latter part of the year Jamaica and other British West Indian Colonies were visited by the Right Honourable Major E. F. L. Wood, M.P., Parliamentary under Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by Captain the Honourable W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Mr. R. A. Wiseman of the Colonial Office, for the purpose of enquiring into constitutional, administrative, economic, and ancillary questions affecting the West Indies.

The members of this Mission undertook extended tours throughout the Island in order to enquire at first hand into local conditions; and they also granted numerous interviews to deputations and individuals representative of all classes and sections of the community. The visit has been highly appreciated by the loyal inhabitants of Jamaica, as indicating that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is desirous of establishing closer relations with this and other ancient possessions of the Crown.

The following Resolution, which was passed unanimously by the Legislative Council, fitly expresses popular feeling on the subject:—

"That the Legislative Council of Jamaica desires to place on record its appreciation of the recent visit to the Island of the Honourable "E. F. L. Wood, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the "Colonies, Honourable W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Mr. R. Wiseman, "of the Colonial Office, to investigate conditions on behalf of His "Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"This Council feels that the survey of some phases of conditions "which exist in this Colony by Mr.. Wood and Party will give Ja-"maica that contact at the Colonial Office which will enable those "in authority more readily to appreciate the aims and aspirations of "the poeple of the Island.

"This Council further desires to accord its thanks to the Right "Honourable the Secretryjof State for the Colonies, for the prompt "manner in which he granted the request of Parliamentarians and "others that a Mission be sent to the West Indies to gather first-hand "information on matters which have been agitating the minds of "loyal subjects of His Majesty the King in these colonies for some "time. It is the hope of this Council that the recent visit of the "Colonial Office Mission to Jamaica will be the forerunner of similar "visits in the years to come for the development of closer intercourse "between the Colonial Office and this ancient outpost of Empire."

Emigration and Immigration.

23. The Departures in 1919, were 23,618; in 1920, 21,343; in 1921, 15,777, which number includes 578 Immigrants who were repatriated to India.

The arrivals in 1919, were 8,786; in 1920, 23,783; in 1921, 17,463.

24. On account of the conditions in Cuba arising out of the sudden drop in the price of sugar it was represented that great distress prevailed among the Jamaican and other West Indian labourers who had emigrated to that Republic to work on Sugar Estates, as they suddenly found themselves not only without empoyment but unable to obtain payment of wages due to them, on account of the declaration of a local moratorium. It was accordingly decided, with the concurrence of the British Minister at Hanana, to send to Cuba an Officer of the Jamaica Government for the purpose of assisting in the repatriation of those Jamaicans who might wish to return.

Mr. J. W. Sheridan, who was selected, left for Cuba in July, 1921, where he was associated with the British Consul at Santiago one of his duties being so supervise the embarkation of natives of this Colony in conjunction with the Consular Officer, Agent for the local authorities of Eastern Cuba. Mr. Sheridan was also instructed to assist as far as practicable, the men returning to Jamaidea to obtain payment of promissory notes, etc., or to secure for them before they left Cuba, acknowledgment of debts due; in the alternative, to obtain from each person written authority to act on his behalf.

Mr. Sheridan remained in Cuba for about four months and reported that conditions were not as bad as rumour had indicated.

Altogether some 300 persons were repatriated by vessels specially provided for the purpose; and in addition about 100 free passages were secured on the ordinary ships plying between Cuba and Jamaica.

Public Health and Sanitation.

25. Matters in connection with the health and sanitation of the island have been receiving, for some time past, the earnest attention of the Government, and active steps were taken during the year under review for dealing with such matters.

26. The Rockefeller Foundation continued their operations in Jamaica in connection with the treatment of Hookworm (ankylostomiasis) and the United Fruit Company carried on the system for medical attendance on their empolyees. Both these organisations have materially contributed to improve general health conditions in the island. During the year under review the Government instituted a Sanitary Survey in the parish of St. Catherine and the parish was divided into 4 areas. After Sanitation by the Government, the Rockefeller Fundation instituted a system of active treatment.

27. It is contemplated to appoint a Senior Sanitary Medical Officer and to obtain for the Island a general Sanitary Service. With this service in operation, general sanitation will receive considerable impetus.

28. The epidemide of Alastrim or Kaffir Milk Pox, which occurred during last year, still existed in the year under review, but to a much milder extent.

General Vaccination as a protective measure was largely carried out during the year.

Vital Statistics.

29. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1921 was 871.114 which is arrived at by taking the actual Census count of 24th April, 1921, adding thereto the Births and Arrivals and deducting therefrom the Deaths and Departures in the intervening period to 31st December, 1921.

30. 3,047 marriages were registered during 1921, the rate being 3.5 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.8 for 1920. During the same period 30,064 births were registered, of which 15,276 were boys and 14,788 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.9 per 1000 as against 40.8 during 1920.

31. 24,383 deaths were registered of which 12,044 were males and 12,399 females, the death rate being 28.3 per thousand. That for 1920 was 25.3

During 1921, 8,337 or 34.2 of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,924 or 24.3 were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1920 were 35.2 and 27.8 The total infantile death-rate under one year was 19.7 as compared with 17.2 in 1920.

The principal causes of death among the inhabitants of Kingston, the Capital, were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 14.8; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 8.5; Phthisis, 8.2; Enteric Fever, 7.1 Pneumonia, 6.8; Heart Disease, 4.6. Chronic Brights Disease, 3.7. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.3.

Imports and Exports.

32. As was to be expected conditions in the year 1921 were gradually getting back to the normal. The amount of Import Duties collected during 1921-22 was £660,700 being £296,600 below that of the previous year which was £957,300. When compared with the yield in 1919-20, a semi-abnormal year, that of the present year is found to be only £30,400 less, while it was £268,800 over that in 1918-19. The value of the Imports in 1921 was £5,473,800 as against £10,313,309 in 1920, £5,085,600 in 1919 and £2,837,000 in the pre-war year 1913, so that in the year 1921 the value was nearly twice as much as that of the pre-war year 1913. The factors responsible for the decrease in 1921 were practically the reverse of those resulting in the increase of 1920. The soaring values of the advalorem goods came to a sudden stop at the beginning of the year and a decline set in and there being still a large amount of unconsumed merchandise there was a noticeable falling off of fresh importations. The rise in the rate of exchange between the Colony and the United States of America also had a lowering effect on the values of the Advalorem Goods from that Country and hence on the duties collected on them. Greater decreases may have resulted had not the

quantities of the rated articles imported kept up to the mark and even shown the following appreciable increases:

Fish Dried, Salted	.. ..	3,611,400 lbs. increase
Oils	.. .. ..	826,300 galls. "
Salt, fine	.. ..	2,628,100 lbs. "
Sugar, refined	.. ..	897,200 lbs. "

33. Duties collected in respect of Harbour and Light Fees realized the sum of £6,800 being slightly below the yield in 1919-20. During the year concessions were granted by Law to vessels belonging to the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd. and vessels plying between Australia and Europe.

34. The Special Customs Duties imposed temporarily, viz: Additional Import Duties and Export Duties, were again imposed, the former for the year and the latter, however, in a reduced form and for two months only as from the 1st April, 1921. They realized the sums of £48,530 and £675, respectively. The abolition in the case of the Export tax on Logwood and Logwood Extracts had a stimulating effect on the Logwood Extract Industry and in the case of that on Hides brought to life again the export trade in Hides which was quite dead. The Package Tax Law 9 of 1919, again continued by Law 2 of 1921, resulted in a total of £49,219. Three -fourths, as heretofore is allocated by Law to General Revenue, viz: £36,914, and the remaining one-fourth to Parochial Revenue.

35. The decline in the prices of our products mentioned in last year's report had the effect in reduc ng the value of the Exports to less than h lf that of the previous year, being £3,357,700 in 1921 as against £7,146,000 in 1920 and £5,627,300 in 1919. It was however £672,900 over the value for 1918, a fairly normal year, which showed £2,684,800. It was noted in last year's report that seven items were responsible for £6,148,700 or 86% of the total value, these being Sugar, Bananas, Logwood Extract, Coconuts, Logwood, Rum and Cocoa. These items in 1921 amounted to £2,625,200, being 78% of the total value showing a decrease of £3,523,500 of which decrease Sugar accounted for £2,485,400, Logwood Extract for £322,300, Logwoo l £240,700 and Cocoa for £114,400. The decrease in value is illustrated by the following details. Taking extremes we find that Sugar dropped from £75 to £14 per ton, Bananas from £20 to £8 p r 100 stems, Coconuts from £14 to £4 per thousand nuts, and Rum from 8/ to 1/9 per gallon. Quantities, on the other hand, are not to be despised, Coconuts reaching the 24 million mark, as against 28 millons the year before, while Bananas reached the total of 9,959,200 stems, being nearly a million more than the year before; Cocoa, Coffee, Pimento and Rum also showed appreciable increases in quantity.

36. The preference granted in respect of Cotton Piece-goods in 1920 to the British Empire remained in force during 1921 and although there was only a slight shifting of trade in these goods, it is evident that had there been no preference the foreign goods would have been in greater favour, being very much cheaper than the British articles. The proportion of British Trade in this commodity was 38% in 1921 as against 36% in 1920 and 16% in 1919. Although the Canadian Trade Agreement between Canada and the British West Indian Colonies had been ratified, this Colony had not yet given the Dominion a Preference. Canada had on the other hand extended to Jamaica for the greater portion of the year the Preference she was giving to the other Colonies.

37. For the purpose of comparison there is set out beow the valuel of the Imports and Exports of the Island during the last 40 years and the amount collected as Import Duties.

	1881. £	1891. £	1901. £	1911. £	1921. £
Value of Imports	1,392,700	1,759,900	1,755,900	2,865,600	5,473,800
Value of Exports	1,178,600	1,722,100	1,939,100	2,948,100	3,357,700
Import Duties	253,900	319,800	350,100	494,400	660,700

38. It will be seen that during the forty years the value of the Imports increased 298%, the value of the Exports 185% and the amount of Import Duties 150%, the majority of these increases taking place in the last two decades and particularly in the last one. It is also seen that in respect of the years compared above the value of the Exports was from four and a half to six times the value of the Import Duties, the variation being from 4.6 to 5.9 times. If the thirty years from 1881 to 1911 are taken as more or less normal times, it is found that on the average the Import Duties were 18.4% of the value of the Exports and that for the year 1921 there was very little difference, the percentage being 18.8%. This shows a distinct tendency to return to normal times, although had it not been for the sudden slump in the prices of our products the value would have been greater and consequently the percentage lower.

39. It is not advisable to gauge the value of the Imports from the amount of the Import Duties collected as the former include goods which pay a specific rate of duty and goods on which no duty is paid. During 1921 Government mportations amounted to £389,500, being an increase of 715% in twenty years. The articles mainly responsible for the very large increase were Railway Materials, Metals, Coal and Paper (Printing and Stationery—).

40. On the whole the year 1921 turned out much better than was expected and what with increased Shippi g facilities to the Dominion of Canada, prospects of closer trade with that country, expectations of better prices for our porducts and the prayed-for absence of our dreaded enemy the hurricane (from which we had a providential escape during the year) the outlook for the coming year is far from discouraging. The exceedingly low prices dealt heavy blows to our Cane Industry but the Banana Trade is again coming to the rescue. Further, since the close of the year, Sugar has increased in price and hopes are entertained of a still further advance

II. Government Finance.

41. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.	1920–21.	1921–22.
£	£	£	£	£
1,052,485	1,157,304	1,802,778	2,347,362	*1,920,807

*These figures are subject to audit.

Expenditure.

1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
£	£	£	£	£
1,098,409	1,228,608	1,444,818	2,332,635	*2,247,231

The approximate total Expenditure during the year 1921-22 was *£326,424 more than the approximate total Revenue.

42. The Assets and Liabilities were *£1,258,610 and *£1,240,733, respectively. The credit balance at the close of the year was therefore *£17,877.

43. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1922, was *£4,063,124.

Taxation.

44. Law 2 of 1921 "A Law to continue various expiring Laws either wholly or as amended hereby." This Law repeals Section 3 of and the Schedule to the Export (Temporary War Duties) Law 1919 (Law 2 of 1919) and substitutes for Section 3 an Export Duty on Logwood Extracts liquid and solid of £5 per ton to be levied during April and May 1921.

The Law also repeals Sections 2 and 3 and the first and second Schedules of Law 3 of 1916 (The Tariff Temporary Increase) Law 1916), as also Laws 4 and 6 of 1919; whilst there were continued from the 1st April 1921 to the 31st March, 1922 the following laws:

(1) The Export (Temporary War Duties) Law 1919 (Law 2 of 1919) as affected by the repeal in the First Schedule.

(2) The Tariff (Temporary Increase) Law 1916 (Law 3 of 1916) as amended by the Tariff (Temporary Increase) Law 1919 (Law 11 of 1919), and as affected by the repeal of certain portions of Law 3 of 1916 above referred to.

(3) The Post Office (War Tax) Law 1919, (Law 7 of 1919).

(4) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919 (Law 9 of 1919) and

(5) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920.)

Law 15 of 1921. A Law to amend the Coast and Harbour Lights Law 1900 (Law 8 of 1900). This Law (Section 2) exempts steamers plying regularly from New Zealand, Australia or Tasmania to the Atlantic via Jamaica, and Steamers belonging to the Canadain Government Merchant Marine from the payment of any dues, imposed under Law 8 of 1900 for the years 1921-23.

Law 20 of 1921. A Law to amend "The Civil Service Widows and Orphans Pension Law 1904 (Law 21 of 1904.)

This Law makes provisions in case an officer appointed to the Civil Service of Jamaica from another Colony desires to contribute to pension fund in such Colony.

Law 21 of 1921. A Law further to amend the Income Tax Laws.

This Law is referred to in the remarks under the head of "Income Tax."

Law 23 of 1921. A Law to provide an allowance for Military Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men in lieu of exemption from certain Import Duties.

Law 13 of 1873 is repealed by this Law and a fixed scale of allowances is allowed to certain ranks in the Army in lieu of the exemption from Import Duty of provisions, wines, spirits and malt liquors, imported for the use of the Military Staff and Regimental Messes in this Island.

*These figures are subject to audit.

Income Tax.

45. As soon as the original Income Tax Law No. 24 of 1919 reached the stage of practical working, it was found to require amendment in certain respects. The following Laws designed to effect the required purpose were accordingly enacted, viz:

Income Tax Amendment Law No. 39 *of* 1920.—In addition to strengthening existing provisions, and introducing new sections to cover liabilities not dealt with, or fully dealt with in the original Law, the amendment law extended exemption from duty to the incomes of Parochial Boards, the Kingston General Commissioners, and any Government Institutions, also to the pay and allowances of members of His Majesty's Regular Forces on the Active List, wounds and disability pensions and War gratuities.

No provision was made in the original law for repayment of duty, except (under section 13) in the case of incomes "doubly assessed." This omission was remedied in the Amendment Law.

Income Tax Amendment Law 1920—(No. 2) No. 50-1920—This consisted of only one section, introduced at the instance of the Insurance Companies doing business in this Island, in order to lay down the precise basis on which the returns of the assessable incomes of life and other Insurance Companies should be rendered.

Income Tax Amendment Law (1921 No. 3) No. 21-1921—This amendment contains several important provisions, the principal being the repeal, at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of Section 39 of the Original Law, which dealt with "double Income Tax within the Empire." By such repeal a large amount of duty estimated at £27,000 has been auomattically added to the Jamaica Income Tax Revenue entirely at the expense of the Home Government the total *aggregate* duty payable by persons assessed to Income Tax both in this Island and the United Kingdom remaining unaltered.

Another important provision is the assessment on a non-resident person in the name of his Attorney, Agent, Branch or Manager *whether such Attorney, Agent, Branch or Manager has the receipts of the profits or gains or not.*

Provision is also made for assessment on such non-resident person on a percentage basis where the true amount of the profits or gains cannot be readily ascertained.

Other provisions are (a) where a trade or profession is carried on by partners, a Return of the profits of such partnership to be rendered by the precedent partner, (b) relieving sections permitting the trade, etc., losses of one year to be carried forward and set against the profits of the three following years, and a deduction in respect of "Obsolescence" in cases where plant and machinery are replaced by that of an improved type, (c) the repeal of Section 27 of the original Law by which Interest was charged on Income Tax in arrear.

Currency.

46. Under Law 27 of 1904, local Currency Notes, which are made legal tender under Section 5, have been issued to the extent of £111,960 15/ in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 notes.			5/ notes.			10/ notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
2,614	10	0	55,706	5	0	53,640	0	0	111,960	15	0

III—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

47. The year 1921 discloses that there was a balance of trade against Jamaica thus.

Value of Imports ..	..	£5,473,800
Value of Exports ..	..	3,357,700
Balance	..	£2,116,100

This seems a large sum but it is considerably less than that of 1920 which was £3,167,300 or over a million pounds more. It must, however, be renembered that the still fairly high prices of Advalorem Goods, increased quantities of foodstuffs imported, and a rate of exchange yet far below the standard rate helped greatly to keep up the value of the Imports, while the small prices of our products, particularly Sugar, forced down the value of the Exports.

48. In four years the net balance of trade against Jamaica was over four and a half million pounds (£4,586,600) and this has to be met from capital, interest on capital and loans, a large portion of which in 1921 consisted of Government loans, to the sugar planters. However, with prospects of better prices for our Sugar, Rum and other products, the assurance of successful Fruit Trade, and the knowledge that there is no prospect of the values of imports being again inflated to the extent that occurred in 1920, there is every reason to hope that in a year or two we may be able to show a more favourable balance of trade. In this connection it is to be remembered that the value of the Imports is the value C.I.F. and that the value of the Exports is the value F.O.B.

49. There has been again changes in the sources of supply, and the destination of our products. In the case of the Imports the United States of America still supply the major portions of our foodstuffs and nearly all of our Raw Materials, while in Manufactured Articles the United Kingdom has succeeded in drawing level, each country capturing 45% of that trade. Canada on the other hand, has shown a slight increase all round and during the coming year (the preference having been granted to her at the end of the first quarter) it can be safely expected that she will furnish a large percentage of our supply, especially Foodstuffs. The importations from 'Other Countries' also showed a slight increase, due probably to the efforts of German manufacturers to re-establish their trade with the Colony. With regard to the Exports there was a decrease of 13.1% in the value of the Exports to the United Kingdom, while the United States of America shows an increase of 20.2%, Canada on the other hand showing a decrease of 9.5%, the price of Sugar being mainly responsible. It is however interesting to note that, so far as quantities are concerned, Canada took 51.4% of our Coffee and 54.6% of our Sugar, while the United Kingdom 60.6% of our Cocoa, and 82.9% of our Rum and the United States of America took 66.7% of our Coconuts and 82.9% of our Bananas. In the case of 'Other Countries' there was again a slight increase of 2.4% due mainly to the fact of markets being found in Germany, Holland and other continental countries for our products, chief among them being Cocoa, Coffee and Pimento.

Agriculture and Industry.

50. Agriculturally 1921 was a good year for Jamaica, the rainfall for the island was nearly 84 inches over the average, while the distribution was good. It is true that the consequences of the great drought of 1920 were still in evidence in the case of some crops.

51. The drought of 1920 was reflected in the Sugar crop of 1921, so that the Exports fell to 26,000 tons, or a reduction of 8,000 tons on those of 1920. The loss in value, however, was enormous and without precedent in the history of the Colony's Sugar Industry, for the value of the Exports of Sugar last year was only a little more than one-sixth of that in 1920 when it stood at £3,000,000. Jamaica is now favoured with preferential treatment for her Sugar both in the United Kingdom and the Dominion of Canada. It is interesting to note that 55 per cent. of the sugar in 1921 went to the Canadian Market, while 41 per cent. was sold in the English Market. The position of Rum has been indeed a difficult one for the producers in Jamaica. The Export records show that in 1921, 9,500 puncheons of Rum were shipped, as against 7,400 puncheons in the previous year, but it is unfortunately true that a good deal of this Rum remains still unsold in English and Scottish bonded stores with small prospects of immediate sale.

52. The severe blow which the Sugar Industry has so suddenly received in the violent swing of the pendulum from a period of high prices to one below the present cost of production has reacted adversely on the activity of planters as regards improved methods of Sugar cultivation, new varieties and the treatment of the Mosaic Disease.

The North Indian "Uba" cane which was obtained from Natal in 1916 has been found to be a valuable cane for many purposes in Jamaica.

The Experiment Station has been freed from Mosaic Disease by persistent destruction of infected plants and a good collection of the best canes from Barbados has been established for trial.

The Hope Nursery broke the previous record in the distribution of canes by the issue to the public of nearly 200,000 tops of selected varieties in 1921.

53. The Banana Industry has continued to prosper and although the records show that only ten million stems were exported, or one million more than in 1920, this by no means represents the true state of the Industry which is rapidly recovering its pre-war standard. Panama Disease has extended its incidence during the year and in some areas has shown signs of spontaneous activity apart from direct infection. Two more Inspectors were appointed in December and a further increase of staff to a total of 8 Inspectors has been authorised. The utmost efforts of the Government and the planters of all grades are required to control this dangerous disease of the banana.

54. The Coconut Industry has suffered from glutted markets. The Export of nuts was 24 million only, as against 28 million nuts in 1920. Copra shows a slight increase in quantity but a reduction in value. The resuscitation of the European Markets is a vital factor affecting the success of the Coconut Industry and it is hoped that some improvement may be felt during the coming year. At the moment coconuts are almost unmerchantable and the planters are suffering from loss of sales.

55. Logwood, from a position of absolute stagnation, has recently made a moderate recovery. Logwood Extract brought in 1921 £109,000 as against £431,000 in 1920. The Exports of Logwood were valued at

£28,000 as against the fine total of £269,000 in the previous year. With the recovery to normal of the textile and leather industries logwood should again revert to a position of real value and stability as an asset of the Colony.

56. Orange Oil sold fairly well and brought in about £40,000. The small export trade in Citrus fruits remained steady at the same standard as in 1920

57. Cocao showed a welcome recovery in quantity, but the prices were poor and the value of this staple was only £97,000 as against the high record of £212,000 in the previous year.

58. Coffee greatly increased in quantity due to a more favourable season, to 3,200 tons, as against 2,000 tons in the previous year. Blue Mountain Coffee has continued to sell at high prices in England while the ordinary coffees, suffered from the general drop in values.

59. Pimento was for a long time quite unsaleable and this staple has been greatly depressed in value. Over 4,000 tons of pimento were exported in 1921 of the declared value of £11 per ton. In 1920, 3,000 tons of Pimento fetched over three times this price.

60. The Pimento Oil industry has been further investigated by the Industrial Chemist who has during the year distilled leaves from male and female trees collected in every month of the year from various pimento-growing centres. The outcome of this investigation is that, where pimento leaves and wood fuel are available, the industry of making pimento leaf oil would be a profitable one under present conditions, in which such oil is worth 8/ to 10/ per lb. in the world's markets. A local capitalist has announced his intention of supplying the funds for establishing a factory capable of producing 10,000, lbs. of oil per annum on a large property where the conditions for the pimento oil industry are favourable. The data obtained by the Department as to yields, composition of the oil and sale value abroad, which have resulted from these researches, are the basis upon which the new industry will be founded.

61. The Sisal Hemp Industry is now commencing the era of manufacture and export. Three Factories in Clarendon and the Government Enterprize at Lititz will all be in operation during the coming year so as to produce an appreciable output of fibre.

The third trial of the experimental acre of Sisal at Lititz was most encouraging. The fibre recovered rose to 5.7 per cent and a total yield 1,433 lbs. of fibre per acre was obtained. Within two years this experimental plot has yielded at the rate of 3,390 lbs. per acre from 93 leaves per plant harvested during the trial period. The fibre grown at Lititz is very fine in texture and yet strong, with an average breaking strain of 3 lbs per fibre.

62. The trade in hides has suffered from the general stagnation of industries and the penkeepers have lost in the sale of their cattle to butchers through the reduced value obtainable for the hides. Goat skins, however, have kept up very well, and an export value of £21,000 for goat skins was recorded for the year

63. Cigars show a decrease of 30 per cent in quantity and a reduction of £40,000 in value over the exports of the previous year. The Tobacco industry is suffering seriously from unfavourable conditions and a considerable reduction in the area planted in tobacco has recently taken place.

64. The Government Stud Farm at Grove Place was opened to the public in April, and has achieved a remarkable success. All the stud animals have been established without loss and have each worked

satisfactorily and been retained in first class condition. The record shows that 480 cows were sent to the bulls by the public, of which 443 were actually served during the year, and that the revenue from Stud Fees was £414, as against the budget estimate of £200.

Favourable reports have been received of the progeny of these imported Sires, and it is clear that the Farm will soon produce appreciable results in improving stock all over the island.

The co-operative importation of 46 Zebu Cattle from India was at length completed in March, 1922.

The results of this enterprise are as follows:—

Gugerats	6 Bulls
Hissars	16 Bulls
Montgomerys	2 Bulls
Nellores	12 Bulls
Nellores	6 Heifers
Mysores (Amrit Mahal)	9 Bulls

65. An order was issued in December making it compulsory for all owners of 100 head of stock to construct a dipping tank before the 1st May, 1922. This has now been mod fied so as to allow of an extension of time to the 1st August. There are 74 dipping tanks now registered with the Department which use the Departmental dip of Faranaph and Arsenite of Soda. This Service saved the planters over £1,000 for the supply of dipping material during the year and it is now clear that as soon as all the new dipping tanks required by the Order are completed the Laboratory will be saving the public over £5,000 per annum by supplying a cheap and effective dip which replaces the proprietary article at about one-third the cost of the latter.

66. The experimental plant for the manufacture of condensed milk was erected during the year. This is capable of making 25 tins in a batch, and will enable a reliable test of the possibility of making condensed milk in Jamaica to be carried out.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

67. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,411,580 acres have been alienated, leaving 280,900 neither alienated nor in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

68. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, inter alia, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e. to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards and ten acres for every other male or female, etc., etc."

The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation

of Coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

69. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of Sugar caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

70. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of it has been restored to its rightful owners, some has been sold, and some still remains in possession of the Government.

71. During the year 1899 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government land for every mile of Rail oad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,500.

72. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passage to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

73. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugruated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st Decr., 1921, 47,465 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 31 acres to one purchaser for £151. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

74. There is a large number of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12/ to 16/ per nominal acre per annum.

75. While the value of private property has greatly increased during the past three years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of War, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

76. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S. on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1869; and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D .M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

77. There is no Forestry Department in this Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

78. The history of forest denudaton may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yam

was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "It is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 34 years ago.

79. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King "ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the "gold smelteries" and in 1521 the Spanish Sovereign announced that "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold "smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601 Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountain) there was "a large amount of gold."

80. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acuna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica.

The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

81. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts were, so far as is known, directed towards, prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

82. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross copper mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817 the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s 3d. per ton.

83. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite" were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers who had resided on the property for many years.

84. The geological formations of Jamaica being in many respects similar to those of Cuba, where iron and copper mines have long been successfully worked, there is some reason for entertaining the hope that

scientific research may result in the discovery of valuable deposits in this Island.

Fishing.

85. The condition of the Fishing Industry has not improved since the date of the last report, and it is difficult to account for the reason, in view of the fact that the price of fresh fish has increased considerably and also that the supply is not equal to the demand. The retail price for the better varieties of fresh fish during the year was 1/3d. per lb., which is a record not even equalled during war time, and one would naturally have expected that this, in itself, would have been sufficient reason for attracting more intelligent interest in this lucrative undertaking.

The fishing, however, is till being pursued on primitive lines, by a class of persons who do not display much business enterprise, the result being a short supply and high prices. In the meantime, the money expended for the importation of salted fish, the greater portion of which could and should be circulated in the colony, continues to find its way abroad to the extent of £440,460 in 1920, which does not include the value of cured salmon.

It is hoped that the possibilities of fishing as a fixed industry will soon be realized and that it will be properly financed and controlled. It is a matter for regret that the wealth in the sea, which is so accessible, is not better utilized for the benefit of the Island generally.

Sharkfishing is still being carried on, apparently with success, by the American Company at Port Antonio.

Manufactures.

86. The principal items of our manufactures are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars and Cigarettes, Aerated Waters, Ice and Leather.

87. *Sugar*—Previous to the war the bounty fed sugar had cripplied our industry so that we find in 1914 an output of only 20,820 hogsheads, while in 1921 there was an output of 32,384 hogsheads with a tendency to a still further increase. The general trend is towards centralization, resulting in large Central Factories with the most modern machinery being established in many localities and many of the smaller Estates dismantling their machinery and becoming Cane Farms to feed the Centrals. The largest of these Centrals already established is the Bernard Lodge Central in St. Catherine.

88. *Rum*—This valuable by-product of the Sugar Industry made rapid strides from the outbreak of war to 1919 as the following figures show. Output in 1914, 13,788 puncheons; output in 1919, 18,415 puncheons; but owing to the desire to manufacture as much sugar as possible the output in 1920 fell to 14,439 puncheons, and a fall in price caused a further decrease in 1921 to 11,978 puncheons.

89. *Copra*—This industry has only been developed in the past few years. It is one which is largely dependent on the market value of the coconut. If the price is high in the market of the United States of America, it pays better to ship the nuts than to make Copra, certainly the large nuts, and then the small nuts are made into Copra.

90. *Banana Figs*—This is an industry in its infancy, but considerable improvement developed in 1919 and several Factories bave been established.

91. *Orange Oil*—This industry is proving of great value and is a means of getting Revenue from the Oranges which formerly went to waste.

92. *Cigars and Cigarettes*—This is an important industry which has been greatly developed in recent years as the exports of these items indicate.

93. *Ice and Aerated Waters*—May be regarded as manufactures for local consumption chiefly.

94. *Leather*—There are tanneries at various centres in the Island and sole and harness leather form an item of our exports. Latterly the finer grades of leather have been manufactured to a small extent.

Water Power.

95 There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the West India Electric Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

96. The desirability of utilizing the water power from some of the rivers for the development of Electric energy has been under consideration and an investigation of many of the rivers in the island has recently been made with this object in view, but no definite schemes have yet materialized.

It is proposed to introduce legislation to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

97. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of dam and reservoir has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St.Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

98. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Jamaica Head Offices are all in Kingston.

99. The Colonial Bank was established and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836.

Subscribed Capital	:	..	£3,000,000
Paid up Capital	..	..	900,000
Reserve Fund	..	..	400,000

Head Office—29 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

This Bank has sub-branches at the following towns of the Island:—

Annotto Bay	Montego Bay
Falmouth	Morant Bay
Black River	Port Antonio
Lucea	Port Maria
May Pen	Port Morant
Savanna-la-Mar	St. Ann's Bay

The Colonial Bank also has Branches in most of the other West Indian Islands, in British Guiana, and on the West Coast of Africa.

100. The Bank of Nova Scotia was incorporated in 1832, and holds its Charter under the Canadian Banking Act. The number of branches in Jamaica is 11; they are established at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, Spanish Town, and Brown's Town. The amount of notes outstanding increased from £96,814 at the end of the March quarter, 1914, to £211,706 at the end of December quarter, 1919, following the increased demand for circulating media in the Colony. The notes outstanding at this date (July 31st) 1922, have been reduced to £66,712. The issue of this Bank's notes is governed by the Canadian Bank Act and the amendments thereto. The notes of any Canadian Chartered Bank are a first charge on all the assets of all the Canadian Chartered Banks. A Canadian Bank may issue notes up to the amount of its paid up capital. Notes issued in excess of this figure are secured by gold deposited with the Canadian government in a Central Gold Reserve.

On June 30, 1922, the Bank's paid up Capital was	$9,700,000
Reserve Fund	$19,000,000
Total Assets	$219,642,994

101. The Royal Bank of Canada (incorporated in 1869) began business in Jamaica in 1911.

Capital authorized	$25,000,000
Capital paid up	$20,400,000
Reserve Funds	$20,400,000

This Bank has sub-branches at Cross Roads, Montego Bay, Spanish Town.

The average circulation at the end of March quarter, 1918, was £27,127, and at the end of July, 1922, £83,200.

102. The Canadian Bank of Commerce (Incorporated in 1867) whose Head Office is in Toronto, Canada, opened a branch in Kingston on 1st Nov., 1920.

Paid up Capital	£3,082,191
Reserve	3,082,191

103. The Government Savings Bank was started in 1870. On the Commercial Banks entering the field, starting Savings Branches, and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities, the deposits in the Government Savings Bank declined. By Law 7 of 1917, the management was entrusted to a Board. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council on the 4th February, 1919. The renewed activities of the Bank may be said to date from the beginning of 1919, in which year the deposits increased by 71%., and during 1920 by 34%. The deposits on 31st Dec., 1921 amounted to £533,960. The policy of the Board is that the savings of the people should be used to develop the Island. The telegraphic address "Our Bank, Kingston," sufficiently indicates the lines followed to obtain the support of the public. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Bank may be invested (1) In British and Colonial securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Funds for financing land settlement schemes, whereby Loan Banks are enabled to buy large properties, cut them up, and sell the lots to small settlers, have been provided by the Bank. Funds for making loans to Loan Banks to be lent to members for developing their holdings, have also been provided. There are 54 Branches and Postal Agencies

throughout the Island, 19 of the latter having been opened in 1920. Stamp Savings Cards have induced many children and adults to open accounts. Savings Certificates are issued for 16/6, maturing to £1 in five years. Postage and registration to the Bank are free; and no revenue stamp is required on receipts. The same rate of interest as that given by the Commercial Banks, viz. 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly, is allowed on deposits.

104. There are 46 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902.) The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note-of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

105. The following figures, referring to the 33 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Loans made on which balances amounting to £24,576 12s 6d were outstanding on 31.12.21	£103,456 1 4

106. The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1921 a sum of nearly £29,000 share capital. It is evident, therefore, that they have come to stay; and it is expected that the more ambitious of them will extend their sphere of usefulness. The Legislative Council voted a sum of £50,000 for the purpose of making loans to the Banks for the purchase of properties for resale in lots to small settlers. In 1920, £38,734 was advanced to 4 Banks under this head; and this has increased to £47,724 to 6 banks. This scheme was hailed with delight; and promises to be successful.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

107 A brief summary is given below of those Laws passed during the year 1921 which might be of general interest.

(1) Law 2 of 1921—The expiring Laws Continuance Law 1921, continues certain temporary duties.

(2) Law 4 of 1921—The War Expenses (Jamaica Contribution) Law. 1921, provides for the payment to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury of the sum of sixty thousand pounds a year for forty years as a contribution from this Island in reduction of the United Kingdom's War Debt.

(3) Law 10 of 1921—The Sugar Industry Aid Loans Law, 1921, for affording temporary aid for the preservation of the Sugar Industry of the Island.

(4) Law 12 of 1921—The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law, 1921. A Law to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorised to be raised by the Government of Jamaica and to provide for the creation of Inscribed Stock.

(5) Law 16 of 1921—The Judicature Law 1919 Amendment Law, 1921.

(6) Law 17 of 1921—The Insurance Fund Law 1921 provides for the creation and application of a fund to be called the Insurance Fund which shall be available to provide for extraordinary expenditure rendered necessary by the occurrence of any public calamity in this Island.

(7) Law 18 of 1921—The Indictments Law 1921, amends the Law relating to Indictments in criminal cases and matters incidental or similar thereto.

(8) Law 21 of 1921—The Income Tax Amendment Law, 1921.

(9) Law 22 of 1921—The Jamaica Government Railway and Miscellaneous Works Loan Law, 1921. A Law to make provision for certain capital works necessary for the working of the Jamaica Government Railway and also to make provision for certain public works and for raising a loan for the purpose.

(10) Law 23 of 1921—The Import Duties (Military Allowances) Law, 1921 provides an allowance for Military Officers, non-commissioned officers and men in lieu of exemption from certain import duties.

(11) Law 24 of 1921—The Deceased Wife's sister Marriage Law Amendment Law, 1921. A Law to remove doubts as to the validity of marriages contracted between a man and his deceased brother's wife.

(12) Law 25 of 1921—The Fruit Inspection Law, 1921—provides, for the inspection of fruit intended for exportation and also to prevent the exportation of immature and unfit fruit.

(13.) Law 27 of 1921—The Statute Law (Revised Edition) Law, 1921, makes provision for the preparation and publication of a new and revised edition of the Laws of the Island.

(14) Law 28 of 1921—The Local Clearing Office (Austria & Bulgaria) Law 1921. A Law to establish the existing Local Clearing Office as the Local Clearing Office for the settlement of Austrian debts and to appoint an Administrator for the settlement of Bulgarian debts.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

108. During the early part of the year the attendance at many schools appears to have been affected by the epidemics of Alastrim and Measles, though no schools were reported as closed in consequence. The average attendance for the year shows an increase of over 1,500 and the number on registers of over 7,000, the numbers being 61,447 and 99,956 as compared with 59,930 and 92,176 in 1920.

109. The staff of Inspectors was still incomplete at the end of the year, but the number of Assistant Inspectors was completed by four new appointments.

110. A revision of the new system of classification and grading of schools and teachers, the number of grades being reduced from eight to five, received Legislative sanction in July with effect as from 1st January. The consequent necessity for more regular supervision is yet not fully appreciated by many of the Managers and many Teachers appear to have not yet realized that Garden or Nature Study work and Friday Sessions are essential parts of the new system.

111. The Departmental expenditure on Education was £143,455 as compared with £123,053 during the previous year.

Secondary.

112. The Government grants-in-aid have enabled the Secondary Schools to increase their staffs and to offer better salaries. Some of them have raised their fees to enable them to go further in this direction.

113. The question of making adequate provision for pensions is still under consideration and a Pension Bill has been drafted.

114. The available accommodation in the Secondary Schools is inadequate. There are waiting lists in many Schools, even though some of these are already over-crowded and districts at long distances from any School feel the need of further provision for boys and girls whose parents cannot afford boarding fees. The subject is being carefully studied, regard being had to the needs of the whole Island rather than to particular cases.

Technical.

115. The Government Technical and Continuation School, Kingston continued its normal courses of instruction throughout the year and a more advanced course of instruction in Woodwork for Teachers was in progress during the Christmas holidays.

116. The Manual Training (woodwork) centres attached to Elementary Schools in some of the chief towns were all in operation throughout the year, most of them doing useful work.

Industrial.

117. The Industrial Schools continued their usual good work, the boys getting useful training in Agriculture, Carpentry and Joinery, Tailoring, etc., and the girls in Domestic work. The enlargement of the Broughton Home in Manchester was completed and the new Industrial School for Boys near Montego Bay was ready for immates before the close of the year, whilst satisfactory progress was made in providing buildings for the new Girls' Home at Carron Hall in St. Mary.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

118. The rainfall for the year 1921 was 83.74 inches, a little above the average 76.46 inches. Excessive rains fell in January and May. The rainfall was above the average during the first part of the year and below during the latter part.

Temperature.

119. In Kingston the mean temperature for the year was the average viz: 78.06. The highest maximum was 92.8 degrees in September, and the lowest minimum 65.5 degrees in March.

Weather Disturbances.

120. There was a hurricane to the east of Jamaica in September but it travelled northward over Haiti, and though the barometers at the East end fell the weather was not affected. Another disturbance developed to the south-west in October, but moved north-westerly on to Cuba.

Hailstorms.

121. There were falls of hail at Santa Cruz on the 5th and 26th of September.

Earthquakes.

122. There were seven shocks of earthquake recorded during the latter half of the year; none, however, were of any great intensity. The shock in November was heavier than any that occurred for some time but fortunately no damage was done.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

123. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main branches:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two minor branches running into the interior of the Island, viz:, from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Branch; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main branch, Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track at present is 200 miles. The guage is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

124. The Revenue for the year ended 31st Dec., 1921, was £356,839 and the expenditure £384,594, no provision is made for depreciation.

125. The total goods carried during the year were 221,861 tons, as compared with 199,389 for the year ended 31st December, 1914; the number of passengers carried increased from 590,050 in 1914, to 639,638 in 1921.

126. During the current year the follwing Rolling Stock, part of that which had been ordered during 1920, was erected and put into service, viz:

28 Covered wagons and 1 new passenger coach.

127. A survey of the extension of the Railway from Chapelton to Frankfield, a distance of 10 miles, was carried out, and the extension of the line has now been sanctioned. This extension will traverse a settled area, and it will form a part of the eventual line to Cascade, or beyond, a distance of 23 miles from the present terminus at Chapelton. There will be two or three Sidings between Chapelton and Frankfield, to meet local requirements in the handling of Sugar Canes, Bananas, Ground provisions, and Passenger Traffic.

Reconnaissances of the proposed extensions from Chapelton to Falmouth and Montego Bay and from Highgate to Gayle, have also been made.

128. Trials were carried out during the year under review with the set of Oil Fuel fittings referred to in paragraph 128 of last Annual General Report. Successful results were obtained on Passenger Train work but some difficulty was found in hauling maximum loads in the Hill Section; the latter difficulty was being overcome when the trials had to be suspended owing to the comparatively high price of Fuel Oil.

129. So as to meet the growing demands of the public it will be necessary in the near future to carry out a large programme of new works, chargeable to Capital Account, and it is hoped that provision will be made for this during the coming year by raising a loan.

130. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

Shipping.

131. In 1921, 1,339 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,753,242 tons entered and 1,271 of 1,719,496 tons cleared. During the year 1920, 1,307 vessels, steam and, sail of 1,778,256 tons entered at Ports in the Colony and 1,285 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,755,532 tons cleared at Ports in the Colony.

132. The following are the figures for the past seven years:—

1915	Entered	914—1,251,722 tons
1916	"	977—1,230,803 tons
1917	"	901—1,045,443 tons
1918	"	772—593,328 tons
1919	"	1,152—1,046,961 tons
1920	"	1,307—1,778,256 tons
1921	"	1,339—1,753,262 tons
1915	"	931—1,304,687 tons
1916	Cleared	948—1,208,775 tons
1917	"	874—1,019,490 tons
1918	"	746—583,697 tons
1919	"	1,148—1,037,981 tons
1920	"	1,285—1,755,532 tons
1921	"	1,271—1,719,496 tons

133. The following well-established Steamship Lines are now serving the Colony, viz: The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, Canadian Government Mercantile Marine; these are British Companies.

United Fruit Company, Atlantic Fruit Company, Clyde Steamship Company, Caribbean Steamship Company, Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company, and Windward Island Line; these are U.S.A. Companies.

The Royal Dutch West India Mail; a Dutch Company.

134. It will be interesting to observe that there were in 1913 the following nine Steamship Lines engaged in business with this Colony.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, British Companies, Hamburg-American Line, Atlas Service and Hamburg-American Line, (European Service); German Companies; United Fruit Company, Atlantic Fruit Company, U.S.A. Companies.

135. In 1921 there were, as enumerated above, thirteen Steamship Lines—an increase of 4 Lines, made up of two British and two Foreign.

136. A word may be said on the subject of ship-building activities in a small way. The following are the figures:—

Ships Built.

1913	..	..	1—21 tons
1914	..	..	1—62 tons
1915	..	..	1—33 tons
1916	..	..	3—110 tons
1917	..	..	Nil
1918	..	..	2—64 tons
1919	..	..	2—355 tons
1920	..	..	2—88 tons
1921	..	..	1—66 tons.

Roads.

137. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,242 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads amounting to 4,341 miles of which 1,301 miles are suitable for motor traffic and 3,040 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter class of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

138. During the Calendar Year 1921 the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £105 per mile, an increase of 59% over the average cost for the previous year—due chiefly to heavier maintenance necessitated by the increase in mechinical transport.

139. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone, without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic, but this type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present-day.

It is proposed to introduce legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen. The existing roads will be gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety.

Canals.

140. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

141. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

142. In the parish of Clarendon an irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate the various Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone, and Aerial Services.

143. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 Offices. At the close of the Calendar year 1921, there were 951 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 62 and 64 Telegraph and Telephone Offices, respectively. Further extensions of lines and the opening of new offices have been authorised for the current year.

144. The charge at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words, and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

145. In 1911 the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to ninepence for the first twelve words or under, and half-penny for each additional word, inc'uding the address at which it still remains.

146. The Railway Telegraphs, in connection with which there are 38 Offices, assist considerably towards placing communication within the reach of all. These Offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph system, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

The public avail themselves increasingly of this public utility as is evidenced by the following comparisons.

147. During the year 1909-10, with approximtely, 100 Offices, 112,515 messages were signalled and in 1919-20, the number of messages had increased to 299,879, which was further increased to 341,876, during the Calendar Year 1921. The receipts in 1914-15 totalled £8,255, in 1919-20 £15,020; while during the Calendar year 1921, £18,188, was collected.

148. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island, one of which is situated at Christiana, and is owned and controlled by the Royal Navy. This Station does not communicate with Merchant Shipping but handles traffic for Trans-Atlantic points, and North America, also for British Guiana.**

The other Wireless Station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd. under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600 metre wave. The Company proposes to put down a more powerful installation, which, when completed, will give a greater radius of communication than obtains at present.

149. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

150. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd. and the West India & Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

151. The cable of the first named Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S. at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines Eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines Inland and Westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britian and Australia, and with the Marc ni Company's Trans-Atlantic Service.

152. The West India & Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd. maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of Cables to Cuba, where

**Ceased to operate as from 31st May, 1922.

they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Company who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a net work of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

153. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

154. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica	8s.	Edward Stanford, 12, 13 & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1920	1s.	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise.	1s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture.	1s.	do do
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1911	2/6	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Itinerary of the Main Roads of the Island of Jamaica, 1908.	2s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica	1s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Education Code	1s.	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1902.	6d.	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Supplement to Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1908	3d.	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.

H. BRYAN,

Officer Administering the Government.

19th October, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1107	Ashanti	1920
1108	Hongkong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlement	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

(8466) Wt.24154/1284 625 1/23 Harrow G.75/2

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1147.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1104.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; and 23 Forth Street,
Edinburgh.

1923.

Price 9d. Net.

No. 1147.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1921.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Owing to their geographical position—at the extreme south-east end of the Bahamas Archipelago, and to the absence of direct communication with the Mother Country, less is known about this Dependency than most other West Indian Colonies; while the absence of any literature dealing with its early history, except such as may be gleaned from official papers and records, renders it difficult for anyone in quest of information concerning these interesting, but little known, islands to ascertain exactly from what source to obtain it.

As nothing could supersede the value of the reports† of Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O. (Commissioner of the Dependency during the years 1906–14), concerning the Salt and Sisal Industries of these islands (in which is included everything that is reliable concerning the early history of the Dependency), it is not considered necessary to repeat what has been so lucidly described by this gentleman; but, on the other hand, it is proposed to quote freely from the information supplied by Mr. Watkins whenever it is necessary to do so.

SITUATION AND AREA.

The Dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to Mr. Watkins, belongs geographically (and ecclesiastically) to the Bahamas; officially to Jamaica; and socially to Bermuda. They lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° 50′ and 72° 50′ W. longitude, and are therefore just on the edge of the Tropics. They really consist of two distinct groups, the Turks Islands proper and the Caicos Islands. The two groups are separated by a channel, 21 miles in width—the Turks Island passage, or Le débouquement des Isles Turques, of the old French cartographists. The entire area is stated officially to be 166 square miles, but as no survey of the group has ever been made, these figures are probably below the mark. The islands are

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; Cd. 7622–37].

† Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous Nos. 43 and 56.

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distant about 720 miles from Bermuda on the north, about 450 miles from Jamaica on the south-west, and about the same distance from Nassau, Bahamas, on the north-west.

As the Dependency of the Turks and Caicos Islands really consists of two distinct groups, it will be convenient to review the character of each group separately. The Turks Islands group proper consists of two inhabited cays, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited cays, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank surrounds the group and offers serious dangers to navigation. This bank has been the scene of frequent shipwrecks for many years. The islands derive their name from the Turks Head Cactus (*Melocactus communis*), found abundantly on the rocky shores, the scarlet head of which is supposed to represent a Turkish fez.

On the western side of the Turks Island passage lie the Caicos Islands. These surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular expanse of shallow white water, 58 miles long on its northern side, and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow channels, in most cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. There can be no doubt that the bank will, in course of time, become a large island, since its " interior is already represented by a low salty plain only a few feet below sea-level." (De Booy.)

The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos. The group of islands forming the Dependency extends for a distance 75 miles from east to west, and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks, extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad bank, lying north of the east end of Haiti. The banks and islands forming this archipelago rest on a vast submarine platform, those portions above sea-level representing the last that have risen above the surface. Beyond the Turks and Caicos Islands to the south-east lie three of these banks. Two of them, Mouchoir (the handkerchief) and Silver Bank, are in some places awash, while the third, the Navidad Bank, is entirely submerged. Although accurate data is not available to prove that these banks are being gradually uplifted, the fact that the Caicos Islands bank, and other banks in the Bahamas, are constantly building up, " warrants the conjecture that the same tidal and geological conditions govern them all, and that in course of time three additional island groups will come into being." (De Booy, *Geographical Review*, Vol. No. 1.)

HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands, together with the Bahamas, were probably discovered by Columbus in the year 1492.

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The archæological researches of De Booy demonstrate that the Turks Islands proper—that is, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, with their adjacent islets—were uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil, the scanty rainfall, and other difficulties in the way of agriculture which obtain in the easternmost group of islands.

The Turks and Caicos Islands would appear to owe their existence as a British Colony entirely to the Salt Ponds that are found at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos, as from the time of their discovery up to the year 1678 they remained unclaimed and uncolonised by any nation. In that year a party of Bermudians, attracted by the advantages to be derived by establishing a salt industry to supply the demands of the fisheries in the New England States, came to the Turks Islands, and inaugurated the first systematic attempt at salt raking. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to Turks Islands to rake salt. "They returned to Bermuda about November, where they remained until February or March, because salt could not be raked at that time of the year; and other industries were out of the question on islands composed of little more than burning sands and barren rocks. The salt industry, in the absence of the present flourishing vegetable export trade of Bermuda with the United States, afforded the Bermudians with little capital the staple so necessary for maintaining their carrying trade, and allowed sufficient time in each year for the cultivation of vegetables (at Bermuda) for their own consumption." (Watkins.)

The conditions of life under which the industry was pursued, and the circumstances of their existence, are graphically portrayed in the Annual Register of 1764, which, in alluding to the recent invasion of Grand Turk by the French, states, "These islands are many in number, most of them being low, sandy, and barren, with very little, if any, fresh water, without any vegetation except lizards, iguanas, and land-crabs, but the coast abounds with fish and turtle and the beach is covered with sea-fowl. . . ."

"The business of salt raking is chiefly carried on by Bermudians who come here in the month of March and continue during the dry season, leading a life that the idea of liberty only can render preferable to slavery itself. They live in little huts . . . they have a knife in their pockets and a kettle in their kitchens; their wardrobe consists of nothing but a straw hat, a check shirt, and a pair of oznaburg trousers; their food is salt pork, and now and then an iguana (a sort of large lizard), when they have time to catch them, and very often they are without bread; yet in this way of life they enjoy health, nor do they ever differ about property or religion, for they have neither priest, lawyer, or physician among them. The New Englanders come here with sloops and schooners in great numbers to load salt for their fisheries; they buy it from 4d. to 6d. sterling the bushel, and they pay the poor Bermudians a small part in money, the

rest in stinking rum, rotten pork, and musty biscuits, now and then throwing them a cask of sour water into the bargain."

Those wishing to follow in detail the varying fortunes of the salt industry in these islands are referred to the report by Mr. Watkins already mentioned.

It need only be stated here that, while the Turks Islands proper (Grand Turk and Salt Cay) were from the first used solely for the exploitation of salt, the Caicos group owed their settlement to the American War of Independence and to the agricultural establishment of loyalist refugees to whom lands were granted after the loss of their holdings in Georgia and the other Southern States. These refugees, together with their slaves, devoted their energies almost exclusively to the raising of cotton. The loyalist settlers have long since disappeared, but the remains of their substantial stone houses and the roads which they traced out remain to this day. Successive hurricanes, together with the havoc wrought among the cotton plants by destructive insects, put an end to the prosperity of the planters, and caused all systematic agriculture to be abolished during the early part of the nineteenth century.

Shortly after this, in the year 1838, we learn that the salt ponds at Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos) were brought under cultivation. These ponds, under careful management, have now developed to such an extent as completely to overshadow all other salt-producing settlements of the Dependency.

From the year 1799 to the year 1848 the Turks and Caicos Islands were incorporated with the Bahamas Government.

In 1848, at the earnest request of the inhabitants, they were separated from the Bahamas and placed under the supervision of the Government of Jamaica, where they still remain. The first President (since changed to that of Commissioner) of the Dependency under the new arrangement was Captain Forth, and under his capable administration, we are told by Mr. Watkins, vigorous efforts were made to develop and extend the salt industry of the Caicos Islands.

Constitution.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board, comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica, which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks Islands, take effect there. The subjects of currency, bills of exchange, patents, and the custody of prisoners and lunatics have been so dealt with.

Climate and Meteorology.

The climate is equable and healthy and rarely unpleasantly hot, owing to the strong and never-failing sea breezes which

sweep across the islands. The average temperatures taken from the records of five years disclose a maximum of 90° and a minimum of 61·5°.

July to October are the hottest months of the year and of nearly equal temperature.

January, February, and March are the coldest months and of nearly equal temperature.

As the Turks and Caicos Islands lie within the Tropics, atmospheric pressure acts upon the same principle as is observed in other places similarly situated ; that is to say, there is a regular rise and fall of about one-tenth of an inch every six hours, except in case of a hurricane, when a considerably increased falling of the mercury results.

Generally, however, it may be said that the mean height of the barometer, from daily readings taken from the Grand Turk Weather Bureau Station—11 ft. above sea-level—is almost exactly 30 inches. As a general rule, the barometer rises for northerly and falls for southerly winds.

Lying within the Tropics, the Turks and Caicos Islands are within the influence of the trade winds, but in the winter months, *i.e.*, from about the end of November to the end of March, the trade wind is frequently interrupted by north-east and north winds. Indeed, in December and January this change may be expected almost weekly.

Previous to the change, the wind will draw round to the south and south-east. About 24 hours after, or less, dark masses of cloud will be seen rising from the westward, and in a short time the wind will rush suddenly from that quarter with the force of a stiff breeze. It soon veers round to the north-east and north, with clear weather, and remains within these points sometimes two or three days. It will then veer gradually to the north-east and wear itself out east, in the course of a few days. (*West Indian Pilot*, Vol. II.)

The barometer is scarcely any guide at such times, but so regular and so certain is the action of the wind, that vessels can seek shelter with easy confidence in the change that will follow.

The rainfall for the year 1921 is recorded as being 26·40 inches. The Turks and Caicos Islands share in the delightful winter climate of the Bahama Islands and in the attractiveness of the sea water round their shores. Few people who visit these islands but are charmed by the wonderful sea bathing and express the desire to return, a wish, however, which will never materialize until hotels or hostelries of some kind, with an adequate and suitable food supply, are provided for their accommodation.

It goes without saying in such low-lying coral islands, with a scanty rainfall, constantly swept by sea breezes, and where no freshwater swamps are found, that malaria, that is, as it is known in other islands of the West Indies, does not exist. The few cases which occur from time to time, chiefly in the island

of North Caicos, and the origin of which can usually be traced to the neighbouring republic of Haiti, are of the mildest description.

This is conclusively proved by the small death-rate in these islands from diseases of this character.

There are no freshwater ponds in these islands, and the inhabitants in the Settlements at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour depend entirely on rainwater tanks with which most houses are provided. Scattered throughout the Caicos Islands are wells of more or less brackish water, in most cases potable to those accustomed for generations to water of this character.

GRAND TURK.

Grand Turk, formerly known as Grand Cay, is situated on the eastern boundary edge of the Turks Island passage. In shape it is said to resemble the blade of a butter knife, and it contains an area of 10 square miles, with a population of 1,581 souls, of whom about three-fourths are of African descent. Grand Turk is the seat of government, and it is here that the Commissioner of the Dependency resides. The only settlement at Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, situated on the western side of the island, and it contains the entire population.

There is no harbour, and vessels are obliged to lie in an open roadstead at some distance from the shore. In stormy weather, with the wind from the north-west, such an exposed anchorage presents grave danger to shipping, and during a "norther" the loading and unloading of cargo become impossible. At such times vessels engaged in work of this character have no alternative but to seek safety in the open sea. The greatest elevation at Grand Turk is about 70 feet above sea-level, and the scanty vegetation is typical of the flora of the adjacent Bahama Islands. Here and there one finds stunted specimens of such hardy trees as corkwood (*Thespesia populuca*), tamarind, cordia (*Cordea sebestena*), and casuarinas; but, for the most part, the island is covered with a low scrubby vegetation, in which plants of the cactus and euphorbia families largely predominate.

At Grand Turk there is a lighthouse, erected on a bluff at the north point of the island. It exhibits, at an elevation of 108 feet above sea-level, a white flash-light every half-minute. This light can be seen for a distance of 15 miles in clear weather.

The "Victoria Jubilee Library and Free Reading Room" ministers adequately to the tastes of the reading public, and, as its name implies, is an institution commemorative of the year 1887, the Jubilee year of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

Grand Turk is fairly well supplied with churches, for such a small population, there being two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist places of worship. Baptists are in the majority among the lower classes, but the attendance at the churches of all the denominations is exceedingly poor.

At Grand Turk is located, beside the usual public offices, the Council Chamber, the Court House, the Hospital, and the Gaol.

A telephone system, inaugurated in 1915, gives connection between the various stores and residences of the island, and a wireless telephone installation, now in course of erection, will shortly connect the seat of government with the district Treasuries at Salt Cay and South Caicos, eight and twenty-one miles away respectively.

The "Manning Hospital," affording accommodation for six patients in the public wards and two in the private wards, was opened in October, 1918. This institution possesses a well-equipped operating theatre, and is up to date in other respects. The hospital, which ministered to the wants of no less than 65 patients in the year 1919, is fulfilling a most useful purpose in relieving the needs of suffering humanity.

The only industry at Grand Turk is the production and manufacture of salt, and although there are several localities on the island where cotton could successfully be grown no attempt at systematic cultivation has ever been attempted. Owing to a scarcity of labour, it is unlikely that agriculture of any kind will ever make much headway in Grand Turk.

The salt of the Turks Islands is of exceptional purity, and is therefore greatly in demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. On account of its good name, a considerable quantity of the salt imported from other places is sold in the northern markets under the name of Turks Island salt.

The various stages in the process of salt manufacture have been so very carefully and fully described by Mr. Watkins in his report already referred to that it is unnecessary in a general report of this nature to do more than give a broad outline of the industry.

The salt ponds, or salinas, vary in size, and are anywhere from five to 25 acres in extent, but the "making pans"—that is, the pans where final evaporation takes place—are usually from one-half to one acre in size.

The method of making salt from sea-water by solar evaporation (the method pursued in the Turks Island) is simple in the extreme, and may be thus briefly described: sea-water, having a density of 10, is let in through sluices or canals into the common or storage reservoirs, situated at or slightly below sea-level. Here it remains until it reaches 30 by the salinometer. From the common reservoir it is run off into what may be described as the Number 1 pond, a shallow pan, which may be anywhere from five to 15 acres in extent. There it remains until the salinometer indicates 60. In the main pond a great many impurities of the sea-water, such as vegetable matter, magnesia, and lime, are precipitated, and the water now assumes a saffron hue. At this stage the "pickle," as it is now called, has been reduced in quantity by evaporation to about one-half of the original volume of sea-water.

From the main pond the "pickle" is next passed into pond Number 2, or "strong pond." Here it remains for about 20 days, until, by further evaporation, its strength has been reduced to 90. The water is now pink in colour, and only about one-sixth of the original volume of sea-water. Being by this time freed of the lime it contained, the pure brine is next passed into the "making pans," where, after about 10 to 15 days' further evaporation, the salt commences to granulate on the sides and bottoms of the pond. After two weeks more, according to the weather, the salt is ready to be gathered, or raked, as it is called. Wooden rakes are used for the purpose, and by means of these and scuffle hoes, the salt is raked up into small heaps on the level floor of the "making pans," from whence it is carted to the "depositing ground." These are usually situated in close proximity to the shipping place, and here the salt is piled up in huge mounds awaiting shipment.

The average quantity of salt raked annually from an acre of pans varies from 3,000 to 8,000 bushels. At Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, where the pans are carefully worked, an average of 5,000 bushels per acre is the usual crop under favourable weather conditions, but at Grand Turk, where through careless management the industry is steadily declining, it is doubtful if even an average of 2,000 bushels per acre can be counted on.

The annual output of salt from the entire Dependency varies between 1½ million bushels, in poor seasons, to 2½ million bushels in good years.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, situated about eight miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Island group. In area it is about four square miles, with a population of about 300 souls. The output of salt from this island averages 450,000 bushels annually.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the extreme south-east end of the Caicos Islands, and it is the only island of the group on which the salt industry is conducted. There are about 400 acres of salt ponds (including reservoirs), and the annual output varies between 700,000 and 800,000 bushels.

East Caicos.

This island, up to the year 1919, was the centre of the sisal industry of the Dependency. In this year the East Caicos Company, who had conducted the cultivation of sisal on a large scale since 1891, were compelled for various reasons to shut down their factory and abandon the plantation. It would seem that the rocky and barren soil of this island, together with the

cost of labour, proved an effective bar to the prosecution of the sisal industry on a remunerative scale. Thus an enterprise, which afforded employment to upwards of 200 hands, has been scrapped.

Middle Caicos.

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos, or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long, with an extreme breadth of 12 miles. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with an aggregate population of 500 souls.

At or near Lorimers is the Haulover Estate, where there has been in operation since 1918 the very promising cotton cultivation of the Caicos Development Company of New York. This Company, composed mainly of Americans, has upwards of 500 acres under cultivation, and it would seem that only careful handling is necessary to ensure successful results. At Conch Bar there is situated the cotton plantations of Mrs. Robert O'Reilly (200 acres in extent), while round the settlements above mentioned there is quite a large area of this product in the hands of the peasant cultivators.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles east and west, and eight miles north by south. In comparison with the other islands of the Caicos group, North Caicos is fertile, and the remains of old sugar factories indicate that it evidently in the past was divided into large plantations.

"The inhabitants, 366 in number, probably owing to having more to do with the soil, preserve more than elsewhere in the group the traditions of 'Old Massa' and the Southern States traditions. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek; the former near the middle of the island, three miles from 'Belfield Landing,' on the southern shore, and the latter on the eastern side, on a broad and picturesque creek of that name. Near to Kew is 'Wade's Green,' the former residence of the Magistrate of the Caicos Islands. In the neighbourhood of Kew is a considerable area of good soil, and the remains of the old sugar works are still to be seen." (Watkins.) Bottle Creek, a settlement of about 300 inhabitants, is approached from the north side in light-draught boats by a narrow channel connecting the creek with the open sea. In the vicinity of this settlement are to be seen the ruins of the old estate mansions belonging to the Bellevue, Windsor, and Richmond estates. These plantations all date their origin from the time of the War of American Independence, and were granted by the British Government of that day to loyalist refugees from Georgia and other Southern States.

PARROT CAY, DELLIS CAY, AND OTHERS.

Lying to the west of Middle Caicos are several small cays, the most deserving of mention being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. At Parrot Cay, in the hands of the " Parrot Cay Cotton Company " (another American concern), there are under cultivation upwards of 250 acres of cotton ; while at Dellis Cay is situated the sponge-buying enterprise of Mr. George Dellis, a gentleman of Greek extraction.

PROVIDENCIALES OR BLUE HILLS.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles in width, and contains a population of about 900 inhabitants.

The settlements are Blue Hills about the middle of the north shore, Five Cays to the south-east, and The Bight on the northern shore, about three miles to the east end of Blue Hills.

On the southern side of Providenciales is Chalk Sound, an immense shallow-water creek, extending over an area of about nine to ten square miles. Here is situated the promising sponge-rearing and lobster-canning enterprises of Mr. George Silly (deceased). The sudden death of Mr. Silly in 1917 has caused a temporary closing down of the lobster-canning factory, but the artificial rearing of sponges is still prosecuted by Mr. C. W. Kursteiner, Mr. Silly's partner. At the time of writing there are upwards of half a million sponges under cultivation.

WEST CAICOS.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. In area it is about eight miles from north to south, with an average breadth of two miles. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, a large salt-water expanse nearly two miles long.

This island, as the name " Belle Isle " implies, is probably the most attractive of the Caicos group, and this fact probably accounts for the immense and wasteful expenditure of capital which has taken place on it during the past 60 years.

The West Caicos Company, the last of the many companies which from time to time have buried fortunes on this little island, passed out of existence in 1916. For some years prior to this, however, the island had been practically abandoned. Fine buildings, erected at great cost, had been demolished and spoliated by passing sloops ; and to-day there is the pitiable spectacle of roofless buildings and valuable machinery, representing thousands of pounds, gone to ruin amid the scrub—striking testimony to incompetent management.

The island of West Caicos is free from malaria, contains probably the finest salinas in the Dependency, and possesses the best shipping facilities of any island in the group. On the western side of West Caicos vessels can load and discharge in deep water within a cable's length of the shore. There seems every reason to anticipate therefore that, if ever this island falls into capable hands, the resources thereof can be most successfully developed.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at 31st December, 1921, was 5,612. The white population, numbering 210, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of Bermudians.

The birth-rate was 40·5 per 1,000, and the death-rate 19·5 per 1,000.

A mild outbreak of Alastrim, introduced from Santo Domingo and Haiti, occurred during the year. There were no deaths from this disease. Fifty-two marriages were recorded.

Hospitals.

The following hospital accommodation is provided :—

The Manning Emergency Hospital—Grand Turk ..	8 beds.
The Cottage Hospital—Cockburn Harbour	4 ,,

Imports and Exports.

The following figures disclose the extent of the Import and Export Trade of the Dependency during the year under review.

Customs receipts during 1921 amounted to £4,934, as compared with £4,815 in the year 1920.

The total value of imports amounted to £55,937. Of these, goods to the value of £13,755 were admitted free of duty. The Free List of Customs Tariff of the Turks and Caicos Islands is probably the most extensive in the British West Indies.

Domestic exports were valued at £33,093, as against £44,492 in 1920. The revenue and expenditure in 1921 were :—

	£
Revenue	11,733
Expenditure	11,000
Surplus Revenue	£733

The Commissioner was absent from the Dependency on official duty in Jamaica and Canada for two months (September–October) during the year. His duties were performed by Mr. L. Lea Smith, the Assistant Commissioner.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The revenue for the Dependency for the year 1921 amounted to £11,733, exceeding the estimate by £2,703.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £11,000, being £2,279 in excess of the estimate, but was £733 less than the revenue for the same period.

The balance sheet of the Dependency on the 31st December, 1921, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £12,492, or £736 more than the figure given at the close of the year 1920.

There is no direct taxation.

There is no public debt.

The current coins are British gold and silver. United States gold and silver are accepted at a discount of 1½ per cent. on their face value.

There are no banks doing business in the Dependency.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

The export trade of the Dependency as compared with the year 1920 may be summarized as follows :—

Articles.	1920.	1921.
	£	£
Salt (coarse)	21,187	10,951
,, (fishery)	17,148	17,220
Sisal	3	—
Sponges	2,027	2,093
Conchs	2,383	841
Conch Shells	1,077	—
Cotton and Cotton Seed ..	382	1,711
Tortoise Shell	263	267
Dried Fish	18	8
Miscellaneous	2,377	2,565
Totals	£46,865	£35,656

The direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the years 1920 and 1921 was as follows :—

Countries.	*Year.*	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	1920	3,610	382
British Colonies ..	,,	7,021	20,995
Foreign Countries ..	,,	49,122	25,490
Totals..		£59,753	£46,867

Countries.		*Year.*	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
			£	£
United Kingdom	..	1921	4,924	1,400
British Colonies	..	,,	5,866	19,244
Foreign Countries	..	,,	45,147	15,012
Totals..	..	..	£55,937	£35,656

SALT.

The year again closed with a firm demand from purchasers along the Atlantic sea-board of the United States and Canada, and although the selling price of salt shows a slight falling off, it may still be regarded as fairly remunerative. Weather conditions were again ideal for the manufacture of salt.

SPONGES.

At present there are three sponging establishments in the Caicos Islands. At Cockburn Harbour, Dellis Cay, and Five Cays, sponges are purchased, cured, sorted, baled, and shipped. The gathering of the sponges from the Caicos banks is carried on by more than fifty local sloops, belonging mostly to Blue Hills, each of which employs three to nine men, according to the number of boats on board. The best months for sponging are April, May, September, November, and December. After being cured, the sponges, carefully graded, are pressed in bales, averaging 50 lb. in weight, and exported. They are bought at the three stations in two strands of 15 pieces each, the total weight being 1½ to 2 lb. Although inferior to those imported from the Mediterranean, these sponges find ready sale, at remunerative prices, in the United States.

Grade.	*Local Prices per double strand.*	*Prices in New York per double strand.*
	Cents.	Cents.
Sheep's Wool	50–125	70–250
Reef (local)	20–25	75–120
Yellow and Hard Head ..	11–15	30–40
Velvet	10–12	40
Grass	10–12	20–40

CONCHS.

Owing chiefly to high charges levied on foreign craft in Haitien ports, exports in this direction, which amounted in 1919 to over 3,000,000 conchs, valued at £3,000, have now dwindled down to 857,850 conchs, valued at £841. On the conch trade with Haiti,

the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands largely depend for a livelihood, and the cessation of their principal industry has caused much suffering among the inhabitants.

COTTON.

Exports for the year amounted to 66 bales of cotton, and 56 bags of seed, valued at £1,711. But for the unusually dry season, which told heavily on the bearing trees, the output would have been much larger.

Turtle shell to the value of £267 was exported. This trade is entirely in the hands of turtling crews and sloops from the Bahamas.

The sea shells trade, which had dwindled down to £122 in 1920, has now entirely ceased, owing to the high rate of exchange between New York and these Islands.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Seven ordinances were passed during the year 1921.

The more important of these were the Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance and the Leper Ordinance. The last-mentioned provides for the transference of these unfortunates (happily few in number) to the Leper Asylum in Jamaica.

V.—EDUCATION.

The sum of £700 is placed annually at the disposal of the Board of Education for the upkeep of primary schools throughout the Dependency. There are eight Government schools maintained in this manner.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

This school, which, after the departure for Jamaica of the Reverend T. Stanley Cannon, was closed for several months, was opened in July as a Government institution, under the charge of Mr. C. Earle Crawford, B.A.(Durham). At the close of the year 36 pupils were in attendance.

VI.—METEOROLOGY.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	26·40 in.
Maximum temperature	91°
Minimum ,, ...	61·5°

VII.—SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at various ports in the Dependency during the year was 342, with a tonnage of 213,750, as compared with 379 vessels and a tonnage of 279,067 in the previous year.

The following steamship lines now maintain a regular service between the Dependency and New York :—

The Clyde and Santo Domingo Line—an American Company.
The Columbus Steamship Line " "
The Bull Insular Line Inc. " "

VIII.—COMMUNICATION.

Mail Service.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world are transmitted and received on an average four times a month by steamers of the Clyde and Columbus Lines, *via* New York.

The Dependency still suffers from the great disadvantage of being unable to send parcels to any other country than the United States, except when the opportunity offers of a sailing vessel direct to Jamaica. This happens about three or four times a year.

The telephone service inaugurated in 1918, with 28 miles of lines, continues to give satisfactory service.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, between Halifax and Bermuda and Jamaica, touches at Grand Turk, and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which a yearly subsidy of £120 is paid.

G. WHITFIELD SMITH,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
21*st August*, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page.

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
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1119	Gold Coast	1920
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1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
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1128	St. Vincent	,,
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1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1190.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1143.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1924.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of the Island of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, namely:—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston	7	St. Catherine	470	St. Elizabeth	462
St. Andrew	166	St. Mary	249	Trelawny	333
St. Thomas	274	Clarendon	474	St. James	234
Portland	285	St. Ann	476	Hanover	157
		Manchester	302	Westmoreland	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,587 acres, of which, approximately, 646 square miles or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that 2,692,587 acres is slightly larger than the total area of the six Welsh Counties:— Cardigan, Brecon, Radnor, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh. Jamaica is more mountainous than Wales, the hills being more precipitous, and the Blue Mountain Peak (7,388 feet) is rather more than double the height of Snowdon (3,571 feet). Oddly enough, the population is also double that of the six Welsh Counties.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° at the sea coast the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° on the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of atmosphere that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suitable to the most delicate constitution.

The eastern parts of the island are the highest. Through the County of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak, attaining an elevation of 7,388 feet.

From this range subordinate ridges or spurs run northerly to the northside of the island and southerly to the southside; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening gullies.

4. There are numerous rivers and streams, from which Jamaica derived its aboriginal Arawak name of Xaymaca, which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. The majority have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. There are many mineral springs in Jamaica, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body.

The two principal are, the spring at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, and the spring at Milk River in Clarendon.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours in the Island, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

7. The following are dependencies of Jamaica, viz:—The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands; also the Pedro and Morant Cays, (Guano Islands.)

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered.) The first settlement on it was effected on the shores, of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, it remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward Doyley, Governor-in-chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the bucaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who inhabited mainly the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished, in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre with unnecessary violence, and he was recalled.

In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake, which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l*. was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l* chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer. Two buildings, the General Post Office and Treasury, and the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, were completed in 1910, and the Law Courts in 1913.

Constitution.

9. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which, after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 30 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the constitution but was defeated; and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878 when they were enlarged to eight and a ninth was added in 1881.

By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) and five *ex-officio* members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Director of Public Works and Collector General, and such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to

exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

10. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886 was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island. At the last election held in 1920, the number of voters on the list was 42,267. There were five contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 3,858.

Local Administration.

11. There are elective Parochial Boards in the town of Kingston and 14 other parishes, under Laws 13 of 1900 and 17 of 1901, with jurisdiction over roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921) 62,707, Port Royal (population, 1,004), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

12. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own Parochial Institutions, viz: poor houses, etc., etc., managed by the Parochial Board of the parish, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1922 was 7,633 being a decrease of 80 as compared with last year. The present figures are below the total of 1917 and indicate that the upward tendency of pauperism during the last ten years has been broken. The several direct taxes received on property, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

13. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—General Observations.

14. The prosperity of the Colony during the year under review, as gauged by the increase in Customs Duties collected on articles imported and the value of native products exported, shows a marked improvement on the year 1921, in spite of the prolonged period of drought through which the Colony passed. As will be seen from the Sub-head "Imports and Exports," the Import Duties collected during 1922-23 amounted to £799,200, as against £660,700 in the previous year, an increase of £138,500. This increase, however, is partly due to the increased rates of duty imposed by Law 2 of 1922 on certain articles with the object of protecting native industry.

15. The value of the exports from the Island during 1922, was £4,623,700, an increase of £1,266,000 over the previous year. This appreciable increase in value is due partly to the greater volume of export of the chief staple products and partly to the increase in prices obtained for those products. By way of illustration the following increases over 1921 in the quantities exported are given:—

Bananas—2,754,700 stems.
Coconuts—6,176,500 nuts.
Sugar—476,400 cwt.

The prices obtained for certain products exported also increased considerably; *c.g.*—

Bananas from £8 to £22 per 100 stems.
Cocoa from 28s. to 39s. per cwt.
Coffee from 44s. to 66s. per cwt.
Sugar from £14 to £20 per ton.

16. It is reasonable to suppose that, had the Island as a whole not suffered from such a prolonged drought, the average precipitation being 52.38 inches, or 24 inches below the average rainfall for the past fifty years—the volume of exports would have been considerably increased.

17. The Legislative Council voted a sum of £500 for the representation, on a small scale, of this Colony at the exhibition held at Toronto, Canada, in August and September, 1922.

18. An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease among cattle unfortunately occurred in July, 1922, in the western parishes of the Island. The malady was at first diagnosed as Necrotic Stomatitis; but in September it was pronounced to be Foot and Mouth Disease.

The services of an expert were secured from the United Kingdom to take charge of the situation and to institute measures for the control and eradication of the disease. A Quarantine Area was defined and disinfecting stations were established; thanks to the energetic measures adopted; to the drought that existed and to the co-operation of stock owners, the disease has not spread beyond the western parishes. There has been only one recurrence of the disease, viz: on the 22nd February, 1923, and it is hoped, at the time of writing, that the disease has exhausted itself. It has been decided to raise the quarantine on the 1st of November, 1923, except in respect of the properties on which the last outbreak of the disease occurred, where quarantine will remain in force until the 30th November.

19. On the 11th November, 1922 "Armistice Day," a ceremony unique in the history of the Colony took place, when the Island War Memorial was unveiled in Kingston, the capital, by the Acting Governor, and dedicated by the Acting Bishop of Jamaica with ceremonial befitting such an occasion. His Majesty's Navy and Army, the Local Forces, and Jamaica Constabulary were represented.

The Memorial Cross is made from Island stone quarried, worked and erected by native craftsmen; the plinth bears the inscription:—"In Memory of the men of Jamaica who fell in the Great War."

20. It might not be out of place here to mention that during the year under review a home was established in the parish of Kingston for the housing of a limited number of ex-soldiers of the British West Indies Regiment who served during the Great War. The bronze tablet at the entrance of the home contains the following inscription: "This Home has been erected out of funds given conjointly by the "British Red Cross Society and The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem "in England."

21. From the 4th September to the 14th November, 1922, the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave from the Colony in the United Kingdom. During this period the Government was administered by Colonel, the Hon. H. Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary, while Mr. D. H. Hall, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted as Colonial Secretary.

22. Mr. C. W. Doorly, formerly Government Emigration Agent at Madras, India, was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the office of Assistant Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, rendered vacant by the appointment of Mr. R. Nosworthy as Island Treasurer. Mr. Doorly assumed duty in the Colony on the 29th November, 1922.

Emigration and Immigration.

23. The Departures in 1920 were 21,343; in 1921, 15,777; in 1922, 6,733.

The arrivals in 1920 were 23,783; in 1921, 17,463; in 1922, 6,931.

24. The marked decrease in the number of persons who emigrated during the year 1922, as compared with 1921, is attributed, in large measure, to economic conditions that existed on many sugar estates in Cuba during the former year, due to the considerable drop in the price of sugar that occurred in 1921.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

25. Matters in connection with the health and sanitation of the Island continue to receive the earnest attention of the Government.

26. The International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation are actively engaged in the treatment of Hookworm (ankylostomiasis) in the parish of St. Catherine where sanitation has been carried out prior to treatment.

It is proposed to continue the treatment of Hookworm in other parishes, and it is hoped that in time all the parishes will be made sanitary for the treatment of this disease.

By the provision and maintenance of properly constructed domestic latrine accommodation—which must tend to lessen the incidence of other diseases, as well as Hookworm—an important sanitary service will have been effected.

27. During the year the Chief Sanitary Medical Officer assumed duty, and it is anticipated that an efficient sanitary staff will be organized to cope with public health conditions requiring betterment.

28. The recrudescence of Alastrim (Kaffir Pox)—still existed in the year under review. The mortality was abnormally low, and Vaccination has proved to be a very substantial protective measure.

29. General Vaccination to a very large extent was carried out during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

30. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1922 was 885,692 which is arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1921 adding thereto the Births and Arrivals and deducting therefrom the Deaths and Departures during the year ended 31st December, 1922.

31. 3,294 marriages were registered during 1922, the rate being 3.7 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.5 for 1921. During the same period 32,816 births were registered of which 16,543 were boys and 16,273 were girls. The birth rate works out at 37.3 per 1,000 as against 34.9 during 1921.

32. 20,153 deaths were registered of which 9,898 were males and 10,255 females, the death rate being 22.9 per thousand. That for 1921 was 28.3.

During 1922, 7,493 or 37.1 of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,827 or 28.9 were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1921 were 34.2 and 24.3. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.7 as compared with 19.7 in 1921.

The principal causes of death among the inhabitants of Kingston, the Capital were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 6.7; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 10.9; Phthisis, 10.8 Enteric Fever, 7.0, Pneumonia, 5.3, Heart Disease, 6.2, Chronic Brights Disease, 4.3, Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.4.

Imports and Exports.

33. In March, 1922, the Tariff Bill passed through the Legislative Council and became Law 2 of 1922. The Law gave a preference generally speaking of 25% to the United Kingdom and Canada which was subsequently extended by Resolution under Section 26 to the Dependencies of Jamaica, viz: the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands and the following Colonies:—Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Cyprus, Fiji, Grenada, Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad. The amount of Import Duties collected during 1922-23 was £799,200, being £138,500 above that of the previous year, which was £660,700. The value of the Imports in 1922 (exclusive of Parcels Post) was £4,581,000 as against £5,473,800 in 1921, £10,313,300 in 1920 and £2,837,000 in the pre-war year 1913. The factors responsible for this further decrease in the value of Imports were the return of prices of merchandise to the normal which started in 1921 and the improvement in the rate of Exchange between Jamaica and the United States of America. On the other hand, the enormous increase in the Import Duties was due partly to increased importations of certain goods and partly to increased rates of duty being placed on certain articles with a view to protecting native industry. Seven of these latter, viz:—Ale, Beer, &c., Corn, Oats, Spirits, Sugar and Tobacco (Cigarettes) contributed more than half of the increase viz: £71,600. Of the former the following increases in quantity are worthy of notice:—

	Lbs.	
Butter and substitutes ..	160,400	increase
Cheese	99,000	"
Fish, Dried salted	2,790,500	"
Flour, Wheaten	31,720	"
Rice	5,792,500	"
Salt	1,807,200	"
Soap	3,155,700	"

Advalorem Goods were responsible for £45,000 of the increase which was for the most part due to increased importations. This would have been lessened had the rate of exchange returned to the normal and had there been more shifting of trade from General to Preferential Countries.

34. The amount of duties collected for Harbour and Light Dues was £4,147 as against £6,846 for 1921; but this represents the collections for 3½ months only as Law 13 of 1922 made Jamaican Ports free to all vessels.

35. With the inauguration of the New Tariff, the temporary additional Import Duties ceased. Export Duties on Logwood Extract, Hides and Cocoanuts were not re-enacted, but in July Law 16 of 1922 imposed an export duty on all Spirits, Wines, and Spirituous Liquors, which realized, up to the close of the year 1922-23, the sum of £2,415. The Package Tax (Law 9 of 1919) was continued in force and realized the sum of £61,609, being an increase of £12,389 over the year before, another clear indication of increased importations. Three-fourths of this, as heretofore, is allocated to General Revenue, viz: £46,207, the remaining one-fourth (£15,402) going to Parochial Revenue.

In respect of our Imports it is interesting to note that fair increases took place from the United Kingdom in Food, Drink and Tobacco (Class I.) and Raw Materials (Class II.), while there was a decrease in Manufactured Articles (Class III.), the United States of America losing by the increases and profiting through the decrease. Canada, whose trade with Jamaica has been greatly stimulated by the Trade Agreement and the establishment of a Trade Commissioner in Kingston, showed increases under the first two Classes and a slight decrease under Class III. Other countries showed increases all round, proving that the European Countries are once more trying to build up a trade with Jamaica.

36. The special Preference given to Cotton-Piece Goods from the British Empire was continued in force by the New Tariff, but it is disappointing that during the year 1922 the proportion of British Trade in these goods decreased being 29% British, as against 37% in 1921 and 64% in 1914. The factors responsible were the differences in price, (4½d. per yd. United States as gainst 7½d. per yd. United Kingdom); in freight charges (5% United Sttes as against 9% United Kingdom) and our close proximity to the United States of America enabling greater expedition in attending to orders. It is a question how long it will take to overcome the dislocation caused by the Great War and had there been no Preference the disproportion might have been worse.

37. A glance at the export figures reveals the fact that the declining prices of 1921 recovered their stability during 1922 and may be sad to have been more or less normal. The value of our exports (exclusivie of parcels Post) in 1922 was £4,623,700, being an increase of £1,266,000 over the previous year and almost double that of the pre-war year, 1913, which was £2,625,200. Our eight chief staple products realized the sum of £3,908,000, or 84% of the total; divided up as follows: Bananas, £2,072,400; Coconuts, £139,900; Cocoa, £138,300; Coffee, £203,900; Logwood, £107,900; Logwood Extract, £252,900; Rum, £80,900; and Sugar £911,800. These, with the exception of Coconuts and Rum, all shew increases in value over the previous year and with the exception of Rum and Coffee increases in quantity. Chief amongst the latter increases are Bananas which reached 12,713,800 stems, being an increase of 2,754,700; Coconuts, 30,401,000 nuts, an increase of 6,176,500, and Sugar 1,013,100 cwt., an increase of 476,400 cwt. A glance at the prices tells us that bananas rose from £8 to £22 per 100 stems; Cocoa from 28s. to 39s. per cwt.; Coffee from 44s. to 66s. per cwt., and Sugar from £14 to £20 per ton.

38. Below is a comparative statement of the value of the Imports

and Exports and the amount collected in Import Duties during the last 40 years:—

	1882.	1892.	1902.	1912.	1922.
	£	£	£	£	£
*Value of Imports	1,318,400	2,157,800	2,014,500	3,050,500	4,581,000
*Value of Exports	1,549,100	1,759,800	2,292,300	2,709,300	4,623,700
Import Duties	247,400	304,200	387,900	461,800	808,300

39. It will be seen that in the forty years the value of the Imports increased 247%; the value of the Exports 198% and the amount of Import Duties 227%, the major portion of these increases taking place in the last two decades. The increase in the value of the Exports thus very nearly kept pace with the increase in the amount of the Import Duties, the former showing in the forty years an increase of 3 times and the latter one of 3¼ times. The value of the Exports was generally from five to six times the amount of Import Duties collected, the variation being from 5.0 to 6.3 times. In the five years compared it will be found that the Import Duties were 16%, 17%, 17%, 20% and 17½% respectively of the value of the Exports.

40. It is inadvisable to gauge the value of the Imports from the amount of Import Duties collected as the former include goods which pay a specific rate of duty and goods on which no duty is paid. Of the latter, Government Importations in 1922 amounted to £253,700 being an increase in twenty years of 505%; the articles mainly responsible were, Railway materials, Metals, Coal and Paper (Printing and Stationery.)

41. On the whole the year 1922 fully justified all expectations and showed every sign of a return to normal conditions.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

42. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue.	1,157,304	1,802,778	2,347,362	1,926,791	2,057,412
Expenditure.	1,228,608	1,444,818	2,332,635	2,253,502	1,949,034

The total expenditure during the year 1922-23 was £108,378 less than the total revenue.

* These do not include the values of Parcels Post Goods.

43. The assets and liabilities were £1,313,290 and £1,187,322, respectively. The credit balance at the close of the year was therefore £125,968.

44. The amount of public debt outstanding at 31st March, 1923 was £4,021,201.

45. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of Public Debt amounted at 31st March, 1923, to £1,570,405. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,450,796) exceeds by only £378,219 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1923-24).

46. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

47. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaica in 1922:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,704,000,000	160.5
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	864.000	3,662,000	4.2

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1922, viz:—£1,327,000, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2.6. The year 1921-1922 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1922-23 are not available locally.

48. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounts to £210,000: this fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Funds for the amortisation of the public debt.

Taxation.

49. *Law* 1 *of* 1922.—"A Law to continue various expiring Laws." This Law continued from the 1st April, 1922, to the 31st March, 1923, the following Laws:—

(1) The Post Office (War Tax) Law, 1919 (Law 7 of 1919.)

(2) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law, 1919 (Law 9 of 1919.)

(3) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law, 1920 (Law 9 of 1920.)

Law 2 *of* 1922—"A Law to Consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Duties on Imports."

This Law was to give effect to the terms of the Canadian Trade Agreement and granted, generally speaking, a 25% preference to articles imported from Canada and the United Kingdom. This preference was subsequently extended by Resolution under Section 26 to the Dependencies of Jamaica, viz: the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands and the following Colonies:—Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Cyprus, Fiji, Grenada, Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad. The Law raised the General Advalorem rate of duty to 20%, the Preferential rate being 15%. There was given a special preference of 50% to Cotton Piece

Goods so that the rate of duty is 10%, while various increases and decreases were made in the duties on Rated Articles. There had formerly been a flat rate of 16⅔% ad valorem on the non-enumerated goods.

Law 13 *of* 1922.—"A Law to exempt vessels from the payment of Harbour Fees and Light Dues." There are thus no harbour or light dues payable by any ships coming to Jamaica.

Law 16 *of* 1922.—"A Law to impose a Duty on certain Exports." This law imposed an export duty on "all Spirits, Wines and Spirituous "Liquors (other than Rum manufactured in this Island)" exported or shipped from this Colony to any other place as follows:—

SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
On each case containing 12 reputed quarts or 24 reputed pints	0	5	0
On every puncheon, cask or hogshead containing not more than 100 gallons	12	10	0
For each additional 12 gallons or part of 12 gallons ..	1	5	0

Law 21 *of* 1922.—"A Law to make provision for the collection and application of duties on mechanically propelled vehicles and vehicles used with them and for the licensing and control of the drivers thereof and to regulate the use of such vehicles on the roads of the Island."

This Law although assented to in 1922 did not come into operation until the 1st April, 1923, and will therefore be dealt with in next year's report.

50. As regards the general incidence of taxation in Jamaica, the appended extract from the report of the Collector General for the year ended the 31st of March, 1923, is of general interest:—

"If we take the population of 864,000 (i.e. adding to the Census "of 1921 the net increase of births over deaths) the taxation for Gene-"ral Revenue (£1,367,300) would be £1 11s. 8d. per head. From "some figures extracted from the data supplied by the British Debt "Mission to the United States, which were published in a London Daily "Paper in March, 1923, it will be found that the national taxa-"tion per head of population in the United Kingdom according to "Estimates for 1922-23 is there given at £17 1s. 2d.

"If the local taxation in Jamaica according to the Estimates for "1922-23 viz: £209,728 or £0 4s. 10d. per head is added to the taxa-"tion for General Revenue it will be found that the total taxation per "head in Jamaica is £1 16s. 6d. per head. It is stated in the same "extract above referred to that if the local taxation in the United King-"dom is added the total burden of taxation amounts to £22 10s. 0d. "per head in that country."

CURRENCY.

51. Under Law 27 of 1904, Local Currency Notes, which are made legal tender under Section 5, were in circulation on 31st December, 1922, to the extent of £77,465 10s. in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 Notes.			5/ Notes.			10/ Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
739	10	0	43,899	10	0	32,826	10	0	77,465	10	0

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

52. If the net value of the Imports (i.e. after deducting the Government importations) is compared with the value of the Exports for the years 1902, 1912 and 1922 the result is as follows:—In 1902 the Exports exceeded the Imports by £329,700, while in 1912 the Imports exceeded the Exports by £257,400, but in 1922 the Exports again exceeded the Imports by £296,400; however, in the year before (1921), the Imports exceeded the Exports by the sum of £1,726,600. If the gross importations are compared with the exports the "balance of trade" (which is not the same thing as the "equilibrium of commerce") would be in 1922, £42,700 in favour of Jamaica. But the figures do not include the value of the importations through the Parcels Post. It appears that while the duties received on account of Parcels Post Importations have always been included in the statement showing the Import duties received, it has not been customary to add to the values of Imports and Exports the values of parcels imported and exported. The declared value of parcels imported during 1922 had increased to £254,418 on which was collected a duty of £43,349, and the declared value of parcels exported was £20,263. If these values be added to the figures shown we find that the grand total of the value of the imports becomes £4,835,400 and of the exports £4,644,000 showing a "balance of trade" against Jamaica of £191,400. The "invisible items" to be set against any excess in the value of the imports over the value of the exports are of course not included in any of the above figures. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Imperial Government paid out in Jamaica from Imperial Army Votes for Military purposes the sums of £259,741, and £273,348 in the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 respectively.

53. With regard to the sources of supply and the destination of our products, it is noticed that in the case of the Imports, marked changes have been taking place. In Class I (Food, Drink and Narcotics) the United States supplied only 37.4% as against 54.9% the year before, while Canada supplied 28.5% as against 22.7% in 1921; the remainder being evenly divided between the United Kingdom and Other Countries. In this connection it may be mentioned that there was an increase in Flour of nearly 82,000 barrels. from Canada, representing a little over £100,000 in value. The preference of 1s. (duty) per barrel given by the Tariff was no doubt largely responsible for this increased importation from Canada. In addition to this, Canada now supplies fully 65% of our Butter and the major portion of our Cheese and Fish.

In Class II. (Raw Materials,) the United States of America supplied 68.7% as against 93.6% in 1921, the chief items being Oils and Timber, while both the United Kingdom and Other Countries showed fair increases due to increase importations of Coal from the former and Oils from the latter. In the case of Manufactured Articles the source is fairly evenly divided between the United States of America (47%) and the United Kingdom (40.8%), the former holding the sway through Cotton Piece Goods. In the case of the Exports, it is seen that the United Kingdom took 60% of our cocoa, 85% of our Logwood Extract and 78% of our Rum, while the United States of America took 85% of our Bananas and 72% of our Coconuts, Canada on the other hand taking 75% of our Sugar and 80% of our Coffee. Markets are also

being found in Middle Europe for our Cocoa, Coffee, Spices and Dyewoods, while most of our Tobacco goes to Central America.

Agriculture and Industry.

54. From the planters' point of view the year 1922 was one of deficient rainfall, the average precipitation for the Island being 52.38 inches or a deficit of 24 inches on the average rainfall for 50 years.

In some areas of the Island acute conditions of drought prevailed so as to cause serious loss and suffering to the community. The reflex consequences of the favourable rainfall of 1922 were, however, shown in the case of some crops, such as sugar, and in surveying the records of the Island's exports for the year it must be admitted that trade did remarkably well despite the unfavourable seasons which prevailed. The year was in most respects a normal year for trade with low or moderate prices prevailing in foreign markets for our Island produce and yet the value of the exports (exclusive of Parcels Post) amounted to £4,623,700 as against £3,357,700 for the previous year. This record is encouraging and should justify greater confidence in the development of the resources of the Island, and in the extension of cultivation and the opening up of the hinterland.

55. The Sugar Industry achieved the high record of 50,655 tons of sugar, or more than double the quantity exported in 1921. Low prices prevailed until the closing period of the crop when a marked improvement in the value of sugar took place. Despite this large production most of the estates made small profits, and, in some cases, have actually lost money on the year's operations.

In the current year a higher standard of value for sugar has been established and the industry now begins to see a reasonable future for assured production.

The policy of Government assistance to the Sugar Industry, when in extremis as a result of the sensational fall in values in 1921, would appear to have been fully justified by the results. The industry was saved and is now in a position to establish itself on a secure basis.

Rum has been almost unmerchantable. The attempt to organise a co-operative factory for the manufacture of Motor Spirit from Rum fell through owing to lack of agreement among the producers. The effect of the failure of the Rum market is a very serious one for the sugar industry of Jamaica, as the existing factory equipment is not, in the majority of cases, efficient for the manufacture of sugar. Jamaica has always relied on the by-product rum to make good any losses in the recovery of sugar in its factories.

Centralisation in Vere and Westmoreland appears now to be necessary in order to establish efficient factories for the manufacture of sugar under modern conditions.

Mosaic Disease has spread considerably in certain areas where steps were not taken to eradicate it.

The Industry was so demoralised by the events of 1920 to 1921 that on some estates all interest in the canes was abandoned and the systematic efforts that were necessary to deal with Mosaic Disease were neglected with the result that a considerable spread of this disease took place.

At the Hope Experiment Station, the Mosaic Disease has been completely eradicated by systematic removal of all infected stools. The "Uba" cane being entirely immune to Mosaic Disease has been found a useful cane for planting where the ordinary canes are badly affected.

At the Hope Experiment Station a yield of 102 tons per acre was recorded for "Uba" Cane.

56. Bananas fell short of expectations by over a million bunches due to the drought, but a substantial recovery has been made by this industry which now again leads as the chief staple of the Island.

The records show that 12,713,800 stems were exported in 1922 to the value of £2,072,400.

For the current year the crop prospects are favourable for an increase of 2 million stems over the exports of last year.

Panama Disease increased to a noticeable degree during the year. Increased vigilance and a larger staff of Inspectors have been devoted to the work of control under the Order. An Advisory Committee consisting of four of the leading banana planters was appointed to assist the Director of Agriculture in dealing with Panama Disease. Experiments to test the possibility of reducing the quarantined area in treating a case of Panama Disease have led to the irresistible conclusion that any reduction on the "Clear Chain" of healthy bananas to be destroyed outside any diseased plant leads to a dangerous spread of the disease and eventually to a greater loss of territory. The persistence of the infection of the soil has been shown on an experimental plot to extend to a period of ten years.

57. The Coconut Industry has shown some recovery in output. The export of nuts increased by over 6 million to over 30 million nuts, while copra shows an increase of nearly a million pounds over the previous year.

Prices, however, ruled low and the value of the Coconut material exported in 1922 was only £1,000 more than in the previous year.

Some planters have been so discouraged by the low prices recently ruling for coconuts that a large number of palms have been cut down in order to grow bananas.

58. Logwood has made a welcome recovery with an export of 25,000 tons or nearly 6 times that of the previous year. Logwood products are credited with a total value of £360,800 as against £137,100 for 1921. This improvement has relieved a good many landowners and afforded regular employment to the wage earners in many places where logwood is the mainstay of industry.

59. The Orange Oil Industry was rather depressed due to lower prices, but the output was maintained.

Citrus Fruits was steady at the dull standard now obtaining. The "Black Fly" still gives trouble and was the subject of advice by the Entomologist who has given special consideration to the control of this pest.

60. Cacao showed an improvement of about 40 per cent. in value and of about 18 per cent. in quantity. This industry is still rather under a cloud and there is small encouragement for its extension at the present time.

61. Coffee benefited from favourable markets, and with the same output as the previous year an increased price of about 50 per cent. was obtained for this crop.

Conditions are now favourable for coffee and the small settlers who produce the bulk of this product should be encouraged to cultivate manure, and cure their crops in a better way than heretofore.

62. Pimento has been moving more easily but at very poor prices. Central Europe, formerly a large consumer, is now so disorganised that a glut of Pimento cannot be avoided.

63. A commercial test of the market for pimento oil was made by consigning 150 lbs. of pimento leaf oil, prepared by the Industrial Chemist, to the London Market. Unfortunately, the shipment coincided with a heavy fall in the market for Cloves involving Clove Oil and all Eugenol Oils in the drop in prices. This oil which had sold in London for 10s. per lb. in 1921 only sold for 5/6d. at the close of 1922. At this price there is no adequate inducement for the development of a Pimento Leaf Oil Industry in Jamaica. If, however, the markets recover there is no doubt that large quantities of Pimento Leaf Oil could be produced in favourable areas so as to compete with Clove Oil as a source of Eugenol.

64. Sisal Hemp has made a further step in its progress as a staple industry. Three factories in Clarendon and the Government factory at Lititz in St. Elizabeth have manufactured fibre during the year. A rope-factory has also been started by private enterprise at May Pen and has produced Sisal rope of superior strength.

The Tobacco Industry has suffered a further decline and the export trade in cigars dropped 25 per cent. in value and 20 per cent. in quantity. There has been a further falling off in the manufacture of local cigarettes which is due to the greater demand for English and foreign cigarettes.

65. The trade in Hides shows a marked improvement over the previous year. An embargo against hides from Jamaica was raised by Canada and the United States of America on the confirmation of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in September. The United Kingdom remains an open market. Steps have been taken for the disinfection of all hides before they are permitted to leave the area infected with Foot and Mouth Disease. At the time of writing (August, 1923) there has been no case of this disease for over six months and the conditions are considered favourable for eradication of the disease in the infected area.

66. The Cattle Industry suffered a severe blow from the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease which took place in July. Owing to lack of experience and knowledge, the disease was spread by movement of animals which involved the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. James before steps were taken to enforce quarantine.

About 30,000 animals passed through the disease between July 1st, 1922 and February 6th, 1923, when the last case was recorded. The mortality averaged a little over 3 per cent.

An extensive campaign of quarantine was effected and the services of a Chief Commissioner from England were engaged in October in order to organise the campaign.

The drought was prejudicial to cattle interests. Water was scarce. Many animals died from lack of food. The dairymen of St. Andrew suffered severely and it is generally admitted that the drought which extended from November, 1921, to April, 1923, was the worst period of drought experienced on the Liguanea Plain during the past half century.

At the Hope Farm through the use of Silos and a reserve crop of "Uba" cane it was found possible to carry 350 head of stock on about as many acres of land without buying any grass, hay or forage. An average daily milk yield of 291 quarts was maintained, despite the adverse conditions of drought. Some very promising young stock by the new Sires have been reared. The daughters of the English Guernsey Bull "Elfordleigh Prince," of the American Jersey Bull "Pogis

99th of Hood Farm 40th," and of the Indian Montgomery Bull "Pusa" are of outstanding merit.

67. The Government Stud Farm at "Grove Place" had a very unfortunate year. The serious drought rendered the water supply so precarious that this limited the capacity of the Stud Farm to receive stock, while on the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease the Farm was closed to the public as a precautionary measure.

The Stud Farm was re-opened on March 7th, 1923, and is now fully equipped with a thoroughbred stallion, an imported Proof Ass, Hereford, Angus, Sussex, Devon, Brown Swiss, Red Poll, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Saniwal, and Hissar Bulls.

68. Owing to the drought the time-limit fixed by the "Order" for the construction of Dipping Tanks was extended to January 1st, 1923. To date, 202 Dipping Tanks have been registered with the Department. These are all supplied with Arsenite of Soda and Paranaph at actual cost of the materials. Experience shows that the Departmental dip costs one-third as much as the commercial proprietary cattle dips and is thoroughly effective. The Government Laboratory must be credited with having saved cattle owners £2,085 during the past year through the supply of departmental dipping materials at a less cost than that of the proprietary articles.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

69. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,423,385 acres have been alienated, leaving 269,095 neither alienated nor in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

70. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, inter-alia, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e. to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc."

The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteen century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

71. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of sugar caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

72. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so

recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of it has been restored to its rightful owners, some has been sold, and some still remains in possession of the Government.

73. During the year 1890 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government land for every mile of Railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who then purchased it for £18,435.

74. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passage to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

75. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1922, 48,082 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 40 acres to one purchaser for £346 16s 6d. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

76. There is a large number of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum.

While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

77. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S. on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1969; and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

78. There is no Forestry Department in this Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

79. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 34 years ago.

Efforts are however being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution of certain classes of seedlings by the Government.

80. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a desptach to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries" and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

81. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acuna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

82. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

83. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross copper mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrite, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s 3d. per ton.

84. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite" were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

Geological Surveys.

85. This is a new Sub-head as the Government Geologist, Mr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., only arrived in the island on 18th October, 1921. He was chiefly engaged during 1922 on investigations in connection with water supplies, especially in the limestone districts. He has described the hydrography of several areas and has made successful borings for water at Montego Bay in the parish of St. James, and at Duanvale and Clark's Town in Trelawny. Other borings are in

progress. He has also reported on the geological aspect of a scheme for the improvement of the Kingston Water Supply by constructing a dam at Hermitage in the Upper Wagwater Valley to impound 500 million gallons of water. Hydraulic tests to determine the permeability of the strata were recommended by the Geologist and were carried out under his direction; they showed that the strata are satisfactory in this respect.

86. Special attention is being given to the mineral springs, both thermal and non-thermal, of Jamaica, as some of them promise to become quite valuable assets to the Colony. In this matter the Deputy Island Chemist and the Geologist are working in co-operation: the former is carrying out chemical analyses and determining the radio-activity of the waters and the latter is investigating the geological causes that have produced their temperature, chemical composition and radio-activity. The thermal waters of the two mineral spring resorts of Jamaica, viz. the Bath of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Milk River Bath, have been found to be radio-active, those at Milk River standing very high in that respect among the medicinal baths of the world. Both these bathing resorts have long had a high reputation for their therapeutic value, and proposals are under consideration to improve and enlarge them so as to make them up-to-date hydropathic establishments.

87. Dykes of igneous rock (dolerite and porphyry) were discovered in the parish of St. James, they will form a valuable road metal for the area of soft clayey strata in the Montego Bay valley, now being opened up as a banana-producing region. The occurrence of similar rocks has been noticed in other areas where they have hitherto been unrecognised and the desirability of surveying them is being considered. Some of the igneous rocks in the neighbourhood of Kingston have been examined with a view to utilising them as road-making materials.

88. The Tertiary limestones of Jamaica cover more than half the island, and the possibility of selecting from them beds suitable for export as marble is being kept in view. Besides these, there are handsome marbles, reputed to be of Cretaceous age, at Serge Island and elsewhere in St. Thomas in the East, for which the proprietor hopes to find an export market.

89. Bands of lignite and coaly shale are known to occur in at least two geological formations of Eocene age, in Jamaica, but those seen at the last geological survey, about sixty years ago, were all very thin and valueless. Since then thicker seams have been found, and though it is improbable that really valuable deposits occur in Jamaica it is not unlikely that a detailed survey of the lignite bearing formations may result in one or more beds being found of sufficient thickness and purity to be worth working for local use.

90. The older rocks of Jamaica have long been known to contain ores of copper, gold, zinc, lead, cobalt, manganese, etc., but mining operations, undertaken chiefly about the middle of last century, resulted in financial loss and it is many years since productive mining ceased in Jamaica. A well known writer in the *Mining Magazine*, after visiting Cuba and Jamaica, recently drew attention to the great development of mineral resources in Cuba, under the supervision of the United States of America, during the last twenty years, and expressed the opinion that the geological relationships of Cuba and Jamaica are similar and offer the same possibilities of mineral deposition, and that as the last geological work was done in Jamaica before the value of

economic geology was realized the mineral resources of Jamaica have not been given a fair trial. The Government Geologist may be able later on to undertake a geological examination of the metalliferou areas of the island.

Fishing.

91. The condition of the Fishing Industry has not improved since the date of the last report, and it is difficult to account for the reason in view of the fact that the price of fresh fish has increased considerably and also that the supply is not equal to the demand. The retail price for the better varieties of fresh fish during the year was 1/3d. per lb. and this in itself should attract more commercial interest in this lucrative undertaking.

The fishing, however, is still being pursued on primitive lines, by a class of persons who do not display much enterprise, the result being a short supply and high prices. In the meantime, the money expended for the importation of salted fish, the greater portion of which could and should be circulated in the Colony, continued to find its way abroad to the extent of £341,719 in 1922, which does not include the value of cured salmon.

It is hoped that the possibilities of fishing as a commercial enterprise will soon be realized and that it will be properly financed and controlled. It is a matter for regret that wealth in the sea, is not better utilized for the benefit of the Island generally.

Manufactures.

92. The principal items of our manufactures are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars and Cigarettes, Aerated Waters, Ice and Leather.

93. Sugar—Previous to the war, the bounty-fed sugar had crippled this industry so that we find in 1914 an output of only 20,820 tons while in 1922 there was an output of 54,316 tons. The general trend is towards centralization, resulting in large Central Factories with the most modern machinery being established in many localities and many of the smaller estates dismantling their machinery and becoming Cane Farms to feed the Centrals. The largest of these Centrals already established is the Bernard Lodge Central in St. Catherine.

94. Rum—This valuable by-product of the Sugar Industry made rapid strides from the outbreak of war to 1919 as the following figures show. Out-put in 1914, 13,788 puncheons; output in 1919, 18,415 puncheons; but owing to the desire to manufacture as much sugar as possible, the output in 1920 fell to 14,439 puncheons, and a fall in price caused a further decrease in 1921 to 11,978 puncheons. The output in 1922 amounted to 13,073 puncheons.

95. Copra—This industry has only been developed in the past few years. It is one which is largely dependent on the market value of the coconut. If the price is high in the market of the United States of America, it pays better to ship the nuts than to make Copra. During 1922 the price of coconuts was very low and although over thirty million nuts were exported, there was a considerable increase in the manufacture of Copra.

96. Banana Figs—This is an industry in its infancy, but considerable improvement was shown in 1919 and several Factories have been established. There is now a fair output, all of which is exported.

97. Orange Oil—This industry is proving of great value and is a means of getting money from Oranges which would otherwise go to waste.

98. Cigars and Cigarettes—This is an important industry which has been greatly developed in recent years as the exports of these items indicate. There has been a great falling off of the manufacture of Cigarettes, however, owing to the demand for those of English and Foreign manufacture.

99. Ice and Aerated Waters—May be regarded as manufactures for local consumption chiefly. Lately, "soft" drinks have been manufactured with fruit flavourings which have become very popular and it is not unlikely that some may be exported.

100. Leather—There are tanneries at various centres in the Island and sole and harness leather form an item of our exports. Latterly, the finer grades of leather have been manufactured to a small extent.

101. Matches—This industry had been crippled by competition with the imported matches, but since April, 1922, when an increased rate of duty was placed on Foreign Matches, there has been a slight improvement in the industry.

Water Power.

102. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the West India Electric Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

103. The desirability of utilizing the water power from some of the rivers for the development of Electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the island has been made with this object in view, but no definite schemes have yet materialized.

Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and Lower St. Andrew.

104. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

105. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Jamaica Head Offices are all in Kingston.

106. The Colonial Bank was established and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836.

Subscribed Capital	£3,000,000
Paid up Capital	900,000
Reserve Fund	300,000

Head Office—29 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C3.

Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1922—£62,917.

This Bank has sub-branches at the following towns of the Island:—

Annotto Bay	Montego Bay
Falmouth	Morant Bay
Lucea	Port Antonio
May Pen	Port Maria
Sav.-la-Mar	St. Ann's Bay

The Colonial Bank also has Branches in most of the other West Indian Islands, in British Guiana, and on the West Coast of Africa.

107. The Bank of Nova Scotia was incorporated in 1832, and holds its Charter under the Canadian Banking Act. The number of branches in Jamaica is 11; they are established at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav-la-Mar, Spanish Town, and Brown's Town. The notes outstanding at 31st December, 1922, amounted to £51,173. The issue of this Bank's notes is governed by the Canadian Bank Act and the amendments thereto. The notes of any Canadian Chartered Bank are a first charge on all the assets of all the Canadian Chartered Banks. A Canadian Bank may issue notes up to the amount of its paid up capital Notes issued in excess of this figure are secured by gold deposited with the Canadian government in a Central Gold Reserve.

On 31st December, 1922, the Bank's paid up

Capital was	$10,000,000
Reserve Fund	$19,500,000
Total Assets	$221,647,324

108. The Royal Bank of Canada (incorporated in 1869) began business in Jamaica in 1911.

Capital authorized ..	$25,000,000
Capital paid up	$20,400,000
Reserve Funds	$20,400,000

This Bank has sub-branches at Cross Roads, Montego Bay, Spanish Town.

Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1922—£47,169.

109. The Canadian Bank of Commerce (Incorporated in 1867) whose Head Office is in Toronto, Canada, opened, a branch in Kingston on 1st November, 1920.

Paid up Capital	£3,082,191
Reserve	3,082,191
Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1922	4,779

110. The Government Savings Bank was started in 1870. On the commercial Banks entering the field, starting Savings Branches, and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities, the deposits in the Government Savings Bank declined. By Law 7 of 1917, the management was entrusted to a Board. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council on the 4th February, 1919. The renewed activities of the Bank may be said to date from the beginning of 1919, in which year the deposits increased by 71%. The deposits on 31st December, 1922, amounted to £541,754. The policy of the Board is that the savings of the people should be used to develop the Island. The telegraphic address "Our Bank, Kingston," sufficiently indicates the lines followed to obtain the support of the public. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Funds

for financing land settlement schemes, whereby Loan Banks are enabled to buy large properties, cut them up, and sell the lots to small settlers, have been provided by the Bank. Funds for making loans to Loan Banks to be lent to members for developing their holdings have also been provided. There are 60 Branches and Postal Agencies throughout the Island, 12 of the latter having been opened in 1921. Stamp Savings Cards have induced many children and adults to open accounts. Savings Certificates are issued for 16/6, maturing to £1 in five years. Postage and registration to the Bank are free; and no revenue stamp is required on receipts. The same rate of interests as that given by the Commercial Banks, viz: 3% per annum, compounded half yearly, is allowed on deposits.

111. There are 48 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g. for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

112. The following figures, referring to the 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Loans made on which balances amounting to £22,349 18s. 3d.
were outstanding on 31st December, 1922 £107,331 1s 4d.

113. The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1922, a sum of over £30,500 share capital, in addition to £84,981 loan moneys repaid, with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried on during the year, and that they are likely to prove a permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for the purpose of re-sale in lots to small settlers. £47,124 has been loaned to six Banks under this head. The scheme has been well received, and its extension in the future seems assured.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

114. A brief summary is given below of those Laws passed during the year 1922 which might be of general interest.

(1) Law 1 of 1922 entitled "A Law to continue various expiring "Laws."

(2) Law 2 of 1922 entitled "A Law to consolidate and amend the "Laws relating to Duties on Imports."

The above Laws are dealt with under Section I: Sub-head "Taxation."

(3) Law 3 of 1922 entitled "The Sugar Industry Aid Loans Law, "1921, Supplemental Law, 1922."

The primary object of this Law was to continue the operations of the Sugar Industry Aid Board and to enable further advances to be made to representatives of the Sugar Iudustry for the cultivation, reaping and manufacture of the next crop. Provision is made in the Law whereby amounts to the extent of £350,000 could be re-lent not only to original borrowers under the Principal Law, but to fresh applicants in such cases as the Board might deem advisable. It is expressly provided that the total liability of the Government is not to exceed at any time the original sum of £400,000.

(4) Law 7 of 1922 entitled "A Law to extend for a further period "of twenty years certain provisions of the Direct West India "Cable Company's Law 1898 and to make other provisions "relating to the said Company."

(5) Law 10 of 1922 entitled "A Law to prevent the administration "of Poisonous Drugs to Horses and other animals."

This Law was introduced primarily for the purpose of checking the practice, which had been on the increase, of what is commonly known as doping horses, two serious cases having occurred at race meetings.

(6) Law 13 of 1922 entitled "A Law to exempt vessels from the payment of Harbour Fees and Light Dues."

This Law is dealt with under Section I; Sub-head "Taxation."

(7) Law 15 of 1922 entitled "A Law to provide for the appointment of a Tourist Trade Development Board and to define "the powers and duties of such Board in relation to increasing "and adequately providing facilities for Tourists and as to "measures to be adopted for attracting them to the Island "and generally for the improvement of the Passenger Services "to the Island for such purposes."

(8) Law 16 of 1922 entitled "A Law to impose a duty on certain "Exports."

This Law is dealt with under Section I; Sub-head "Taxation."

(9) Law 18 of 1922 entitled "A Law to make provision for certain "Capital Works necessary for the working of the Jamaica "Government Railway and to make provision for certain "Public Works, and also for the repayment of certain advances "made for raising a loan for the purpose."

Under the authority of this Law certain sums of money were appropriated as set out in the following Schedules:—

SCHEDULE I.

TREASURY BILLS.

1. Purchase of new rails strengthening and relaying portions of track of the Jamaica Government Railway	£143,000
2. Machinery and Plant	12,132
3. Railway Extension—Linstead to New Works ..	27,621
4. Kingston, New Running Shed and remodelling Yard	25,000
5. New Sidings	15,000
6. New Quarters and Sheds	9,179
7. New Rolling Stock	34,000
8. Investigations (Electrification, Signalling and Test Pits)	4,100
	£270,032

SCHEDULE II.

1. Amount required to complete the purchase of Machinery and Plant	£1,468
2. Amount required to complete the extension of the Railway from Linstead to New Works ..	879
3. Amount required to complete New Running Shed and remodelling yard, Kingston	60,000
4. Amount required to complete New Quarters and Sheds	1,621
5. Amount required to complete purchase and erection of New Rolling Stock	8,000
6. Amount voted in Estimates 1920-1921 for Sisal Plantation at Lititz	11,000
7. Amount required to complete the Sisal Plantation at Lititz	16,000
8. Amount required to complete Stud Farm at Grove Place	25,000
	£123,968

SCHEDULE III.

1. On account of the extension of the Railway from Chapelton in the direction of Cascade, and if practicable onwards, the first stage of such extension to be from Chapelton to Frankfield	£172,000
2. New Post Offices	7,000
	£179,000

(10) Law 21 of 1922 entitled "A Law to make provision for the "collection and application of duties on mechanically pro-"pelled vehicles and vehicles used with them and for the "licensing and control of the drivers thereof and to regulate "the use of such vehicles on the roads of the Island."

This Law is referred to under Section I, Sub-head "Taxation."

(11) Law 22 of 1922 entitled "A Law to make provision for ex-"tending the Jamaica Railway from Chapelton in the direc-"tion of Cascade and if practicable onwards. The first stage "of such extension to be from Chapelton to Frankfield"—a distance of 9 miles at an estimated cost of £172,000.

(12) Law 23 of 1922 entitled "A Law to determine and control "the ownership of water for public and private uses."

Under this Law all water in the Colony other than private water, is vested in the Crown, and power is conferred on the Governor in Privy Council to authorise its use, diversion and apportionment, subject to the terms of the Law, and in conformity with any regulations framed thereunder.

(13) Law 26 of 1922, entitled "A Law for making provision for "the control and regulation of Passports, Permits and Docu-"ments in Substitution therefor."

The object of this Law is to make provision for replacing the regulations made under the Defence of the Island Law, Law 9 of 1915, regulating the issue and control of Passports and Permits, which regulations expired by the operation of Law 3 of 1920, Section 3, at midnight, August 31st, 1922.

Under this Law any person desirous of landing in or leaving the Island is required to be in possession of a Passport or Permit Any alien coming to the Colony must have such Passport or Permit visé by the British Consul or Vice-Consul in the country of embarkation.

(14) Law 29 of 1922 entitled "A Law relating to Contagious and "Infectious Diseases among animals."

This Law repeals Laws 1 of 1909, 21 of 1910 and 23 of 1917 and was enacted in order to enable the Executive to deal effectively with the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease which had occurred in the Island and other diseases among animals that may occur in the future.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

115. Two new schools, one Elementary and the other Industrial, were opened during the year under review.

116. Notwithstanding drought conditions in certain sections of the Island, the attendance on the whole has continued to show gratifying improvement. The number of children of school age in the Island is in the neighbourhood of 135,000; of these, the names of 112,270 appear on the books, as against 99,956 in 1921, while the average attendance has risen from 61,447 to 68,606, the highest on record.

117. The new system of classifying and grading schools, introduced during last year, is now in full operation. More attention has been given to garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, but in some districts the general improvement looked for in return for increased salaries to teachers does not appear to have been as marked as was anticipated.

118. £15,000 was paid during the year as Building grants-in-aid to voluntary schools, but there is still urgent need for better accommodation and equipment.

119. The total departmental expenditure on education during 1922 was £142,778, as against £143,455 in 1921.

Secondary.

120. The Secondary Schools under the Jamaica Schools Commission were examined by the Chief Inspectors of the Education Department and in all cases the reports justified the continuation of the Government grants-in-aid. The results of the public examinations compare favourably with those obtained by schools of similar standing in England.

121. The demand for admission is still in excess of the accomodation although £4,000 has been spent in providing new dormitories, class rooms, etc., at the Jamaica College.

Technical.

122. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston although handicapped by being without a Technical Instructress, has continued to do good work, greater emphasis being now

placed upon the more strictly vocational subjects of the curriculum. New machinery has been installed. 812 pupils in all have been in attendance during the year; they are in steady demand by the commercial and industrial firms in Kingston, but many appear to emigrate to the United States of America.

123. Preliminary Technical work in the form of Manual Training Classes has been in operation in several of the larger centres outside Kingston.

Industrial.

124. The Industrial Institutions may be divided into the large schools at Alpha (Roman Catholic) and Stony Hill (Government), with some hundreds of inmates, and the smaller "Homes" which are more directly under the control of Religious Denominations.

125. In both classes excellent work on vocational and educational lines is being done, although as would naturally be expected more attention is devoted in the latter than in the former to the moral and religious side of the training.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

126. The average rainfall for the year 1922 was 52.38 inches, which was considerably below the average for the past 50 years of 76.46 inches. The year under review ranks next in order to the phenomenal year 1920, when there was a severe drought, and only 51.16 inches was registered. The first three months of the year 1922 gave falls a little over the average, and the rest of the months were all below.

Temperature.

127. In Kingston the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.7 degrees, which corresponds with the 15 year average. The highest maximum was 93.5 degrees in July, and the lowest minimum 64.6 degrees in January.

Weather Disturbances.

128. Several minor depressions passed to the south-west and west of the Island. A disturbance passed to the west of the Island on 15th October, occasioning south-easterly gales at the western portion of the Island. Very small damage was reported.

Hailstorms, &c.

129. Hail fell at Magotty and Aberdeen on July 17th and 18th. A whirlwind, accompanied by hail, was experienced at Negril Point Lighthouse on the 28th of the same month.

Earthquakes.

130. There were eight earthquakes of slight intensity reported as occurring from January to August, and none during the remaining months.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

131. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two branches running into the interior of the Island, viz: from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Line; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main line, Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track at present is 200 miles. The gauge is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

132. The Revenue for the year ended 31st Deccember, 1922, was £347,915 and the expenditure £308,126; no provision is made for depreciation.

133. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 278,106 tons, as compared with 221,861 tons for the year 1921; the number of passengers carried in 1922 was 553,392, as against 639,638 in 1921.

134. A survey was made during the year under review between Riversdale and Gayle. The Construction of an extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Branch is well in hand and will it is expected, be completed in the early part of 1924.

Additional provision has been made in the Railway yard at Kingston for the maintenance of Engines and Rolling Stock.

135. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

Shipping.

136. In 1922, 1,365 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,920,114 tons entered and 1,340 of 1,927,183 tons cleared. During the year 1921, 1,339 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,753,262 tons entered at ports in the Colony and 1,271 vessels, steam and sail, of 1,719,496 tons cleared at Ports in the colony.

137. The following are the figures for the past seven years:

1916	..	Entered	977	– 1,230,803	Tons
1917	..	"	901	– 1,045,443	"
1918	..	"	772	– 593,328	"
1919	..	"	1,152	– 1,046,961	"
1920	..	"	1,307	– 1,778,256	"
1921	..	"	1,339	– 1,753,262	"
1922	..	"	1,365	– 1,920,114	"
1916	..	Cleared	948	– 1,208,775	"
1917	..	"	874	– 1,019,490	"
1918	..	"	746	– 583,697	"
1919	..		1,148	– 1,037,981	"
1920	..	"	1,285	– 1,755,532	"
1921	..	"	1,271	– 1,719,496	"
1922	..	"	1,340	– 1,927,183	"

138. The following well-established steamship lines are now serving the colony, viz:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, Canadian Government Mercantile Marine; these are British Companies.

United Fruit Company, Atlantic Fruit Company, Columbian Steamship Company, Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company, and Windward Island Line; these are U.S.A. Companies.

The Royal Dutch West India Mail, The Royal Netherlands West Indies Company; these are Dutch Companies.

139. It will be interesting to observe that there were in 1913, the following nine steamship lines engaged in business with this Colony.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, British Companies.

Hamburg American Line, Atlas Service, and Hamburg American Line (European Service); German Companies; United Fruit Company, Atlantic Fruit Company; U.S.A. Companies.

140. In 1922 there were, as enumerated above, thirteen steamship lines—an increase of 4 lines, made up of two British and two foreign.

141. A word may be said on the subject of shipbuilding activities in a small way. The following are the figures:—

Ships Built.

1913	..	..	1—21 tons
1914	..	..	1—62 tons
1915	..	..	1—33 tons
1916	..	..	3—110 tons
1917	..	..	Nil
1918	..	..	2—64 tons
1919	..	..	2—355 tons
1920	..	..	2—88 tons
1921	..	..	1—66 tons
1922	..	..	Nil

Roads.

142. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,237½ miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads amounting to 4,355½ miles of which 1,354½ miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 3,001 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

143. During the Calendar Year 1922, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £88 per mile.

144. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone, without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic, but this type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day.

Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been introduced. The existing roads will be gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety.

Canals.

145. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

146. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

147. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and Aerial Services.

148. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 Offices. At the close of the Calendar year 1922, there were 955¼ miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 62 and 68 Telegraph and Telephone Offices, respecitvely. Further extensions of lines and the opening of new offices have been authorised for the current year.

149. The charge at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words, and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

150. In 1911, the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to ninepence for the first twelve words or under, and half penny for each additional word, including the address, at which it still remains.

151. The Railway Telegraphs, in connection with which there are 38 Offices, assist considerably towards placing communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph system, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

152. The number of ordinary and official Messages signalled in 1921 was 341,876; the revenue collected was £18,188. In 1922, the messages numbered 351,150; the receipts totalled £18,063.

153. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island, one of which is situated at Christiana, was established by the Royal Navy. This station however, does not now accept traffic for, or from any point. The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600 metre wave. Work in connection with a more powerful installation than the present one which is referred to in the last report has not been yet commenced.

154. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

155. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz: the Direct West India Cable Co.,, Ltd. and the West India & Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

156. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point

connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines Eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines Inland, and Westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service.

157. The West India & Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of Cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Company who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a net-work of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

158. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

159. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.		Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica	8	0	Edward Stanford, 12, 13 & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1922 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture ..	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919. ..	2	6	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Education Code ..	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1902.	0	6	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Supplement to Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1908.	0	3	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S.	2	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.

H. BRYAN,
Colonial Secretary.

24th October, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. PRESS, HARROW.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1196.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1147.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 120 George Street,
Edinburgh.

April, 1924.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1196.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands, and just below the tropic of Cancer. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but, as no thorough survey of the group has ever been made, this figure may be below the mark.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands or cays, and a large number of islets and rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group and offers dangers to navigation, and has been the cause of many shipwrecks in the past. These islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which was said to resemble a Turkish fez.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow passages or channels, in many cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos. The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; [Cd. 7622–37].

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HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. These islands remained uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil and the scanty rainfall, until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710 but soon returned and continued the salt industry with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts were made by the Spaniards and the French to obtain possession of the islands. In the year 1766 the King was pleased to appoint an agent, Mr. Andrew Seymour, "to reside there and by his residence on the spot to insure the right of the island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order in general amongst the inhabitants. In 1790 Colonel Alexander Murray arrived as the agent of His Majesty, and in 1799 an act was passed by the Bahama Legislature which placed the Turks and Caicos Islands under the Bahama Government, and so they remained until 1848 when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, Her Majesty was pleased to grant a separate charter to the "Turks Islands and the Islands and Cays commonly known as the Caicos Islands." Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found burdensome in the altered circumstances caused by the fall in the price of salt, and in 1873 a petition was presented to the Queen praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica and still remain one of its dependencies. Under this new arrangement the government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also President of the Legislative Board and Judge of the Supreme Court.

CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

(13973) Wt.31296/1951 500 4/24 Harrow G.94

CLIMATE.

Although the islands are within the tropics the climate is not unhealthy. The severe heat in the hot months is tempered by the constant sea breezes. The temperature ranges from 56° minimum to 94° maximum. The average rainfall in the year 1922, from observations taken at eight stations throughout the islands, was 16·19 inches. The maximum precipitation was recorded at Kew, North Caicos, measuring 22·48 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 10·24 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1917–1921 amounted to 26·06 inches.

It is said by the old inhabitants that 1922 was the driest year ever known in the islands. The drought caused much poverty and suffering among the people of the Caicos Islands through loss of crops and cattle. During the year the supply of rainwater stored in the public tanks at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, became exhausted, and the Government was compelled to import drinking water from New York and from the Dominican Republic to be supplied to the public.

GRAND TURK.

Grand Turk, formerly known as Grand Cay, is situated on the eastern boundary of the Turks Island passage and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Commissioner resides there. The island has a population of about 1,568, of whom about three-fourths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island, where almost the entire population live. The town contains the public buildings, including the various public offices and the prison; several stores, a market, a public library and reading room, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The hospital is at the north end of the town and the Commissioner's residence, "Waterloo," is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a local public telephone system, with 40 connections, serving the public and private offices, business places and private residences. The Government radio-telephone station connects Grand Turk with Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour and also communicates with passing ships. There being no harbour, large vessels are obliged to lie at anchor nearly half a mile from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with stunted, hardy trees scattered

here and there. The principal industry in Grand Turk is the production and export of salt, for which there is a good demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. 549,081 bushels of salt were exported from this island in 1922. There were then two salt crushing mills. The number has since been raised to four. There are no automobiles on the island and horse-drawn carriages are still being used as conveyances. Cricket and football are played under the management of the Grand Turk Athletic Association and tennis is played throughout the year. There are several good tennis courts, the Victoria Tennis Club having two which are much used.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, situated about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. The area is about 4 square miles. The population, about 370, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living. In the year 1922, 562,092 bushels of salt were exported from this island.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The quantity of salt exported from this island in 1922 amounted to 736,732 bushels. The population of South Caicos was 639. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (sometimes called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal and the production of fibre. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of 796. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The total population of this island was 1,408, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of Middle Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. A small quantity of cotton is produced at Parrot Cay.

Providenciales or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semicircle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 741. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On the southern side of Providenciales is Chalk Sound, a large creek extending over an area of about 9 square miles. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in the past in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The attempt was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The extraordinary dry weather during the year 1922 was very favourable to the Dependency's main industry, the production of salt by solar evaporation. On the other hand the drought caused great poverty and suffering amongst the agricultural population, principally in the Caicos Islands, by the destruction of their crops and cattle.

EMIGRATION.

In consequence of the poverty and unemployment caused by the failure of the crops a great many of the labouring classes, including women and children, left the islands to seek employment elsewhere. The high wages paid to labourers and domestic servants in the United States attracted many of the young men and women of the islands. The number of departures is unknown as no record is kept as regards emigration and immigration.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are generally considered to be healthy, but during the year under review, owing to various causes, the public health was not as good as usual. The infant mortality was higher than in former years owing, no doubt, to the drought which necessitated the use of well-water for drinking purposes. The Government Medical Officer at Grand Turk reported that " this change of the drinking water caused numerous cases of bowel trouble in both old and young " and expressed his opinion that " this was responsible for many of the deaths that occurred among the young children and infants." Alastrim, which had been imported from the Dominican Republic during the previous year, still continued to make its appearance during the first few months of 1922. Malaria, which is nearly always present, broke out in a severe form during the latter months of the year. Tuberculosis, which seemed to be on the decrease during previous years, increased to a noticeable extent during 1922. In the opinion of the Government Medical Officer this increase was due to the lack of proper food owing to the drought and also to the lack of proper ventilation in the houses. Children's diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, were not prevalent during the year, nor did typhoid make its appearance.

HOSPITALS.

The following hospital accommodation was provided :—

The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk ..	8 beds
The Cottage Hospital at Cockburn Harbour	4 beds

As regards the Manning Hospital, during the year 9 cases were admitted to the surgical ward for operation and 16 to the medical ward for treatment. The tent which had been erected in the hospital grounds to receive alastrim cases during the previous year was kept in readiness during the first part of 1922 to receive any new cases which might be imported. The Medical Officer reported that the isolation of these cases of alastrim, and other precautionary measures, such as vaccination and the inspection of all ships arriving from abroad, were no doubt instrumental in preventing an epidemic of this loathsome disease from invading these islands.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the close of the year 1922 was 5,711. This figure is arrived at by taking the actual Census count of April, 1921, and adding thereto the number of births and deducting therefrom the number of deaths registered in the intervening period up to the 31st December, 1922. This estimate is divided as follows :—

Turks Islands	1,938
Caicos Islands	3,773
	5,711

The white population, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians. During the year 1922, 211 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 37·5 per 1,000. During the same period 179 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 32 per 1,000 : 52 marriages were registered.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of the imports during the year 1922 amounted to £47,678. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £4,656 ; from British Dominions, £3,020 ; and from foreign countries, £40,001, including £33,764, the value of imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink and clothing. The customs import duties amounted to £4,750, being about 45 per cent. of the total public revenue.

The exports were valued at £46,759. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £882 ; to British Dominions, £19,846 ; and to foreign countries, £26,031. The value of the exports to Canada was £17,060, and to the United States, £22,377. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £43,467 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1922 and £3,292 the value of the re-exports.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The revenue of the Dependency for the year 1922 amounted to £10,408 and the expenditure to £11,473 ; the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £1,065. This excess of expenditure over revenue was mainly due to the expenditure incurred in connection with the installation of the Government radio-telephone system and other public works extraordinary. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1922, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £11,426 as against £12,491, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt ; the former providing about 45 per cent. and the latter about 26 per cent. of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the Government of the Dependency, but gold coins were extremely scarce and seldom seen. The local Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £1,000; the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. The Government Savings Bank had 984 accounts open, with £16,889 on deposit, at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £14,483. There were no private banks doing business in the Dependency.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

In the year 1922 there was a balance of trade against the Dependency of £919, that is, the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by that amount. The following table shows the value of the principal items of local produce exported during the years 1921 and 1922:—

	1921.	1922.	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£	£	£	£
Salt	28,171	36,621	8,450	—
Conchs	841	2,289	1,448	—
Sponges ..	2,093	1,690	—	403
Cotton and Cotton Seed	1,711	1,700	—	11
Sisal	—	946	946	—
Turtle Shell ..	267	166	—	101

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years:—

Imports.	*United Kingdom.*	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*
	£	£	£
1920 ..	3,610	7,021	49,122
1921 ..	4,924	5,866	45,147
1922 ..	4,656	3,020	40,001
Exports.			
1920 ..	382	20,995	25,490
1921 ..	1,400	19,244	15,012
1922 ..	882	19,846	26,031

SALT.

The demand by dealers in the United States and Canada for salt, the Dependency's main product, was firm throughout the year 1922 and the price remained steady. Two grades of salt are exported from the Dependency: coarse and fishery (ground). The proportion of the latter is gradually increasing. The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments during 1922:—

	Quantity. Bushels.	*Value.* £
United States	998,106	18,290
Canada	722,510	16,148
Newfoundland	28,253	638
Jamaica	38,315	574
St. Pierre et Miquelon..	22,461	422
Santo Domingo ..	14,223	263
Trinidad	8,873	147
France	5,447	136

The extraordinary dry weather during the year was very favourable for the production of salt.

SPONGES.

The sponge industry appears to be on the decline. There is now only one sponging establishment remaining in the Caicos Islands, with headquarters at Cockburn Harbour, and the exports of this product are gradually falling off, probably due to the general decline in prices in the world markets. However, a new market for Caicos sponges has been found in Nassau, Bahamas, to which many shipments are now made. The shipments of sponges in the year 1922 were as follows:—

	Quantity.	*Value.* £
United States ..	195 bales	885
Bahamas	11 cargoes	805

CONCHS.

The trade with Haiti in conchs has revived: 2,150,700, valued at £2,289, were shipped from the Caicos Islands to Haiti during the year 1922, as compared with 857,850, valued at £841, in the previous year. A great many of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands largely depend upon the conch trade with Haiti for their livelihood. This trade is still greatly handicapped by the excessive port charges levied in Haiti.

COTTON.

During the year 1922 the exports of this product amounted to 18,910 lb., valued at £1,230. 14,210 lb., valued at £860, were shipped to the United Kingdom, and 4,700 lb., valued at £370, were exported to the United States. 87,420 lb. of cotton seed, valued at £470, were shipped to Barbados. There is no doubt that had the extremely dry weather not damaged the crops the output would have been much greater.

SHELL.

There was a decline in the trade in turtle shell. The quantity exported in 1922 was 166 lb., valued at £166, as against £261 worth shipped in 1921. The trade with the United States in sea-shells, which in former times was considerable, has now ceased entirely, owing to no demand.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Only three ordinances were passed during the year 1922. No. 1 related to the date of the termination of the War: No. 2 amended the pensions law; and No. 3 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance.

V.—EDUCATION.

The sum of £700 was voted and placed at the disposal of the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency. There were nine Government elementary schools supported in this manner. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 742 and the average attendance was 480. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £642.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk received a grant from the Government of £150. The average attendance at this school was 32.

VI.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	16·30 in.
Maximum temperature	87°
Minimum ,, ...	60°

VII.—SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1922 was as follows :—

	British	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	3	163	166
Sailing vessels ..	221	69	290
	224	232	456

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 37,901 and of the steamships to 273,049.

The undermentioned steamship companies of New York maintained a regular service between the Dependency and New York :—

The Clyde Steamship Co.
The Columbus Steamship Co.
The Bull Insular Line Inc.

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York about four times a month by the steamers of the Clyde and the Columbus lines. The Dependency suffered from the disadvantage of being unable to send parcels to any other country than the United States, except occasionally by sailing vessel going direct to Jamaica.

The Government radio-telephone service enabled messages to be transmitted between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour and passing ships.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Co. Ltd. between Halifax and Bermuda and Jamaica touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The company supplies a News Bulletin daily for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

H E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
October, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to his Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1922–1923
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922
1190	Jamaica	,,
1191	Seychelles	1922–1923
1192	Bahamas	1922
1193	Somaliland	1922–1923
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1205.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1922.

(NOTE.—The last published Report was that for 1918–19, see No. 1092. The Reports for the intermediate period were not published.)

LONDON:
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No. 1205.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica, and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The islands lie between 79·83 and 81·30 west longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is 11 miles long by one and a quarter miles at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the bluff, showing that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat and is largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The 100 fathom ocean depth closely encircles the islands.

HISTORICAL.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this animal being at one time numerous in the smaller islands. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen wrecked either in the islands or on the neighbouring coasts of Cuba who remained domiciled in the islands.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 879 [Cd. 8172–5].

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CONSTITUTION.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, acting with and under the direction of a locally elected "governor." To this body elected vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Government (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The world-wide disturbances arising out of the War have passed without any apparent lasting effect on local conditions of life.

Emigration and Immigration.

A small emigration continues, mainly to the southern costal ports of the United States of America, where regular employment, higher wages and improved conditions of life influence settlement.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The general health of the Dependency is good. An occasional case of typhoid marks the fact that in some localities the main source of drinking water is from shallow wells near dwellings. Cases of alastrim, introduced from Jamaica, were isolated, and no further infection supervened.

Vital Statistics.

There were 191 births in 1922 (36 per thousand) and 30 deaths (6 per thousand). Emigration has, however, reduced the population by estimation slightly below the census figures (5,253) of 1921.

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Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year are smaller in value than in any period since 1916–17.

The imports from all countries—

	£	
In 1919–20 amounted to	57,097	
In 1920–21 amounted to	65,797	(15 months)
In 1922 amounted to	36,541	

The value of the exports amounted to £13,650, practically all of domestic produce, and compares favourably with the figures for the previous fifteen months. There was a large catch of green turtle, and prices were fairly remunerative. The exports of turtle-shell were more than double of the previous year and the valuation figures (£5,800) are above the average of the last ten years.

Government Finance.

The financial period now runs concurrently with the calendar year. The revenue and expenditure in recent years have been:—

Year.	*Revenue.*		*Expenditure.*
	£		£
1916–17	3,219	..	3,568
1917–18	4,423	..	5,162
1918–19	5,520	..	4,837
1919–20	5,915	..	5,302
1920–21	11,187	(15 months)	10,612
Average of 5 years ..	5,605	..	5,472
1922	6,996	..	7,565

Customs (£3,318) and Post Office (£2,583) together contributed 84·3 of the total receipts.

The expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,375, Education £1,500, Public Works £1,913, and other services £777.

At the close of the year the balance of assets stood at £4,414 15*s.* 2*d.* The assets included £3,194 9*s.* 10*d.* in the Jamaica Treasury, Investments of Savings Bank Funds £2,500, Money Order Account £1,367 4*s.* 7*d.*, and Cash in the Treasuries £812 10*s.* 0*d.* The liabilities are made up of Deposits £634 2*s.* 10*d.*, Savings Bank £2,366 16*s.* 3*d.*, Peace Memorial Fund, £744 2*s.* 11*d.*, and Board of Education Fund £26 7*s.* 6*d.* There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

The value of the imports is below the average of the previous five years, but the exports are somewhat above the average for that period. The balance of trade is, however, substantially

against the Dependency. There is a valuable but invisible asset in the earnings of Caymanian vessels abroad, and in the wages of the many bread-winners in the mines and on the farms of Central America and on the sea-board of the Southern American States. A large proportion of the women and children at home are mainly supported by fathers and brothers temporarily absent.

Year.	*Imports.* £	*Exports.* £
1916–17	29,108 ..	8,169
1917–18	37,949 ..	5,229
1918–19	44,828 ..	11,324
1919–20	57,097 ..	28,531
1920–21	65,797 (15 months)	11,081
Average of 5 years ..	44,324 ..	12,424
1922	36,541 ..	13,650

Cattle ticks (*Margaropus annulatus*) introduced into Grand Cayman some twenty years ago on cattle brought from Honduras have in recent years seriously affected the small cattle and agricultural interests. A dipping tank charged with arsenite of soda and paranaph was established this year by the Government under regulations providing for the compulsory dipping of all stock within a prescribed area. Beneficial results were immediately noticed.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a port of Registry, having on its register 54 small vessels with a total tonnage of 3,105. Two vessels with a tonnage of 130 were built and registered in 1922.

Five small British steamships (total tonnage 2,230) called at the islands in 1922. The following table shows the numbers and tonnage of sailing ships entered and cleared:—

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	207	15,950	200	14,743
American	23	5,667	21	5,635
Cuban	1	36	—	—
Honduranean ..	4	639	4	637
Panamanian ..	3	138	3	138
Totals ..	238	22,430	228	21,153

Banking Facilities.

There are no banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks, which are cashed in the shops and serve as remittances in payment for goods imported. The Post Office Money Order system is used to a small extent, the total business in 1922 being orders issued £1,326 and orders paid £805.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 50; the deposits for the year have been £1,945, the withdrawals have amounted to £2,648, and the balance due to depositors stands at £2,367. A sum of £2,500 invested some years ago more than covers the balance due to depositors.

LEGISLATION.

The only enactments in the year under review were Supplementary Appropriation Law for the previous financial period and the usual Appropriation Law for the following year.

EDUCATION.

Eleven Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year, having, with seven small private schools, 1,024 pupils enrolled and an average attendance of 751 pupils. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,302. There are no aided schools and no secondary schools.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall amounted to 66·67 inches, the heaviest precipitations being 11·39 inches in September and 10·85 inches in May. No rain fell in February. The air temperature ranges between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the cooler winter months and 10 degrees higher in the summer months. No tropical cyclones visited the islands in 1922.

COMMUNICATIONS.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands and the American continent is maintained by trading schooners. Roads suitable for vehicular traffic connect the more important settlements, and from these branch a system of bridle paths.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and all outgoing vessels are bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-insular communication is irregular and frequently at intervals of a month or more. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
10*th May*, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922-1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922-1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922-1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922-1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922-1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922-1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	,,
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute..	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General..	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1213.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1196.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1924.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1213.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands, and just below the tropic of Cancer. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but, as no thorough survey of the group has ever been made, this figure may be below the mark.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands or cays, and a large number of islets and rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group and offers dangers to navigation, and has been the cause of many shipwrecks in the past. These islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which was said to resemble a Turkish fez.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow passages or channels, in many cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; [Cd. 7622–37].

HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. These islands remained uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil and the scanty rainfall, until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710 but soon returned and continued the salt industry with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts were made by the Spaniards and the French to obtain possession of the islands. In the year 1766 the King was pleased to appoint an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, "to reside there and by his residence on the spot to insure the right of the island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order in general amongst the inhabitants. In 1790 Colonel Alexander Murray arrived as the agent of His Majesty, and in 1799 an act was passed by the Bahama Legislature which placed the Turks and Caicos Islands under the Bahama Government, and so they remained until 1848 when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, Her Majesty was pleased to grant a separate charter to the "Turks Islands and the Islands and Cays commonly known as the Caicos Islands." Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found burdensome in the altered circumstances caused by the fall in the price of salt, and in 1873 a petition was presented to the Queen praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica and still remain one of its dependencies. Under this new arrangement the government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also President of the Legislative Board and Judge of the Supreme Court.

CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

(15512) Wt. 11510/761 500 9/24 Harrow G.94

CLIMATE.

Although the islands are within the tropics the climate is not unhealthy. The severe heat in the hot months is tempered by the constant sea breezes. The temperature ranges from 60° minimum to 93° maximum. The average rainfall in the year 1923, from observations taken at eight stations throughout the islands, was 25·10 inches. The maximum precipitation was recorded at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, measuring 29·00 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 14·81 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1919–1923 amounted to 23·72 inches.

GRAND TURK.

Grand Turk, formerly known as Grand Cay, is situated on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Commissioner resides there. The island has a population of about 1,568, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island, where almost the entire population live. The town contains the public buildings, including the various public offices and the prison; several stores, a market, a public library and reading room, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The hospital is at the north end of the town and the Commissioner's residence, is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a local public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places and private residences. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with stunted, hardy trees scattered here and there. The principal industry in Grand Turk is the production and export of salt, for which there is a good demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. 448,151 bushels of salt, valued at £8,984, were exported from Grand Turk in 1923. There are four salt crushing mills on the island. There are no automobiles, and horse-drawn carriages are still used as conveyances. Cricket and football are played under the management of the Athletic Club and tennis is played, on hard courts, throughout the year.

SALT CAY.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. The area is about 4 square miles. The population, about 370, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living. In the year 1923, 478,951 bushels of salt, valued at £8,540, were exported from this island.

SOUTH CAICOS.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The quantity of salt exported from this island in 1923 amounted to 699,572 bushels, valued at £12,746. The population of South Caicos was about 639. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (also known as East Harbour).

EAST CAICOS.

This island, the north-eastern of the group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal and the production of fibre. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

MIDDLE CAICOS

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 796. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

NORTH CAICOS

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,408, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

PARROT CAY, DELLIS CAY, AND OTHERS.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. A small quantity of cotton is produced at Parrot Cay.

Providenciales or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 741. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On the southern side of Providenciales is Chalk Sound, a large creek extending over an area of about 9 square miles. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The attempt was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The writer of this report arrived at Grand Turk and assumed the administration of the Government on the 25th June, 1923, succeeding Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, O.B.E., who then retired from the Colonial Service on pension. The drought referred to in the report for 1922 continued up to the end of September, 1923, when heavy rains fell and relieved the situation which had become serious. The importation of drinking water from abroad for supply to the public, which commenced in 1922, was stopped at the end of September, 1923. As mentioned in the last report, the drought caused much poverty and suffering amongst the agricultural population of the Caicos Islands. On the other hand, the dry weather was favourable to the Dependency's main industry, the production of salt by solar evaporation.

Emigration.

As in the previous year, owing to poverty and unemployment caused by the failure of crops, many of the labouring classes left the islands to seek employment elsewhere. The high wages paid to labourers and domestic servants in the United States attracted many of the young men and women of the islands. The number of departures is unknown as no record is kept as regards emigration and immigration.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In his annual report on the Turks Islands for 1923, the Government Medical Officer stated that during the months of March and April these islands were visited by a rather severe epidemic of dysentery. Some of the cases, about five in number, had all the symptoms of cholerine. At that time cholerine was epidemic both in Haiti and Santo Domingo, and no doubt it was imported here through intercourse with those places. The other cases, some twenty or thirty in number, were of a mild type and responded readily to treatment. None of these cases ended fatally.

Tuberculosis.—There were ten cases of the pulmonary type during the year. This was about the average number of cases brought to his notice each year.

Typhoid.—There were no cases during the year. Malaria is always present to some extent. During 1923 cases of the remittant type appeared and several patients had to be removed to the hospital for treatment owing to the severity of the attack.

Children's diseases, such as measles, chicken-pox, and whooping cough, did not make their appearance during the year. There were three cases of syphilis under treatment. There was no case of leprosy in the Turks Islands. This was due, no doubt, to the precautions taken in the Caicos Islands in isolating the cases that exist there. Peleagra was quite prevalent during the last few years. Taking everything into consideration, these islands were in a fairly healthy condition during the year under review.

HOSPITALS.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided :—

The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk ..	8 beds
The Hospital at Cockburn Harbour ..	4 beds

As regards the Manning Hospital, during the year 1923 three cases were admitted to the surgical ward for operation and twenty to the medical ward for treatment. The staff consisted of the Medical Officer, Head Nurse, Cook, and Messenger. During the year the isolation camp, situated in the hospital grounds, was occupied, by alastrim cases, on two occasions only.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the end of the year 1923 was 5,697. This figure is arrived at by taking the actual Census count of April, 1921, and adding thereto the number of births and deducting therefrom the number of deaths registered in the intervening period up to the 31st December, 1923. This estimate is divided as follows :—

Turks Islands	1,912
Caicos Islands	3,785

The white population, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians. During the year 1923, 182 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 31·9 per 1,000. During the same period 196 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 34·4 per 1,000: 44 marriages were registered.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports during the year 1923 amounted to £46,560. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £3,577; from British Dominions, £2,960; and from foreign countries, £40,023, including £36,024, the value of imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink and clothing. The customs import duties amounted to £4,474.

The exports were valued at £37,455. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £750; to British Dominions, £14,843; and to foreign countries, £21,862. The value of the exports to Canada was £12,028, and to the United States, £19,523. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £36,592 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1923 and £863 the value of the re-exports.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The revenue of the Dependency for the year 1923 amounted to £11,751 and the expenditure to £10,950; the revenue exceeding the expenditure by £801. The revenue was aided by large sales of postage stamps of the new issue. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1923, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £12,226 as against £11,426, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt; the former providing about 40 per cent. and the latter about 20 per cent. of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government, but gold coins were scarce and seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £1,800; the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. The Government Savings Bank had 943 accounts open, with £16,932 on deposit, at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £16,231. There were no private banks doing business in the Dependency.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

In the year 1923 there was a balance of trade against the Dependency of £9,105, that is, the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by that amount. The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Salt	28,171	36,621	30,271
Conchs	841	2,289	1,563
Sponges	2,093	1,690	1,436
Cotton and Cotton Seed.	1,711	1,700	641
Sisal	—	946	2,168
Turtle Shell ..	267	166	486

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

IMPORTS.

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*
	£	£	£
1921 ..	4,924	5,866	45,147
1922 ..	4,656	3,020	40,001
1923 ..	3,577	2,960	40,023

EXPORTS.

1921 ..	1,400	19,244	15,012
1922 ..	882	19,846	26,031
1923 ..	750	14,843	21,862

SALT.

The demand by dealers in the United States and Canada for salt, the Dependency's principal product, was not as firm in 1923 as it was in the previous year, with the result that there was a

decline in the quantity exported. Two grades of salt are exported: coarse and fishery (ground). The proportion of the latter is increasing. The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1923:—

	Quantity. Bushels.	*Value.* £
United States	957,526	16,826
Canada	561,213	11,461
Newfoundland	37,636	784
Jamaica	39,626	577
St. Pierre et Miquelon..	27,354	563
Santo Domingo ..	1,682	31
Cuba	1,637	26

Conchs.

There was a set-back in 1923 in the trade with Haiti in conchs. 1,672,775, valued at £1,563, were shipped from the Caicos Islands to Haiti in that year, as compared with 2,150,700, valued at £2,289, in the previous year. Many of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands depend upon the conch trade with Haiti for their livelihood. This trade is still greatly handicapped by the excessive port charges levied in that country.

Sponges.

The sponge industry is on the decline. There is now only one sponging establishment remaining in the Caicos Islands, with headquarters at Cockburn Harbour, and the exports of this product are gradually falling off. In 1923 the shipments to Bahamas were valued at £1,070 and those to the United States at £366.

The following table gives the value of the shipments during the last three years:—

	£
1921	2,093
1922	1,691
1923	1,436

Cotton.

During the year 1923 the exports of raw cotton amounted to 5,724 lb., valued at £430, as compared with 18,910 lb., valued at £1,230, exported in 1922. There was a corresponding decline in the exports of cotton-seed. 39,840 lb., valued at £211, were exported in 1923, as compared with 87,420 lb., valued at £470, shipped in the previous year. The whole of the raw cotton and seed exported in 1923 was shipped to England. The small output in 1923 was due to the damage to the crops by the drought.

SISAL.

The trade in sisal, which is cultivated on a small scale in the Caicos Islands, has revived. The shipments of this product in 1917 were valued at £5,950. The trade then declined until 1921, when there were no exports. The quantity exported in 1923 was valued at £2,168, as against £946 in the previous year.

SHELL.

There was also a revival in the trade in turtle shell. The quantity exported in 1923 amounted to 479 lb., valued at £486, as compared with 166 lb., valued at £166, shipped in 1922. The trade with the United States in sea-shells, which in former times was considerable, has ceased entirely.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Only three ordinances were passed during the year 1923. No. 1 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance; No. 2, which related to pensions, was disallowed; and No. 3 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance.

V.—EDUCATION.

The sum of £725 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency. There were nine Government elementary schools supported in this manner. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 787 and the average attendance was 555. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £655.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk received a grant from the Government of £150. The average attendance at this school was 29.

VI.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	26·98 in.
Maximum temperature	91°
Minimum ,, ...	62°

VII.—SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1923 was as follows:—

	British	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	17	133	150
Sailing vessels ..	186	51	237
	203	184	387

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 33,631 and of the steamships to 268,121.

The undermentioned steamship companies of New York maintained a regular service between the Dependency and New York :—

The Clyde Steamship Co.
The Columbus Steamship Co.
The Bull Insular Line Inc.

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York about four times a month by the steamers of the Clyde and Columbus lines.

The Government radio-telephone service enabled messages to be transmitted between Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour and passing ships.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Co. Ltd. between Halifax and Bermuda and Jamaica touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
24th June, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1181	British Honduras	1922
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
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90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1218.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1190.)

PRINTED IN JAMAICA.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1924.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL

GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of the land of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, anmely:—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston ..	7	St. Catherine ..	470	St. Elizabeth ..	462
St. Andrew ..	166	St. Mary ..	249	Trelawny ..	333
St. Thomas ..	274	Clarendon ..	474	St. James ..	234
Portland ..	285	St. Ann ..	476	Hanover ..	157
		Manchester ..	302	Westmoreland .	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,587 acres, of which, approximately, 646 square miles or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that 2,692,587 acres is slightly larger than the total area of the six Welsh Counties—Cardigan, Brecon, Radnor, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh. Jamaica is more mountainous than Wales, the hills being more precipitous, and the Blue Mountain Peak (7,388 feet) is rather more that double the height of Snowdon (3,571 feet.) Oddly enough, the population is also double that of the six Welsh Counties.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° at the sea coast the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° on the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of atmosphere that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suitable to the most delicate constitution.

The eastern parts of the island are the highest. Through the County of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak, attaining an elevation of 7,388 feet.

From this range subordinate ridges or spurs run northerly to the northside of the island and southerly to the southside; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening gullies.

4. There are numerous rivers and streams, from which Jamaica derived its aboriginal Arawak name of Xaymaca, which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. The majority have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. There are many mineral springs in Jamaica, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body.

The two principal are, the spring at Bath, in St. Thomas in the East, and the spring at Milk River in Clarendon.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

7. The following are dependencies of Jamaica, viz:—The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands; also the Pedro and Morant Cays, (Guano Islands.)

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered.) The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, it remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave

insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who inhabited mainly the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished, in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.* chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer. Two buildings, the General Post Office and Treasury, and the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, were completed in 1910, and the Law Courts in 1913.

Constitution.

9. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which, after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 30 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1886, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) and five *ex-officio* members, viz., the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Director of Public Works and Collector General, and such other persons, not exceeding ten in numbers; as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons

to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

10. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886 was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island. At the last election held in 1920, the number of voters on the list was 42,267. There were five contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 3,858.

Local Administration.

11. There is a Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council, and Corporate Officers. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921, 62,707, (Port Royal (population 1,004,) Spanish Town (population 8,694), Port Antonio (population 6,272), Montego Bay (population 6,580), Falmouth (population 2,136), Port Maria (population 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442.)

12. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions, viz: poor houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board of the parish, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1922 was 7,633, being a decrease of 80 as compared with last year. The present figures are below the total of 1,917, and indicate that the upward tendency of pauperism during the last ten years has been broken. The several direct taxes received on property, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

13. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—General Observations.

14. The Colony again suffered from a prolonged drought during the year under review, the average rainfall for the whole Island having been 57.45 inches, or 19.01 inches below the average for the previous 50 years.

15. In spite of these unfavourable conditions the value of the exports of the Island during 1923, is estimated at £4,263,238, bananas accounting for £2,265,300 of the total; while the value of the exports during 1922 was estimated at £4,339,153.

16. The value of the imports (including Parcels Post goods) during 1923 was £5,281,078, as against £4,580,975 during 1922; details as to the classes of goods chiefly responsible for the increase will be found under the sub-head "Imports and Exports" while the amount collected for Import Duties during the year under review is therein shown as £862,700 as against £808,300 during the previous year.

17. Though chronologically, the next following paragraphs do not come within the scope of this Report, it has been decided to insert them as being of special interest.

18. On a suggestion by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, which was communicated to the various West Indian Colonies and British Guiana by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it was decided that an Inter-Colonial West Indian Conference on agricultural questions should be held in Jamaica. The Conference was opened in Kingston, the capital of the Colony, on the 28th of January, 1924, and the final session took place on the 1st of February. Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, presided at the meetings of the Conference.

19. The following delegates from the United Kingdom attended the Conference, viz:

Capt. A. W. Hill, F.R.S., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew; S. P. Wiltshire, Esq., Assistant Director, Imperial Bureau of Mycology; Dr. S. A. Neave, Assistant Director, Imperial Bureau of Entomology; E. A. dePass, Esq., and A. E. Aspinall, Esq., C.M.G., representing the West India Committee; R. G. W. Farnell, Esq., B.A., representing the British Empire Sugar Research Association.

20. The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture was also represented by the following gentlemen:

Sir A. E. Shipley, G.B.E., Chairman; G. Moody Stuart, Esq., Chairman of the Finance Committee; H. S. Ballou, Esq., M.Sc., Professor of Zoology and Entomology and Asst. Commissioner of Agriculture; S. F. Ashby, Esq., B.Sc., Professor of Mycology and Bacteriology; Dr. S. C. Harland, B.Sc., Professor of Botany.

21. The following Colonies were represented by the delegates whose names are shown opposite, viz:—

Bahamas—G. A. Albury, Esq., Chairman, Board of Agriculture.
Barbados—J. R. Bovell, Esq., F.L.S., Director of Agriculture.
Bermuda—L. Ogilvie, Esq., B.Sc., Plant Pathologist.
British Honduras—E. Stanley Woods, Esq.
British Guiana—R. A. Alston, Esq., B.Sc., Asst. Government Botanist and Mycologist.
Grenada—Hon. J. T. De La Motte.
Leeward Islands—Hon. R. Nosworthy, Acting Collector General, Jamaica who had recently acted as Administrator for Dominica.
Trinidad—W. Nowell, Esq., D.I.C., Asst. Director of Agriculture and Mycologist, and W. S. E. Barnado, Esq., M.A., Chairman Agricultural Society.
Windward Islands—T. Jackson, Esq., Agricultural Superintendent, St. Vincent.
Jamaica—Colonel The Hon. H. Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary; H. H. Cousins, Esq., M.A., Director of Agriculture; W. A. Baker, Esq., F.S.I., Surveyor General; C. C. Gowdey, Esq., B.Sc., Govt. Entomologist; C. G. Hansford, Esq., M.A., Govt. Microbiologist; S. Lockett, Esq., V.M.D., Govt. Veterinary Surgeon; P. W. Murray, Esq., Supt. of Agriculture; Hon. W. B. Isaacs, Chairman, Agricultural

Loan Societies Board; S. S. Stedman, Esq., Member, Advisory Committee on Banana Industry; Hon. A. G. Nash, B.Sc., Member, Board of Management, Lititz Fibre Plantation; E. W. Muirhead, Esq., Member, Board of Management, Grove Place, Stud Farm; J. F. Brennan, Esq., F.R.M.S., Govt. Meteorologist; all of whom represented the Government. A. H. Spooner, Esq., and John Barclay, Esq., represented the Jamaica Agricultural Society; R. S. Gamble, Esq., and the Hon. H. V. Myers, M.B.E., represented the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Exchange; and the Hon. A. E. Harrison, B.A., and Mr. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., represented the Jamaica Imperial Association.

22. Papers were contributed by many of the delegates on various subjects and these were followed by general discussions. It is considered that the Colonies that sent delegates to the Conference will derive great benefit from their participation therein. Steamship communication between the various British West Indian Islands is at present very irregular and there is no doubt that if there were better facilities for travel such periodical Conferences would tend towards the advancement of the agricultural interests of these Colonies.

23. Viscount Burnham, Vice Chairman of the British Empire Parliamentary Association, paid a visit to Jamaica from the 2nd to the 17th February, 1923. He met the Members of the Legislative Council, as well as Members of other representative bodies, and discussed with them matters of general interest.

24. It was proposed that a number of Members of Parliament should visit the West Indies and British Guiana towards the end of the year; but this visit had to be postponed indefinitely owing to the General Election which took place in the United Kingdom.

25. On the 28th and 29th March, 1923, the Secretary of the Navy of the United States of America with a party of Senators and Representatives visited Jamaica on the U.S.S. "Henderson."

26. The Legislative Council voted, in the aggregate, a sum of £12,000 to enable this Colony to participate in the British Empire Exhibition in 1924. The local arrangements in connection with the Exhibition are in the hands of a representative Committee, of which the Hon. A. G. Nash is Chairman and Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, is Secretary.

27. During the year Law 3 of 1923, entitled "A Law to constitute the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew a Municipal Corporation to incorporate the inhabitants thereof and so provide for the good government of the said parishes and for other purposes incidental thereto," was enacted. The municipal affairs of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew had hitherto been dealt with by three bodies, viz: the Mayor and Council of Kingston, the Kingston General Commissioners and the Parochial Board of St. Andrew. The main object of the amalgamation of the two parishes for municipal purposes is to prevent duplication of authority and to effect improvement in administration and economy in expenditure.

28. Pending the election of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors to be termed the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, as provided for in the Law, the Governor appointed the Hon. H. A. Laselve Simpson, O.B.E., to be the Kingston and St. Andrew Commissioner.

29. Later in the year a further Law (38 of 1923), entitled "A Law to amend The Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Law, 1923 (Law 3 of 1923)," was enacted, which provides, *inter alia*, for the election of Councillors as soon as possible after the 1st April, 1924.

30. During the year under review conditions relating to Foot and Mouth Disease (Epizootic Aphthous Fever) which first appeared in the western parishes of the Island in late June, or early July of the year 1922 have been constantly under the supervision and scrutiny of the Central Government.

31. The disease spread with great rapidity during the four months immediately subsequent to its initial occurrence in the Montpelier-Copse-Burnt Ground area on the borders of the parishes of St. James and Hanover. Subsequently, and due to the direction and efforts of Mr. Peter Conacher, an Expert from the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the organization of a field staff, the establishment of a rigidly quarantined infected area, disinfecting stations, regulation of the movement of all animals within and out of the infected area, favourable weather conditions and the co-operation of stock-owners the extension of the disease was arrested by the end of February, 1923.

32. During the ensuing nine months (March 1st to November 30th), the quarantine was maintained as a safeguard against possible spread of the disease arising from recurrences. As no recurrences took place during the period of nine months the quarantine was revoked entirely on the 30th of November. Within three days of such action a recurrent outbreak was reported on a sugar plantation in the parish of Westmoreland which had been visited by the disease 14 months before. By prompt slaughter of all affected cattle and the institution of quarantine and disinfection measures the outbreak was confined and suppressed on December 24th, that is, within 21 days of its occurrence and the Island has since been free of the scourge.

33. In consequence of the unfavourable turn of events arising from the recurrence in Westmoreland and the fact that the previously invaded territory presents similar conditions for possible recurrence of the disease, a quarantine of the 1922-1923 declared infected area was re-established as from February 6th, 1924. By this means a continued effort is being made eventually to eradicate the disease and confine it to the originally affected parishes.

34. While this report was in course of preparation, Governor Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., having been granted leave by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, embarked for England on the 16th of June, 1924. The Secretary of State has intimated the appointment of Brigadier General Sir Samuel Herbert Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., R.E., Governor of Trinidad, to be Governor of Jamaica in succession to Sir Leslie Probyn, but that the Governor designate would not assume duty in Jamaica until the Autumn of 1924. By virtue of the Dormant Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet dated the 26th of July, 1919, I assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony on the departure of Sir Leslie Probyn.

Emigration and Immigration.

35. The Departures in 1921 were 15,199; in 1922, 6,733; in 1923, 7,778.

The arrivals in 1921, were 17,463; in 1922, 6,931; in 1923, 5,029.

Public Health and Sanitation.

36. Matters in connection with health and sanitation receive increasing attention from the Central Government and the Local Boards of Health.

37. No less than nine of the laws passed by the local Legislature during the year 1923, contain provisions affecting the Public Health.

38. The Rockefeller Foundation continued their campaign with a view to the eradication of Hookworm in the Island. In May, 1924 a second unit will be in operation and on the withdrawal in 1926 from the Colony of the foundation, the Central Government propose to carry on the campaign for treatment. The Parochial Boards have recognized the advantages that are derived from sanitation preparatory to treatment for Hookworm and provision of latrine accommodation on approved lines must have the most beneficial results on the health of the colony generally.

39. Arrangements have been made for the appointment of full-time Medical Officers of Health for the parishes of Clarendon and St. Andrew, and a Junior Sanitary Medical Officer was appointed during the year under review who will supervise the sanitary work in the Western part of the Island.

40. Alastrim still exists in some of the parishes and general vaccination continues to be carried out extensively.

41. The campaign against Yaws is progressing most satisfactorily. Treatment of Venereal Disease is receiving attention and a special clinic has been established in Kingston.

42. Notifications of typhoid fever have shewn a progressive diminution since 1921.

Vital Statistics.

43. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1923 was 894,576 which is arrived at by taking the estimated population of 31st December, 1922, adding thereto the Births and Arrivals and deducting therefrom the Deaths and Departures during the year ended 31st December, 1923.

44. 3,384 marriages were registered during 1923, the rate being 3.8 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.7 for 1922. During the same period 34,077 births were registered of which 17,315 were boys and 16,762 were girls. The birth rate works out at 38.2 per 1,000 as against 37.3 during 1922.

45. 20,278 deaths were registered of which 10,061 were males and 10,217 females, the death rate being 22.7 per thousand. That for 1922 was 22.9.

During 1923, 7,308 or 36.0 of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,839 or 28.7 were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1922 were 37.1 and 28.9. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.1 as compared with 17.7 in 1922.

The principal causes of deaths (per 100 of total deaths) among the inhabitants of Kingston, the capital, were :—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 9.4; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 11.3; Phthisis, 9.5; Enteric Fever, 6.0; Pneumonia, 5.1; Heart Disease, 6.9 Chronic Brights Disease, 3.6; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.6.

Imports and Exports.

46. The Tariff Law which came into operation in 1922 has worked successfully during 1923, and has to some extent changed the sources

from which some of the Island's supplies were formerly obtained. The value of the Imports in 1923, (inclusive of Parcels Post Goods) was £5,281,078, as against £4,580,975 in 1922. The value of the goods coming under the Heads of Class I:—Food, Drink and Tobacco (£2,098,230) and Class III., Articles wholly or mainly manufactured, (£2,594,547), shewed substantial increases over the previous year, viz:—£264,496 and £367,172 respectively, and contributed the major portion of the total increase. Under Class I, which deals mostly with Foodstuffs, the United States of America secured the first place as a source of the Colony's supplies. It is, however, worthy of note that Canada secures a higher place each year. The percentages under this division are as follows:—United Kingdom 14.1% United States of America 35.6%; Canada 30.7%; Other Countries 19%. Under Class III., the market is fairly evenly divided between the United Kingdom and the United States of America the percentages being 44% and 45.3%, respectively.

47. The principal increases in the importations were as under:—

ARTICLES PAYING SPECIFIC DUTY.

	Increase.
Butter and Butter Substitutes	144,000 lbs.
Mackerels, Pickled	1,093,100 "
Flour, Wheaten	91,400 brls.
Oils	871,000 gals.
Rice	1,932,591 lbs.
Lumber	3,226,000 feet
Shingles	490,500 No.

Articles paying ad valorem Duty.

Carriages, &c., (including Motor Vehicles)	£80,200
Cotton Piece-goods	125,100
Iron and Steel Manufactures	28,400

The principal decrease comes under whisky, viz:—29,900 gallons, due (i) to the reduction in the *in transitu* trade and (ii) to the high cost of the commodity.

48. The preference of 10% given to British Cotton Piece-goods has begun to shew some result. The proportions of British and Foreign trade in these goods were as follows:—

1922—British 29%, Foreign 71% or 42% in favour of Foreign.

1923—British 48%, Foreign 52% or 4% in favour of Foreign.

A factor contributing to this shifting of trade is no doubt the superior quality of the British article. The effect of the preference is to reduce the cost of British-made goods to the purchaser by about one penny per yard.

49. Import Duties realized in the year 1923-24, the sum of £862,700, as against £808,300 in 1922-1923, or an increase of £54,400. This result, however, fell short of the Revised Estimate by £27,700, owing to an unexpected fluctuation during the final quarter.

The temporary impost of the Package Tax realized the sum of £66,850, being an increase of £5,200 over the previous year. The levying of an export duty on spirits served its purpose and acted as a deterrent to the *in transitu* Liquor Traffic, the collections being £160, as against £2,400 in the previous year.

50. The value of the exports in 1923 totalled £4,263,238 (exclusive of Parcels Post Goods) as against £4,339,153 in 1922, or a decrease of £75,915. If, however, Class V. (Bullion and Specie) is omitted, being a negligible factor, it will be found that in the remaining four classes the year 1923, shewed an increase of £105,722 over the previous year. Their distribution to the various markets were as follows:—United Kingdom 29%; United States of America 49.4%; Canada 13.8%; Other Countries 7.8%. The Colony's eleven staple products are valued at £3,765,200, or 90% of the total, and were divided as follows:—Bananas £2,265,300; Coffee, £242,100; Cocoa £60,200; Coconuts £128,500; Ginger, £112,800; Logwood, £71,200; Oranges, £41,700; Pimento, £57,100; Rum, £51,800; Sugar, £674,800; Cigars, £60,700. It is noteworthy that owing to the unstable condition of two of the principal products, viz: Sugar and Rum, Fruit supplied the bulk of the Exports. Increase in the export of Copra is satisfactory, nevertheless it did not compensate for the large decrease in the number of Coconuts exported.

In addition to the eleven staple products mentioned above, Logwood Extract, valued at £199,714, was manufactured in and exported from the Colony during the year.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

51. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
£	£	£	£	£
1,802,778	2,347,362	1,926,791	2,057,412	2,061,202

Expenditure.

£	£	£	£	£
1,444,818	2,332,635	2,253,502	1,949,034	2,074,271

The total expenditure during the year 1923-24 was £13,069 more than the total revenue.

52. The assets and liabilities were £1,114,060 and £1,001,161, respectively. The credit balance at the close of the year was therefore £112,899.

53. The amount of public debt outstanding at 31st March, 1924, was £4,582,207.

54. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of Public Debt amounted at 31st March, 1924, to £1,704,633. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,877,574) exceeds by only £790,115 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1924-25).

55. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

56. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaica in 1923.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,742,526,147	161.3
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	894,000	4,021,201	4.5

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1923, viz:—£1,570,405, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount *per capita* is £2 7s. 0d. The year 1922-1923 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1923-24, are not available locally.

57. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounts to £204,712: this fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Funds for the amortisation of the public debt.

Taxation.

58. *Law* 1 *of* 1923—"A Law to continue various Expiring Laws." This Law continued in force, from the 1st April, 1923, to the 31st March, 1924, the following Laws:—

(1) The Post Office (War Tax) Law, 1919 (Law 7 of 1919).
(2) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law, 1919 (Law 9 of 1919).
(3) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law, 1920 (Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920).

Law 9 *of* 1923—"A Law further to amend the Wharfage Law, 1895 (Law 15 of 1895.)"

This Law made slight alterations in the Schedules of charges contained therein, reducing the rates on certain articles.

Law 22 *of* 1923—"A Law to amend a Law to impose a duty on Entertainments to which the Public are admitted on payment."

This Law widened the range of the tax so as to embrace many and varied forms of amusement, such as theatrical performances, concerts, circuses, fairs and professional boxing contests.

Law 23 *of* 1923—"A Law to amend the Tariff Law, 1922, (Law 2 of 1922.")

This Law permits an Importer to obtain a drawback of duty on his goods of an amount equal to the Preferential Duty mentioned in the First Schedule of the Law, instead of only one-half that amount as heretofore.

Law 21 *of* 1922—"A Law to make provision for the collection and application of duties on mechanically-propelled vehicles and vehicles used with them and for the licensing and control of the drivers thereof and to regulate the use of such vehicles on the roads of the Island."

This Law only came into operation on the 1st April, 1923. It increased the scale of taxes payable on motor vehicles (other than motor cars for private use) and vehicles with them and provided for the exercise of proper and effective control of the use and operation thereof for public benefit and public safety.

Currency.

59. Under Law 27 of 1904, local Currency Notes, which are made legal tender under Section 5, were in circulation on 31st December, 1923, to the extent of £85,234 15s. 0d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 Notes.	5/ Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
516 5 0	37,061 0 0	47,657 10 0	85,234 15 0

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

60. Below is a table shewing the value of the Imports and Exports during the past 40 years at intervals of 10 years:—

	1883 to 30.9 1883.	1893 to 31.3 1894	1903 to 31.3 1904.	1913 to 31.12 1913	1923 to 31.12 1923
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,469,446	2,075,689	1,436,725	2,430,207	4,263,238
Value of Imports	1,568,639	2,191,745	1,682,355	2,837,446	5,281,078

In considering these figures due allowance should be made for the great advance in cost (value) of all commodities during recent years.

61. It will be seen at a glance that the trade of the Colony has made great strides during the past forty years. The value of the Exports is shown to have increased 190% in forty years; that is to say, in 1923, it was almost treble that of 1883. Similarly the value of the Imports increased 237%, or was more than three and one-third times what it was in 1883. Taken on the whole, the distribution of the Import Trade of the Colony during the past year has been satisfactory; the percentage of imports from British Sources is now nearly equivalent to that from Foreign Sources. The figures disclose that the total Imports were British 49.5%, Foreign 50.5%, and, since there is evidence that certain British Goods continue to gain ground in the local market, it is safe to forecast that next year will find our Empire in the lead if the Preferential Duties should be continued. In the case of the Export Trade the position is slightly different; British Countries took 44.5% of the products of the Island, while 55.5% went to Foreign Countries. Further, it will be seen that in the cases of the principal countries with which this Colony trades, the Imports exceeded the Exports. This is not satisfactory and full advantage should be taken of the available steamship facilities to increase the Export Trade.

Agriculture and Industry.

62. Again the Colony suffered from lack of rain and the effect of two years of drought was felt in a cumulative degree.

63. The average rainfall for the island was 57.45 inches, or 19.01 inches below the average for the previous half century. For 1922 and 1923 a cumulative deficit of 43 inches of rain was recorded. This expresses in brief the trying agricultural conditions under which the planters had to operate and it is indeed remarkable that despite such unfavourable conditions for production the Exports of the Island were so well maintained. The Collector General's return shows a value of £4,263,238 for the Exports in 1923 as against £4,339,153 in the previous year.

This favourable result was mainly due to the Bananas which, despite very unfavourable climatic conditions, were in such eager demand that a total value of £2,265,300 was secured from about 12½ million stems of bananas. This is the record in the history of the banana industry of the Colony. The average output of bananas for export has been slightly over 11 million stems per annum with an average value of one million pounds sterling and an average price of one shilling and eight pence per stem of bananas produced during the past 22 years. The records for 1923 show that the average price paid per stem was just double the 22 years' average while the total value was 2¼ times the average for that period.

64. Panama Disease was kept under very active control during the year and the staff of nine Inspectors was kept continually engaged in carrying out quarantine measures under the "Order." It is satisfactory to note that the disease was thus so effectively controlled that the increase amounted to less than 6 per cent. over that for the previous year. With a disease of the nature of Panama Disease, the incidence of which may readily gather momentum so as to cause a complete ruin of the industry in a short time when left to carry on its natural spread, such a result as has been recorded in Jamaica may be regarded as satisfactory and encouraging.

65. A trial is now being made of a new banana which was brought from Guatemala in 1914. This has been proved to be immune to Panama Disease by a crucial test on a diseased area on the Junction Road in St. Mary. The fruit is being accepted readily by the Fruit Companies and is very similar to the "Jamaica" Banana in appearance. It remains to be found, however, whether the American market will accept this "Robusta" banana when shipped in quantity.

66. From the Agriculture Departmental point of view the year has been chiefly remarkable for an active campaign against Mosaic Disease which threatened to become a serious menace to the fields of the Island. The co-operation of the planters has been freely given and effective control of Mosaic Disease is being rapidly established in all the chief sugar-growing areas. "Uba" cane has proved to be of great service in this campaign, as it is immune to Mosaic Disease and is a very strong and hardy grower giving a larger tonnage than any other cane grown in the island. The Sugar Industry has found itself in the tantalising position of having a splendid market for its sugar and latterly a better demand for rum, with a production seriously curtailed by three years of drought. The estates in Vere have suffered most severely, despite great efforts to deal effectively with the inadequate supplies of water available for irrigation. The Exports of Sugar in 1923 were in round figures 26,000 tons valued at £675,000; as against 50,000 tons valued at £914,000 in the previous year.

67. Rum was greatly reduced in output by every means and only 5,370 puncheons were exported of a value of £51,800.

68. For the current year prices are still good for sugar while rum is in brisk demand. Many estates should now be able to see themselves on a safe basis after the vicissitudes of 1921.

69. At the Hope Experiment Station there are 35 seedling canes obtained by crossing the "Uba" with large West Indian varieties. It is hoped from this line of breeding to obtain for use in Jamaica, as has been effected in Java, a resistant cane that will enable planters to deal with Mosaic Disease in an effective manner and which will yield larger and more "planter-like" canes than the small reed-like "Uba."

70. Although the lack of rain was detrimental to the Coconut Industry the output of nuts (including Copra) was well maintained at 34 million as against 36 million nuts for 1922. Owing to an improvement of price the smaller crop of 1923 (including Copra) was worth £178,000 as against £163,000 for the output of the previous year.

71. Latterly the coconut market has been active and much higher prices are now being contracted for. The price of Copra has also recently responded to a keener demand. The outlook for Jamaica's coconut industry is therefore much changed for the better. There are many thousands of young trees still to come into bearing and with the improved position for coconuts many planters will find a successful outcome for their enterprise in having planted coconuts extensively during the five years previous to 1920.

72. *Coffee* has had a very good year with an output of 3,800 tons valued at £242,100 as against 3,160 tons valued at £203,900 in 1922. This crop deserves more attention at the present time, particularly on the part of the smaller cultivators.

73. *Cacao* has passed through one of the worst years on record since it became one of the major articles of export. Over-production in the chief producing countries combined with under-consumption in Europe have brought about a serious condition in the Cacao market.

74. *Logwood* as an industry, has been rather depressed. The value of Logwood and its extracts for 1923 was £271,000 as against £361,000 in the previous year.

75. *Pimento* has remained in a dull state: 4,700 tons valued at £57,100 were exported as against 5,100 tons valued at £60,000 in 1922. Here again, the producers are faced with over-production and a bad European market. A settlement of Central European finance would at once re-act on Jamaica's Pimento trade and lead to a brisk trade in this spice. A small commercial production of Pimento Leaf Oil has been started in Manchester. The market for Eugenol has recently improved.

76. *Hides* show an improvement on the previous year by an increase of 25 per cent. in quantity and value. The markets in U.S.A. and Canada have remained closed due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Colony in 1922. It is hoped, however, that the favourable outcome of the campaign against this disease will soon result in a re-opening of these markets for hides from Jamaica.

77. *Tobacco and Cigars* show some improvement as represented by an increase in value from £60,000 to £70,000.

78. *Ginger* is wholly a small cultivator's crop and whenever attempts have been made to grow ginger on a plantation scale the market has at once fallen with the increased supplies. The year under report

was an excellent year for ginger growers in Jamaica who received £112,800 for 850 tons of ginger, as against £90,000 for 650 tons in 1922.

79. *Annatto* is another small man's crop that has recently come into prominence. Although the crop was only 60 per cent. of that of 1922 a return of over £11,000 was obtained for Annatto as against £9,000 in the previous year.

80. *Citrus Fruits* have shown some recovery during the year. Oranges increased from 83,000 boxes to 100,000 boxes while grape fruit increased by ¾ million fruits.

81. *Orange Oil* also showed an increase amounting to £18,000 for the year.

82. *Honey* has prospered with an export value of £19,000 as against £11,000 in the previous year. The result of the drastic destruction of all hives within 3 miles of Kingston harbour in 1919, when "Foul Brood" gained entry into hives in this area through the transhipment of foreign honey infected with "Foul Brood" in the port of Kingston has now been proved to have been a complete success. The disease was completely stamped out before the bees had time to escape to the hills and thus gain an impenetrable citadel for the extension of the disease throughout the Colony. Although the cost of this campaign appeared high at the time, this was probably one of the best investments ever made by the Colony in dealing with an introduced disease, for it is estimated that the loss in honey would have been about 25% per annum if "Foul Brood" had established itself in Jamaica, or an annual loss of about the original cost of the first sacrifice.

83. *Tick Destruction.* During the year 41 dipping tanks were registered with the Agricultural Department, bringing the number of registered dipping tanks constructed under the Order of 1922 to a total of 227.

The Laboratory supplied 25 tons of Paranaph and Arsenite of Soda to stock owners during the year, equivalent to nearly one million gallons of cattle dip. Testing outfits, Testing Tables and the necessary chemicals have been regularly supplied so that owners of dipping tanks can test their dip and keep it to the correct strength.

It is estimated that this service saved the pen-keepers, £2,300 during the year over the cost of standard commercial dipping materials.

84. The experiments with Condensed Milk at the Government Laboratory indicate that excellent Condensed Milk can be made in Jamaica and that milk will travel safely on the Railway if heated to a pasteurising temperature and transported in insulated containers. In 1923, Jamaica spent £120,000 on the importation of 80,000 cases of Condensed Milk.

85. The Stud Farm at "Grove Place" passed through a trying year due to drought and shortage of feed and water. The quarantine against Foot and Mouth Disease in the Western Parishes also reacted against the free use of the Stud Farm by the public.

The new Silo and circular water tank have been erected. The dairy building, engine room and machine sheds, Stover wind-mill and concrete tank for service at the "Railway" well are now in hand for erection.

86. The Hope Farm has had another trying year of drought, but was so fortunate as to secure 550 tons of excellent guinea corn Silage in December, while a large field of 11 acres has been established in "Uba" canes that look very promising as a source of fodder.

Despite the dry weather, the Farm broke the record for milk production with an average daily yield of 314 Imperial quarts per diem for the year 1923. Some very promising young stock have been reared at Hope and the efficiency of the herd has been greatly improved by a free drafting of all animals below a certain standard. Great hopes are raised by the promising appearance of the daughters of the Indian Montgomery Bull "Pusa". This breed has not yet been tested in the West Indies and it would appear to be a valuable introduction.

87. The Sisal Industry has now reached the stage of producing regular supplies of fibre for export. Jamaica Sisal sold as high as £37 10s. 0d. per ton in New York, while the Rope Factory at May Pen has been in steady operation and is producing a very strong and useful rope for local use.

The Factory at Lititz, after a trial run in which 50 tons of fibre was manufactured, was shut down in June owing to the leaves from the younger plants being too short for producing No. 1 Sisal.

Owing to three years of drought in their early career the young fields that were expected normally to come in for reaping in 1923 have had to be held over until they have made proper growth.

Expenses have now been cut down to a very low figure, until the Factory is again ready to operate. It was found that there were legal difficulties in operating loans to Sisal planters under the Agricultural Loans Law and a special law to authorise such loans has now been introduced into the Legislature.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

88. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the military authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,423,834 acres have been alienated, leaving 268,646 neither alienated nor in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

89. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e., to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc."

The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the Eighteenth Century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

90. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of sugar caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

91. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of it has been restored to its rightful owners, some has been sold, and some still remains in possession of the Government.

92. During the year 1890 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government land for every mile of Railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,435.

93. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passage to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

94. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1923, 48,531 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 48 acres to one purchaser for £60. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

95. There is a large number of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum.

While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war in 1914 the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

96. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889; and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

97. There is no Forestry Department in this Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

98. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 37 years ago.

Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

99. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries" and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

100. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

101. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

102. Although not connected with the Crown Lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

103. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater, portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers who had resided on the property for many years.

Geological Surveys.

104. Dr. C. A. Matley, Government Geologist, was chiefly engaged during the year 1923, on surveys in connection with water-supply in several parishes, including St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine, St. Andrew, and St. Thomas. A most

striking contrast is found to exist between the hydrography of the limestone and the non-limestone districts, both as regards surface streams and ground-water conditions. The hydrography of the Liguanea Plain was described and the possibility of irrigating the plain discussed, and a suggestion was made to improve the water supply of the Kingston district by bringing additional water from the Yallahs River into the Hope River system by means of a tunnel. Geological surveys of the area affected by this scheme were carried out and have resulted in important additions to our knowledge of the strata and geological structure of the St. Andrew and Port Royal Mountains. The hydrography of the limestone country of Southern St. Elizabeth, including the Pedro Plains, has been studied, chiefly with a view to considering the possibility of irrigating the semi-arid areas of this parish. Other districts have also been examined in connection with ground-water supply, and, in addition, some parochial schemes for utilising surface streams and springs have been investigated from a geological standpoint.

105. The mineral and saline springs of the Island have received further attention during the year. It is found that the saline waters belong to two categories. In the first category are ground-waters near the coast, which are rendered brackish by infiltration of sea-water into them; in the second, the salinity is due to solution of salt contained in the rocks. The discovery of pseudomorphs of rock-salt crystals among the gypsum-bearing beds of St. Thomas indicates that deposits of rock-salt once existed, and may still exist, in Jamaica. A saline spring in St. Ann was found to have a constant emission of an inflammable natural gas (methane), the first and only discovery of natural gas in Jamaica. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood.

106. Dykes or sills of fine-grained dolerite and basalt were found in the Richmond Beds of Hanover, South of Lucea, and should produce a valuable road-metal for the district. They evidently belong to the same family of igneous intrusions as those mentioned in last year's report as having recently been found in the parish of St. James.

107. The Palisadoes of Kingston Harbour were geologically examined and a report submitted to the Admiralty in connection with a scheme to cut a channel through this natural break-water into the harbour.

108. On 10th September, 1923, Mr. G. M. Stockley, A.R.C., A.I.C.S., F.G.S., arrived from England to take up the post of Assistant Geologist and was actively engaged on survey work from that date.

Fishing.

109. Little or no improvement has taken place in the Fishing Industry and scarcity and high prices still prevail, especially in Kingston and most of the large towns.

It is a matter of extreme regret that this promising industry, with its many opportunities for remunerative development, has failed to attract that intelligent interest which is such a marked feature in other countries, comparatively few of which possess such splendid natural advantages as Jamaica does.

110. As a sport, fishing in Jamaica has been attracting some attention from abroad and Mr. Mitchell Hedges, R.G.S., a well known authority on the subject, has visited the colony on two occasions and has drawn attention to the possibilities that exist for indulging in this most fascinating and, sometimes, exciting pastime.

Manufactures.

111. The principal items of our manufactures are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars and Cigarettes and Leather.

112. *Sugar.* The Sugar industry recently has been meeting with difficult conditions, due to the overcapitalization of most of the estates about 1919, the short period of enhanced prices for this product, and the unstable market which has since prevailed. There was a considerable decrease in the annual output, there having been only 39,049 tons in 1923 as against 54,316 tons in 1922. The average in canes under cultivation during the year 1922 was 44,004 as against 48,184 in 1923, and the decrease in the output of sugar is accounted for by the severe drought which was experienced during the year under review.

113. *Rum.* The Rum industry, which is so closely allied to the Sugar industry, has been necessarily affected by prevailing conditions. The heavy duty imposed by the United Kingdom almost paralysed the trade with that country. The output in 1923 was 7,500 puncheons as compared with 13,073 puncheons in 1922.

114. *Copra.* This industry still shews signs of further development; there was, however, shrinkage in the marketing of the unmanufactured product, viz., the Coconut. In 1923, 5,207,094 lbs. were exported as against 2,563,550 lbs. in 1922.

115. *Sisal.* Several factories are now in full swing and an excellent quality is produced, for which high prices have been obtained.

116. *Banana Figs.* There has been no appreciable increase, although a fair quantity is still exported. No outstanding effort has been made to place this commodity on the local market.

117. *Orange Oil.* The output has improved and is apparently gaining a foothold in the European and American markets despite competition with oils from Sicily.

118. *Cigars and Cigarettes.* Cigars still hold a good place in the exports from the Colony and in demand for home consumption, but Cigarettes manufactured in the Island have a formidable rival in the foreign article.

119. *Leather.* The tanneries at various centres of the Island still turn out a fair amount of sole and harness leather, some of which is exported.

120. *Matches.* This industry has to meet powerful competition in the imported article.

121. *Minor Industries.* Of these may be mentioned Jippi Jappa hats which are now attracting great attention at the British Empire Exhibition; Baskets too are largely made for local use.

Water Power.

122. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the West India Electric Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

123. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the island has been made with this object in view, but no definite schemes have yet materialized.

Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

124 A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

125. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Jamaica Head Offices are all in Kingston.

126. The Colonial Bank was established and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836.

			£
Subscribed Capital	..	..	3,000,000
Paid up Capital	..	..	900,000
Reserve Fund	..	..	300,000

Head Office—29 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1923, £69,080.

This Bank has sub-branches at the following towns of the Island:—

Annotto Bay	Montego Bay
Falmouth	Morant Bay
Lucea	Port Antonio
May Pen	Port Maria
Sav.-la-Mar	St. Ann's Bay

The Colonial Bank also has Branches in most of the other West Indian Islands, in British Guiana and on the West Coast of Africa.

127. The Bank of Nova Scotia was incorporated in 1832, and holds its Charter under the Canadian Banking Act. The number of branches in Jamaica is 11; they are established at Kingston, Black River, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar, Spanish Town, and Brown's Town. The notes outstanding at 31st December, 1923, amounted to £45,337. The issue of this Bank's notes is governed by the Canadian Bank Act and the amendments thereto. The notes of any Canadian Chartered Bank are a first charge on all the assets of all the Canadian Chartered Banks. A Canadian Bank may issue notes up to the amount of its paid up capital. Notes issued in excess of this figure are secured by gold deposited with the Canadian Government in a Central Gold Reserve. On 31st December, 1923, the Bank's paid-up

Capital was	..	..	$10,000,000
Reserve Fund	..	..	$19,752,695
Total Assets	..	..	$227,889,799

128. The Royal Bank of Canada (incorporated in 1869) began business in Jamaica in 1911.

Capital authorized		..	$25,000,000
Capital paid up	..	..	$20,400,000
Reserve Funds	..	..	$20,400,000

This Bank has sub-branches at Cross Roads, Montego Bay, Spanish Town.

Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1923—£37,821.

129. The Canadian Bank of Commerce (Incorporated in 1867) whose Office is in Toronto, Canada, opened a branch in Kingston on 1st November, 1920.

			£
Paid up Capital	..	..	4,109,645
Reserve	..	..	4,109,645
Notes outstanding at 31st December, 1923	..	..	5,648

130. The Government Savings Bank was started in 1870. On the commercial Banks entering the field, starting Savings Branches, and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities, the deposits in the Government Savings Bank declined. By Law 7 of 1917, the management was entrusted to a Board. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council on the 4th February, 1919. The renewed activities of the Bank may be said to date from the beginning of 1919, in which year the deposits increased by 71%. The deposits on 31st December, 1923, amounted to £559,887. The policy of the Board is that the savings of the people should be used to develop the Island. The telegraphic address "Our Bank, Kingston," sufficiently indicates the lines followed to obtain the support of the public. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Funds for financing land settlement schemes, whereby Loan Banks are enabled to buy large properties, cut them up, and sell the lots to small settlers, have been provided by the Bank. Funds for making loans to Loan Banks to be lent to members for developing their holdings have also been provided. There are 63 Branches and Postal Agencies throughout the Island, Stamp Savings Cards have induced many children and adults to open accounts. Savings Certificates are issued for 16/6, maturing to £1 in five years. Postage and registration to the Bank are free; and no revenue stamp is required on receipts. The same rate of interests as that given by the Commercial Banks, viz: 3% per annum, compounded half yearly, is allowed on deposits.

131. There are 49 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

132. The following figures, referring to the 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

	£	s.	d.
Total loans made to 31st December, 1923	111,106	1	4
Repayments do do do	91,827	12	4
Balances outstanding ..	19,278	9	0

133. The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st October, 1923, a sum of £35,529 share capital, in addition to £91,828 loan moneys repaid, with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove a permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for the purpose of re-sale in lots to small settlers. £52,974 has been loaned to 7 Banks under this head. The scheme has been well received, and its extension in the future seems assured.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

134. Forty Laws were passed during the year 1923, and a brief summary of the provisions of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below:—

(1) Law 1 of 1923 entitled "A Law to continue various expiring Laws."

The effect of this Law is to continue for one year more certain taxes and Excise duties.

(2) Law 3 of 1923 entitled "A Law to Constitute the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew a Municipal Corporation to Incorporate the Inhabitants thereof and to provide for the Good Government of the said parishes and for other purposes incidental thereto."

This is an important piece of legislation. Under it, the Mayor and Council of Kingston, the Kingston General Commissioners and the Parochial Board of the parish of St. Andrew are dissolved and provision made for the appointment of a temporary Commissioner to carry on and exercise the functions of the dissolved bodies until a Mayor and Council for the Corporate Area of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew are elected and constituted. All the powers of the above-mentioned bodies are transferred under the Law to the Corporation proposed to be established under the name of "The Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation." The Law divides the Corporate Area into a certain number of wards defined as Urban, Sub-urban and Rural Wards, and contains provisions for the enrolment of burgesses, the election of Aldermen, Councillors and of a Mayor and all the provisions contained in Municipal Laws of this character.

(3) Law 4 of 1923, entitled "The Bankruptcy Laws Further Amendment Law, 1923."

This Law creates a new act of Bankruptcy, which is defined in Section 3 of the Law.

(4) Law 8 of 1923 entitled "A Law to diminish the number of cases committed to prison."

The object of this Law is to dminish the number of cases committed to prison and to make provision that it shall be obligatory in certain cases for the Magistrates to give time for the payment of certain fines imposed.

(5) Law 9 of 1923 entitled "A Law further to amend the Wharfage Law, 1895 (Law 15 of 1895.)"

Provision is made in this Law for a new scale of Wharfage fees, which are set out in the Schedules to the Law.

(6) Law 10 of 1923 entitled "A Law to extend to the Cayman Islands The Criminal Evidence Law, 1911 (Law 10 of 1911.)"

The object of this Law is to extend to the Cayman Islands the Criminal Evidence Law, 1911, as amended by Law 15 of 1918, omitting, however, certain Laws mentioned in Section 3 of the Law.

(7) Law 12 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend the Telephone Law, 1893.

The object of this Law is to extend the period to which licenses may be granted under the Principal Law. The period is now extended to forty years.

(8) Law 14 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend Law 10 of 1878, The Rum Duty Law."

The Rum Duty Law is amended by this Law to enable rum in a Bonded Warehouse to be used in making cordials, liqueurs and other compounds for exportation, and also in the making of Bay Rum for sale on the local market under rules, conditions and regulations approved by the Governor in Privy Council. It makes similar provisions with regard to rum intended to be converted into industrial or power alcohol.

(9) Law 15 of 1923 entitled "A Law to facilitate the enforcement in Jamaica of Maintenance Orders made in England and Ireland."

This Law contains provisions relating to and offers facilities for the enforcement in Jamaica of Maintenance Orders made in England and Ireland, and prescribes the procedure to be adopted.

(10) Law 16 of 1923, entitled "A Law to facilitate the reciprocal enforcement of judgments and awards in Jamaica and the United Kingdom and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and Territories under His Majesty's Protection."

The Law lays down the procedure to be adopted where it is desired to enforce in Jamaica judgments obtained in a Superior Court in the United Kingdom, and similarly defines the powers of the Court and declares what is to be done when a Judgment has been obtained in the Supreme Court of Jamaica. It also gives power to the Governor to extend the provisions to any part of His Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom on certain conditions expressed in the Law.

(11) Law 17 of 1923, entitled "A Law to make provision for New Roads and New Bridges and for raising a loan for the purpose."

The object of this Law is to raise a loan for £100,000 to carry out, in a systematic way, the Colony's programme for the erection of New Bridges and the construction of New Roads in this Island. It provides that the loan may be raised either in England or locally.

(12) Law 18 of 1923, entitled "A Law to make provision for New School Houses and for raising a loan for the purpose."

This Law makes provision for raising the sum of £50,000 for erecting new School Houses. Provision is made for enabling the loan to be raised either in England or locally.

(13) Law 19 of 1923, entitled "A Law to provide for Loans being made from certain Parochial Funds encouraging private Water Supplies in the Islands."

The object of this Law is to provide moneys for improving water supplies in the several parishes of the Island, and to enable the Parochial Board of any parish to make loans to the inhabitants of the parish for the purpose of constructing tanks. In the construction of this Law the term "Parochial Board" is to be held to include the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew.

(14) Law 20 of 1923 entitled "A Law to provide for the Improvement and better Administration of the port of Falmouth and for purposes incidental thereto."

The Law establishes a body of Commissioners to be called "The Falmouth Port Commission," and confers certain powers upon them for the improvement and better administration of the port of Falmouth. It gives the Commissioners power, with the sanction of the Governor, to raise by the issue of debentures an amount not exceeding £50,000 for the purposes of the Law. Power is also conferred on the Commission to levy rates for the purposes of the Law and of the nature mentioned therein.

(15) Law 22 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend a Law to impose a Duty on Entertainments to which the public are admitted on payment."

This Law amends Law 14 of 1919, and enlarges the meaning of the term "Entertainment" as defined in that Law. It also prescribes an alternative method of payment of Entertainment duty.

(16) Law 23 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend the Tariff Law, 1922 (Law 2 of 1922.)"

The object of this Law is to make a slight amendment to the principal Law in relation to the subject of drawback.

(17) Law 24 of 1923 entitled "A Law in aid of the Sugar Industry Aid Loans Law, 1921."

The main object of this Law is to extend for a further period of one year the temporary aid which has been granted to the Sugar Industry under the Sugar Industry Aid Loans Law, 1921. It enables advances to be made for the purchase of fertiliser and gives power to the Board to sell stocks of sugar or rum in cases where the owners are considered to be unduly delaying the sale. The amount to be utilised under the Law is not to exceed-£200,000.

(18) Law 25 of 1923, entitled "A Law to provide for the raising of a loan for the purposes of effecting certain Improvements within the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew

Provision is made by this Law to raise in the first instance £100,000, and subsequently, as occasion may arise, a further £300,000 to be utilised in paying for local improvements, works and services under the provisions of the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew Improvement Law, 1923. The loan is to be raised under the provisions of Law 12 of 1921.

(19) Law 33 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend the Act 27 Victoria Session 2 Chapter 4 entitled an Act for the Incorporation and Regulation of Trading Companies, and other Associations."

The object of the Law is to amend the existing Company Laws of the Colony, and it deals with the question of redemption and re-

issue of debentures and the depositing of debentures to secure advances on current account.

(20) Law 35 of 1923 entitled "A Law to provide for the Improvement and better Administration of the Port of Montego Bay and for purposes incidental thereto."

This is a similar Law to Law 20 of 1923, the Falmouth Port Commission Law, 1923, and contains the same sort of provisions.

(21) Law 36 of 1923 entitled "A Law to provide for the making of improvements and the carrying out of works in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew and for the imposition of a special assessment to pay for the cost thereof."

The object of this Law is to make certain improvements in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, and contains provisions for special assessments for these purposes. It deals with the construction of pavements, laying down of sidewalks, and imposes certain duties on the City Engineer and Town Clerk.

(22) Law 38 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Law, 1923, (Law 3 of 1923.)"

This Law amends Law 3 of 1923 by the insertion of a proviso at the end of Section 13, and by the addition of a new sub-section to it. It repeals Section 15 and substitutes a new section. It also amends Sections 39, 41, 43, 47, 50, 53, 65, 67, 71, and 82, of the principal Law; and substitutes new sections for Section 86 and Section 87 (in part) of the principal law. It also amends Section 230 of the principal law; and repeals Sections 32, 33 and 89 of the principal Law. It repeals Section 203 of the principal Law, and substitutes therefor a new section.

(23) Law 39 of 1923 entitled "A Law to authorise the Governor to raise a loan for the extension of certain undertakings in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew."

This is a Loan Law authorising the Governor to raise a loan to be utilised within the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew for obtaining an increased water supply for extending the sewerage system. The loan may be raised either locally or in England. Money is to be re-lent by the Government to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, by whom it is to be appropriated for the purpose above-named in the following proportions: £198,000 for water supply and £230,000 for extending the Sewerage System. It repeals Law 28 of 1922.

(24) Law 40 of 1923 entitled "A Law to amend the New School Houses Loan Law, 1923."

This Law amends Law 18 of 1923, for the object of enabling the allocation of £5,000 for providing water supplies and latrine accommodation at Denominational Schools.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

135. Although drought conditions still prevailed throughout the greater part of the Island the attendance at public elementary schools continued to show satisfactory improvement. The number of children of school age is approximately 135,000; the average number on the registers for the year was 114,592, as compared with 112,270 for the previous year; the average attendance was 69,368, as against 68,606 in 1922, an increase of nearly 8,000 over the year 1921.

136. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continues to show improvement, notwithstanding some attempts at a form of passive resistance.

137. A course of instruction for women teachers on the use of the school garden for instructional purposes was held at Shortwood College in January under the direction of Captain P. Urquhart, Senior Inspector of schools.

138. *£1,750 was disbursed during the year for building Grants-in-Aid for schools and teachers' dwellings, but owing to general dilapidation, due to economy during the war period, much more will be required before the buildings generally can be considered as in a satisfactory condition.

139. The total departmental expenditure for the year was £147,162 as compared with £142,778 for 1922.

Secondary.

140. The endowed Secondary Schools which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and certain unendowed Schools were inspected and in all cases the reports justified the continuance of the Government Grants-in-Aid. Two important Schools applied to be placed on the list of Secondary Schools recognised for grants and the list now comprises sixteen schools. The results of the public examinations compare favourably with those obtained by schools of similar standing in England.

141. The Governor in Privy Council approved of a Bill entitled "A Law to provide for Pensions and Gratuities to Teachers in Secondary Schools in Jamaica" at the end of the year.

142. Jamaica was constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London and candidates were successful in Matriculation; the Intermediate Examinations in Arts and Law, and the final examinations in Arts, Divinity and Law.

Technical.

143. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work and the fact that more than half the regular pupils come from outside the Kingston District shows that the training given is generally appreciated.

144. Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in ten country towns were as usual in operation during the year.

Industrial.

145. The East Indian Home conducted by the Society of Friends at Buff Bay has been added to the number of Industrial Schools and a new home for girls, "The Pringle Home," at Carron Hall, St. Mary, under the care of the Presbyterian Church, was opened for inmates in April, 22 girls being admitted during the year.

146. The Industrial Schools and Homes continue to do good work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

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* Note—In last year's Report (par. 118) the amount paid as building grants-in-aid to voluntary schools was stated to be £15,000 instead of £1,500.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

147. The Mean Island Rainfall, of the four divisions of the Island for the year 1923 was 57.45 inches, shewing a large deficiency when compared with the 50-year average of 76.46 ins. The months of January and February gave about their averages; the May and October rainfall shewed slightly above, whereas all the other months were considerably below their averages. The deficiency for the year was not however, so pronounced as in the year 1920 when there was a prolonged drought and the rainfall was only 51.16 inches.

Temperature.

148. In Kingston the Mean Temperature for the twelve months was 79.2 degrees, which is 0.5 of a degree above the 33-year Average of 78.7 degrees. The highest Maximum for the year was 97.8 degrees on August 11th, being the highest recorded for 43 years, and the lowest Minimum, 63.2 degrees, occurred on March 8th.

Humidity.

149. The mean Humidity for Kingston was 72 per cent, the 15-year average being 77 per cent.

Weather Disturbances.

150. Small barometric depressions were observed during the month of May, followed by preponderance of rainfall about the 10th and 22nd. General squally weather prevailed throughout the entire Eastern section of the Island on the night of the 10th of August. On the 26th of September a weather distrubance passed the Old Banana Channel, moving in W.N.W. direction. There was an extensive area of low barometric pressure in the Caribbean from the 10th to the 12th of October. Then on the 17th October a weather distrubance developed to the South-West of the Island the Kingston barometer fell to 29.63 ins. Circular warnings were issued but the disturbance passed away in a Northerly direction by the 20th.

Hailstorms.

151. Hail fell at Catadupa on the 16th of August, also at Mulgrave on the 17th August.

Earthquakes.

152. Slight earthquake shocks were reported in January, June, July, August, September and December, but none during the remaining months of the year under review.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

153. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the South to the North side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two branches running into the interior of the Island, viz., from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Line; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main line, Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track at present is 200 miles. The gauge is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

154. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1923, was £305,411, and the expenditure £282,766; no provision is made for depreciation.

155. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 247,879 tons, as compared with 278,106 tons for the year 1922; the number of passengers carried in 1923 was 475,391 as against 553,392 in 1922.

156. The construction of an extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Branch is well in hand and will, it is expected, be completed in 1924. The work of making additional provision in the Locomotive Shops at Kingston for the maintenance of Engines and Rolling Stock was completed in 1924.

157. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

158. The following Summary shews the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1919	entered	1,152	Vessels of	1,046,961	tons.
1920	"	1,307	"	1,778,256	"
1921	"	1,339	"	1,753,262	"
1922	"	1,365	"	1,920,114	"
1923	"	1,323	"	2,011,500	"
1919	Cleared	1,148	"	1,037,981	"
1920	"	1,285	"	1,755,532	"
1921	"	1,271	"	1,719,496	"
1922	"	1,340	"	1,927,183	"
1923	"	1,335	"	2,005,711	"

159. The following regular Steamship Lines now serve the Colony:—

British—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine and The Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (the last named Company being registered in Jamaica).

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., Tropical Fruit Corporation Co., and Columbian Steamship Co.

Dutch—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Geselleschaft Kosmor Line.

Cuban—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Summarized, there are British 7, U.S.A. 4, Dutch 1, German 2, Cuban 1, making a total of 15 Steamship Lines. This is an increase over the previous year of 2 (Foreign.)

160. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year under review.

Roads.

161. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,241 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads, amounting to 4,355 miles, of which 1,354 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 3,001 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

162. During the Calendar year 1923, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £92 per mile.

163. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone, without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic, but this type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day.

Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads will be gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. During the year under review about 15 miles were tar-sprayed.

Canals.

164. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

165. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

166. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharges into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour; but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and Aerial Services.

167. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 Offices. At the close of the Calendar year 1922, there were 1,093 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 62 and 72 Telegraph and Telephone Offices, respectively. Further extensions of lines and the opening of new offices have been authorised for the current year.

168. The charge at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words, and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

169. In 1911, the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increaed to ninepence for the first twelve words or under, and half-penny for each additional word, including the address, at which it still remains.

170. The Railway Telegraphs, in connection with which there are 39 Offices, assist considerably towards placing communication within the reach of all. These Offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph system, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

171. The number of ordinary and official messages signalled in 1921 was 341,876; the revenue collected was £18,188. In 1922, the messages numbered 351,150; the receipts totalled £18,063. In 1923 the messages numbered 326,353, the receipts totalled £18,503.

172. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island, one of which is situated at Christiana, was established by the Royal Navy. This station, however, does not now accept traffic for or from any point.

The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave.

173 There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

174. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

175. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines Eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines Inland, and Westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service.

176. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Company who have cable connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practical every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

177. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

178. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	Price. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica	8	0	Edward Stanford, 12, 13, & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1922 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise			Superintendent of the Gevernment Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.

	Price.		Where obtainable.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919 ..	2	6	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Notes on the Geology of of Jamaica	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Education Code ..	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1902	0	6	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Supplement to Bibliographia, Jamaicensis, 1908. ..	0	3	Messrs. H. Sotheran and Co., Stand, London, W.C.
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. ..	2	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.

H. Bryan,
Officer Administering the Government.

19th July, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1186	Straits Settlements	1923
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow

(15965) Wt. 14543/978 500 10/24 Harrow G.94

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1231.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1205).

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1924.

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1231.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica, and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The islands lie between 79·83 and 81·30 west longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is 11 miles long by one and a quarter miles at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, showing that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat and is largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The 100 fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands.

HISTORICAL.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this animal being at one time numerous in the smaller islands. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba who remained domiciled in the islands.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 879 [Cd. 8172–5].

CONSTITUTION.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, acting with and under the direction of a locally elected "governor." To this body elected vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Government (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The people of the Dependency suffered no ill effects of the War other than a general rise in the cost of every necessary commodity, which was counterbalanced by the very high rate of wages earned by seamen and labourers on the American seaboard. There has been a gradual adjustment in the past four years, but the cost of all local products and of most imported articles is still much above the pre-war price of daily necessaries.

Emigration and Immigration.

An inconsiderable emigration continues mainly to the littoral of the Gulf of Mexico, where men having gone in search of regular and remunerative employment have been induced to settle with their dependents. The Bay Islands, dependencies of Honduras, originally settled in part by Caymanians, attract annually a few individuals. There is no immigration.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The general health of the Dependency is good. Digestive disorders of a mild nature are prevalent, induced by the sameness of a diet of starchy foods. There is an occasional case of typhoid. Care with respect to arrivals from Jamaica prevented the introduction of alastrim.

(16328) Wt. 18360/1261 500 12/24 Harrow G.94

Vital Statistics.

There were 179 births in 1923 (34 per thousand) and 55 deaths (10 per thousand). The population is estimated at approximately the figures (5253) of the census of 1921.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year show an advance in value as compared with recent years. The figures require, however, some explanation. The total of imports amounted to £88,348, of which more than half (£45,318) represented the value of liquors imported from Cuba and re-shipped to that island and the Bahamas. The normal imports amounted to £43,030 as compared with £36,541 in 1922. The exports (£53,353) are larger than in any previous year, but the value of liquors referred to under imports is accountable for £45,248 of this total. The normal exports, £8,105, are very substantially below those of 1922. The exports of live turtle and of turtle shell were less than half the respective values of the previous year.

Government Finance.

The revenue and expenditure in recent years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*		*Expenditure.*
	£		£
1917–18	4,423	..	5,162
1918–19	5,520	..	4,837
1919–20	5,015	..	5,302
1920–21	11,187	(15 months)	10,612
1922	6,996	..	7,565
Average of 5 years ..	6,361	..	6,271
1923	6,611	..	6,823

Customs (£4,636), of which £771 was derived from an export duty on liquors, and Post Office (£1,257) together contributed 89·1 per cent. of the total revenue.

The expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,147, Public Works £1,327, Education £1,500, and other services £849.

At the close of the year the balance of assets stood at £4,202. The assets included £302 18*s.* 2*d.* in the Jamaica Treasury, Money Order Account £2,167 0*s.* 10*d.*, Investments of Savings Bank Funds £2,500, and Cash in the Local Treasuries £730 2*s.* 7*d.* The liabilities are made up of Deposits £47 8*s.* 11*d.*, Government Savings Bank £1,764 14*s.* 1*d.*, Peace Memorial Fund, £14 0*s.* 9*d.*, and Board of Education Fund £52 6*s.* 3*d.* There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are much above the average of the previous five years, an important feature being the importation of spirituous liquors from Cuba subsequently

re-shipped to that place and to the Bahamas. The value of the normal imports is, however, below the average of previous five years, this being accounted for by lower prices of staple commodities. The normal exports are below the average of previous five years.

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
	£	£
1917–18	37,949 ..	5,229
1918–19	44,828 ..	11,324
1919–20	57,097 ..	28,531
1920–21	65,797 (15 months)	11,081
1922	36,541 ..	13,650
Average 5 years	45,810 ..	13,720
1923	88,348 ..	53,353

The beneficial effects of the cattle dip established in 1922 led to the placing of a second dip in 1923, with a result that the central district of Grand Cayman is now practically free from the tick pest (*Margaropus annulatus*). All cattle within the area were compulsorily dipped at intervals of 14 days throughout the year.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry having on its register 48 small sailing vessels and 8 small steam and motor-driven craft, with a total tonnage of 4,315 tons. Four vessels with a total tonnage of 226 were built in 1923.

Three small British steamships (total tonnage 816) called at the islands in 1923. The following table shows the numbers and tonnage of sailing ships entered and cleared:—

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	200	13,879	199	14,341
American	19	3,944	18	3,904
Cuban	1	60	2	96
Dominican	1	243	—	—
Honduranean ..	4	770	3	722
Panamanian ..	3	106	4	152
Totals ..	228	19,002	226	19,215

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are cashed in the shops and serve as remittances in payment for imports. The Post Office money order system is used to a small extent, the total business in 1923 being orders issued £1,522, orders paid £2,810.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 51; the deposits for the year have been £530, the withdrawals have amounted to £1,178, and the balance due the depositors stands at £1,765. A sum of £2,500 invested some years ago more than covers this balance.

LEGISLATION.

The only enactments of the year under review were a Supplementary Appropriation Law to validify expenditure in the previous financial period, and a Law to impose a duty on certain merchandise (spirits and wines) on exportation.

EDUCATION.

Ten primary schools were in operation throughout the year, having, with 8 small private schools, 1,067 pupils enrolled and an average attendance of 850. The total expenditure in the public schools was £1,535. There are no aided schools and no secondary schools. Some 50 pupils, by taking a pupil teacher course of four years, have the benefit of secondary training.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall amounted to 54·76 inches in the Georgetown or Western district of Grand Cayman. The heaviest precipitations were 12·90 inches in October and 10·10 inches in May. The rainfall in December was 0·50 inches. The eastern parts of Grand Cayman and the islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman suffered greatly by reason of drought. The air temperature ranges between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the cooler winter months and 10 degrees higher in summer. The nightly calms and the excessive dampness accentuate the heat of summer. No tropical cyclones visited the islands in 1923, the last serious hurricane having been experienced in 1917.

COMMUNICATIONS.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the Gulf ports of the United States is maintained by trading schooners, some of which have auxiliary motor engines. Roads suitable for vehicular traffic connect the more important settlements and from these branch a system of bridle paths. There is no community of interest between Grand Cayman and the other islands and communication with the latter is had more often than not directly through Jamaica.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba, and all outgoing vessels to whatever port directed are bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but intercommunication is irregular. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
8th May, 1924.

Colonial Reports, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,
1219	Sierra Leone	,,
1220	Uganda	,,
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vincent	,,
1224	St. Helena	,,
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1258.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1213.)

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924*.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands, and just below the tropic of Cancer. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but, as no thorough survey of the group has ever been made, this figure may be below the mark.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands or cays, and a large number of islets and rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group and offers dangers to navigation, and has been the cause of many shipwrecks in the past. These islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which was said to resemble a Turkish fez.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow passages or channels, in many cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; [Cd. 7622-37].

HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. These islands remained uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil and the scanty rainfall, until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710 but soon returned and continued the salt industry with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts were made by the Spaniards and the French to obtain possession of the islands. In the year 1766 the King was pleased to appoint an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, " to reside there and by his residence on the spot to insure the right of the island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order in general amongst the inhabitants. In 1790 Colonel Alexander Murray arrived as the agent of His Majesty, and in 1799 an act was passed by the Bahama Legislature which placed the Turks and Caicos Islands under the Bahama Government, and so they remained until 1848 when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, Her Majesty was pleased to grant a separate charter to the " Turks Islands and the Islands and Cays commonly known as the Caicos Islands." Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found burdensome in the altered circumstances caused by the fall in the price of salt, and in 1873 a petition was presented to the Queen praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica and still remain one of its dependencies. Under this new arrangement the government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also President of the Legislative Board and Judge of the Supreme Court.

CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

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Climate.

Although these islands are within the tropics the climate is not unhealthy. The severe heat in the hot months is tempered by the constant sea breezes. The temperature ranges from 60° minimum to 93° maximum. The average rainfall during the year 1924, from observations taken at nine stations throughout the islands, was 30·16 inches. The maximum precipitation was recorded at Kew, North Caicos, measuring 40·69 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 21·58 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1920–4 amounted to 24·50 inches.

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is situated on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Commissioner resides there. The island has a population of about 1,500, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, including the various public offices and the prison ; several stores, a market, a public library, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence, Government House, is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a local public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places and private residences. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with stunted, hardy trees scattered here and there. The principal industry in Grand Turk is the production and export of salt, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. 538,878 bushels of salt, valued at £10,317, were exported from Grand Turk in 1924. There are four salt crushing mills on the island. Supplies of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat (on the hoof) are imported from the island of Santo Domingo and Haiti. Cricket, football, and lawn tennis are played throughout the year.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living. 437,255 bushels of salt, valued at £6,728, were exported from this small island in the year 1924.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The quantity of salt exported from this island in 1924 amounted to 489,031 bushels, valued at £8,585. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. A small quantity of cotton is produced at Parrot Cay.

Providenciales or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—General Observations.

In April of the year under review the Commissioner made a tour of inspection throughout the Caicos Islands, visiting every inhabited place.

During the year the Dependency again suffered from the effects of another drought. By careful management and economy the public water supply at Grand Turk held out until the rains in September, but the public tanks at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay ran out and water had to be imported from one of the uninhabited Caicos Islands for supply to the people of those two places. Another public tank of 60,000 gallons capacity is now being constructed by the Government at Grand Turk which it is believed will insure against any serious shortage of water in the future.

Following the prolonged drought of several years, heavy rains fell in the Caicos Islands in October and November, causing floods which covered the plantations and destroyed the crops. Hundreds of people, who were then faced with starvation, appealed to the Government for help. To relieve the situation sums amounting to over £200 were advanced from public funds for the purchase of food only, mainly consisting of corn. No cash was given by way of relief, and in every case the cost of the food distributed was treated as a loan to be repaid later.

A severe gale, which later on developed into a hurricane and spent itself in the North Atlantic, passed over this Dependency on the 11th of November and did considerable damage in the Caicos Islands. It also drove ashore a large sailing vessel lying at anchor at Grand Turk, which became a total wreck.

For many years steamships trading between New York and the Dominican Republic had been calling regularly at Grand Turk to obtain gangs of stevedores and other labourers for service on board while the ships were in Dominican waters and calling again on the return voyage to disembark them. This arrangement provided a regular and satisfactory mail, passenger and freight service between these islands and the United States without the payment of a subsidy. A new law of the Dominican Republic governing consular fees, which came into operation in November, 1924, caused the above-mentioned arrangement to be terminated. The people of these islands were greatly alarmed as to the probable consequences. They feared not only the loss of regular steamship communication with the outside world but the suffering which would be caused by the throwing out of employment of the large number of men who had hitherto relied on such regular employment. They realized that the salt industry was unable to employ those men and that the public revenue was unable to bear the cost of a subsidy sufficient to attract a regular steamship service. They also feared the withdrawal from local circulation of the large sums of money expended here by the steamship companies and the consequent reduction of the public revenue. With the approval of the Governor-in-Chief the Commissioner then proceeded to Santo Domingo to co-operate with His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in laying the case before the Dominican Government and endeavouring to obtain some concession in favour of the labourers of this Dependency. They received from the President a promise that Congress would be asked to modify the law referred to or grant a friendly concession to the people of these islands. The matter is not yet settled, and in the meantime this Dependency has been suffering the troubles and hardships anticipated.

A record of immigration and emigration is now kept. It was mentioned in the annual reports for the previous two years that owing to poverty and unemployment many of the labouring classes had left these islands to seek employment abroad. This movement has continued and during the year 1924 the number of departures exceeded the number of arrivals by 344.

During the year a weekly mail, passenger and freight service between Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour was established with the aid of a subsidy from the Government. The service, performed by a sailing vessel, commenced in July and has been carried out regularly ever since.

The principal public work carried out during the year 1924 was the construction of a new salt shipping pier at Grand Turk. Other works at Grand Turk included the repainting of the Lighthouse; the renewal of the Prison roof; and repairs to Government House, the Court House, the Government School, the public buildings, and the public wharf. The works at Cockburn Harbour included the completion of the Public Hospital and the Government Warehouse; extensive repairs to one of the public

tanks, and the provision of a new mooring buoy, range lights, and a new derrick on the public wharf. At Salt Cay, Dean's Dock was repaired and extended, and repairs to the Residency and public tank were carried out. The school buildings in several of the settlements in the Caicos Islands were also repaired.

Public Health.

In his annual report on the Turks Islands for 1924 the Government Medical Officer stated that during the earlier months of the year there was nothing unusual to report apart from the ordinary and regular cases of malaria, but that later in the year a severe type of remittant fever made its appearance, and despite every effort on his part to control the disease it continued for several months. There were some 20 cases but none ended fatally.

Tuberculosis.—There were five cases under observation ; this number being less than that of the previous year.

Alastrim.—One case of a mild type which was isolated and treated.

Syphilis.—Three cases came under treatment.

Pellagra.—About fifteen cases came under observation during the year. Those afflicted were mostly women and girls.

Children's diseases, such as measles, whooping-cough, and chicken-pox were entirely absent during the year, but a large number of young children suffered from bowel trouble which he attributed to starchy diet and lack of green vegetables and fruit. Taking everything into consideration, these islands were in a fairly healthy condition during the year.

Hospitals.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided :—

The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk ..	8 beds
The Public Hospital at Cockburn Harbour	4 beds.

As regards the Manning Hospital, the staff consisted of the Medical Officer, Head Nurse, Cook, and Messenger.

During the year, 15 cases were admitted to the surgical ward and 10 cases to the medical ward for treatment. The isolation camp, situated in the hospital grounds, was occupied on one occasion only during the year.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the end of the year 1924 was 5,400.

The white population, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians. During

the year 1924, 178 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 31·7 per 1,000. During the same period 123 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 21·9 per 1,000; 43 marriages were registered.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports during the year 1924 amounted to £43,253. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £4,282; from British Dominions, £3,230; and from foreign countries, £35,741, including £31,814, the value of imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink and clothing. The customs import duties amounted to £3,945.

The exports were valued at £31,495. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £131; to British Dominions, £13,160; and to foreign countries, £18,204. The value of the exports to Canada was £11,176, and to the United States, £15,179. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £29,674 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1924 and £1,821 the value of the re-exports.

II.—Government Finance.

The public revenue of the Dependency for the year 1924 amounted to £9,693 and the expenditure to £12,186; the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £2,492. This excess was partly caused by the decline in the revenue due to the falling off in trade and also by the fact that a large expenditure in 1922 on land surveys in the Caicos Islands was carried to a suspense account and was not finally brought to expenditure account until 1924. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1924, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £9,733 as against £12,226, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt; the former providing about 40 per cent. and the latter about 20 per cent. of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government, but gold coins were very scarce and very seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £3,000; the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. The Government Savings Bank had 881 accounts open, with £19,747 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £14,821. A further investment has been made since. There were no private banks doing business in the Dependency.

III.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

In the year 1924 there was a balance of trade against the Dependency of £11,758, that is, the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by that amount. The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Salt	36,621	30,271	25,630
Conchs	2,289	1,563	1,217
Sponges	1,690	1,436	1,647
Cotton and Cotton Seed.	1,700	641	904
Sisal	946	2,168	169
Turtle Shell ..	166	486	50

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

IMPORTS.

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*
	£	£	£
1922 ..	4,656	3,020	40,001
1923 ..	3,577	2,960	40,023
1924 ..	4,282	3,230	35,741

EXPORTS.

1922 ..	882	19,846	26,031
1923 ..	750	14,843	21,862
1924 ..	131	13,160	18,204

SALT.

The demand by dealers in the United States and Canada for salt, the Dependency's principal product, was not as steady as usual, with the result that there was a decline in 1924 in the

quantity exported as compared with the previous years. Two grades of salt are exported: coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1924:—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
United States	798,950	12,855
Canada	504,000	9,844
St. Pierre et Miquelon ..	79,705	1,567
Jamaica	50,983	744
Newfoundland	28,486	563
Bermuda	3,040	57
	1,465,164	£25,630

1,838,188 bushels were exported in 1922 and 1,625,674 in 1923.

Conchs.

The trade in conchs continue to decline. 1,216,000, valued at £1,217, were shipped from the Caicos Islands to Haiti in 1924, as compared with 1,672,775, valued at £1,563, in the previous year. Many of the inhabitants of those islands depend on the conch trade with Haiti for their livelihood. This trade is handicapped by the excessive port charges levied in that country.

Sponges.

The value of the sponges exported increased from £1,436 in 1923 to £1,647 in 1924 as shown below. There was a revival in the trade in this commodity with the United States during the year under review. The value of shipments to that country increased from £366 in 1923 to £1,083 in 1924, while the value of the shipments to Bahamas fell from £1,070 in 1923 to £564 in 1924.

The following table gives the value of the shipments during the last three years:—

	£
1922	1,691
1923	1,436
1924	1,647

Cotton.

During the year 1924 the exports of raw cotton amounted to 11,104 lb., valued at £803, as compared with 5,724 lb., valued at £430, exported in 1923, but there was, however, a decline in the shipments of cotton-seed. 28,363 lb., valued at £101, were exported in 1924, as compared with 39,840 lb., valued at £211, shipped in the previous year.

Sisal.

In 1924 there was a slump in the local trade in sisal, which is cultivated on a small scale in the Caicos Islands. Only 15,472 lb., valued at £169, were exported, as compared with 208,180 lb., valued at £2,168, shipped in 1923.

Shell.

There was a heavy falling off in the export of turtle shell in 1924. Only 50 lb., valued at £50, were shipped, as compared with 479 lb., valued at £486, exported in 1923.

IV.—Legislation.

Only three ordinances were passed during the year 1924. No. 1 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance covering the excess expenditure in 1923; No. 2 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance for 1924; and No. 3 amended the law governing the giving of security by public officers for the faithful discharge of their duties.

V.—Education.

The sum of £815 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency. There were ten Government elementary schools supported in this manner. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 777 and the average attendance was 567. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £624.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk, which is controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner, received a grant from public funds of £150. The average attendance at this school was 30.

During the year 1924 a Centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk and the first examinations were held in December with satisfactory results.

A school was established at the settlement of Conch Bar, Middle Caicos, and opened on the 1st January, satisfying a much felt want.

VI.—Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	27·92 in.
Maximum temperature	88·8°
Minimum ,, ...	60·5°

VII.—Shipping.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	British	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	18	125	143
Sailing vessels ..	132	40	172
	150	165	315

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 28,202 and of the steamships to 220,710.

The undermentioned steamship companies of New York maintained a service between the Dependency and New York :—

The Clyde Steamship Co.
The Columbus Line Inc.
The Bull Insular Line Inc.

VIII.—Communications.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York about two or three times a month by steamers of the Clyde and Columbus lines.

Mails were despatched to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk on their way from England, and mails were also sent to, and received from, that island by sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Government radio-telephone service enabled messages to be transmitted between Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour and passing ships.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., between Halifax and Bermuda and Jamaica, touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

During the year under review a new submarine telegraph cable was laid between Barbados and Grand Turk and was declared open for business on the 1st December, 1924.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
8th May 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

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No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
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1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923–1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
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1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924
1257	Nyasaland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1262.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1924.

(*For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1205 and 1231 (Price 3d. each)*).

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No. 1262.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.*

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica, and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79·83 and 81·30 west longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than 50 feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is 11 miles long by one and a quarter miles at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The 100 fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from 25 to 50 miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smaller islands. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 879 [Cd. 8172–5].

present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, acting with and under the direction of a locally elected "governor." To this body elected vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, twenty-two Justices named in a General Commission of the Peace, and twenty-seven elected Vestrymen representing the several districts. Five Justices and eight Vestrymen form a quorum. There is an appeal from the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica; and this Court has exclusive jurisdiction in matters of divorce.

General Observations.

While the after effects of the world war did not bear harshly on the people of the Dependency, and there has been a general readjustment, the cost of all locally produced food, except butchers' meat, and of most imported articles, is still much above the pre-war price of the necessaries of daily life.

Geological Survey.

The Government was enabled to avail itself early in 1924 of an offer by the Government Geologist of Jamaica, Dr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., to make a short holiday visit to the Dependency for the purpose of studying its geology. Apart from its scientific interest, the geology of the islands was one of local speculation, for in the previous year an oil-prospector, impressed by the conformation of the land in its relation with the surrounding ocean floor,

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had visited the islands and shown some activity in securing prospecting and boring rights over large areas of land. Dr. Matley describes the islands as being the only projecting peaks of the submarine Cayman Ridge which extends from the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of Honduras, with the exposed surfaces composed of a fairly hard semi-crystalline massive white limestone, a part of the white limestone formation of Jamaica, forming the central and more elevated portion of each island, and a younger calcarious formation, an outer and lower coastal platform, made up of reef-building corals, mollusca, coral sand and marl with a hard crust due to cementation by carbonate of lime.

There have been found for many years, and more recently in increasing quantities, on the shores of the islands or floating near by, a semi-liquid bituminous material supposed by some to be exudations from a submarine vent in the adjacent ocean and by others to be the slowly solidifying bunker cleanings of oil-burning ships traversing the surrounding Caribbean.

Emigration and Immigration.

There was great anxiety in the earlier months of 1924 as to the probable effects of the recently enforced immigration laws of the United States of America, but, as most of the emigration from these islands is temporary and largely of persons seeking employment in some capacity in connection with shipping, no hardship has followed. Emigration of others than the sea-faring population has increased to the Central American Republics, but the total is inconsiderable and the absence temporary. There is no immigration other than the return of natives after varying terms of absence.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The general health of the Dependency is good. The staple food of the people consists of cassava, yams, sweet potatoes and bread-fruit, all locally grown, and the ordinary wheat and corn products by way of imports. These constitute an almost entirely starchy diet which induces mild digestive disorders. There were no epidemics in 1924. Of the 55 deaths, 16 are returned as infants, 2 under 20 years, and 31 between 50 and 103, 21 as of persons over 70 years of age. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from cancer, all persons in early life.

Vital Statistics.

There were 139 births in 1924 (26 per thousand) and 55 deaths (10 per thousand). The population is estimated at 5,365 or one hundred more than in 1923.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year are below the average of totals for the previous five years. The value of imports (£51,416) is

reducible by £6,427 of spirits imported and immediately exported, making the normal imports £44,989, as compared with normal imports of £43,030 in 1923 and an average of normal imports £47,477 in the previous five years. The export figures are also reducible by the same amount (£6,427) to the normal of £9,890, which do not compare favourably with the average normal exports (£14,095) of the previous half decade.

Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1918–19	5,220 ..	4,837
1919–20	5,915 ..	5,302
1920–21	11,187 (15 months)	10,612
1922	6,996 ..	7,565
1923	6,611 ..	6,823
Average of 5 years ..	6,738 ..	6,603
1924	6,005 ..	7,013

Customs (£4,703), of which £624 was derived from an export duty on liquors, and Post Office (£717) together contributed 90·2 per cent. of the total revenue.

The Expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,086, Public Works £1,778, Education £1,500, and other services £649.

At the close of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £3,194 7*s.* 7*d.* There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are both below the averages of the previous five years. If, however, the values of spirituous liquors imported in 1923 and 1924 be eliminated, the imports for home consumption in 1924 show an increase of 4½ per cent. on those of 1923, but are much below the average for the previous half decade as influenced by imports in 1920 and 1921, years of inflated prices. The figures for exports, after deductions of values of spirits in transit, are below the average of previous five years.

There was an ordinary catch of 2,500 green turtle of merchantable size, but the price obtained (thirty shillings each) was not remunerative. The fishermen would appear to have been tied to a single market, Key West, in Florida, and strong efforts are now (1925) being made to secure other profitable outlets. The pursuit of the hawks-bill turtle for the tortoise-shell of commerce was more profitable, 3,419 lb. being secured and disposed of in Jamaica at an average price of £1 7*s.* 9*d.* per pound.

The export of thatch-palm rope was the lowest in ten years, yielding only £640, as compared with an average of £1,873 in

previous three years. The export of spirits, bonded for the purpose in 1923 and early 1924, which contributed to local trade and substantially to Customs Revenue, has stopped.

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
	£	£
1918–19	44,828 ..	11,324
1919–20	57,097 ..	28,531
1920–21	65,797 (15 months)	11,081
1922	36,541 ..	13,650
1923	88,348 ..	53,353
Average of 5 years ..	55,890 ..	23,145
1924	51,416 ..	16,317

The excess of imports over exports is a recurring feature in this annual tabulation, but the proportion of three to one in the amounts for 1924 shown above, and that of nearly five to one (£47,989 to £9,890) in the normal imports and exports for the year may be gauged as remarkable. The earnings of island vessels other than in the turtle fishery, the wages of long voyage seamen abroad, and the remittances of working men in the United States and the Central American republics to families or dependents within the Islands account in five years for the difference of so large a sum as £177,000 in the community of approximately 1,000 families. It may truly be said the Islands depend, for an equation of purchases and sales, more largely on an " export " of brains and energy than on the shipment to the outside world of the material articles of agriculture and handicraft.

Two cattle dips were continued in operation throughout the year with most satisfactory results in reducing the tick pest. The estimates for 1925 provide for a third in another district of Grand Cayman, and a fourth is proposed for 1926.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry, having on its register 50 small sailing vessels and 9 small steam and motor driven craft, with a total tonnage of 3,843 tons. Five vessels with a total tonnage of 157 were built in 1924.

Three small British steamships (total tonnage 742) called at the Islands in 1924. The following table shows the number and tonnage of sailing ships entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	194	13,108	188	11,901
American	13	3,743	17	4,360
Honduranean ..	7	700	8	798
Panamanian ..	5	150	6	199
Totals ..	219	17,701	219	17,258

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are cashed in the shops and serve as remittances in payment for imports. The Post Office money order system is used to a small extent, the total business in 1924 being—orders issued £1,515 and orders paid £4,054.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 50; the deposits for the year have been £810; the withdrawals have amounted to £911, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,705. A sum of £2,500 invested some years ago, with the Crown Agents as Trustees, more than covers this balance.

Legislation.

There were seven laws enacted in 1924; those of interest outside the Islands being No. 2, a law to provide that every person coming into or going from the Dependency shall be possessed of a valid passport or document in substitution therefor, and No. 5, a law to regulate the searching for and mining of crude oil in the Dependency.

Education.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with nine private schools, had 1,033 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 855. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,484. There are no aided schools and no secondary schools. Some 50 pupils in the Government schools, by taking a pupil teacher course of four years and sitting to examinations by the Jamaica Education Department, have the benefit of a modified secondary training.

Meteorological.

The rainfall amounted to 71·50 inches in the Georgetown or western district of Grand Cayman. The heaviest precipitations were 16·24 inches in October and 14·39 inches in September. No rain fell in April. The other parts of Grand Cayman and the Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman suffered by reason of light rainfalls. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the cooler months, and 10 degrees higher in summer. The nightly calms and the excessive dampness accentuate the heat of summer. No tropical cyclones visited the group in the year under review.

Communications.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the Gulf ports of the United States is

maintained by trading schooners, some of which have motor engines as an auxiliary, and by the occasional larger vessel, steamship, cruiser or yacht. There is no community of interest between Grand Cayman and the other Islands of the Dependency, and communication with the latter is usually made through Jamaica. Roads suitable for vehicular traffic connect the more important settlements, and from these branch a system of bridle paths.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels to whatever port directed are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but intercommunication is irregular. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac, and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal sum.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
15*th June*, 1925.

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JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1190 and 1218, price 1*s*. 3*d*. each)

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL

GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, within N. lat. 17° 42′ 20″ and 18° 32′ 30″ and W. long. 76° 11′ 55″ and 78° 23′ 35″. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles, and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston ..	7	St. Catherine	470	St. Elizabeth	462
St. Andrew ..	166	St. Mary ..	249	Trelawny ..	333
St. Thomas ..	274	Clarendon ..	474	St. James ..	234
Portland ..	285	St. Ann ..	476	Hanover ..	167
		Manchester ..	302	Westmoreland	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,480 acres, of which, approximately 646 square miles or 413,440 acres are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the English Counties of Surrey, Middlesex and Cornwall by about the extent of Lancashire. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 203 per square mile. The island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, Spain, Turkey or Russia. The Colony with its Dependencies comprises a little more than a third of the area and contains nearly a half of the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° on the sea coast, the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° at the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of temperature that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. The eastern parts of the island are the highest. Through the country

of Surrey and partly through Middlesex there runs the great Central Mountain Chain which trends generally east and west, the highest point being Blue Mountain Peak which attains an altitude of 7,388ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies and is rather more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the Central Range subordinate ridges or spurs run both to the north and south coasts of the island; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with their intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams give the derivation of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name of "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of these streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. In Jamaica there are many mineral springs, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the Parish of St. Thomas and the spring at Milk River in the Parish of Clarendon. Both these springs possess radio-active properties, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of about 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. The following are Dependencies of Jamaica, namely:—

The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands; also the Pedro and Morant Cays.

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered.) The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

9. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants

of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

10. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.*, chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

11. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which, after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 30 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

12. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

13. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1886, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

14. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote); five *ex-officio* members, viz., the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected

as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

15. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

16. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island. At the election held in 1920, the number of voters on the list was 42,267. There were five contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 3,858.

Local Administration.

17. There is a Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council, and Corporate Officers. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921, 62,707), Port Royal (population 1,004), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population 6,272), Montego Bay (population 6,580), Falmouth (population 2,136), Port Maria (population 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442.)

18. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions, viz.: poor houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1923 was 8,012, being at the rate of 8.9 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

Judicial.

19. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

20. Jamaica is purely an agricultural country and its prosperity is therefore greatly affected by weather disturbances, such as hurricanes, flood rains, droughts, etc. The year 1924 was a period of depression for the Colony. It opened with the island still in the grip of a drought which had lasted practically without a break for two years. Almost all the Colony's agricultural products were in consequence adversely affected, and bananas in addition suffered from bad markets, resulting in low prices. The effect of these conditions was soon reflected in the revenue, which began to

fall with alarming rapidity. So serious did the situation become that in August the Acting Governor found it necessary to appoint an Advisory Financial Committee to make recommendations with a view to curtailing expenditure and if possible increasing revenue. In the latter half of the year the financial position was still further aggravated by the occurrence of heavy flood rains which caused serious damage to roads and railways. It is, however, an ill wind that blows no good and, generally speaking, a feeling of optimism prevailed in the Island at the close of 1924. For another year the Island had been spared a hurricane, the drought had broken and there was a prospect of good crops in 1925. Even the financial strain incurred by expenditure on repairing flood damage, though serious, was considerably alleviated owing to the existence of the 'Calamities Insurance Fund' which had been accumulated as a reserve against such a contingency.

21. Mr. H. E. Dale, C.B., the Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to advise the Government on financial matters, who had arrived in the Colony towards the close of 1923, completed his investigations in January. His report was finished at the end of May and published shortly afterwards. The Report is a valuable contribution to the subject and is proving of material assistance to the Administration.

22. In January and February an Inter-Colonial West Indian Conference on agricultural questions assembled at Kingston, under the Presidency of Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies. The following Institutions were represented at the conference:—

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
The Imperial Bureau of Mycology
The Imperial Bureau of Entomology
The West India Committee
The British Empire Sugar Research Association
The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture

and also the Colonies named below:—

The Bahamas
Barbados
Bermuda
British Honduras
British Guiana
Grenada
The Leeward Islands
Trinidad
The Windward Islands, and
Jamaica.

Many interesting discussions took place, the results of which are embodied in the official report on the Conference.

23. During the month of June, work on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston, for which a loan not exceeding £400,000 was authorized by Law 25 of 1923, was commenced. This, unfortunately, was made the occasion of a serious labour disturbance in the west of Kingston. Certain labourers having demanded to be paid at a higher rate than that offered by the Corporation, endeavoured to prevent others who were willing to accept that rate from working. Hooligans joined the malcontents, and the unfortunate upshot was a riot in which the temporary office erected in connection with the work was

attacked, the interior wrecked, and certain other Government and Municipal property was destroyed. Eventually, orders were given to the Police to fire on the rioters, and several charges were made to clear the streets. As a result, three persons were killed and several wounded. This disturbance reacted upon the wharf labourers at Port Antonio, and a small riot occurred at that place on the 17th June, as the result of a strike amongst men engaged in loading fruit at the Railway pier. In this case also resort was had to the use of firearms, though to a less extent than in the case of the Kingston riot. No loss of life ensued.

24. On the 17th June, 1924, Governor Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., left the Island on leave of absence prior to retirement. Brevet-Colonel (now Sir Herbert) Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., assumed the administration of the Government pending the arrival of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., who was appointed to succeed Sir Leslie Probyn as Governor. Sir Samuel Wilson arrived in the Colony on the 30th September, 1924.

25. During the month of July, an International Conference on Health Problems in Tropical Countries was held in Kingston under the auspices of the Medical Department of the United Fruit Company. The Conference opened on the 23rd July under the Presidency of Dr. W. E. Deeks, the General Manager of the Company's Medical Department, and was attended by many prominent men of the Medical Profession from all parts of the world, including Lt.-Col. Sir Leonard Rogers, C.I.E.; Sir Thomas Oliver, Kt., Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bt., C.M.G., Dr. A. Castellani and Dr. F. G. Banting, the discoverer of "Insulin." Many interesting and instructive papers were read at meetings of the Conference.

26. The Special Service Squadron, consisting of H.M.S. "Hood," H.M.S. "Repulse," and H.M.A.S. "Adelaide," under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, K.C.B., C.M.G., paid a visit to the Colony, arriving on the 26th July and staying until the 30th of that month. The vessels were visited by large numbers of all classes of the community, and a ceremonial march by the men of the Squadron through some of the principal streets of Kingston made a deep and lasting impression on all who witnessed it.

27. During the latter part of the year, the island was visited by Mr. D. H. Ross, Special Travelling Commissioner of the Government of Canada. This visit preceded a visit to the Colony in the early part of 1925 by Mr. Hance J. Logan, M.P., who was appointed by the Government of Canada to discuss trade and transportation matters with the several B.W.I. Colonies as a preliminary to the holding of a Canada-West Indies Conference to revise the existing Trade Agreement between the Dominion and those Colonies.

28. During the course of the year, arrangements were made for the appointment of an officer to be attached to the staff of the British Legation in Cuba to look after the interests of Jamaicans in that republic. For many years past complaints regarding the treatment of Jamaicans in Cuba have been numerous, and great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining redress for those alleged to have been ill-treated, or in otherwise settling matters in complaint in an effort to rectify the unsatisfactory state of things, an officer selected by the Government of Jamaica was appointed, and attached to the British Legation (under the title of Secretary for Immigration) whose duty it would be to look after the interests of Jamaicans in that country

The officer in question (Mr. H. J. Dignum) took up his duties in January, 1925. It is highly satisfactory to record that the Cuban Government co-operated with the British Legation in connection with the matter, and specially deputed a Cuban Officer to accompany Mr. Dignum on his preliminary tour of investigation. As far as can be judged at the time of writing, the arrangement is working to the benefit of all concerned.

29. The question of the revision of the Constitution continued to occupy the attention of local politicians. An incident of political interest which occurred during the year was the exercise by the Governor of the over-riding power conferred by Clause 8 of the Order in Council of 3rd May, 1895, which defined the Constitution of the Legislative Council. During discussion of the Estimates in the Legislative Council, an Elected Member moved for the deletion from the Estimates of the item providing the salary of the Director of the Railway, and more than nine of the Elected Members present voted in favour of the motion. Ordinarily, this would have carried the motion, as under the Clause in question the votes of the Nominated and Official Members would, in such circumstances, not have been taken. The Governor, however, declared the matter to be of paramount importance to the public interest and the votes of the Nominated and Official Members were accordingly taken, with the result that the motion was defeated. A protest was sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Elected Members; but the action of the Governor was upheld.

30. During the month of March a Mission was held throughout the island by the Church of England in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Diocese of Jamaica. Several prominent clergymen from the United Kingdom took part in the Mission.

31. A great impetus to sport was given by the visit to the island in February of a Lawn Tennis Team from the United States of America which included as one of its members Mr. Vincent Richards of international fame. The visit of the team did a great deal to improve the standard of local tennis. There is reason to hope that similar tournaments in which teams from the United States of America and possibly the United Kingdom will take part, will be arranged each year in future. In point of fact such a tournament has taken place in 1925, in which a team from the United States (including Mr. V. Richards and Mr. T. Harada, the latter a prominent Japanese player) took part.

32. The Colony took part in the British Empire Exhibition held during the year at Wembley. The exhibit was placed under the charge of Mr. W. Cradwick, and so far as can be judged, the Jamaica Court made a favourable impression upon all who visited it. Prominent features of the Court were the Coffee Stall, at which real Blue Mountain coffee, for which the island is famous, was made and sold; and the Punch Bar, at which Jamaica "Planter's Punch" was in great demand.

Emigration and Immigration.

33. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The Departures in 1922 were 6,733; in 1923, 7,778, and in 1924, 7,284. The arrivals in 1922 were 6,931; in 1923, 5,029; and in 1924, 5,247.

Public Health and Sanitation.

34. Increased interest was taken during the year in Public Health generally throughout the Colony. Full-time Medical Officers of Health

were appointed for the parishes of Clarendon and St. Andrew, and the Junior Sanitary Medical Officer, who was appointed to supervise the sanitary work in the western parishes, took up his duties.

35. The International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation) continued their campaign of Hookworm eradication in the Island and two units operated in the parish of St. Mary during the year.

36. Alastrim continued to exist in the Island, but the incidence of the disease decreased during the year to such an extent that the number of cases reported during the last quarter was the smallest since the outbreak started.

37. The advent of rains in the latter part of the year caused localised epidemics of malaria.

Vital Statistics.

38. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1924 was 904,405, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1923, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

39. The number of marriages registered during 1924, was 3,168, the rate being 3.5 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.8 for 1923. During the same period 33,132 births were registered of which 16,688 were boys and 16,444 were girls. The birth rate works out at 36.8 per 1,000 as against 38.2 during 1923.

40. The number of deaths registered was 19,592, of which 9,616 were males and 9,976 females, the death rate being 21.7 per 1,000. The rate for 1923 was 22.7. During 1924, 6,963 or 35.5 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,345 or 27.3 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1923 were 36.0 per cent. and 28.8 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16.1 per cent. as compared with 17.1 in 1923. The principal causes of deaths per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston, were:—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 10.3; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the newborn, 11.6; Phthisis, 10.7; Enteric Fever, 5.8; Pneumonia, 5.8; Heart Disease, 6.7; Chronic Bright's Disease, 4.1; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.1.

Imports and Exports.

41. The trade of the Colony in 1924 did not reach the level of that of the previous year so far as the values of the Imports and Exports are concerned; but in both instances a marked advance was made by British Trade. The value of Imports (exclusive of Parcels Post Goods) was £4,827,074; as against £5,281,078 in 1923, or a decrease of £454,004. This decrease is traced mainly to Class I, Food, Drink and Tobacco (£120,869), and Class III, Manufactured Articles (£278,433). Under Class I, it is interesting to note that, as was predicted, Canada has claimed a larger share in the supply of Foodstuffs; there being barely 1% difference between the United States and the Dominion. The percentages under this division are as follows:—United Kingdom 11.1%; United States of America, 35.5%; Canada 34.6%; Other Countries 18.8%.

Under Class III, the United Kingdom has at last forged ahead and now holds the premier position, the percentages being: United Kingdom, 49.4%; United States of America 38.4%; Canada 4.5%; Other Countries 7.7%. There can be no doubt that the Perferential Tariff is slowly, but surely, taking effect and is mainly responsible for this transfer of trade.

42. Only a few items of Imports showed appreciable increases. They were as follows:—

Articles Paying Specific Duties.

	Increase.
Salt	511,936 lbs.
Soap, Laundry ..	328,698 "
Sugar, Refined	380,333 "
Tobacco, Leaf	39,427 "

Articles Paying Advalorem Duty.

	£
Machinery, Other kinds ..	40,520
Cotton, Other Manufactures ..	10,054
Jams and Jellies	1,228

On the other hand large decreases took place under Corn (£2,185,435 lbs.); Fish, Dried Salted (3,490,976 lbs.); Rice (7,001,509 lbs.); and Lumber (2,755,435 ft.), as well as under Cotton Piece Goods (£143,516); Iron and Steel Manufactures (£41,299); Carriages and Parts (£33,594), and Hardware (£29,279).

43. The substantial preference afforded to British Cotton Piece Goods has turned the scale in their favour as the following proportions will show:—

1923, British 48%, Foreign 52%; or 4% in favour of Foreign.

1924, British 50.4%, Foreign 49.6%; or 0.8% in favour of British.

44. Import Duties realised the sum of £786,600 in the year 1924-25 as against £860,600 in 1923-24, or a decrease of £74,000 while the Package Tax yielded the sum of £58,200, as against £66,850 the previous year; or a decrease of £8,650. These decreases were mainly due to smaller importations of some of the principal commodities, such as Cotton Piece Goods, Flour, Fish, Rice and Cigarettes.

45. The value of the Exports for 1924 also fell short of that of the previous year, being £3,122,961, as against £4,263,238 in 1923; a decrease of £1,140,277. Almost the entire decline can be attributed to Bananas which show a decrease in value of £1,039,771. A glance at the quantities shows that decreases took place under Bananas; (483,129 stems); Coffee (25,159 cwt.); Coconuts (2,138,345 nuts) Oranges (24,797 boxes), and Sugar (56,974 cwt.); while increases are noticeable under Cocoa (16,085 cwts.); Rum (192,932 gallons); Leaf Tobacco (14,284 lbs.), and Logwood (3,513 tons).

46. The distribution of the Exports was as follows:— United Kingdom, 25.2%; United States of America, 43.7%; Canada, 19.2%; Other Countires 11.9%. While the United States still holds the first position owing to her importation of Bananas, yet it is worth noting that during the last decade the percentage of Exports both to the United Kingdom and to Canada show very fair increases, viz.: 7.1% and 12% respectively.

47. The Colony's eleven staple products are valued at £2,626,322, or 84% of the total, and were divided as follows:—

Bananas (£1,225,345); Coffee (£225,449); Cocoa (£82,022); Coconuts (£132,073); Ginger (£93,823); Logwood (£73,516); Oranges (£39,362); Pimento (£80,656); Rum (£121,561); Sugar (£497,723); and Cigars, £54,702).

To these may be added Logwood Extract which was manufactured in and exported from the Colony to the value of £200,436.

48. Taking a general view, it may be said that of the total exports 46.6% were taken by British Countries and 53.4% by Foreign. Drought and low prices were the main factors which worked against the Colony in 1924; but, so far, the weather this year has been helpful to cultivation and it is hoped that improved prices may be obtainable.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

49. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
£	£	£	£	£
2,347,362	1,926,791	2,057,412	2,061,202	1,922,963

Expenditure.

1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
£	£	£	£	£
2,332,635	2,253,502	1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746

The total expenditure during the year 1924-25 was £99,783 more than the total revenue.

50. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1925, were £1,188,469 and £1,175,354 respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £13,115.

51. The amount of public debt outstanding at 31st March, 1925, was £4,445,194. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of such debt amounted to £1,708,700. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,736,494) exceeds by only £767,897 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1925-26). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

52. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaica in 1924.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,707,537,545	160.5
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica ..	894,000	4,582,207	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1924, viz.:—£1,704,633, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount *per capita* is £3 4s. 0d. The year 1923-1924 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1924-25 are not available locally.

53. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounts to £214,420: this fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Funds for the amortisation of the Public Debt.

TAXATION.

54. The following Laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

Law 2 *of* 1924—"A Law to continue various Expiring Laws." This Law continued in force, from the 1st April, 1924, to the 31st March, 1925, the following Laws:—

(1) The Post Office (War Tax) Law 1919 (Law 7 of 1919).
(2) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919 (Law 9 of 1919).
(3) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920).

Law 3 *of* 1924—"A Law to Amend the Laws relating to Duties on Imports." This Law provides for the drawback of the duties paid on goods which are exported as "ships stores." and makes two minor amendments to the 1st and 4th Schedules respectively of Law 2 of 1922.

Law 9 *of* 1924—"A Law to amend a Law entitled "The Property Tax Law, 1903" (Law 15 of 1903)." This Law provides that when the same person is in possession of more than one lot of property in the same parish, one of which consists of land with a house, such separate properties, up to and not exceeding forty pounds gross value, may be taken together and reckoned as one property.

Law 21 *of* 1924.—"A Law to amend a Law to impose a duty on Entertainments to which the Public are admitted on payment."

The Law widened the range of the tax so as to embrace shooting competitions and "pari-mutuel."

CURRENCY.

55. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5, of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1924, to the extent of £78,574 5s. 0d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 Notes.			5/ Notes.			10/ Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
192	15	0	31,565	10	0	46,816	0	0	78,574	5	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

56. Below is a table showing the value of the Imports and Exports during the past 40 years at intervals of 10 years:—

	1.10.1883 to 30.9.1884	1.4.1894 to 31.3.1895.	1.4.1904 to 31.3.1905.	1.1.1914 to 31.12.1914	1.1.24 to 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports ..	1,483,989	1,921,421	1,843,180	2,904,533	3,122,961
Value of Imports ..	1,487,832	2,288,945	1,941,937	2,565,820	4,827,074

Those for the year 1924 may be further classified as under:—

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	1,437,563	787,773
United States of America ..	1,955,867	1,365,987
Canada	794,856	598,617
All Other Countries ..	638,788	370,584
Total	£4,827,074	£3,122,961

In considering these figures due allowance should be made for the great advance in cost (market value) of all commodities during the last decade.

57. It will be seen that the value of the Exports has increased in forty years by 111%, while the value of the Imports has increased by 225%. Both in the Export and Import Trade, British commodities are steadily gaining ground. In the case of the latter, the existence of the Preferential Tariff has weighed the scale on the right side and no doubt will continue to attain the object for which it was instituted, while hope is placed on the possibility of closer commercial relations with Canada and the Mother Country and better shipping facilities. These figures disclose an unsatisfactory situation, however, in that the Imports exceeded the Exports by the large sum of £1,704,113. The expected improvement in commercial relations and increased shipping facilities with the United Kingdom and Canada should, if realized, tend to reduce this adverse trade balance.

Agriculture and Industry.

58. The drought of the previous two years extended into the Summer of 1924 with disastrous results to many agricultural enterprises. Fortunately the seasons changed during the last half of the year and plen-

tiful rains again fell so as to place all branches of agriculture in a favourable position for the following year. Expressed as a rainfall average for the whole island this may be stated as follows:—

For the first half of the year only 19.56 inches of rain fell as against an average for 50 years of 31.91 inches; for the whole year, however, the average rainfall for the island was 79.28 inches or nearly 3 inches in excess of the 50-year average of 76.46 inches.

59. Industrially the year was a poor one for Jamaica. The chief staple, bananas, suffered from unfavourable seasons and bad markets. This may be demonstrated by the records of the banana crop of 1924, which were slightly under 12 million stems in number, and £1,225,000 in value, or a reduction of 483,000 stems and of £1,040,000 in value as compared with the previous year. The effect of a loss of 25 per cent. in the value of the Exports has naturally reacted on trade and, finally, on the Revenue.

60. The brisk competition that enabled Jamaica to sell its drought-stricken fruit in 1923 at very good prices, collapsed with the competition of large crops from Central America in 1924; prices fell; competition dwindled, and a severe blow was dealt to the industry. For the coming year the prospects of the banana crop are excellent and better prices are alone required to place the trade of Jamaica on a favourable basis.

61. The Panama Disease of Bananas increased during the year, the total number of diseased plants recorded being 6,698 as against 4,007 for 1923. About 75 per cent. of the incidence of this disease was in the parish of Portland. The disease occurred in districts previously infected and is gradually increasing in those districts despite the strict control which is exercised.

62. The Sugar Crop suffered greatly from the drought, the Exports for 1924 being slightly under 23,000 tons, valued at about half a million pounds sterling, as against 26,000 tons valued at £675,000 in the previous year. Rum, however, again became saleable at good prices, and an increase in quantity (nearly 200,000 gallons) and in value (£70,000), was recorded for the rum exported in 1924 as against that for the previous year. The continuation of the State Aid to the Estates was effective in tiding over this difficult year for the sugar planters who are now faced with severe competition in the sugar markets of the world from the recent increase in sugar production. It is, however, an advantage to have recovered the favourable trade for Jamaica rums both of the "Home Trade" and "high-flavourerd" qualities.

63. The campaign against Mosaic Disease was continued by the Superintendent of Agriculture with a staff of three Inspectors. Good progress was made in the parish of Trelawny and there are many estates now where Mosaic Disease has been reduced to sporadic cases. The position in Westmoreland became quite serious after the May rains; but subsequently a great improvement took place and where the planters have followed up the work of "roguing," the disease is now under control. The "Uba" cane has proved of great service and has enabled several estates to place their cultivations on a greatly improved basis. The results from the factories have shown that the "Uba" offers no serious difficulties in manufacture.

64. The Department of Agriculture established a record by the distribution of 937,489 cane tops and cuttings to the public; or more than twice the number for the previous year. The outstanding new varieties of Sugar Cane are the "Uba" and the Barbados Seedling BH (10) 12.

65. The Exports of Coconuts and Copra indicated a reduction of 6,400,000 nuts over the production of the previous year. Owing to more favourable prices for both coconuts and copra the value of coconut products in 1924 was almost the same as in 1923. There was no serious trouble with coconut diseases during the year.

66. The drought affected the Coffee crop and reduced it from 3,800 tons to 2,600 tons. Prices were very good however, and the value for 1924 was £225,000 as against £242,000 in 1923. The planting of coffee is being extended by small growers as a result of recent encouragement.

67. *Cacao* has done rather better than in 1923, the output being 59,000 hundredweights, as against 43,000 in the previous year, while the value rose from £60,000 (a very low record) to £82,000. At present cacao offers small encouragement to the growers, and planting has almost entirely ceased.

68. *Logwood* has remained steady at a moderate standard of price and production, the total value of logwood products being £274,000 as against £271,000 in 1923. This has been a useful assistance as a side-issue of many forms of agriculture and it is very satisfactory that this trade has emerged securely from the after-math of War and the competition of synthetic dyes.

69. *Pimento* with a reduced production of about 13 per cent. earned an increased price of about one-third over that realised for the previous crop, thereby confirming past experience that reduced crops of pimento by relieving over-production of this spice lead to a better market. Pimento Leaf Oil is being manufactured on a small commercial scale in Manchester and St. Ann.

70. *Hides* have doubled in value as compared with 1923. The embargo of the United States due to the existence of Foot and Mouth Disease in the island has now been raised and it has again been possible to send hides and leather from Jamaica to America.

71. The *Tobacco* trade has remained in a rather depressed condition. The Exports were less than in 1923. Cigarette tobacco from virginian seed has been produced in St. Andrew and the local cigarette trade appears to be calling for this type of leaf.

72. *Ginger*, owing to unfavourable seasons, showed a reduction in quantity and of nearly £20,000 in value. The demand, particularly for "No. 1 Ginger," is good and the small growers of ginger have been encouraged to greater efforts in its production.

73. *Annatto* showed a reduction of about 15 per cent, in quantity due to drought conditions. The price, however, was so good that this product brought nearly £28,000 as against £11,400 in the previous year. The demand for Annatto is strong at the present time and it would appear that the output could be doubled to advantage

74. *Citrus Fruits.*—Exports of Grape Fruit increased by 25 per cent. as compared with 1923. Oranges, however, fell by nearly 20 per cent. This industry is at present in a most unsatisfactory condition. The Orange Oil business suffered from unfavourable seasons and exports showed a reduction of more than one-third in value and nearly one-half in quantity as compared with the previous year.

75. *Honey* has benefited by better prices, and a slightly smaller crop than that of 1923 fetched nearly £26,000. No serious diseases of bees have existed during the year.

76. *Tick Destruction.* During the year, 22 new dipping tanks were registered bringing the total number of dipping tanks in the island to 249. For the use of these tanks the Government Laboratory supplied

13 tons of Paranaph and 7½ tons of Arsenite of Soda during the year. The estates were also kept provided with Standard Iodine and Chemicals for testing the dip. The recent drop in the price of Arsenic should enable the Department to sell Arsenite of Soda at a cheaper price when new stocks are ordered.

77. Further experiments at the Government Laboratory have shown that the local white sugar produced at Caymanas Estate could be successfully employed for making Condensed Milk. The product kept perfectly for over 6 months. The question of moving the small Condensed Milk Plant from the Government Laboratory to the Government Farm at "Grove Place" and of manufacturing there the Condensed Milk required by the Public Institutions is now under consideration.

78. The equipment of "Grove Place" has progressed during the year. A concrete Silo of 230 tons capacity, a Dairy Building with stanchions for 50 cows, a machine shop with a 20 H.P. Blackstone Oil Engine and a corn mill, a saw mill and silo filling equipment have been installed. A windmill has been erected to pump water from the well near the Railway line and this is arranged so as to supply the bull pens and various tanks with water. A long cattle trough fed from the large pond has been constructed and the pond itself has been fenced round so as to prevent fouling of the water by the stock. Nearly 200 tons of silage were made from Maize, Guinea Corn and Guinea Grass fodder. Elephant Grass is being extended and is a promising fodder material.

The deficit of nearly £900 on the operating account in its first year of operation (1921-1922), has been repaid and "Grove Place" has at last begun to make a contribution to General Revenue from its "Working Account."

79. The Hope Farm had a trying time for the first seven months of the year due to lack of rain. A good crop of Guinea Corn was eventually obtained and all four Silos have been filled. The average daily yield of milk in 1924 was 308 quarts, as against 314 in the previous year. A record of production, believed to be unequalled in the West Indies, was effected by the native heifer "Norbrook II" which gave 12,305 lbs. of milk and 455 lbs. of butter fat in 365 days. This animal was bred at Hope and is a composite blend of Zebu, Ayrshire and Holstein blood. This record was made in the open pasture on 2 milkings a day and indicates that in the Tropics it is possible to rival the milk yield of cows in temperate climates if the right blend of Indian and Northern blood is secured. The Tuberculin Tests at both Farms were without a positive reaction.

80. The Lititz Fibre Factory did not operate during the year. Expenses were reduced to a modest sum and it is now considered that the fields have grown so as to enable the factory to work at a moderate profit during the present year. The Sisal Industry is beginning to revive from the early troubles of the pioneers. The Portable Machine invented by Mr. Anderson of May Pen is proving successful, and will revolutionise the industry by enabling fibre to be manufactured from moderate areas of sisal. The Rope Factory is reported to be unable to supply the local demand for its product. The price of fibre has been good during the year and the industry appears to be a promising one for development on large areas in Jamaica where other crops can not be grown.

Contagious Diseases of Animals.

81. No cases of Foot and Mouth Disease or of Anthrax were recorded during the year. The quarantine against the Foot and Mouth Disease Epidemic in the western parishes which broke out in July 1922 was removed on September 4, 1924.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

82. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,413,123 acres have been alienated, leaving 279,357 un-alienated or in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

83. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e., to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

84. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

85. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold, and some still remain in possession of the Government.

86. During the year 1890 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,435.

87. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

88. The scheme for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers, which

was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1923, 43,830 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 114 acres to one purchaser for £80. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

89. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war in 1914, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

90. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889; and Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

91. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

92. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 37 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

93. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

94. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some

Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, and epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

95. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

96. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

97. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

98. During the year 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., Government Geologist, reported the discovery of the issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of Saint Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

99. Dr. C. A. Matley's engagement as Government Geologist expired on the 17th July, 1924, and he left the Colony on the 21st April, 1924, on three months' leave prior to retirement. Mr. G. M. Stockley, the Assistant Geologist, was appointed Government Geologist in Dr. Matley's stead. Unfortunately, however, the Legislative Council decided to discontinue the geological survey on the ground of economy and Mr. Stockley's engagement had also to be terminated. He left the Colony on the 8th September, 1924.

100. The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken during the year.

Hydrology of the Yallahs River.—This investigation was carried out with a view to discovering the nature of the conditions which govern the flow of the Yallahs River. It was made in connection with a suggestion that the water supply of Kingston should be increased by bringing water from the Yallahs River.

Hydrology of the Clarendon Plains.—This work was undertaken with the idea of providing water for irrigation by sinking wells. A Hydrographical map of the area was drawn up, based upon the data from 120 wells and upon a geological study of the whole region.

Water Supply of Northern St. Ann.—The parish of St. Ann has a limestone formation and is therefore liable to suffer greatly in times of drought. The object of this investigation was to assist in providing reliable water supplies in dry districts. The report of the Government Geologist indicated that the solution of the problem for the coastal and eastern portions of the parish lay in the direction of obtaining water from the Roaring River by means of hydraulic schemes for lifting water similar to that known as the Dornoch Scheme now being undertaken in the parish of Trelawny.

Dam site, North Hall, Clarendon.—This investigation was undertaken in connection with a scheme for utilising the waters of the Rio Minho River for irrigation purposes. The gaugings taken, however, indicated that the supply of water was inadequate for the purpose.

101. In addition to the above, the Geologist (Mr. Stockley) undertook the work of arranging and labelling Sawkins Geological Collection at the Institute of Jamaica. This collection, owing to various vicissitudes, had become an "heap of stones." When Mr. Stockley left the island the specimens had been classified, some explanatory cards being added.

Fishing.

102. No improvement has taken place in the fishing industry during the year and the supply of fresh fish is both precarious and expensive. As has been stated in previous reports the industry has never been organized—notwithstanding its great possibilities—but is in the hands of persons who barely make a living out of it. In the meantime thousands of pounds leave the Colony for cured fish which, if the native supply was as it should be, would be money kept at home.

Manufactures.

103. The principal items of manufacture are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

104. *Sugar.*—The Sugar Estates continue to labour somewhat under the effects of the unfortunate over-capitalization of 1919 and 1920. During the year under review a chronic condition of low prices prevailed and there was a decline in the demand, due no doubt to competition. In 1924 the Colony produced 34,334 tons, as against 39,049 the previous year; or a decrease of 4,715 tons. Of this 22,920 tons were exported in 1924, as against 25,768 in 1923, or a decrease of 2,848 tons. Drought still continued to affect the crops.

105. *Rum.*—Rum has shown marked signs of recovery during the past year both in output and in price. The output in 1924 was 8,242 puncheons as against 7,500 puncheons in 1923, or an increase of 742 puncheons. Of these, 7,304 puncheons were exported in 1924 as compared with 5,375 puncheons in 1923, or an increase of 1,929 puncheons. The price at the close of the year was 4/ per gallon F.O.B.

106. *Copra.*—There was a considerable falling off in this industry, the exports during 1924 totalling only 3,743,426 lbs. as against 5,207,094 in 1923. The raw product also showed a decrease of 2,138,345 nuts.

107. *Sisal.*—This is not progressing as rapidly as was expected, and there has been little or no improvement on the previous year's operations.

108. *Banana Figs.*—There being apparently a greater demand in the markets abroad for this commodity, the industry has extended somewhat, and in 1924, 11,730 packages were exported as against 3,608 in 1923.

109. *Orange Oil.*—This industry was on the decline during 1924 only about one-half the production of 1923 being attained.

110. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—Cigars although showing a slight decrease in the quantity exported still contrived to maintain an appreciable position and the presence of a protective import duty operates against foreign competition. With Cigarettes, however, the imported article still holds first place though recently there has been a considerable decline in the quantities imported, with an increase of those locally manufactured.

111. *Leather.*—The tanneries at various centres of the Island continue to turn out a fair amount of sole and harness leather, some of which is exported.

112. *Matches.*—Some improvement has been made in the manufacture of local matches, but the foreign article still continues to prove a formidable competitor, a heavy import duty notwithstanding.

113. *Logwood Extract.*—This is an industry which is now taking its place among the chief staples of the Island after years of stagnation. In 1924, 17,038 packages, of a value of £200,436, were exported.

114. *Minor Industries.*—Of these may be mentioned Jippi Jappa Hats and Baskets, a fair number of which are exported.

Water Power.

115. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

116. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the Island has been made with this object in view. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

117. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

118. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

The value of the local notes of each bank outstanding at 31st December 1924, was as follows:—

The Colonial Bank	£77,850
The Bank of Nova Scotia	34,997
The Royal Bank of Canada	27,147
The Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	3,983

These Banks all have head offices (for the Island) in Kingston.

The Colonial Bank in addition to its Head Office in Kingston, has Sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Sav.-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has Sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has only two Sub-branches in addition to its Head Office at Kingston, namely, at Cross Roads and Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no Sub-branches.

119. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870 and is still in operation. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at 2½%. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting Savings Branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial banks, namely, 3% per annum compounded half-yearly. The result of this was that in the year 1919 the deposits increased by 71%. There are now 67 branches and postal agencies throughout the Island.

120. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks, and (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Under the provisions of this Law, funds have from time to time been provided for loans to Agricultural Loan Societies both for the ordinary purposes of such societies and also for the development of Land Settlement Schemes.

121. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 53 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

122. The following figures, referring to 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1924		..	£115,156
Repayments	do	do ..	94,837
Balances outstanding		.. ..	20,319

123. The Co-Operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st October, 1923, a sum of £37,440 share capital, in addition to £94,837 loan moneys repaid, with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove a permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £55,774 has been loaned to eight banks under this head.

VI. LEGISLATION.

124. Forty-two Laws were passed during the year 1924 and a brief summary of the provisions of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below:—

(1) Law 4 of 1924 entitled "A Law to eliminate fractions of a penny from the Public and Parochial Accounts of the Colony."

The object of this Law is to eliminate fractions of a penny from the Public and Parochial Accounts of the Colony other than those of the Jamaica Government Railway. This is provided for as follows:—

(a) Where the fraction is less than one-ahalf of a penny it is to be discarded.

(b) Where the fraction is more than one-half of a penny it is to be regarded as a penny and payment made accordingly

(c) Where the fraction is exactly one-half of a penny it is to be discarded if the number of pence is an even number or zero, but is to be regarded as a penny if the number of pence is an uneven number.

(2) Law 5 of 1924 entitled "A Law to repeal the Aliens (Missionary and Educational Work) Law 1917 (Law 24 of 1917)."

This Law repeals Law 14 of 1917, which provided for closer supervision than is now considered necessary in the case of Aliens who undertake Missionary and Educational Work.

(3) Law 7 of 1924 entitled "A Law to repeal the Laws restricting the admission into this Colony of Former Enemy Aliens."

The object of this Law is to repeal the restrictions formerly imposed on Enemy Aliens during the War and sometime afterwards.

(4) Law 8 of 1924 entitled "A Law to empower the Board of Management of the Lititz Fibre Factory and Plantation to make loans under the Agricultural Loans Law, 1887."

This Law facilitates and increases the operations of the Factory by providing that Loans may be made by the Board for such purposes, and to such amounts, as may be specified by the Legislative Council.

(5) Law 9 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Law entitled "The Property Tax Law 1903 (Law 15 of 1903)".

The object of this Law is to provide that if the same person is in possession of more than one lot of property in the same parish, one of which consists of land and a house, such separate properties up to and not exceeding £40 gross value may be taken together and reckoned as one property for the purpose of the Property Tax Law, 1903.

(6) Law 10 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Law entitled "The Parish Rates Law, 1903 (Law 16 of 1903)."

This Law adds a proviso to section 1 of the Principal Law to the same effect as that mentioned in the immediately preceding Law.

(7) Law 14 of 1924 entitled "A Law to remove certain restrictions on the Assignment of Trade Marks under the Enemy Trade Marks (Vesting) Law, 1917, (Law 10 of 1917)."

The object of this Law is to remove any stipulations on the assignment of a Trade Mark by the Custodian of Enemy Property to an assignee, by reason that he is a person who was at any time a subject of a State at war with His Majesty.

(8) Law 15 of 1924, entitled "A Law to amend the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Law, 1923, Law 3 of 1923), in respect of the qualifications of women."

This Law enables women to nominate candidates to vote at elections and to hold corporate offices under the Principal Law, on being qualified, as provided in the Law.

(9) Law 16 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Law, 1923 (Law 15 of 1923)."

This Law provides for transmission to the Secretary of State of certified copies of Maintenance Orders made against any persons resident in England or Ireland. It substitutes a new definition of "Dependents" and adds a new section to the Principal Law under which the provisions of the Law may be extended to Maintenance Orders made in any British possession or territory in which reciprocal provisions have been enacted.

(10) Law 18 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend Law 20 of 1906 "A Law to amend the Laws as to the Registration of Voters and the Elections Laws 1884."

This Law repeals the section of the Law which imposed a restriction on illiterate voters being able to vote. Illiterate voters may now vote in accordance with the Law regulating the voting of such voters.

(11) Law 19 of 1924 entitled "A Law to Amend a Law entitled 'The Parochial Loans Law, 1903, (Law 20 of 1903).'"

The object of this Law is to provide that the approval of the Secretary of State need only be obtained when a proposed loan to a Parochial Board exceeds £10,000; or when a loan would cause the total amount of loans authorised under the Law in any year to exceed £25,000.

(12) Law 20 of 1924 entitled "A Law for Continuing Temporary Aid for the Preservation of the Sugar Industry of the Island, and to enable a Loan to be raised and used for the purpose."

The object of this Law is to continue for a further period of one year aid for the preservation of the Sugar Industry of the Island and to raise a loan for the purpose.

(13) Law 26 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend Law 25 of 1912, a Law to provide for the granting of Compassionate Allowances to certain Parochial Officers."

The chief object of the Law is to provide that any person who has served continuously in both the Public and Parochial Service for a period of fifteen years or upwards shall be deemed a Parochial Officer eligible for retiring allowances or gratuity.

(14) Law 27 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Laws relating to Solicitors."

The main objects of this Law are to provide for the Solicitors Committee granting leave of absence to a member thereof, and that the Judges of the Supreme Court may appoint any person so qualified to act as a member during such leave of absence. Provision is also made to enable a member to resign his office by letter delivered to the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

(15) Law 31 of 1924 entitled "A Law to give effect to a Scheme for Grants in Aid to Secondary Schools."

The object of this Law is to give force and effect of Law to a scheme for Grants in aid of Secondary Schools which was adopted by the Legislative Council on the 28th May, 1920.

(16) Law 39 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend a Law to make provision for the preparation and publication of a New and Revised Edition of the Laws of this Island.

The object of this Law is to make two small amendments in the Principal Law, mainly as the Revised Edition is being prepared in a series of chapters, and to give the term "Law" to each subject dealt with in each chapter, and obviate the difficulty that would be caused by the use of two terms, viz., "Law" and "Act."

(17) Law 40 of 1924 entitled "A Law to regulate the importation, exportation, manufacture, sale and use of opium and other dangerous drugs."

This is a Consolidating as well as an Amending Law. It consolidates the Law on the subject, and enacts provisions specially design to stop unlawful traffic in Opium.

(18) Law 41 of 1924 entitled " a Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the emigration of persons to certain foreign countries."

The objects of this Law are: (1) To consolidate the provisions of seven Laws into one Law and to repeal the said seven Laws, and (2) to insert provisions to provide against the unlawful receipt of moneys by persons pretending to be Shipping Agents, who have defrauded persons from time to time of money on pretence of obtaining passages for them.

(19) Law 42 of 1924 entitled "A Law to Consolidate the Gunpowder and Firearms Laws."

The objects of this Law are: (1) To consolidate into one Law the provisions of six laws on the subject and to repeal those six laws, and (2) To make provisions by law for adequately punishing persons who use and carry firearms without being licensed so to do.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

125. Drought conditions continued generally for the first nine months of the year during which the attendance at the public elementary schools showed some further increase, but flood rains later caused a great decrease with the result that the average attendance for the year, though still high, was below the record figures for 1923, the average number on the registers being 113,293 as compared with 114,592 in 1923, and the average attendance 68,408 as compared with 69,368 in 1923.

126. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions, and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show some improvement though there is still room for much more.

127. Courses of instruction for teachers in school garden work and manual training were suspended during the year owing to the necessity for strict economy.

128. The sum of £2,000 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped, the total of applications amounting to four times that sum.

129. The total departmental expenditure for the year was £151,903 as compared with £147,162 in 1923.

Secondary.

130. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Government Grants-in-aid. The number of Secondary Schools receiving grants remained at 16. The results of the public examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

131. During the year a Law to provide for Pensions and Gratuities to Teachers in Secondary Schools was passed by the Legislative Council, as was also a Law to give effect to the rules for grants-in-aid to Secondary Schools.

132. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts, and the final in Arts and Divinity.

Technical.

133. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work and provision was made for an increase in the number of Trade Scholarships.

134. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were, in eight cases, in operation during the year. The classes attached to two schools were temporarily closed.

135. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is evidently serving a long felt need.

Industrial.

136. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do good work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

137. The Mean Island Rainfall of the four divisions of Jamaica for the year 1924 was 79.28 inches, or about 4 per cent. above the

50-year average of 76.46 ins. For the Island, generally, the year commenced with very deficient rainfall, when from January to June, inclusive, only two-thirds of the average was recorded. This was however, compensated for during the latter half of the year, when the total gave about 50 per cent above the normal. The May "Season" shewed a deficiency, for only two-thirds of the average fell, but the October "Season" was well above the average. The rainfall for Kingston was 39.19 ins., and the average 33.59 ins.

Temperature.

138. At Kingston the mean temperature for the twelve months was 79.1 degrees, which is 0.4 deg. higher than the 33-year average of 78.7 degrees. The highest maximum for the year was 93.3 degrees, occurring in the month of May and in June; and the lowest minimum was 61.1 degrees in March.

Humidity.

139. The mean humidity for Kingston, derived from the 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. observations, was 73 per cent., as against the 33-year average of 77 per cent. This deficiency is attributable to the small rainfall during the early months of the year.

Weather Disturbances.

140. About the 4th and 5th February a weather disturbance of small intensity developed to the west of Negril Point, and moved north-westerly. On the 20th March another depression formed in the same direction but passed away, possibly in a N.W. track. Evidence was shewn on 1st August of a disturbance appearing between Swan Island and British Honduras, but it did not appear to develop. On 18th August a disturbance moved from the vicinity of Dominica in a West-north-westerly direction. Then on the 28th August a disturbance developed between Dominica and Antigua, moving North-westerly, and occasioned great loss of life and damage to property in the Leeward and Virgin Islands. On 14th October a storm developed in the vicinity of Swan Island, and moved towards western Cuba. Then on the 7th and 8th November a disturbance developed to the north of Jamaica, and proceeded on a track through eastern Cuba, occasioning flood rains in Jamaica, especially in the eastern parishes.

Hailstorms.

141. Hail fell at Kempshot, in the parish of St. James, on 14th July during a thunderstorm. Also at Santa Cruz, in the parish of St. Elizabeth, on 30th July, accompanied by rain and high wind.

Earthquakes.

142. A few very slight shocks were felt at several places in the Island in the months of March, June, July, August, September, October and November.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

143. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two branches running into the interior of the Island, viz.: from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Line; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main line Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track is 200 miles. The gauge is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

144. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was £268,914, and the expenditure £237,312. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment.

145. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 218,621 tons, as compared with 247,879 tons for the year 1923; the number of passengers carried in 1924 was 455,270, against 475,391 in 1923.

146. The construction of the extension frem Chapelton to Frankfield was continued and the work will, it is expected be completed by the middle of March, 1925. The work of making additional provision in the Locomotive Shops at Kingston for the maintenance of engines and rolling stock was completed in 1924.

147. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

Shipping.

148. The following Summary shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1920	entered	1307	Vessels of	1,778,256	tons
1921	"	1,339	"	1,753,262	"
1922	"	1,365	"	1,920,114	"
1923	"	1,323	"	2,011,500	"
1924	"	1,306	"	2,056,496	"
1920	cleared	1,285	"	1,755,532	"
1921	"	1,271	"	1,719,496	"
1922	"	1,340	"	1,927,183	"
1923	"	1,335	"	2,005,711	"
1924	"	1,299	"	2,054,100	"

149. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony —

British—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Webster Steamship Line, and The Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (the two last named companies being registered in Jamaica.)

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., and the Columbian Steamship Co.

Dutch—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Geselleschaft Kosmor Line.

Cuban—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Summarized, there are British, 8; U.S.A., 3; Dutch, 1; German, 2; Cuban, 1; making a total of 15 Steamship Lines. Compared with the previous year this is an increase of 1 British and a decrease of 1 Foreign.

150. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year under review.

Roads.

151. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,264 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads, amounting to 4,366 miles, of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

152. During the Calendar year 1924, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £98 per mile, including cost of restoring Flood Damages.

153. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review about 35 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

Canals.

154. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

155. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

156. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and Aerial Services.

157. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of

the Calendar year 1923, there were 1,097½ miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 62 Telegraph and 88 Telephone Offices. No further extensions of lines or opening of new offices were authorized during the year.

158. The charge for telegrams at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words, and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

159. In 1911, the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to ninepence for the first twelve words or under, and half-penny for each additional word, including the address, at which it still remains.

160. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists considerably in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

161. The number of ordinary and official messages signalled in 1922 was 351,150, the revenue collected was £18,063. In 1923 the messages numbered 326,353, and the receipts totalled £18,503. In 1924 the messages numbered 316,735; the receipts totalled £17,222.

162. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Royal Navy during the late war. This station does not now accept traffic for or from any point. The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. Numerous wireless receiving stations have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island, by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and nearby Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station at present exists in the Island.

163. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

164. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

165. The cable of the former company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines Inland, and Westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

166. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Companies who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States

of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

167. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review. Work was, however, started upon the construction of a dam at Hermitage in the hills to the north of Kingston in connection with a scheme for the improvement of the water supply of Kingston. Work was also started on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston for which provision was made by Laws 25 and 36 of 1923.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

168. A list of Official Publicatons relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.		Where obtainable.
	s.	d.	
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8	0	Edward Stanford, 12, 13, & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise ..	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919 ..	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica,, 1913, by Maxwell Hall ..	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1921 ..	1	0	ditto
Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1902	0	6	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Supplement to Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1908	0	3	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923) ..	2	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Proceedings of the Ninth West Indian Agricultural Conference (1925) ..	2	6	ditto

CHAS. W. DOORLY,
Acting Colonial Secretary,

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
31*st July*, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1298.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1231 (Price 3d.), and for Report for 1924 see No. 1262 (Price 6d.)).

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1926.

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1298.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.*

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately mid-way between that Island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83 and 81.30 West longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the Islands, is seventeen miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the Island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long by one and a quarter at its widest part. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the Island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the Islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Barlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the Islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The Islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of

*A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914–15, No. 879 [Cd. 8172–5].

the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the Islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

General Observations.

No circumstance of moment happened in the year other than a short visit in April from His Excellency Sir S. H. Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica and its Dependencies, the first of the kind in ten years.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restrictions placed on immigration into the United States of America have not borne adversely, as was feared, on the people of the Dependency, many of whom enter the Republic for the purpose of taking ship as ocean-going seamen, which they are enabled to do shortly after arrival.

Visitors are allowed to pass freely on entry and departure. There is a small and occasional exchange of population with the nearer Central American Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua, to which Caymanians have journeyed for several generations.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The general health of the Dependency was good. An outbreak of infantile paralysis occurred in late summer, and by prompt measures was restricted to an isolated locality. There

(23204) Wt. 8084/494 500 8/26 Harrow G.94.

were nine cases and one death. Of the 44 deaths recorded in 1925, seven are described as infants, three were between five and twenty years, five between twenty and forty years, eleven between forty and seventy years, and eighteen were over seventy years of age. Four persons died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Vital Statistics.

There were 162 births in 1925 (32 per mille), and 44 deaths (8 per mille). The population is estimated at 5,583, as compared with 5,253 at the census in 1921.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year (£42,663) are below the average of the previous five years, but, if the inflated years 1921–22 are ignored, about normal.

The exports (£14,813) are substantially above the normal average for the previous half decade, all but £2,500 being from the turtle fishery.

Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been:

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1919-20	5,915	5,302
1920–21	11,187 (15 months)	10,612
1922	6,996	7,565
1923	6,611	6,823
1924	6,005	7,013
Average of 5 years. ...	6,993	7,108
1925	6,970	6,622

Customs (£4,057) and Post Office (£2,238) together contributed 90 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £1,840.

The Expenditure may be summarised in Departments £2,951, Public Works £1,417, Education £1,500, and other services £754.

A small addition was made to the savings of the past, and at the end of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £3,542. There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are both below the averages of the previous five years. If, however, the abnormal trade in spirits in 1923 and 1924 (which was not renewed in 1925) be disregarded, the imports are somewhat below the normal average, while the exports show an advance.

The catch of green turtle, returned as 3,000 of merchantable size, and the price obtained (£2 each), were both better in numbers and value than in 1924. The hawks-bill fishers were also more successful than in 1924, the catch weighing 3,952 lb. at an average value of £1 8s. 0d. per pound, as compared with 3,419 lb. and a rate of £1 7s. 9d. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope increased from £640 in 1924 to £1,754 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The following tabulation shows the variance in value of imported and exported merchandise.

Year.	*Imports.* £	*Exports.* £
1919-20	57,097	28,531
1920-21	65,797 (15 months)	11,081
1922	36,541	13,650
1923	88,348	53,353
1924	51,416	16,317
Average 5 years	56,990	23,415
1925	42,663	14,813

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of island vessels not in the turtle fishery and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Two cattle dips were in operation throughout the year and a third was opened in October. The Estimates for 1926 provide for a fourth. Material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued from their use.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry having on its register 52 small sailing and nine motor vessels with a total tonnage of 3,593 tons. Four vessels with a total tonnage of 76 tons were built and registered in 1925.

Two small foreign steamships called at the Islands in 1925. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons*
British	177	14,693	186	13,816
American	23	5,896	21	5,566
Cuban	5	123	4	93
Honduranean	6	418	7	639
Panamanian	1	44	1	44
Totals	212	21,174	219	20,158

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks, or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and used by them in the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office Money Order system is used to some extent, orders paid in the Dependency in 1925 amounting to £3,600, while the orders issued for payment abroad was less, £2,092.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 50; the deposits for the year have been £535; the withdrawals have amounted to £1,076; and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,195. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, more than cover this liability.

Legislation.

Eleven laws were enacted, seven dealing with appropriation or temporary finance. Those of modified interest outside the Islands are, No. 1, a law to prevent the practice of medicine and surgery by other than qualified and registered practitioners, and No. 5, a law bringing the Dependency in line with other colonies in the matter of passports.

Education.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with ten private schools, had 1,094 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 877. The total expenditure on the Government schools was £1,487. Forty-three candidates sat at an annual pupil teacher examination set by the Jamaica Education Department: fourteen were successful. A male and a female student were maintained at Jamaica Training Colleges for Teachers.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 78.22 inches, the heaviest precipitation for many years, the average for five previous years being 61.02 inches. The heaviest rainfalls were in May (12.21 inches) and September (14.86 inches) and the largest single day's rain (26th September) was 5.08 inches. The rainfall was more evenly distributed throughout the Islands in 1925 than is usual. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the months October to March and 10 degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances approached the Islands in the year under review.

Communications.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the southern ports of the United States is had by trading schooners, some of which have motor auxiliary.

There is little of community interest between Grand Cayman and the smaller Islands, and inter-communication is irregular. Roads, greatly improved in recent years, suitable for motor traffic connect the settlements on the larger Islands. From them branch a system of bridal-paths.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-communication is infrequent. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal sum.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
8th May, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes for the Colonial Office the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40*s*. per annum.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

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No. 1304.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925*.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of Islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

HISTORICAL.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846; [Cd. 7622-37].

raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed " to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by severe hurricanes, which caused great destruction of property. The hurricane of 1866 was considered the most disastrous of all. It devastated the Islands, which have never fully recovered from the ruin left in its wake. The hurricanes of 1888 and 1908 also did a great amount of damage.

CONSTITUTION.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also President of the Legislative Board and Judge of the Supreme Court. The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board, comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown. Arrangements are now being made to increase the number of members by the addition of one official and one unofficial. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

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CLIMATE.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter time is generally pleasant. .The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum. The average rainfall during the year 1925, from observations at nine stations throughout the Islands, was 24·91 inches. The maximum was recorded at Kew, North Caicos, measuring 34·26 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay registering 20·73 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1921–1925 was 24·55 inches.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPAL ISLANDS.

GRAND TURK.

Grand Turk lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Commissioner resides there. The Island has a population of about 1,500, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the Island. The town contains the public buildings, including the several public offices and the prison ; several stores, a market, a public library, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places, and private residences. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the Island, and the radio-telegraph and telephone station is situated at the public buildings, in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are carried between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the Island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the Island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The Island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with a few stunted trees here and there. The principal industry in this Island is the production and export of salt, extracted from sea-water, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. There are four salt crushing mills on the Island. Fresh fruit, vegetables and meat (on the hoof) are imported from the island of Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

SALT CAY.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited Island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren Island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

SOUTH CAICOS.

This Island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

EAST CAICOS.

This Island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the Island is now uninhabited.

MIDDLE CAICOS.

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This Island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

NORTH CAICOS.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this Island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

PARROT CAY, DELLIS CAY, AND OTHERS.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the Island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This Island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this Island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales This Island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the Island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this Island. The venture was abandoned and the Island is now uninhabited.

I.—General Observations.

The year 1925 opened with considerable apprehension in the minds of the people of this Dependency as regards the future. The action of the authorities of the Dominican Republic, referred to in my Report for 1924,* in preventing the employment of the labourers of these Islands as stevedores and deck-hands on the steamers trading between New York and Santo Domingo, as in the past, was a great blow to this Dependency, which cast gloom over the whole community. It was, quite naturally, feared that the result would be very detrimental to the interests of the people of these Islands and would adversely affect their future welfare and prosperity. Unfortunately, the hope that the Dominican Government would eventually rescind or modify the restrictions imposed, in favour of the labourers of these Islands, did not materialize, and, as anticipated, a large number of those men were, consequently, thrown out of employment, many of whom then left their homes and went abroad, mainly to Abaco, Bahamas, or to Florida, United States of America, to seek work. It happened, however, that during the year 1925 there was some improvement in local business, which resulted in an increase in the quantity of salt and other domestic produce exported, as will be shown by the figures in the section of this report relating to the export trade. This improvement in trade tended to relieve the situation by giving a certain amount of additional employment, and therefore assisted, to some extent, in overcoming the trouble referred to above. The people of these Islands now fully realize that the

* No. 1258 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

regular employment of their labourers on the ships trading with Santo Domingo is now a custom of the past, unlikely to return, and that in the future such labourers will have to look in other directions for employment, or seek other means of gaining a livelihood. Another unfortunate result of the action of the Dominican Government in causing the stoppage of the employment on the steamers of the surplus labour of these Islands was, as anticipated, the curtailment of the Dependency's steamship service. Towards the end of 1924, the steamers of the Bull Line (of New York) stopped calling here in consequence of that action. Then again, the Clyde Steamship Company (of New York), which had for many years past furnished these Islands with a regular fortnightly service from and to New York, were compelled to curtail their service, and their steamers now only call at Grand Turk once every three weeks on the return voyage to New York, with the result that it now takes twelve days for mails, passengers, and freight from New York to reach Grand Turk, viâ Dominican ports, as against four or five days as formerly, when they came direct.

The rainfall, which was equal to the annual average, was well distributed throughout the year, and, consequently, no drought was experienced in these Islands in 1925.

The principal public work carried out during the year was the construction, at Grand Turk, of a new public tank for the storage of rain-water for supply to the public during the dry season. The capacity of this tank is 60,000 gallons. It was built of concrete and cost £490, paid from the Dependency's surplus funds. With this additional water supply it is hoped that the hardships suffered by the poor people during the droughts of former years will not be experienced again. The other public works carried out during the year were mainly of a recurrent nature, such as repairs and maintenance of public buildings, etc.

In June, a public drinking-fountain was established near the market at Grand Turk which has been greatly appreciated by the people who benefit by it.

The public hospital at Cockburn Harbour, having been completed and fully furnished, was opened for service on the 1st March.

In the early part of the year a regular mail service between Salt Cay and Grand Turk, by sailing boat, was established with the aid of a subsidy from public funds.

On the 30th November, the lighthouse tender "Firebird," of the Imperial Lighthouse Service (Bahamas), visited Grand Turk for an inspection of the lighthouse.

In January, representations were made to the Commissioner that the services of a qualified dentist were greatly needed, there being no dentist resident in these Islands. Arrangements were then made by which Mr. F. E. Polanco, dental surgeon, of Puerto

Plata, Dominican Republic, paid a visit to Grand Turk, and practised dentistry throughout the month of April, for which he received a grant from the Government of £35. Paupers received free treatment, and other poor persons were given treatment at reduced rates.

The newly appointed Consul for the Dominican Republic, Señor Don José German Bello Luque, arrived at Grand Turk in March, and assumed duty in the place of Señor Roque, retired.

In August, in consequence of his failing health, Mr. W. S. Jones, the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Board, resigned his seat after twenty years' service as a member of that Board. He died on the 6th September, after a prolonged illness. He was a prominent and respected member of the community, and his loss was keenly felt by his numerous relatives and friends. He was a Justice of the Peace, Consular Agent for France, Lloyd's Agent, agent for the Board of Underwriters of New York, and agent for three steamship lines. His place on the Legislative Board was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. D. Wood, a merchant of Grand Turk.

Public Health.

In his Annual Report on the Turks Islands for 1925, the Government Medical Officer stated as follows :—

> " The year under review was remarkably free from contagious diseases, such as smallpox, measles, whooping cough, etc. In fact, these Islands were particularly free from the usual run of children's diseases.
>
> *Tuberculosis.*—There were but a couple of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis to come under observation. This disease is not as prevalent as in former years, which may be due to the fact that the population of these Islands has become so depleted on account of the Clyde boats ceasing to call here for labourers, thus forcing these men to seek employment elsewhere.
>
> *Alastrim.*—No cases during the year.
>
> *Syphilis.*—There were six cases to come under observation and treatment. Unfortunately, however, most patients contracting this desease do not continue treatment long enough for a complete cure.
>
> *Pellagra.*—There were sixteen cases during the earlier months of the year, mostly among young women and girls. In addition to the lack of proper cooking of the starchy foods and the scarcity of green vegetables and fruit, there is an intimate association between great poverty and the development of this desease.
>
> *Leprosy.*—There are no cases on these Islands.

Malaria.—This disease manifests itself at all times of the year, but is more prevalent during the winter months. However, with but few exceptions it usually comes in a mild form. It is a noteworthy fact that most of the serious cases are brought here from the other islands.

I beg to conclude my remarks with the statement that, comparatively speaking, these Islands are remarkably free from disease, notwithstanding the fact that the most ordinary precautions, such as the boiling of the drinking water, etc., are generally disregarded, and the unfortunate scarcity of fresh fruit and vegetables, due to the lack of communication with the other islands, from whence these supplies have always come to us."

Hospitals.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided :—

The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk .. 8 beds.
The Public Hospital at Cockburn Harbour .. 4 ,,

During the year eight cases were admitted to the surgical ward and fourteen cases to the medical ward for treatment. The isolation camp, situated in the hospital grounds, was not occupied during the year.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612.

It is believed that since then there has been a loss of several hundreds by emigration.

During the year 1925, 181 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 32·8 per 1,000. During the same period 78 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 14·1 per 1,000. Thirty-nine marriages were registered.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports during the year 1925 amounted to £41,570. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £4,592 ; from British Dominions, £3,520 ; and from foreign countries, £33,458, including £31,260, the value of the imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink and clothing. The customs import duties amounted to £3,808.

The exports were valued at £39,062. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £485 ; to British Dominions, £18,412 ; and to foreign countries, £20,165. The value of the exports to Canada was £15,117, and to the United States £18,209. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £38,220 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1925, and £842 the value of the re-exports.

II.—Government Finance.

The public revenue of the Dependency for the year 1925 amounted to £10,459, and the expenditure to £11,176, the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £716. The excess was due to the expenditure from the Dependency's surplus funds of £950 on public works extraordinary. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1925, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £9,017, as against £9,733, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt, the former providing about 40 per cent., and the latter about 20 per cent., of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government; but gold coins were very seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £3,000, the notes being of the following denominations: Five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. A fair amount of United States paper currency circulated and exchanged at the rate of 4s. 2d. to the dollar.

The Government Savings Bank had 858 accounts opened, with £22,133 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £19,321. The business of the Savings Bank has been increasing steadily. The amount due to depositors at the end of 1915 was £4,972, as against £22,133 at the end of 1925. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands. The Post Office money-order business has also increased considerably. The value of orders issued and paid in 1925 amounted to £9,541, as against £1,585 in 1916.

III.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

Trade.

In 1925 the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by £2,508. This unfavourable trade balance may be explained by the fact that many of the labourers of these Islands employed abroad send home a part of their earnings to assist in the support of their families.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Salt	30,271	25,630	32,854
Conchs	1,563	1,217	1,393
Sponges	1,436	1,647	2,408
Cotton and cotton seed	641	904	566
Sisal	2,168	169	684
Turtle shell	486	50	162

Almost all of the above exports, except salt, was the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

	United Kingdom.	British Dominions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
		IMPORTS.		
	£	£	£	£
1923	3,577	2,960	40,023	46,560
1924	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
		EXPORTS.		
1923	750	14,843	21,862	37,455
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062

The above figures show an increase in this Dependency's trade with the United Kingdom and the British Dominions.

SALT.

It will be seen that salt is the Dependency's principal article of export. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the shipments in 1925 :—

	Quantity. Bushels.	Value. £
United States	893,820	15,517
Canada	709,910	14,685
Newfoundland	66,783	1,391
Jamaica	63,329	965
St. Pierre et Miquelon ..	14,125	294
Santo Domingo	81	1
Bahamas	57	1
	1,748,105	£32,854

Salt shipments to Canada rose from 504,000 bushels, valued at £9,844, in 1924, to 709,910 bushels, valued at £14,685, in 1925.

The total quantity of salt exported during the ten years 1916–1925 amounted to 15,130,882 bushels, the annual average being 1,513,088. The shipments during 1925 exceeded the exports of 1924 by 282,941 bushels, and the annual average by 235,017 bushels.

In 1925 Grand Turk exported 535,835 bushels, valued at £10,417 ; Cockburn Harbour, 659,800 bushels, valued at £11,821 ; and Salt Cay, 552,470 bushels, valued at £10,616.

CONCHS.

There was a slight increase in the trade in conchs. The number exported in 1925 amounted to 1,392,600, as against 1,216,000 shipped in 1924. They were valued at £1 per 1,000. All, except 1,000, were shipped to Haiti.

SPONGES.

The trade in sponges showed improvement as compared with the previous year. 34,657 lb., valued at £2,408, were exported in 1925. About 70 per cent. were shipped to the United States.

COTTON.

There was a falling off in the export of raw cotton. Only 6,953 lb. were shipped in 1925, as compared with 11,104 lb. exported in the previous year. However, at the end of 1925 there was a large quantity on hand awaiting to be shipped on a rise in the market price.

As regards cotton seed, 42,700 lb., valued at £160, were exported, as against 28,363 lb., valued at £101, shipped in 1924.

SISAL.

There was a satisfactory revival in the trade in sisal, which is cultivated on a small scale in the Caicos Islands. 49,492 lb., valued at £684, were exported in 1925, as against 15,472 lb., valued at £169, in 1924.

SHELL.

There was also an increase in the quantity of shell exported, shown as follows :—

	1924.	1925.
Turtle shell	50 lb.	152 lb.
Conch shells	60 barrels	480 barrels
Whelk shells	6 barrels	160 barrels

MINOR PRODUCE.

Small quantities of the undermentioned produce of the Caicos Islands were exported during the year :—Fish (salted), hides, poultry, sweet potatoes, hats (straw), and sisal mats.

SHARK FISHING.

In order to encourage the attempt that was being made to establish a new industry, namely, shark fishing, an order was made in September, 1925, under the Customs Tariff Ordinance, exempting shark fishing gear (including lines, nets, floats, tackle, and hooks) from the payment of import duty. The industry did not make much progress in 1925, but has been doing better since.

IV.—Legislation.

Only two ordinances were passed in 1925. No. 1 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance for 1925, and No 2 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance in respect of expenditure in 1924.

V.—Education.

Education is compulsory in these Islands. The sum of £820 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were eleven Government elementary schools (free). The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 911, and the average attendance 705. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £697. In January, 1925, an elementary school was established at the settlement of Five Cays, assisted by a grant from the Board of Education. There were also nine private schools, under the control of the Board of Education, with an attendance of 151. There was a considerable increase in school attendance during the year, and satisfactory progress was made generally.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk, which is controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner, received a grant from public funds of £150. The average attendance at this school was 29.

A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations were held in December, 1924, and 1925, with satisfactory results.

In consideration of the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable teachers for the Government schools, the Board of Education decided to send a young teacher to Jamaica to undergo a course of training at the Mico College. A suitable candidate was found and sent to Jamaica at the end of the year under an arrangement by which the Board will bear the cost of his tuition, and his father all other expenses. Bond was furnished to guarantee that after his return to these Islands he will serve the Board as a teacher in one of the Government schools for a term of years.

VI.—Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	23·27 in.
Maximum temperature	88·5°
Minimum temperature	63·2°

VII.—Shipping.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1925 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships ..	1	57	58
Sailing vessels ..	153	39	192
	154	96	250

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 38,175, and of the steamships to 116,605.

The undermentioned steamship companies of New York maintained a service between the Dependency and New York and Santo Domingo :—

The Clyde Steamship Co.
The Columbus Line, Inc.

VIII.—Communications.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York about twice a month by steamers of the Clyde and Columbus lines.

Mails were despatched to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk, and also by sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Government radio-telegraph and telephone service enabled messages to be transmitted between Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour, and shipping.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
4th June, 1926

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1327.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1218 and 1276 respectively, price 1*s*. 3*d*. each.)

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an Island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. lat. and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. long. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles, the greatest width 49 miles, and the least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Mls.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Mls.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Mls.
Kingston ..	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew ..	183	St. Mary ..	251	Trelawny ..	353
St. Thomas ..	298½	Clarendon ..	487	St. James ..	239½
Portland ..	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover ..	177
		Manchester ..	337	Westmoreland	320
Total ..	827¼		2,060		1,563

giving a total of 4,540¼ square miles, equal to 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately, 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat, consisting of alluvium marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the English Counties of Kent, Middlesex and Surrey, by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 203 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, Spain, Turkey or Russia. The Colony with its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contains nearly half of the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° on the sea coast, the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° at the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of temperature that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. The midland parts of the island are the highest Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, there runs the great central mountain chain which trends generally in an east and west direction, the highest part of which is the Blue Mountain Peak attaining an altitude of 7,388 ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies and is rather more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the Central Range subordinate ridges or spurs run both to the north and south coasts of the island; these ridges in their turn are the

parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams give the derivation of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of these streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. In Jamaica there are many mineral springs, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas and the spring at Milk River in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs possess radio-active properties, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of about 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca —well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under miliary jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendents of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,075 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant

of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave consitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

12. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

13. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote); five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

14. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty; but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

15. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

16. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

17. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial insitutions, viz.: poor houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1925 was 8,060, being at the rate of 8.8 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the General Revenue of the Colony.

Judicial.

18. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrates' Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and Resident Magistrate's Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

19. As will be observed under Head III.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry—and the sub-head "Imports and Exports," there was a marked improvement in the trade of the Colony during the year 1925 as compared with the preceding year, both in the volume and the value of articles imported and exported.

20. Conditions for agricultural production have, on the whole, been favourable. The chief staple, bananas, achieved a "record" of 15,000,000 stems exported—an increase of 3,000,000 stems on the quantity exported during 1924. Rum showed an increase of about 3,000 puncheons over the exports for 1924. The quantity of Sugar exported during the year amounted approximately to 38,000 tons as compared with 23,000 tons in 1924. Coffee showed an increase from 2,600 tons to 5,200 tons and the prices obtained were, on the whole, good. There were also welcome increases in the exports of ginger, grapefruit, pimento and honey.

21. A noteworthy development was the acquisition by a British Syndicate, under the Chairmanship of His Grace the Duke of Atholl, of several properties in the eastern section of the Island on which a large central Sugar Factory on up-to-date lines has now been erected. As Officer Administering the Government I had the honour of being present at the opening ceremony. It is earnestly to be hoped that this enterprise will meet with the success it undoubtedly deserves.

22. On the invitation of the Jamaica Imperial Association, a Parliamentary Delegation, comprising members of both Houses, visited the Island in January. The Delegation consisted of the Rt. Hon. J. H.

Thomas, Hons. C. C. Ammon, R. J. G. Boothby, Rt. Hon. V. Hartshorn, Lord Lamington, Lt.-Col. Sir M. M. Buller, Lord Newton, the Earl of Strafford, Colonel H. C. Woodcock, Major A. J. Edmondson and Sir Howard d'Egville (Secretary of the Empire Parliamentary Association). The Delegation made a tour of a portion of the Island and a banquet was given in their honour at which the Governor, Brig.-Genl. Sir S. H. Wilson, presided and at which the Admiral Commanding the North America and West Indies Squadron was present as a guest.

The visit of this Delegation is a unique event in the history of the Colony and it is felt here that such visits cannot but tend to strengthen the bonds of loyalty to the Mother Country which already exist to a marked degree among all sections of the community.

23. Coinciding with the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation was a visit paid to Jamaica by the Rt. Hon. James Ramsay MacDonald for the purpose of recuperating his health. The ex-Premier was on the day of his arrival, entertained at luncheon by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange at which the Governor presided.

24. I am glad to say that Jamaica was able again to participate in the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley.

25. I was specially invited by the Committee of Management to visit the West Indian Pavilion before coming out to assume duty as Colonial Secretary and it gives me pleasure to record that the Colony made a very creditable showing, taking into account the comparatively small amount of money which the Committee of Management had at its disposal.

26. The Hons. Wm. Morrison, G. S. Ewen and R. Nosworthy, (Collector General), Mr. Wm. Wilson, O.B.E., and Mr. C. E. Johnston, went on delegation to represent Jamaica at a Conference held at Ottawa in June in connection with the improvement of trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and the British West Indian Colonies, Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras. This Conference resulted in the signing of a Trade Agreement by the representatives of the various Governments and it is hoped that by this agreement, which provides, *inter alia*, for preferential tariffs and improved steamship communication, the trade between the Dominion of Canada and these Colonies will greatly increase to the material advantage of all concerned. The Agreement was ratified by the Legislative Council of this Colony on 22nd October, after an interesting debate.

27. A General Election for the Legislative Council was held in the early part of the year when the following representatives were elected:

Hon. A. E. DaCosta, M.B.E.,	for the parish of	Kingston
" G. Seymour Seymour	do.	St. Andrew
" J. H. Phillipps	do.	St. Thomas
" Dr. E. V. W. Mellad	do.	Portland
" & Revd. A. A. Barclay	do.	St. Mary
" D. T. Wint	do.	St. Ann
" G. S. Ewen	do.	Trelawny
" P. F. Lightbody	do.	St. James
" C. W. Hewitt	do.	Hanover
" F. R. Evans	do.	Westmoreland
" A. G. Nash	do.	Manchester
" P. W. Sangster	do.	St. Elizabeth
" J. A. G. Smith	do.	Clarendon
" T. J. Cawley	do.	St. Catherine

28. His Majesty's Ships "Calcutta," "Capetown" and "Curlew," which form a part of the North America and West Indies Cruiser Squadron, paid several visits to the Colony during the year. Theseperiodical visits are much appreciated.

29. A group of members of the St. Louis (U.S.A.) Chamber of Commerce paid a flying visit to Jamaica towards the end of February.

30. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Sir St. John Branch, Chief Justice of this Colony was appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon and left Jamaica in January to take up that appointment. He was succeeded by Mr. F. C. A. Barrett-Lennard, a Puisne Judge of the Straits Settlements.

Major Lewis Thomas, O.B.E., retired from the position of Director of the Railway and was succeeded by Mr. J. Powter, General Manager of the Government Railway in Trinidad.

Mr. H. A. Josephs, K.C., LL.M., Asst. Attorney General, was appointed Attorney General of British Guiana.

Mr. H. Simms, M.V.O., was appointed Director of Public Works in succession to Mr. C. V. Espeut, appointed Director of Public Works, Federated Malay States.

Mr. W. E. Clark, Inspector General of Police, retired on pension and was succeeded by Mr. M. D. Harrel, formerly of Barbados.

I record with regret that Dr. E. L. Hunt, C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer, died in England on the 29th of September, after holding office for less than 6 years. He was succeeded by Dr. B. M. Wilson, formerly of British Honduras.

Mr. Ellis Wolfe, Postmaster for Jamaica, retired on pension and Mr. R. H. Fletcher, Asst. Postmaster, was appointed Head of the Post Office Department as from the 1st of July, 1925. It is with much regret that I record Mr. Wolfe's death only two months later.

Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Island Treasurer, retired on pension during the year. Mr. W. M. Fraser, Deputy Treasurer, is now acting as Treasurer.

Mr. J. V. Leach, Mr. W. P. Clark and Mr. C. A. Bicknell, Resident Magistrates, also retired on pension.

Brig.-General Sir Samuel Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor of the Colony, went on leave on the 7th June and was subsequently appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hong Kong, was appointed to succeed him as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica but owing to the disturbed condition of South China was unable to leave Hong Kong for some months and consequently did not assume his new office until April, 1926. On the departure of Sir Samuel Wilson, the Government of the Colony was administered by Colonel Sir Herbert Bryan, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary, until the 24th of August, when he was granted three months leave prior to retirement.

31. His Majesty the King was pleased to recognize the value of Col. Bryan's long services to the Empire, including eleven years as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, by conferring upon him the dignity of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in June, 1925.

32. The writer of this report (Mr. A. S. Jelf of the Malayan Civil Service) was appointed to succeed him as Colonial Secretary.

33. After Sir Herbert Bryan's departure the Government was administered by Colonel Arthur Mudge, C.M.G., Colonel Commandant of the Troops in Jamaica, until my arrival.

34. Immediately on my arrival on 6th October by virtue of a Dormant Commission I assumed duties as Officer Administering the Government and continued to act as Governor of the Colony for the rest of the year.

35. Mr. C. W. Doorly, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted efficiently as Colonial Secretary for the greater part of 1925 and until I assumed my substantive duties at the end of April, 1926.

Emigration and Immigration.

36. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1923 were 7,778, in 1924, 7,284, and in 1925, 5,449. The arrivals in 1923 were 5,029, in 1924, 5,247, and in 1925, 4,924.

Public Health and Sanitation.

37. Public interest in Health questions continues to increase, and this is especially noticeable in the areas where the International Health Board has been operating.

38. A marked decrease in the number of cases of Alastrim and Typhoid Fever is recorded during the year. The cause of the continuance of alastrim is due to the general mildness of the disease and also to the fact that many persons hide the cases or fail to report them.

39. A new Health Law, Law 18 of 1925, was enacted during the year under review. This Law, which came into force on the 1st January, 1926, consolidates and amends the various Health Laws of the Colony. As the title of the Law—"A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and for preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases"—will indicate, it is of far-reaching importance and should, if its provisions are carefully enforced, be instrumental in improving the health conditions of the Colony.

40. Small localized epidemics of Malaria occurred at the end of the year on the flats formed by river mouths.

Vital Statistics.

41. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1925 was 916,620, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1924, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1925

42. The number of marriages registered during 1925 was 3,738 the rate being 4.1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.5 for 1924. During the same period 31,567 births were registered of which 15,855 were boys and 15,712 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.6 per 1,000 as against 36.8 during 1924.

43. The number of deaths registered was 19,562 of which 9,618 were males and 9,944 females, the death rate being 21.5 per 1,000. The rate for 1924 was 21.7. During 1925, 7,060 or 36.1 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,483 or 28.0 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1924 were 35.5 per cent. and 27.3 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.1 in 1924.

44. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston, were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 9.4; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new born, 11.0; Phthisis, 9.2; Enteric Fever, 5.2; Pneumonia, 6.1; Heart Disease, 5.8; Chronic Bright's Disease, 4.3; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.3.

Imports and Exports.

45. Although it cannot be said that the Colony's trade at the end of the year 1925 was in a flourishing condition, yet there is every evidence of a marked improvement in the conditions which prevailed during the previous year. The value of the Imports (exclusive of articles imported through the Parcels Post) reached a total of £5,386,435 as against £4,827,074 in 1924, shewing an increase of £559,361. Almost the whole of this increase can be traced to Class III. Manufactured Articles, due to an ever-growing demand for such things as Boots and Shoes, Motor Vehicles, Cotton Goods, Machinery, Bags and Sacks, and Wood Hoops and Shooks. With regard to the sources of supply, Canada continues to be our chief provider of Foodstuffs (36%), the United States of America provides 70% of our Raw materials and the United Kingdom has held her own in Class III. (45.4%).

46. Very appreciable increases are noticeable in Petrol, Rice, Cigarettes and Lumber, whilst on the other hand decreases are seen under Corn, Flour, Meal, Salt, Soap and Leaf Tobacco. The reaping of a good crop of local provisions contributed largely to the decrease in importation of Foodstuffs and a successful experiment in the growing of a native "Virginia" Leaf Tobacco lessened our demand for the foreign product. The importation of nearly ten million lbs. of Fish (Dried Salted) and fifteen million lbs. of Rice, both showing over a million lbs. increase, proves how the taste for these commodities has grown on the peasantry who sell their home-grown provisions and purchase the imported article.

47. Worthy of comment also is the rapid and steady increase in the number of motor cars imported into this Colony. In 1925 no less than 832 cars were imported, being 280 more than the previous year; the value was £142,365. In addition there were accessories valued at £98,918 and 2,030,732 gallons of Petrol. Cars are exchanged so often for later models that the problem now confronting the various dealers is the disposal of the numerous used cars now on their hands.

48. A healthy sign is the increased importation of articles for packing Island Produce. In 1924 were imported Bags and Sacks to the value of £19,856 and Hoops and Shooks valued at £42,239, whilst in 1925 the importations were £71,282 and £74,730, respectively. Due allowance however must be made for the increase in price of these articles. There were also slight increases in the importations of Agricultural Machinery and Implements.

49. After five years of special preference afforded to British Cotton Piece Goods, it is now learnt that the American article has once more gained the ascendency. The growing demand for the cheaper cloths largely favoured by the working classes has resulted in an increase of nearly 8 million yards making a total importation of 23,448,508 yards. Of these the American source was the more responsive as, despite the 50% Preference given, their manufacturers were able to supply us with an article of superior quality and cheaper price than we could obtain elsewhere. Some British manufacturers tried to compete but failed both in quality and price, whilst the majority made no attempt, being content to specialize in the more expensive cloths of higher grade. The following figures show the trade movement:

1924. British 50.4%; Foreign 49.6% or 0.8% in favour of British.
1925. British 42.%; Foreign 58% or 16% in favour of Foreign.

50. The yield from Import Duties in 1925 realized the sum of £866,871 which was £80,278 more than in 1924. Increased quantities of goods paying a specific rate of duty, such as Fish, Rice, Oils, Spirits and Tobacco, as well as of such expensive *ad valorem* articles as Boots and Shoes, Cotton Piece Goods and Motor Vehicles and their accessories, were the contributing factors. Decreases in Revenue occurred in respect of Import Duty collected on Corn, Flour and Meal, owing to lessened importations due to a better crop of native foodstuffs. The decrease in imports of Kersosene Oil is not to be deplored as it points to the more general use of Electric Light and appliances, a sign of progress.

51. The Package Duty yielded £54,339, being slightly below the yield of the previous year. Some importers still continue to circumvent payment by having small articles banded together to form one package. They thus keep to the *letter* but not to the *spirit* of the law.

52. The Export Trade also showed some improvement towards the latter part of the year; better prices were obtained for some of our staples, and the value rose above that of 1924, being £3,915,000 as against £3,122,961, or an increase of £792,039. In 1924 eleven chief staples realized a sum of £2,787,396 or 89% of the total; in 1925 the same products were valued at £3,528,735 or 90.1% and had Logwood Extract kept up with the others the increase would have been greater. This commodity shows a decline of £98,403.

53. With regard to quantities it is found that we exported over three million more stems of bananas, evidence that the production is regaining its pre-war standard. We also exported nearly two million more Grape Fruit, five million more Coconuts, 400,000 more gallons of Rum and 15,000 more tons of Sugar.

54. The markets to which we sent our Exports did not vary much. The United Kingdom took 26.4% of the total, chiefly Cocoa, Logwood Extract and Rum; Canada claimed 21.3% comprised mainly of Coffee and Sugar; the United States of America absorbed 40.7% consisting mostly of fruit and coconuts and the remaining 11.6% went to Other Countries who took Pimento (France and Germany), Tobacco (China and Panama) and Dyewoods (France and Germany).

55. On the whole, the trade of the Colony is fairly satisfactory. We have practically recovered from the effects of the Great War and there is indication of a brighter future in production, remuneration and transport facilities. Great efforts have been made to improve our Empire Trade though not necessarily to the detriment of Foreign Trade, and although the results have not been as fruitful as was expected, yet the enterprise has not been in vain. In the year under review the figures are as follows:—

Imports—British 53%; Foreign 47%.
Exports—British 48%; Foreign 52%.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

56. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
£	£	£	£	£
1,926,791	2,047,412	2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046

Expenditure.

1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
£	£	£	£	£
2,253,502	1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593

The total Expenditure during the year 1925-26 was £11,453 less than the total Revenue.

57. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1926, were £1,023,730 and £999,161 respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £24,569.

58. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1926, was £4,581,175. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £1,865,978. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,715,197) exceeds by only £680,146 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1926-27). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

59. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaicain 1925.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	48,000,00	7,665,880,145	159.7
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	904,405	4,445,194	4.9

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1925, viz.: £1,708,700 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £3 0s. 6d. The year 1924-25 has been taken as the figures ralative to the United Kingdom for the year 1925-26 are not available locally.

60. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £225,261 of which £80,873 has been expended in 1925-26 by Resolutions of Council dated 26th November, 1924, and 23rd April, 1925, for repairing Main Roads damaged by flood rains in 1924, leaving a balance of 145,388 at 31st March, 1926. This fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Fund for the amortisation of the Public Debt.

TAXATION.

61. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 1 of 1925, "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws." This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1924 to the 31st March, 1926, the following Laws:—

(a) The Post Office (War Tax Law 1919) (Law 7 of 1919).
(b) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919 (Law 9 of 1919).
(c) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920).

(2) Law 4 of 1925, "A Law to Amend the Duties relating to Imports." This Law increased the rates of duty on Gasolene, Spirits, Wines, Leaf Tobacco and Cigarettes, removed from the Free List Fireworks and Fire Extinguishers which were made dutiable, and also Pans for boiling Sugar, Stills and parts and Telephone and Telephone Switchboards which were place on a Partially Free Schedule (*i.e.*, British free, Foreign 5% *ad valorem.*) To this latter Schedule there were also added the following articles:—Aircraft, Articles for Church Usage and Decoration and Articles of Public Utility imported by the Electric Company.

(3) Law 14 of 1925, "A Law to abolish the imposition of a Supertax." This Law repealed the levy of a Supertax on properties.

Currency.

62. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1925, to the extent of £78,309 2s. 6d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/- and 10/-.

2/6 Notes.	5/ Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
159 17 6	31,024 5 0	47,125 0 0	78,309 2 6

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

63. Below is a table showing the value of articles imported and exported during the past 40 years at intervals of 10 years:—

	1885 to 30.9.85	1895 to 31.3.96	1905 to 31.3.06	1915 to 31.12.15	1925 to 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,413,722	1,873,106	1,843,180	2,228,644	3,915,000
Value of Imports	1,325,602	2,288,945	1,941,937	2,327,458	5,386,435

These figures show that great strides have been made in the Trade of the Colony, the value of our Exports and Imports having increased during the past forty years by 177% and 306.3% respectively. In the last decade, which is more important, the increases were:—Exports 75.6%, Imports 131.4%.

64. Our Import Trade has developed to a greater extent than our Export Trade and an examination of the details given below will disclose the facts:—

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports, 1925.	Exports, 1925.	Balance of Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,631,916	1,032,649	599,267
United States of America	2,143,250	1,593,393	549,857
Canada ..	815,629	834,369	18,740
All Other Countries ..	795,640	454,589	341,051
Total ..	5,386,435	3,915,000	1,471,435

The Balance of Trade is thus shown as being £1,471,435 on the side of the Imports and is mainly due to the fact that we obtain from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the continent of Europe large quantities of merchandise, the raw materials for which are not supplied by the Island and this when added to Foodstuffs more than outweighs the Exports. There are, however, several factors which if taken into account would swell the Export figures. For example, Coal and large quantities of Ships' Stores are included in our Import figures but are not shown on the Export side. There are also several "invisible factors" such as Army Disbursements of Imperial Funds, money spent by Tourists and remittances from Jamaicans working abroad, all of which add to the spending of the people and, incidentally, account for the major portion of the Import Surplus.

Agriculture and Industry.

65. Conditions for agricultural production were favourable during the year. The chief staple crop, bananas, showed an increase of over 3 million stems exported as compared with 1924. Panama Disease, largely due to the flood rains of November of the previous year which spread infection over wide areas of land, increased from 3,011 cases to 7,703 cases. In the parish of Portland a relaxation of the standard treatment under the Order has been adopted so as to reduce the economic loss from the quarantining of the disease.

66. Cacao remained steady but owing to the low price now obtainable this crop is no longer attractive to the planter.

67. The coconut trees all over the Island have made a welcome recoveryi n vigour as a result of more favourable weather and now look better than they have done for some years. The output of nuts showed a gain of over 4 million as compared with the previous year. Prices have fluctuated but, on the whole, the coconut industry has prospered.

68. Coffee shows a welcome increase from 2,600 to 5,200 tons and prices have been good. Coffee stands out as the product to which Jamaica should give special attention at the present juncture. The scope for large plantations is limited but the production of coffee by small settlers can be greatly extended to advantage.

69. Logwood and Logwood Extracts have been depressed during the year and there has been a marked falling off in the Exports.

70. Citrus fruits have shown some improvement. The exports of Grape-fruit increased by 60 per cent. The Canadian preference has

led to some trade with the Dominion and it is hoped that the demand for Grape-fruit from Jamaica will increased.

71. The seasons were favourable for the production of Honey which shows an increase of nearly 70 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

72. Pimento increased by about 50 per cent. due to favourable conditions for this crop.

73. The exports of Sugar were approximately 38,000 tons as compared with 23,000 tons in 1924.

The enormous increase in the Cuban production has greatly depressed the price of Sugar and the profit made on the good crop of 1925 was a small one. The greatest event of the year, as regards Sugar, was the erection of the large Central Factory in St. Thomas with English capital. Remarkable results have been obtained in the rapid development of cane cultivation in the area associated with this enterprise.

74. Rum showed an increase of nearly 3,000 puncheons, due to a revival in this trade. The Continental demand for high-flavoured blending rums was good and some record prices were obtained for rums with a high content of Compound Ethers.

75. Sisal Hemp is developing as an industry. The Government Factory at Lititz which operated for only half the year produced a crop of 113 tons of fibre which is expected to show a profit of £1,000 over the cost of operating the enterprise. In Clarendon the industry is progressing and large areas are being planted in this crop which is suitable for growing in dry districts.

The small Portable Machine invented by Mr. Anderson has been greatly improved and is reported to be doing good work. The success of this machine will enable Sisal fibre to be produced on moderate areas of land and is calculated to lead to a considerable extensionof Sisal in Jamaica.

76. *Tick Destruction.* Nine more Dipping Tanks were constructed during the year bringing the total for the island to 258 tanks. The Government Laboratory continued to supply Paranaph and Arsenite of Soda to the public at cost for use in the Dipping Tanks.

77. The Hope Farm had a successful year and realised a gross revenue of £6,484 out of which substantial improvements were effected in stock and equipment. A Champion Red Poll bull from the United States of America and the First Prize Devon bull from the Royal Show in England were imported during the year. The well-known English thoroughbred Stallion "Lembach" was also imported by the Hope Farm and sent to Grove Place to replace the Stallion "Water Jacket."

78. Two outbreaks of Anthrax, one in St. Catherine and the other in St. Thomas, were dealt with during the year.

79. A recurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease broke out at "Belle Isle" in Westmoreland on May 29. The outbreak was dealt with by slaughter. On the 15th July a further outbreak was discovered at "Cornwall" and "Shewsbury" Estates. As the extent of the infection was likely to be large, slaughter was not adopted in this case but the quarantine enforced was so successful that no cases spread outside the infected herds. The quarantine was removed, except as regards the actually infected areas in Westmoreland, by an Order of 5th January, 1926.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

80. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military

Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,564,337 acres have been alienated, leaving 283,823 un-alienated or in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

81. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements

82. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

83. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold, and some still remain in possession of the Government.

84. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who then purchased it for £18,435.

85. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

86. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1925, 44,024 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 191 acres to one purchaser for £140. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

87. There are large numbers of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war in 1914, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

88. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the

natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

89. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

90. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 39 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

91. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511 the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

92. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appear to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, and epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

93. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but all to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

94. Although not connected with Crown Lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper

Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d. the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

95. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

96. During the year 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of the issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of Saint Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subjects are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th Januray, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

97. No geological surveys were undertaken during the year under review.

Fishing.

98. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every Maritime Country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high and the public complains, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With all but one of the fourteen parishes of the Island bordering on the sea, and 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state.

99. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply is precarious and below the demand. It seems therefore, that there is room for expansion of the industry if handled on intelligent lines instead of the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

100. As a sport, good facilities are offered both on sea and on the larger rivers, and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime. It only needs better advertisement to make it more attractive.

Manufactures.

101. The principal items of manufacture are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather, Logwood Extract and Matches.

102. *Sugar.*—Prospects have brightened somewhat for this industry and with favourable seasons and better prices, it is no longer in a parlous condition. In 1925 we exported nearly 15,000 tons more than in the preceding year.

103. *Rum.*—The Rum Industry also improved considerably and apart from a steady local demand our exports continued to improve to the extent of nearly 400,000 gallons.

104. *Copra.*—The manufacture of Copra again fell off during 1925 though the decrease was less than in the previous year. The Exports amounted to 3,509,211 lbs. There was, however, a substantial increase in the export of the raw product, coconuts (4,813,384).

105. *Sisal.*—This has improved slightly and with the advent of new portable decorticating machine the cost of production has been lessened and bright prospects are anticipated.

106. *Banana Figs.*—Better prices are being obtained for this article and the erection of a large new factory points to its being manufactured on a substantial scale in the future, with a view to supplying both local and foreign markets.

107. *Orange Oil.*—A slight increase both in quantity and value was evident during 1925.

108. *Cigars and Cigarettes*—Cigars are still commanding a fair market both at home and abroad, and various factors have tended to lessen the cost of production.

Cigarettes, a bye-product of the Cigar, are at a low ebb and cannot compete with the imported article.

109. *Lea her.*—The tanneries at various centres in the Island still continue to supply local tradesmen with good leather, both sole and harness. 22,189 lbs. were exported.

110. *Matches.*—This is another industry that experiences great difficulty in making headway against the imported article.

111. *Logwood Extract.*—This industrys uffered another relapse during 1925, the manufacturers having found it expedient to cease operations during the year. It is hoped to re-start the manufacture of the extract at an early date.

112. *Minor Industries.*—Chief among these must be mentioned Soap. A factory has commenced operations and the management hope to produce articles of a high standard.

Other minor industries include Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets, and similar manufactures, some of which are exported.

Water Power.

113. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., for the purposes of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

114. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the Island has been made with this object in view. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

115. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but this scheme is likely to be postponed for some time, for financial reasons. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

116. The Commerical Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

117. The value of the local notes of each bank outstanding at 31st December, 1925, was as follows:—

	£
Barclay's Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank) ..	109,247
The Bank of Nova Scotia	26,997
The Royal Bank of Canada	24,396
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,093

These Banks all have Head Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank in addition to its Head Office, in Kingston, has Sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Sav.-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has Sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has only two Sub-branches in addition to its Head Office at Kingston, namely at Cross Roads and Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no Sub-branches.

118. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870 and is still in operation. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits 2½%. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting Savings Branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 70 branches and postal agencies throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to its re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following facts:—

(a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1924, £541,841.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1924 to £531,292.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, and in 1924 accumulated profits for four years amounting to £18,032 were paid into General Revenue.

119. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposits in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Under the provisions of this Law, funds have from time to time been provided for loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, both for the ordinary purposes of such societies and also for the development of Land Settlement Schemes.

120. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 54 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917.

These loans were made through the Agricultural Loans Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for the purpose of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long-felt want among the small settlers.

121. The following figures, referring to 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1925	£116,906
Repayments do do	98,942
Balances outstanding	17,964

122. The Co-Operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1924, a sum of £37,440 share capital in addition to £98,942 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove to be of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £55,774 has been loaned to eight Banks under this head.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

123. Twenty-two Laws were passed during the year 1925 and a brief summary is given below of those which may be considered to be of general interest:—

(1) Law 2 of 1925. A Law to amend an Act to consolidate and amend the Statute Laws relating to Larceny and other similar offences. This Law improves legislation dealing with fraudulent misappropriation of property.

(2) Law 3 of 1925. A Law relating to the summary jurisdiction of Magistrates. This Law allows of time being given for the payment of fines in cases tried in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, as defined in Section 3 of the Law.

(3) Law 4 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to duties on Imports. This Law repeals the other Laws dealing with the tariff on goods imported into the Island and imposes a new rate of duties to be levied on such importations.

(4) Law 8 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the importation of cattle and other animals suffering from contagious and infectious diseases. This Law specially deals with the importation, inspection and quarantine of imported animals. Section 28 provides that the Law shall come into operation upon such day as the Governor shall notify by Proclamation. No such Proclamation has yet been issued.

(5) Law 10 of 1925. A Law to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease. This Law deals with the powers given for dealing with disease among plants.

(6) Law 11 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Government Savings Bank. This Law consolidates the Government Savings Bank Law and the Savings

Bank Unclaimed Deposits Law into one Law, and makes provision for the carrying to a separate account of deposits unclaimed after a period of five years. It also establishes a Reserve Fund.

(7) Law 12 of 1925. A Law relating to Passports. This Law strengthens the provisions for the issuing of passports. Under this Law no alien coming to the Island can land unless he has a passport visaed by the British Consul or Vice-Consul in the country from which he embarks.

(8) Law 15 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Shop Assistants. Underthis Law all shops as defined in Section 9 have to open and close as is defined therein.

(9) Law 17 of 1925. A Law to enable the Governor to prohibit the exportation from the Island of any living plant or seeds. This Law gives the Governor power not only to prohibit the exportation ofany plant from the Island but to restrict and regulate such exportation.

(10) Law 18 of 1925. A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases. This Law provides for more effective central control of health. Special reference thereto is made under the sub-head "Public Health and Sanitation."

(11) Law 19 of 1925. A Law to provide for the appointment of a Tourist Trade Development Board and to define the powers and duties of such Board in relation to increasing and adequately providing facilities for tourists and as to measures to be adopted for attracting them to the Island and generally for the improvement of the passenger services to the Island for such purposes. This Law merely re-establishes the Tourist Trade Development Board which was appointed under Law 15 of 1922 and continues the operation of the Board.

(12) Law 20 of 1925. A Law to amend a Law entitled The Bills of Exchange Law, 1893, with respect to the time for noting Bills. By the amendment the noting of a Bill may be done on the day of its dishonour and must be done not later than the next succeeding business day.

(13) Law 22 of 1925. A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Petroleum and Oil Fuel. This Law provides for the landing and method of stowing oil fuel, and enables the Governor to grant permission to erect or use a store for the storage thereof. It also provides for the granting of licenses to persons to deal in or sell petroleum.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

124. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year showed a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 117,874 for 1925, as compared with 113,293 in 1924, and the average attendance 73,508 as compared with 68,408 in 1924.

125. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show improvement, but progress in these respects is far from satisfactory.

126. Courses of instruction in school garden work, and manual training were again suspended owing to the necessity for rigid economy.

127. The sum of £1,550 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this, as usual in recent years, enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped, the total of applications amounting to over five times that sum.

128. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £155,611 as compared with £151,903 in 1924.

Secondary.

129. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Grants-in-Aid. The number of aided Secondary Schools remained at 16. The results of the public examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

130. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts and the final in Arts.

Technical.

131. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work, though handicapped during the last term, by the absence on leave of the Head Master prior to retirement and the illness during the same period of the Head of the Technical Department who had been appointed to act as Head Master.

132. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year, doing useful work. The classes attached to four schools were temporarily closed.

133. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is serving a long felt need. A beginning has also been made with a Continuation School for girls near Highgate under the Friends' Mission.

Industrial.

134. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girsl who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

135. The Mean Rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island, for the year 1925 was 61.03 inches, which shews a deficiency of about 20 per cent. below the 50-year average of 76.46 inches, and was most pronounced in the Northern Division, where it was 30 per cent. below normal. For the Island, generally, the months of January, March, May, June, July, August, October and December were much below, whilst February, April, September and November, above normal.

There were 113 rainy days, as an average, for the twelve months. The first half of the year was 5 inches below, and the latter half 10 inches below normal. The rainfall for Kingston was 18.74 inches, as against the 50-year normal of 33.59 inches, shewing a large deficiency.

Temperature.

136. At Kingston, the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.1 degrees, which represents 0.6 degree below the 33-year normal of 78.7 degrees. The highest maximum for the year was 93.8 degrees in October, and the lowest minimum of 62.1 degrees occurred in January.

Humidity.

137. For the year the mean humidity for Kingston was 82 per cent. for the 7 a.m. observations, the normal being 81 per cent.; and 63 per cent. for the 3 p.m. set, the normal being 66 per cent., or generally, about 2 per cent. below the 33-year normal, owing partly to rainfall deficiency.

Weather Disturbances.

138. The hurricane season passed by without any depressions having been reported from any region in the Caribbean, beyond a disturbance of small intensity appearing on 6th April to the north-east of Negril Point, moving on a track through eastern Cuba.

"Northers."

139. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in March and November; Negril Point in February, March and December; and at Morant Point in November and December.

Hailstorms.

140. Hail fell at Negril Point on 22nd April; and at Christiana on 2nd July, also on 2nd, 8th and 25th August as well as on 7th October.

Earthquakes.

141. Slight local shocks were noted in March, April, June and October. A sharp shock occurred on 10th December, which was felt throughout the Island being of greater intensity in the eastern half.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

142. The Jamaica Government Railway, main and branch lines, is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ Miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ Miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ Miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(I) From May Pen Junction (32½ Miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(II) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(III) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch line) to New Works—3 miles. There are no passenger trains over this Branch.

The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines run into rich agricultural districts near the centre of the island.

Gauge 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30—maximum curves 5 chains.

The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is Highgate, 844 feet.

143. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1925, was £313,613, and the expenditure £267,916. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment.

144. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 296,944 tons, as compared with 218,621 tons for the year 1924; the number of passengers carried in 1925 was 476,850, against 455,270 in 1924.

145. The extension from Chapelton to Frankfield was completed and opened for traffic on 18th March, 1925.

146. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary on matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

147. The following Summary shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1921	entered	1,339	Vessels of	1,753,262	tons
1922	"	1,365	"	1,920,114	"
1923	"	1,323	"	2,011,500	"
1924	"	1,306	"	2,056,496	"
1925	"	1,412	"	2,207,618	"
1921	cleared	1,279	"	1,719,496	"
1922	"	1,340	"	1,927,183	"
1923	"	1,335	"	2,005,711	"
1924	"	1,299	"	2,054,100	"
1925	"	1,401	"	2,183,663	"

148. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co. (The two last named companies are registered in Jamaica), Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, though nominally of British registration, are in fact owned, with the exception of a few hundred pounds out of a capital of one million sterling, by the American United Fruit Co. or their Directors.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Columbian Steamship Co., and the Alexander Shipping Co.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Geselleschaft Kosmos Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Compared with the previous year this is an increase of 1 foreign line.

149. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year under review.

Roads.

150. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,266 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads, amounting to 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

151. During the calendar year 1925, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £116 per mile, including cost of restoring Flood Damages.

With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 39 miles of roads have been improved and tar sprayed.

Canals.

152. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

153. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation. An extension of this has now been sanctioned by Law.

In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

154. Irrigation of the plains of the south side of the Island is a pressing need.

Postal, Telegraph, Telephone and Aerial Services.

155. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1924 there were 1,099½ miles of telegraph and telephone

lines, with 61 Telegraph and 82 Telephone Offices. No further extensions of lines or opening of new offices were authorized during the year.

156. The charge for telegrans throughout the Island is 9d. for the first twelve words, plus half-penny for each additional word after the first twelve.

157. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of, approximately, half the above charges.

158. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided throughout the Island, on payment of graduated fees.

159. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assist considerably in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

160. The number of ordinary and official messages signalled in 1924 numbered 316,735; the receipts totalled £17,222. In 1925, 335,068 telegrams were despatched and the revenue received amounted to £19,137.

161. There are two Wireless Transmitting Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Royal Navy during the late war. This station does not now accept traffic for or from any point. The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. Numerous wireless receiving stations have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island, by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and near-by Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station at present exists in the Island.

162. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

163. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

164. The cable of the former company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S. at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

165. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd. maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Companies who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

166. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under

review. Work was started in 1924 upont he construction of a dam at Hermitage in the hills to the north of Kingston in connection with a scheme for the improvement of the water supply of Kingston. Work was also started on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston for which provision was made by Laws 25 and 36 of 1923, but progress was slow.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

167. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	Price. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8	0	Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13, and 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise ..	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919 ..	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913 by Maxwell Hall ..	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1921 ..	1	0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West-India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2	6	The West India Committee, London.

A. S. JELF,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica.
9th July, 1926.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40*s.* per annum.

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BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308 1*s.*
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924–25, No. 1290 .. 6*d.*
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293 .. 1*s.* 3*d.*
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298 .. .. 3*d.*
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 .. .. .. 5*s.*
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FIJI, 1925, No. 1299 .. .. .. 1*s.*
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306 .. .. .. 9*d.*
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314 .. .. 6*d.*
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923–24, No. 1246 .. .. 6*d.*
GOLD COAST, 1924–25, No. 1287 .. 2*s.* 3*d.*
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1924–25, No. 1284 .. .. 1*s.*
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310 .. .. 6*d.*
HONG KONG, 1925, No. 1324 .. .. 1*s.* 6*d.*
JAMAICA, 1924, No. 1276 .. .. 1*s.* 3*d.*
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321 .. .. 1*s.*
LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925–26, No. 1323 1*s.*
MAURITIUS, 1924, No. 1281 .. .. 9*d.*
NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 .. 1*s.*
NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 .. 6*d.*
NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315 .. .. .. 1*s.*
NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296 .. .. 6*d.*
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SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272 .. .. 3*d.*
SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 .. 1*s.*
SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316 .. .. 6*d.*
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302 .. .. 2*s.*
SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307 .. .. 6*d.*
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924–25, No. 1237 .. .. 3*d.*
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311 1*s.* 6*d.*
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304 .. .. 6*d.*
UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318 .. .. .. 6*d.*
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319 .. .. 6*s.* 3*d.*
WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295 .. .. 6*d.*
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312 .. .. 6*d.*

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22) .. .. 4*s.* 6*d.*
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21) .. .. 6*s.*
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) .. 5*s.* 6*d.*
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18) .. .. 3*s.* 3*d.*
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19) 4*s.*
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23) .. .. 4*s.*

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920–25 (Colonial No. 15) .. 2*s.*

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CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1337.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1262 (Price 6d.), and for Report for 1925 see No. 1298 (Price 3d.)).

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58-11-0-26.

No. 1337.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83 and 81.30 West longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is seventeen miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long by one and a quarter at its widest part. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) was passed by the Imperial Parliament, recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

General Observations.

Peace Memorial.

The only circumstance of moment happening in the year was the formal opening on Armistice Day of the Dependency's Peace Memorial, which has taken the form of a new Court House, Assembly Room, and Town Hall, erected at Georgetown at a cost of two thousand pounds.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restrictions placed on immigration into the United States of America have not borne adversely, as was feared, on the people of the Dependency, many of whom enter the Republic for the purpose of taking ship as ocean-going seamen, which they are enabled to do shortly after arrival.

Visitors are allowed to pass freely on entry and departure. There is a small and occasional exchange of population with the nearer Central American Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua, to which Caymanians have journeyed for several generations.

Public Health and Sanitation.

The general health of the Dependency was good. Of the 54 deaths recorded in the year, 14 were under 5 years of age, 4 between 5 and 20 years, 7 between 20 and 40 years, 12 between 40 and 70 years, and 17 over 70 years of age. Five persons died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

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Vital Statistics.

There were 190 births in 1926 (36 per mille) and 54 deaths (10 per mille). The population is estimated at 5,600, as compared with 5,253 at the census in 1921.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year (£42,448) are below the average of the previous five years, but, if the inflated years 1921–22 are ignored, are about normal.

The exports (£11,484) are below the normal average for the previous half decade, and all but £2,100 were the products of the turtle fishery.

The countries of origin and destination are given below, but it must be borne in mind that many imports from Jamaica are products of the United Kingdom or of the United States of America, and that the exports of turtle shell and skin to Jamaica are passed on to London for ultimate disposal.

Imports from:	Food, drinks, etc.	Raw materials.	Manufactured articles.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	167	—	1,449	137	1,753
Jamaica ...	9,910	153	4,101	676	14,840
United States ...	7,885	999	9,572	981	19,477
Other Foreign ...	726	80	1,898	126	2,790
Parcels Post, all	—	—	—	3,588	3,588
Total ...	£18,688	1,232	17,020	5,508	42,448

Exports to:	Food, drinks, etc.	Raw materials.	Manufactured articles.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	100	—	—	100
Jamaica	98	4,332	1,750	33	6,213
United States ...	5,015	—	—	—	5,015
Other Foreign ...	146	—	—	10	156
Total ...	£5,259	4,432	1,750	43	11,484

Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been:

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1922	6,996	7,565
1923	6,611	6,823
1924	6,005	7,013
1925	6,970	6,622
Average of 4 years	6,645	7,003
1926	7,320	7,437

Customs (£4,466) and Post Office (£2,232) together contributed 91·5 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £1,788.

The expenditure may be summarised as, Departments £3,062, Public Works £1,949, Education £1,500, and other services £926.

Storm damage and other unexpected charges caused a small excess of expenditure (£117) over revenue, and at the end of the year the balance of assets stood at £3,425. There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are both below the averages of the previous five years. If, however, the abnormal trade in spirits in 1923 and 1924 (which has not continued) be disregarded, the imports are somewhat below the normal average, while the exports have also fallen off.

The catch of green turtle, returned as 2,500 of merchantable size, was lower than in 1925. The hawksbill fishers were also less successful than in 1925, the catch weighing 3,145 lb., at an average value of £1 6s. 5d. per pound, as compared with 3,952 lb., and a rate of £1 8s. 0d., in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope increased from £640 in 1924 to £1,710 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The following tabulation shows the variance in value of imported and exported merchandise:—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
	£	£
1922	36,541	13,650
1923	88,348	53,353
1924	51,416	16,317
1925	42,663	14,813
Average of 4 years	54,742	24,283
1926	42,448	11,484

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of island vessels not in the turtle fishery and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Three cattle dips were in operation during the year, and a fourth was opened in June. Material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued from their use.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a port of registry, having on its register 55 small sailing and 9 motor vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,827 tons. Six vessels, with a total tonnage of 253 tons, were built and registered in 1926.

Three small steamships (654 tons) called at the islands in 1926. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared :—

Nationality	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	162	11,069	167	11,165
American	17	5,653	16	5,593
Cuban	3	92	4	122
Haitain	1	69	1	69
Honduranean	6	192	5	131
Nicaraguan	1	45	1	45
Panamanian	1	45	—	—
Totals	191	17,165	194	17,125

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks, or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and used by them in the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office Money Order system is used to some extent, orders paid in the Dependency in 1926 amounting to £4,202, while the orders issued for payment abroad were less, £3,104.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 48; the deposits for the year have been £315, the withdrawals have amounted to £423, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,112. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, more than cover this liability.

Legislation.

Five laws were enacted in 1926, three being financial. The others were a consolidation of various laws dealing with the sale of intoxicants, and a Coroner's Law.

Education.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with ten private schools, had 1,144 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 900. The total expenditure on the Government schools was £1,646. Forty candidates sat for an annual pupil teacher examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; twenty-two were successful.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 63·88 inches, the average for five previous years being 67·50 inches. The heaviest rainfalls were June (11·83 inches) and September (15·38 inches), and the largest single day's rain (2nd June) was 4·03 inches. The rainfall was evenly distributed throughout the islands. The air temperature ranges from 70° to 80° Fahrenheit in the months October to March and 10° higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in the year under review, but a heavy sea, an offset from a passing gale, greatly damaged coastal roads.

Communications.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the southern ports of the United States is by trading schooners, some of which have motor auxiliary. There is little of community interest between Grand Cayman and the smaller islands, and inter-communication is irregular. Roads, greatly improved in recent years, suitable for motor traffic connect the settlements on the larger islands. From them branch a system of bridle-paths.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-communication is infrequent. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal sum.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
16th April, 1927.

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REPORT FOR 1926.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Geographical.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

Historical.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about

the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

Constitution.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

Climate.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum. The average rainfall during the year 1926, from observations at nine stations throughout the Dependency, was 29.27 inches. The maximum was recorded at Grand Turk, measuring 40.61 inches, and the minimum at Blue Hills, registering 23.04 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1922-1926 was 25.13 inches.

General Description of the Principal Islands.

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Commissioner resides there. The Island has a population of about 1,500, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the Island. The town contains the public buildings (including the several public offices and the prison), several stores, a market, a public library, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places, and private residences. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the Island, and the radio-telegraph and telephone station is situated at the public buildings in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are carried between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the Island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the Island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The Island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with a few stunted trees here and there. The principal industry in this Island is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. There are four salt-crushing mills on the Island. Fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat (on the hoof) are imported from the island of Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This Island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This Island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the Island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This Island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this Island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semicircle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the Island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This Island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are

Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this Island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This Island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the Island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this Island. The venture was abandoned and the Island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Hurricanes.

The most prominent and remarkable occurrences during the year 1926 were the two disastrous hurricanes that passed over these Islands on the 24th July and the 16th September. The hurricane of 24th July did a great amount of damage throughout the Dependency, especially at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, where the substantial stone revetment wall along the sea-front was completely demolished and all the shipping piers, seven in number, were entirely destroyed and washed away by the heavy seas. While the damage done in the Turks Islands was considerable, the inhabitants of all the settlements or villages in the Caicos Islands suffered severely through the destruction of, or damage to, their dwelling houses, boats, and crops. A meeting of the Legislative Board was convened and a grant of money from public funds was voted for the relief of the distress among the sufferers, who were then given supplies of food and materials to assist in the rebuilding or repairing of their homes and small craft.

While the people were just recovering from this great shock, another and far more violent hurricane swept over this Dependency on the 16th September. This second hurricane, unfortunately, caused the loss of eight lives in the Kew district of North Caicos, and it was certainly the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

Fortunately, the storm warnings, received by cable from Washington, D.C., of the approach of both these hurricanes gave the population sufficient time to prepare to meet them, and this probably accounts for the small loss of life. These warnings were at once passed on, by wireless, to Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. According to the observations taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in the case of the July hurricane the

maximum velocity of the wind was 84 miles per hour, but in the September hurricane the wind gauge was blown down and therefore the maximum velocity could not be ascertained. It was estimated that it reached 150 miles per hour. Both hurricanes were accompanied by heavy rainfall. In the case of the latter the amount could not be measured, for every rain gauge in the Dependency was blown down during the storm. However, the meteorological observer at Grand Turk estimated that 10.30 inches of rain fell that day.

After this disastrous hurricane had passed by on its course W.N.W. the sight of the devastation left behind in its wake was appalling and beyond adequate description. At Grand Turk the sea washed over the roofs of the houses along the foreshore. The stone abutment, or retaining sea-wall, extending along the front street about 1,400 yards, was completely destroyed and broken pieces of masonry were scattered over that street, which had been torn up and partly washed away by the sea to a depth of 5 or 6 feet and was littered with rocks and debris. Large blocks of masonry had been thrown about by the force of the waves. Other streets and roads were damaged in like manner and all were blocked by debris, sand, and rocks and fallen telephone poles. Stone boundary walls were blown down and the entire Government telephone and wireless systems and also all the public shipping piers were completely wrecked and demolished. Hardly a house in the island escaped damage. In some places the coast-line had been altered. According to the census taken of the damage done, 74 dwelling houses at Grand Turk had been destroyed and 296 damaged, while 166 out-houses had been demolished. The salt ponds were badly damaged and all the canals were filled with sand and rocks.

Notwithstanding the great distress caused by this shock, the behaviour of the people generally was orderly and commendable. Immediate steps were taken to employ gangs of labourers to clear the streets, public places, and canals, and arrangements were made with the liquor dealers to sell no liquor during working hours. Large numbers of people, whose homes had been completely demolished and who were unable to obtain shelter, were housed in the court-house, the hospital, the public school, and other buildings temporarily procured for the purpose.

At the same time there was a serious shortage of food in the Dependency, due to the issue of large supplies to the sufferers in the Caicos Islands from the July hurricane and also the non-arrival of a steamer from New York, with customary food supplies, for an unusually long time. This shortage caused great suffering among many of the poorest inhabitants, who were unable to purchase food and were, in some cases, on the verge of starvation. The Government of the Dependency was faced with the very serious and difficult problem of having to feed, clothe, and house a large number of the sufferers. It was doubtful whether the Dependency's

reserve funds would be sufficient to repair the damage to the public properties, and it was quite apparent that the injury to the salt industry would seriously affect the public revenues for a considerable time.

The Government of Jamaica gave immediate and sympathetic attention to the Commissioner's appeal for help, and within a few days a steamer was despatched from Kingston with a large supply of food, clothing, and building materials. This timely assistance was most welcome and gratefully received and greatly relieved the deplorable situation, especially as regards the food shortage. A gracious message of sympathy was received from His Majesty the King and also one from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Messages of sympathy with offers of assistance were also received from the Governments of several of the West Indian Islands and from public bodies and committees abroad.

On hearing of the disaster, the Chamber of Commerce of Kingston, Jamaica, took immediate steps to establish a fund for the relief of the sufferers, and other West Indian Colonies took similar action. The liberal response to the appeal was remarkable. The local Treasury then opened a general account named the "Hurricane Relief Fund," to which all contributions have been credited. This fund has been applied only to the relief of the sufferers, mainly in furnishing shelter for the most needy. The Legislative Council of Jamaica generously voted a grant of £5,000, and the subscriptions collected in that Island amounted to over £4,400. Liberal donations to the Relief Fund were received from Bermuda and British Honduras and from nearly all the West Indian Islands, as well as from friends in England, the United States of America, and Santo Domingo. The total amount of the contributions has now exceeded £14,000. The entire administration of the relief measures has been directed and controlled by the Commissioner with the assistance of an advisory board consisting of two official and three unofficial members.

Shortly after the hurricane it was found necessary, in the special and extraordinary circumstances and in view of the enormous amount of necessary relief work to be undertaken, to create and establish an office at headquarters, styled the "Hurricane Relief Administration Office," with an officer in charge, to deal with all relief measures connected with the hurricane under the directions of the Advisory Board. The good work done by that office and the economies effected by it have fully justified its existence.

As soon as practicable after the hurricane a census was taken of the damage done throughout the Dependency. According to the tabulated returns, 534 dwelling houses were demolished and 657 damaged, while 202 out-houses were destroyed. Eighteen stone tanks and nine salt houses were damaged. Large numbers of live stock (domestic animals and poultry) were killed by the

hurricane. Sixteen registered vessels were lost and 25 damaged, while 77 boats were destroyed and 83 damaged. Ten wind machines were demolished and 33 damaged. 163,500 bushels of salt, valued at £2,724, were lost. The damage to the crops and fruit trees in the Caicos Islands was estimated at £16,720.

When the reports of the distress in the Caicos Islands were received at headquarters, Mr. L. E. Astwood of Grand Turk was sent on a tour of those islands to distribute 250 barrels of foodstuffs among the sufferers and to report on the existing state of affairs. In his report, on his return, he stated that he had "failed to find a single house that had not been damaged" and that in the village of Sandy Point every house had been demolished. The following information extracted from his report partly indicates the extent of the damage to some of the settlements in those islands:—

Village.	*Number of houses demolished.*	*Number of houses damaged but repairable.*
Lorimers	65	35
Bombarra	25	20
Conch Bar	44	9
Bottle Creek	97	65
Whitby	14	2
Sandy Point	28	—
Kew	107	27
The Bight	24	15

Having run short of record forms, he was unable to procure and furnish statistics as regards the damage to the settlements of Blue Hills and Five Cays. (These were obtained subsequently.) He also reported that most of the fishing boats had been lost, while every one of the remainder was damaged, and that "thousands of people were homeless and in need of food."

Mr. W. E. Bassett of Cockburn Harbour, who was sent later on a tour throughout those islands in connection with relief measures, reported, on his return, as follows:—

> "The number of practically homeless people is incredible. Many are living in hastily constructed thatch camps, neither wind, rain, nor insect-proof; some in the ruined walls of their homes, covered with a few boards and leaves, and one case has reverted to the stone age and dwells in a cave. Some, more fortunate, have found shelter with friends whose houses have withstood the general disaster, and these are packed to their fullest capacity. At Kew, conditions are made much more serious by the outbreak of fever. The Government school-house is filled with fever patients, and at nearly every house I visited I found cases in various stages of recovery."

The following is another extract from his report :—

> " In conclusion I would like to remark on the indomitable courage of these out-islanders. With homes demolished, living in hovels on half rations, yet they tackle their boat-building problem with untiring energy. Already dozens of craft of various sizes are being set up."

On the arrival of supplies of clothing from Jamaica, Bermuda, and elsewhere, a Committee was appointed at Grand Turk, consisting of the Rev. R. E. Clark (Chairman) and eight ladies, to attend to the distribution of the clothing amongst the sufferers mostly in need thereof. Similar committees were appointed at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. The ladies worked very hard on sorting, classifying, parcelling, and distributing the large quantity received. About 750 bundles of clothing were despatched to the Caicos Islands by the Rev. Mr. Clark, who made a tour of those islands to distribute them. Unfortunately, 16 cases of clothing from Barbados and four from Jamaica were lost in transit when the schooner " Rosalie Belliveau " foundered at sea.

The following statement gives a summary of the relief measures effected by the Hurricane Relief Administration Office up to the 31st July, 1927 :—

Number of—	
Houses built	75
Houses under construction	52
Houses repaired	148
Houses undergoing repairs	2
Boats repaired	4
Camp houses built	8
Persons granted free issues of building materials for—	
New houses	71
Repairing houses	308
New boats	46
Repairing boats	34
Building camp houses	2
Persons given free labour grants	18
Persons granted free issues of food	509
Persons granted free issues of clothing	1,625

The works are still in progress and there remains a great deal more to be done, especially in the Caicos Islands.

In addition to the above works by the Hurricane Office, the undermentioned public works have also been carried out :—

At the three settlements of Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay the streets, roads, and public places have been cleared, repaired, or reconstructed; the public buildings repaired; and the salt ponds cleaned and renovated. At Grand Turk the sea-wall, public wharf, and a shipping pier have been rebuilt; the

telephone system reconstructed and service re-established; reconstruction of wireless system in hand and nearly complete; and a new slaughter-house built. At Cockburn Harbour the sea-wall, public wharf, and two shipping piers have been reconstructed. At Salt Cay the docks and abutments have been repaired. In the Caicos Islands the roads have been cleared and the school houses repaired.

In view of all available records of the past, there is no doubt that the hurricane of the 16th September, 1926, was the greatest disaster in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In concluding the above observations I venture to remark that the subscribers to the Relief Fund and also those who contributed supplies of food and clothing will, no doubt, be glad to hear that in March, 1927, His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica was good enough to express his full satisfaction with the manner in which the situation had been dealt with.

Public Health.

In his Annual Report for 1926, the Government Medical Officer stated as follows :—

> " *Influenza.*—During the first months of the year influenza made its appearance in a mild form and, although there were numerous cases, there were no fatalities. There were also a few cases during the months of June and July, but after the hurricane in September this disease manifested itself in a more severe form, resulting fatally in every case where the patient was under three years of age. It was of the gastro-intestinal form, accompanied by persistent vomiting, pain in the intestines, and fever. Even when the vomiting could be controlled, the very young children developed a comatose condition with fatal results.
>
> " Although I have always recommended the boiling of the drinking water, I found it necessary at this time to bring the matter more emphatically before the public, and I beg to thank Your Honour for your co-operation in this matter, by having numerous notices posted in prominent places on the different Islands, urging the people to take this precautionary measure.
>
> " *Malaria.*—There were not many cases of malaria during the year of a severe type and there were no fatalities from this disease.
>
> " *Pellagra.*—The pellagra cases this year were not as numerous as in the previous year, yet there were many fatalities from this loathsome disease.
>
> " This disease is most prevalent among young girls and women in extreme poverty, but I have noticed that this disease also manifests itself in cases where people are in comfortable

circumstances, but, of course, these are the exceptional cases. From observation, I am inclined to believe that most cases are due to the fact that variety of food is lacking, in that way depriving the system of vitamines that are necessary in order to sustain the body in a healthy condition. I am also inclined to favour the theory that a mouldy condition of food, together with insufficient cooking, has a great deal to do with the manifestation of this disease.

"As Your Honour is probably aware, I am greatly handicapped in the treatment of this disease, on account of not being able to obtain the nourishing foods, such as fresh milk and meat, which should be prescribed, and are, of course, unobtainable on this Island. Even in cases where improvement has been shown for, sometimes, a couple of years, relapses have taken place and ended fatally.

"*Children's Diseases.*—We have been very fortunate these last few years in escaping the usual children's diseases, such as whooping cough, measles, chicken pox, &c.; however, there were quite a few cases of bowel trouble during the summer months but no fatalities.

"*Venereal Diseases.*—There were only a few cases of this kind during the year under review."

Hospitals.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided by the Government :—

			Beds.
The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk	...	...	8
The Public Hospital at Cockburn Harbour	...	...	4

During the year, five cases were admitted to the surgical ward and eleven cases to the medical ward for treatment.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612.

During the year 1926, 174 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 31.5 per 1,000. During the same period 118 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 21.4 per 1,000. Twenty-eight marriages were registered.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports during the year 1926 amounted to £48,850. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £6,791; from British dominions, £6,742; and from foreign countries, £35,317, including £32,544 the value of the imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink, clothing, and building materials. The Customs import duties amounted to £3,706.

The exports were valued at £35,936. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £1,018; to British dominions £20,550; and to foreign countries £14,368. The value of the exports to Canada was £15,728, and to the United States £11,770. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £34,996 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1926, and £940 the value of the re-exports.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The public revenue of the Dependency for the year 1926 amounted to £9,734, and the expenditure to £14,055; the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £4,321. This excess was mainly due to the expenditure of about £4,000 on repairing some of the damage by the hurricanes to public properties and the salt ponds. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1926, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £4,695, as against £9,017, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt, the former providing about 38 per cent., and the latter about 23 per cent., of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government; but gold coins were very seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £4,500, the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. A considerable number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes was also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 878 accounts in operation, with £22,621 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £21,321. The business of the Savings Bank has been increasing steadily. The amount due to depositors at the end of 1916 was £5,930, as against £22,621 at the end of 1926. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands. The Post Office money-order business has also increased considerably. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1926 amounted to £10,624, as against £984 in 1921.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

In 1926 the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by £12,914. This unfavourable trade balance was mainly due to the large importations of building materials, food, and other supplies after the two hurricanes and to the labourers of these Islands employed abroad remitting a portion of their earnings for the support of their families remaining at home.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Salt	25,630	32,854	30,111
Sponges	1,647	2,408	1,937
Conchs	1,217	1,393	1,523
Turtle shell	50	162	743
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	904	566	290
Shark products	—	20	198
Sisal	169	684	6

Almost all of the above exports, except salt, was the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
		Imports.		
	£	£	£	£
1924	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
		Exports.		
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936

The above figures show an increase in this Dependency's trade with the United Kingdom and the British Dominions.

Salt.—It will be seen that salt is the Dependency's principal article of export. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of shipments in 1926 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
United States	623,924	10,459
Canada	663,432	15,386
Newfoundland	96,244	2,192
Jamaica	94,806	1,395
St. Pierre et Miquelon ...	19,012	417
France	6,878	143
Haiti	6,192	113
Santo Domingo	254	4
Bahamas	75	2
	1,510,817	£30,111

The total quantity of salt exported during the ten years 1917-26 amounted to 15,106,745 bushels, the annual average being 1,510,674 bushels.

In 1926 Grand Turk exported 435,643 bushels, valued at £9,277; Cockburn Harbour, 695,816 bushels, valued at £14,041; and Salt Cay, 379,358 bushels, valued at £6,793.

Conchs.—There was a slight increase in the trade in conchs. The number exported in 1926 amounted to 1,522,700, as against 1,392,600 shipped in 1925. They were valued at £1 per 1,000.

Sponges.—There was a decline in the shipment of sponges as compared with the previous year. Only 21,189 lb., valued at £1,937, were exported in 1926.

Cotton.—As regards the export of raw cotton, only 3,949 lb. were shipped in 1926, as compared with 6,953 lb. exported in the previous year. However, at the end of 1926 there was a large quantity in storage awaiting to be shipped on a rise in the market price. 22,942 lb. of cotton-seed, valued at £93, were exported, as against 42,700 lb., valued at £160, shipped in 1925.

Sisal.—Only 1,000 lb. of sisal, valued at £6, were exported in 1926, as against 49,492 lb., valued at £684, in 1925.

Shell.—There was an increase in the quantity of shell exported, shown as follows:—

		1924.	1925.	1926.
Turtle shell	...	50 lb.	152 lb.	735 lb.
Conch shells	...	60 barrels	480 barrels	229 barrels.
Whelk shells	...	6 barrels	160 barrels	195 barrels.

Minor Produce.—Small quantities of fish (salted), hides, poultry, and ground produce were exported during the year.

Shark Produce.—As regards the infant shark-fishing industry, the undermentioned shark products were exported during the year 1926:—

Skins	535 only.
Flesh	845 lb.
Oil	445 gls.
Fins	430 lb.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Only three ordinances were passed in 1926. No. 1 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance for 1926; No. 2 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance in respect of expenditure in 1925; and No. 3 related to the regulation of street traffic.

V.—EDUCATION.

Education is compulsory in these Islands. The sum of £840 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were ten Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 886, and the average attendance 670. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £685. There were also eight private schools, under the control of the Board of Education, with an attendance of 114.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk, which is controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner, received a grant from public funds of £150. The average attendance at this school was 33.

A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have since been held annually with satisfactory results.

In consideration of the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable teachers for the elementary schools, the Board of Education sent a young man to Jamaica to undergo a course of training at the Mico College; a guarantee having been furnished that after his return to these Islands he will serve as a teacher in one of the Government schools for a term of years.

After the hurricane of 16th September it was found necessary to use some of the school buildings for housing people whose homes had been destroyed.

In his annual report for 1926, the Inspector of Schools expressed his opinion that, considering the interruption of school work caused by the hurricane and the distressed state of mind of the teachers, parents, and scholars, the results of the year's work were, on the whole, not unsatisfactory.

VI.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows : —

Rainfall	40.61 inches.
Maximum temperature	90°
Minimum temperature	64°

VII.—SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1926 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	4	53	57
Sailing vessels	190	26	216
	194	79	273

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 31,716, and of the steamships to 68,220.

The ships of the Clyde Steamship Company of New York called at Grand Turk every three weeks on their way from Santo Domingo to New York.

A steamer of the Columbus Line, Inc., sailing from New York *en route* to Santo Domingo, called at Grand Turk every three or four weeks.

Ever since the middle of December, 1926, the steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, have called at Grand Turk for stevedores about three times a month, and called again, on the return voyage, to land them.

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also despatched to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk and also by sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Government radio-telegraph and telephone system connecting Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay and also giving service with ships at sea, was demolished by the hurricane. Steps have been taken to repair the damage and re-establish the service.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
4th August, 1927.

(538—21) Wt. 13814—881 500 10/27 H.St. G.7 8

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1376.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1276 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for 1925 see No. 1327 (Price 1s.).)

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JAMAICA

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1926.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston ..	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary ..	251	Trelawny ..	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James ..	239½
Portland ..	338	St. Ann ..	487	Hanover ..	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than for instance, France which has only 184 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the island, these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas and that at Milk River in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, mumerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was

abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,00 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

12. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

13. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

14. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of

His Majesty; but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

15. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

16. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694) Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savannala-Mar (population, 3,442).

17. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1925 was 8,060 being at the rate of 8.8 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected.

Judicial.

18. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrates' Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

19. The year 1926 was on the whole a fortunate one for Jamaica. Once again the island was spared from the visitation of a hurricane and, with the exception of a drought which affected some districts severely during the early part of the year, conditions were very favourable for agriculture. Most of the Colony's staple products did well, the one outstanding exception being Rum, the export of which fell from over 1,100,000 gallons in 1925 to under 700,000 in 1926.

20. The export of bananas reached a total of over eighteen and a quarter million stems, the highest figure yet recorded, and there was also an export of over 600,000 lbs. of dried bananas. The export of grape fruit shewed an increase of nearly 50 per cent. over the figures for 1925; the number of boxes of oranges exported rose from about 106,000 boxes to nearly 125,000 and there were gratifying increases in the figures relating to cocoa, ginger, sugar, logwood and leaf tobacco. The quantity

of pimento exported shewed a reduction of over one-third, but owing to the high prices obtained, the value of the exports was only about 5 per cent. below the figure for 1925.

21. The number of coconuts exported during 1926 was just over 23 million, a reduction of rather over $3\frac{1}{4}$ million compared with the figure for 1925, but on the other hand the exports of copra rose from slightly under $3\frac{1}{2}$ million to nearly $9\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds.

22. During the year, for the first time in the history of the colony, an Exhibition of Paintings by artists of repute was held. The Royal British Colonial Society of Artists, which had hitherto confined its exhibitions to Australia, Canada and South Africa, sent a collection of pictures to Jamaica. The Exhibition was opened by His Excellency the Acting Governor on January 4th, and remained opened to April 3rd. Opportunity was taken to secure by public subscription a portrait of Lord Olivier, a former Governor of Jamaica.

23. In February a new Central Sugar Factory which had been erected at Duckenfield in St. Thomas was formally opened by Mrs. Jelf, the wife of the Acting Governor. This factory which is the largest sugar-producing unit in the Island, having a capacity of 10,000 tons, is the result of the enterprise of a British Syndicate, the Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd., of which Lord Invernairn is Chairman. Among those present at the opening ceremony were His Excellency the Acting Governor, Lord and Lady Invernairn, His Grace the Duke of Athol and Mr. T. J. Morris, British Minister at Havana.

24. In the early part of the year Jamaica was visited by an English cricket team which toured the West Indies under the auspices of the M.C.C. A United States Lawn Tennis Team and Costa Rican and Haytian Football Teams also visited the Island during the year.

25. May witnessed the opening in London of the Preliminary West Indian Conference which was convened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to the establishment of a standing Conference of the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras and the Bahamas Islands. It is interesting to note that Jamaica was the prime mover in this proposal for the creation of a united West Indian consultative body, the first step in this direction having been taken as long ago as 1920 by the Jamaica Imperial Association which forwarded a resolution on the subject to a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies. Jamaica was represented at the Preliminary Conference by the following Delegates:—

The Hon. Wm. Morrison, Member of the Privy and Legislative Councils.

The Hon. J. H. Phillipps, Member of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. and Revd. A. A. Barclay, Member of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. A. G. Nash, Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Chas. W. Doorly, Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Morrison was elected Vice-Chairman of the Conference.

26. As a result of the deliberations of the Preliminary Conference a constitution was framed for a permanent West Indian Conference. In addition several matters of mutual interest to the constituent governments were discussed. The scheme for the Standing Conference was approved by the local legislature at their Autumn Session. Most of the other Colonies have also approved of the scheme and it is hoped that by next year the West Indian Standing Conference will be an established fact.

27. In June the Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement which was signed at Ottawa in the previous year was ratified by the Canadian Parliament. This agreement provides *inter alia* for preferential tariffs and improved steamship communications between Canada and the West Indian Colonies.

28. The West Indian Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church assembled in Jamaica in June. The following Bishops attended the Synod:—

The Archbishop of the West Indies,
The Bishop of Jamaica,
The Bishop of Barbados,
The Bishop of Honduras,
The Bishop of Trinidad,
The Bishop of Guiana,
The Assistant Bishop of Jamaica and
The Assistant Bishop of Honduras.

29. The following gentlemen were honoured by their Sovereign on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday:—

Knights Bachelor—Mr. F. Barrett-Lennard, Chief Justice.
Mr. William Morrison, Privy Councillor.
Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George:—Mr. Richard Nosworthy, Collector General.

30. 1926 saw the passing of the famous West India Regiment which for generations has been closely connected with the history, not only of Jamaica, but of the West Indies as a whole. The decision to disband the regiment was a result of the retrenchment policy embarked upon by the British Government and is in no sense a reflection on the usefulness of the Corps which has borne itself with distinction from its genesis at the time of the American War of Independence down to the present day.

31. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

32. Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on the 27th of April and took the oath as Governor of Jamaica. Mr. A. S. Jelf who had acted as Governor since his arrival in the Colony thereupon assumed his substantive appointment of Colonial Secretary.

33. Mr. F. C. A. Barrett-Lennard arrived in the Colony and assumed duty as Chief Justice of Jamaica.

34. Mr. J. M. St. John Yates, Resident Magistrate, was appointed Circuit Judge of Ashanti and the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

35. Mr. Justice DeFreitas, O.B.E., Puisne Judge, was appointed Chief Justice of British Guiana.

36. Mr. W. M. Fraser, Deputy Treasurer was appointed Treasurer.

37. Mr. R. Nosworthy, C.M.G., retired from the office of Collector General at the close of the year.

Emigration and Immigration.

38. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1924 were 7,284, in 1925, 5,440, and in 1926, 5,102. The arrivals in 1924 were 5,247, in 1925, 4,924, and in 1926, 5,625.

Public Health and Sanitation.

39. The increase of interest in Public Health matters continues. This is largely due to the extension of the campaign against Hookworm and its educational influence.

40. A Health Education Bureau was inaugurated during the year. This Bureau issues a monthly bulletin which has achieved a considerable popularity.

41. The new Public Health Law, Law 18 of 1925, came into force at the beginning of the year. This Law consolidates and amends the various Health Laws of the Colony. As the title of the Law—"A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and for preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases"—will indicate, it is of far-reaching importance and should, if its provisions are carefully enforced, be instrumental in improving the health conditions of the Colony.

42. A recrudescence of Alastrim occured in the first quarter of the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew.

43. A localised epidemic of typhoid fever attacked a small badly sanitated area in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the month of September. An epidemic of bacillary dysentery also occurred in the north-eastern part of the parish of St. Catherine. Both of these epidemics yielded quickly to preventive measures.

Vital Statistics.

44. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1926 was 936,927, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1925, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1926.

45. The number of marriages registered during 1926 was 3,981 the rate being 4.2 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.1 for 1925. During the same period 35,784 births were registered of which 18,100 were boys and 17,684 were girls. The birth rate works out at 38.4 per 1,000 as against 34.6 during 1925.

46. The number of deaths registered was 19,072 of which 9,524 were males and 9,548 females, the death rate being 20.5 per 1,000. The rate for 1925 was 21.5. During 1926, 7,635 or 40.0 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 6,013 or 31.5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1925 were 36.1 per cent and 28.0 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16.8 per cent. as compared with 17.3 in 1925.

47. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 9.0; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new-born, 10.5; Pththisis, 9.9; Enteric Fever, 5.7; Pneumonia, 5.7 Heart Disease, 6.6; Venereal Disease, 3.1; Chronic Bright's Disease 2.9; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 2.9.

Imports and Exports.

48. On the whole the Colony's trade during 1926 may be regarded with satisfaction.

49. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £5,365,950, as compared with £5,386,435 in 1925, a decrease of £20,485. This decrease, however, gives no cause for alarm as closer examination does not reveal a general falling off in the volume of Imports.

Class I. (Food Drink and Tobacco) shows an increase of £39,002, which due to larger importations of Fish, dried salted; Mackerels, wet salted; Flour and Rice.

Class II. (Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) also shows an increase of £208,753 which is accounted for chiefly by abnormal importations of Coal on account of the Coal Strike in England, and by an imcreased intake of Gasolene and Kerosene Oil.

The decrease in the total value of imports was caused by a slump in Class III (Manufactured Articles) which fell off by £265,904 owing chiefly to a large decline in the value of Cotton Piece-Goods and smaller importation of Machinery and Metals.

With regard to the sources of supply, Canada provided 39.1% of our Foodstuffs, the United States of America 60.6% of Raw Materials and the trade in Manufactured Articles was evenly divided between the United Kingdom and the United States, each country supplying 41%.

50. Examination of the detailed figures reveals appreciable increases in Fish, Dried Salted, Mackerels, Corn, Rice, Milk, Salt and Lumber, Other Kinds. On the other hand decreases occur under Herrings, Pickled, Laundry Soap, Refined Sugar and Leaf Tobacco. Douglas Fir from Canada was for the first time imported into the Island to the extent of over two million feet and this accounts for the increase under Lumber, Other Kinds. A falling off by 60% of the importation of Leaf Tobacco was caused by the reduction in the manufacture of Cigarettes made of a blend of foreign tobacco and a locally grown "Virginia" leaf.

51. A comparison of the importations of Motor Vehicles and parts discloses that the value of those goods increased from £290,167 in 1925 to 324,603 in 1926. Importations of Gasolene increased from 2,030,732 gallons in 1925 to 2,791,197 gallons in 1926. 1,030 Motor Cars came into the Island in 1926 or 198 more than in 1925.

52. Frequent references which have been made to a loss of Revenue on account of Preference granted to Trinidad and Newfoundland makes the following figures interesting. In 1926, we imported 1,975, 919 gallons of Gasolene from Trinidad and 7,732,853 lbs. of Fish, Dried Salted, from Newfoundland. The amount given up in duty was £16,466 and £4,510 respectively; as against this the value of our Exports to the above-named Countries were as follows:—Trinidad £1,449 and Newfoundland £2,649.

53. The Trade in Cotton Piece-Goods in 1926 showed a decline of £144,982 in value and 2,732,857 yards in quantity. From information received it would appear that not only was this due to a reduction in cost of the goods but that a larger quantity of cheaper materials was imported from foreign sources. The following percentages are based on values:

1925:—British 42%, Foreign 58% or 16% in favour of Foreign.

1926:—British 45.7%, Foreign 54.3% or 8.6, in favour of Foreign. If however, quantities be taken, it will be found that in 1926, 38% of the goods were of British and 62% of Foreign origin.

54. The yield from Import Duties amounted to £917,849, an increase of £50,978 over that of the previous year. The articles which chiefly contributed to this increase were Flour, Fish, Gasolene, Cigarettes and Spirits, whilst decreases occurred under Leaf Tobacco, Refined Sugar and 'Ad Valorem' Goods.

55. The Package Tax realized £58,465 or £4,126 more than in 1925. Of this total £43,849 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £14,616 went to the credit of the parishes in which the Tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £12,222.

56. The improvement noticed in our Export Trade towards the close of 1925 continued in 1926 and resulted in an increased value of £321,855, i.e., from £3,915,000 in 1925 to £4,236,855 in 1926. In 1925 eleven

staples realized a value of £3,528,735 or 91% of the total Exports: in 1926 the same products were valued at £3,821,353 or 90.2% of the total and had there not been considerable decreases in Coffee, Coconuts, Rum and Logwood Extract, the increase would have been larger.

57. As regards quantities an increase of 3,283,988 stems of Bananas brought the total for that fruit to 18,301,410 stems, thus constituting a record in the history of the Colony. Although during 1926 there was no abnormal rise in the price paid for Bananas, a greater stability obtained throughout the year, the average price being 3/- per count bunch. In addition we exported 6,000,000 lbs. more Copra and 10,440 tons more Sugar. The export of Coconuts and Rum decreased by 3⅓ million nuts and 427,897 gallons respectively.

58. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 21.6% of the total, chiefly Logwood Extract, Rum and Sugar; Canada absorbed 18.9% comprising mainly Coffee and Sugar, whilst the United States, claimed 44% consisting principally of Fruit, Nuts and Cocoa, and All Other Countries took Dyewoods, Logwood Extract, Pimento and Tobacco to the extent of 15.5%.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

59. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
£	£	£	£	£
2,047,412	2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042

Expenditure.

1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
£	£	£	£	£
1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593	2,046,205

The total Expenditure during the year 1926-27 was £100,837 less than the total Revenue.

60. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1927, were £1,136,970 and £1,011,564 respectively.
The year therefore closed with a surplus of £125,406.

61. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1927, was £4,671,640. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,023,586. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,648,054) exceeds by only £710,412 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1927-28). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

62. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1926.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,633,722,502	159.0
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica . . .	904,405	4,581,175	5.0

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1926, viz.: £1,865,978 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £3 0s. 0d. The year 1925-26 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1926-27 are not available locally.

63. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £152,251 at 31st March, 1927.

TAXATION.

64. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 4 of 1926 "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws"—This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1926, the following Laws:—

(a) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919, Law 9 of 1919.

(b) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the last item in the Schedule of the said Law which imposes a surtax of ten per cent. on amounts payable as King's Warehouse Fees.

(2) Law 31 of 1926 to re-impose Harbour Fees and Light Dues on Vessels entering any Harbour in this Island. This Law was held in abeyance and did not come into operation during the year.

65. The Post Office (War Tax Law 1919), Law 7 of 1919, was repealed.

CURRENCY.

66. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1926, to the extent of £73,007 in denominations of 2/6, 5/, and 10/.

2/6 Notes.			5/ Notes.			10/ Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
144	5	0	33,555	5	0	39,307	10	0	73,007	0	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

67. The following statement shows the values of Exports and Imports during the past forty years at 10 year intervals:

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,280,118	1,470,241	1,992,007	2,821,234	4,236,855
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950

This statement indicates that the value of our Exports and Imports has increased during the past 40 years by 231% and 302.8% respectively. It must however, be pointed out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1926 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis; the percentage of increase is therefore really less.

68. It will be observed that the value of the Imports exceeds the value of the Exports. The following statement shows in detail the balance of trade for the year under review.

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports 1926.	Exports 1926.	Adverse Balance of Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,377,984	914,061	463,923
United States	2,099,981	1,867,076	232,905
Canada	978,563	799,471	179,092
All Other Countries	909,422	656,247	253,175
Total	£5,365,950	£4,236,855	£1,129,095

In 1925 the total adverse balance was £1,471,435; there has therefore been a welcome reduction of £342,340 in the year under review. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that there are certain Invisible Exports such as the Tourist Trade and remittances by labourers abroad which cannot be reduced to actual figures but which go a long way to neutralise the apparently unsatisfactory economic condition disclosed by the above figures.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

69. The year was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural production. For the first six months drought prevailed in many parts of the island but the latter half of the year was favoured by a well distributed rainfall.

70. The record of production for Bananas, (18,301,410 stems exported), was achieved while the prospects for 1927 indicate that a record of 20 million stems may reasonably be expected if favourable conditions prevail. A revival of the trade in Evaporated Bananas has taken place and about 300 tons were exported during the year.

71. The Coffee Crop was depressed by unfavourable seasons to about two-thirds of that in 1925; the prices were, however, satisfactory, and there is a general feeling of buoyancy as to the prospects of coffee which is leading to an extension of this staple.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has been actively engaged in organising a development of this industry among the small growers. The Agricultural Department assisted this effort by the free grant of 90,000 coffee plants to the members of local branches of the Agricultural Society. The new Produce Protection Law has also promoted the efficiency of the Coffee industry by causing numbers of small growers to pulp their coffee instead of drying it in the cherry as heretofore.

72. The production of Cacao increased from 2,600 tons to 3,000 tnso while the price showed some improvement. The new Produce Protection Law should serve effectively to secure a better standard of ordinary Jamaica Cacao which is in good demand by the trade and only needs greater uniformity in quality in order to command a higher price.

73. Coconuts showed a reduction from 26 to 23 million nuts exported, but, on the other hand, the export of Copra increased to nearly 10 million pounds weight showing a gain of 6½ million pounds for the year. The health of the coconut groves continued to be good and there were few cases of Bud-rot during the year.

74. The conditions for production of Sugar were favourable, resulting in an export crop of 48,000 tons as compared with 37,700 tons in 1925. Rum was, however, in poor demand and it has become evident that the production of "Common, clean" Jamaica Rum must be reduced until stocks have been considerably lowered. The very high duty on spirits in the United Kingdom exercises a check on the consumption of rum and efforts are now being made in the interests of the West Indian sugar planters to seek some amelioration of these conditions in the "home trade" market. The Estates have recently developed a keener interest in the testing of new canes and in the use of artificial manures. Definite results have already been obtained to show that "Uba " and "BH (10) 12" are two outstanding canes that will serve to increase the production of sugar in Jamaica. A large number of new canes have been obtained for trial at the Hope Experiment Station and the best of these are being issued to the Estates. The condition as to Mosaic Disease on the Estates may be regarded as satisfactory, but the small growers appear disinclined to take measures for stamping out the disease and it will be necessary to substitute "Uba" or some resistant variety of cane for that at present being grown if Mosaic Disease is to be controlled on the small holdings. The Agricultural Department issued 161,000 cane plants during the year, chiefly from the Experiment Station at Hope. Several estates have now organised their own nurseries of sugar cane varieties.

The importation of sugar canes has been carefully controlled with a view to avoiding the introduction of new and dangerous diseases from other cane-growing countries.

75. The Fibre Industry is steadily gaining ground and plantations of Sisal and Henequen are being extended. The local invention of a portable decorticator has greatly stimulated the prospects of growing Sisal on medium areas of land with a moderate outlay of capital.

76. Pimento was a short crop and in consequence the price improved so as to yield nearly as much money as in 1925 when the crop was 50 per cent. greater. The manufacture of Pimento Leaf Oil is now in operation at three centres and despite the low price now prevailing for

Eugenol Oils there seems to be a margin of profit for the producers of Pimento Oil in Jamaica.

77. The boom in Annatto in 1925 collapsed and only about one-third as much was received from the 1926 crop. This is purely a small settler's crop but the recent demand for Annatto as a pure butter colouring appears to justify hopes that the demand will continue to be good.

78. The Ginger Crop was good and despite lower prices brought in over £71,000. A useful work in promoting good culture of ginger has been effected through a system of prizes provided by a firm who are large consumers of Jamaica Ginger.

79. The Citrus Industry shows some improvement. The export of Grapefruit increased from 5 million to 7½ million and of oranges from 106,000 boxes to 125,000 boxes in round numbers. The crop of Orange Oil was only half that of the previous year as a result of the drought in the first half of the year which greatly reduced the crop of wild oranges.

80. Pineapples are beginning to figure again in the list of exports and there is hope for a considerable extension of this industry when the improved steamship facilities with Canada are in operation.

81. Hides were in good demand and showed an increase in both quantity and value over the records of the previous year.

82. The trade in Logwood and its Extract was still some what depressed. A notable feature is that more wood is now being exported and less Extract is being manufactured in the island.

83. The Honey Crop fetched only about half as much as that of the previous year. The early drought affected the flow of honey and the bees had a poor harvest.

84. The tobacco trade fell off somewhat and Jamaica Cigars fell below the previous year's record. There is, however, some enquiry for leaf in the United Kingdom where Empire grown tobacco now obtains a useful preference.

85. With regard to Diseases of Crops, Panama Disease was the most serious. Every effort is being made to control the spread of this disease and the staff of Inspectors has now been raised to 18. The results have been encouraging and although the disease continues to spread it is being prevented from rapid extension by the careful quarantining of every spot where it appears. Coconuts have been singularly free from the disease and Bud-rot is now of relatively rare occurrence.

86. Foot and Mouth Disease again recurred on the Westmoreland swamp area and was dealt with by slaughter and prolonged quarantine. No cases of Anthrax were recorded during the year. An outbreak of Foul Brood Disease among bees around the City of Kingston was dealt with by inspection and the destruction of all diseased hives and no extension of the infection has been reported.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

87. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly

surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,564,431 acres have been alienated, leaving 283,729 un-alienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

88. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

89. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

90. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

91. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

92. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 300 time-expired East Indian Immigrants, 3,333 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

93. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1926, 43,889 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1926 was 53 acres to one purchaser for £52. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

94. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. The lands are for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

95. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

96. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

97. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 41 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

98. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel, (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that " in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

99. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

100. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

101. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 6d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

102. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

103. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

104. Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., formerly Government Geologist, Jamaica, returned to the Island in November for the purpose of completing at his own expense, the Geological Survey of the Kingston District which he had commenced during the period of his official appointment. The Legislative Council approved of the expenditure from public funds of a sum not exceeding £100 to enable Dr. Matley to be furnished with a motor car when required.

Fishing.

105. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

106. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers, and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

Manufactures.

107. The principal articles manufactured are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal Hemp, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

108. *Sugar.*—The Sugar industry has been improving since 1929 and more lucrative prices have resulted in increased production. In 1926 we exported 48,155 tons, an increase of 10,439 tons over the 1925 figure.

109. *Rum.* The local consumption of rum increased to some extent. The quantity exported, however, fell off considerably as the following figures indicate:—

		Exports.
1925	..	1,121,332 gallons
1926	..	693,435 "

110. *Copra.*—The manufacture of Copra recovered lost ground and the exports reached the high figure of 9,682,834 lbs., an increase of 6,173,623 lbs. over the 1925 figure. As was to be expected there was a decrease of 3,340,081 in the number of coconuts exported.

111. *Sisal Hemp.*—Sisal Hemp continued to be turned out in fair quantities and the export figures showed an increase of 435 packages over the amount exported in the previous year.

112. *Banana Figs.*—The output of Banana Figs in 1926 was practically double the output in 1925.

113. *Orange Oil.*—The manufacture of Orange Oil dropped considerably in 1926 being barely one-half of what it was in 1925. Orange exports showed an increase of 18,378 boxes.

114. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—The Cigar industry cannot be said to be flourishing. It supplies all local needs but exports, except to Panama, are neglible. Cigarette manufacture is still on the downward grade, smokers preferring the imported to the locally made article. An attempt to effect a compromise by producing a blended cigarette made of native and foreign tobacco met with little success.

115. *Leather.*—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the quantity consumed locally 21,930 lbs. were exported.

116. *Logwood Extract.*—The manufacture of Logwood Extract was recommenced and we exported 7,197 packages valued at £74,830.

117. *Matches.*—The Match industry is practically extinct. Despite a heavy import duty the foreign article is more appreciated by the Public, meets with ready sale, and dominates the market.

118. Minor Industries include Aerated and Mineral Waters, Ice, Soap, Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets and Furniture.

Water Power.

119. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

120. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

121. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

122. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

123. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st of December, 1926, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	..	£113,346
The Bank of Nova Scotia	..	24,663
The Royal Bank of Canada	..	21,662
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	..	5,714

These Banks all have Head Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one sub-branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no sub-branches.

124. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 75 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1926, £571,300.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1926 to £576,915.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964 and in 1925, £1,667.

125. Under Law 11 of 1925, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

126. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 55 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loans Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

127. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1926			£119,956
Repayments	do	do	104,123
Balances outstanding	..	..	15,833

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1925, a sum of £38,756 16s. 10d. share capital in addition to £104,123 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £56,641 has been loaned to nine banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

128. Forty Laws were passed during the year 1926. A brief summary is given below of those which may be considered to be of general interest:

Law 2 of 1926.—A Law to provide for the summary trial of certain offences against the Law relating to Prædial Larceny. This Law gives power to Justices of the Peace to hear and determine the offences mentioned in sections 5 and 7 of the Prædial Larceny Law, 1877 (Law 6 of 1877).

Law 3 of 1926.—A Law further to amend Law 3 of 1911 entitled A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the valuation of real property. This Law continues in force the Valuation Roll in force at the commencement of this Law until the Legislative Council shall by resolution otherwise determine.

Law 5 of 1926.—A Law to combine the offices of Commissioner and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to validate all past proceedings of the Supreme Court of the said Islands and to provide that it shall be necessary for the holder of the said combined offices to possess legal qualifications and also to validate all past proceedings of the Legislative Board of the said Islands. This Law was passed

to validate all past proceedings of the Legislative Board and of the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to make provision that the next holder of the combined offices of Commissioner and Judge of the Supreme Court should possess legal qualifications.

Law 6 of 1926.—A Law to alter the provisions of the Imperial Order in Council made on the 4th day of August 1873 by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria under the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament passed on the 4th day of April, 1873, entitled An Act to enable Her Majesty by Order in Council to annex the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica. This Law provides for the appointment of members of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Law 8 of 1926.—A Law to amend Law 14 of 1879, The Divorce Law 1879. Under this Law a wife may present a petition to the Court for a dissolution of her marriage on the ground that her husband has since the celebration thereof and since the passing of this Law been guilty of adultery.

Law 9 of 1926.—A Law to make provision with respect to Wireless Telegraphy on Ships. Every seagoing British ship registered in Jamaica being a passenger steamer or a ship of 1,600 tons gross tonnage or upwards shall be provided with a wireless telegraph installation and shall maintain a wireless telegraph service.

Law 12 of 1926.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Law relating to the maintenance of bastard children. This Law deals with the maintenance of bastard children and repeals the old Bastardy Law of 1881 and the amendment of 1882.

Law 13 of 1926.—A Law to amend the Law relating to pensions, gratuities and disability allowances to sub-officers and constables of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Under this Law a deduction of twopence on every 10/ is made from the pay of all constables who joined the Force on or after the 11th of August, 1894.

Law 16 of 1926.—A Law to provide for the construction of works for the purpose of aiding and increasing the supply of water to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canals. This Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £60,000, to construct irrigation works for the purpose of abstracting and utilising the water from the Ferry River in aid of the water supply to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canals.

Law 17 of 1926.—The Rum Colouring Law. Under this Law no rum shall be coloured with any colouring matter other than Cane Sugar Caramel.

Law 18 of 1926.—A Law to amend Law 25 of 1908, The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law. This Law adds to Law 25 of 1908 the expression "Condensed Milk."

Law 19 of 1926.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Agricultural Produce. This Law repeals Laws 7 of 1918 and 25 of 1921. It provides for the inspection and purchase of agricultural produce.

Law 20 of 1926.—The Sale of Drugs and Poisons Law. This Law regulates the sale of Drugs and Poisons in the Island. It also repeals Laws 34 of 1894, 56 of 1908, 20 of 1910 and 25 of 1911.

Law 26 of 1926.—A Law for shortening the language used in Laws of the Legislature of the Island and for other purposes. This is a new Interpretation Law; it repeals Law 9 of 1900.

Law 28 of 1926.—A Law to amend the Gambling Law, 1898. This Law adds the definition of "unlawful gaming" and amends the definition of "lottery" in section 2 of Law 25 of 1898. It also provides that if any person is found in possession of a lottery ticket the onus of proof is on the person to prove that it is not a lottery ticket. Section 8 deals with a lottery called "Peaka Pow" or "Drop Pan."

Law 31 of 1926.—A Law to re-impose Harbour Fees and Light Dues on vessels entering any harbour in this Island. This Law repeals Law 13 of 1922 and re-imposes Harbour Fees and Light Dues.

Law 32 of 1926.—A Law relating to the repatriation of distressed seamen engaged in the Colony.

This Law provides for the repatriation of any seaman who is a native of this Island or of any of its Dependencies or a native or subject of any other British West Indian Colony or of Bermuda.

Law 33 of 1926.—The Opticians Law. This Law makes provision for the registration of persons practising Optometry in Jamaica.

Law 38 of 1926.—A Law to enable the Manchester Maternity Hospital to be incorporated. This Law incorporates the Maternity Hospital erected in the parish of Manchester by voluntary subscription.

Law 39 of 1926.—A Law to repeal certain Laws for the purpose of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Jamaica. This Law repeals a certain number of Laws for the purpose of the Revised Edition of the Laws.

Law 40 of 1926.—A Law relating to Civil and Criminal proceedings in the Resident Magistrate's Court for the parish of Trelawny prior to the 19th day of August, 1926. On account of the fire which occurred on the 19th of August, 1926, and which destroyed the records in the Courts Office provision is made by this Law to facilitate the enforcement of judgments and the proof of convictions from the records which were saved.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

129. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year again showed a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 122,337 for 1926 as compared with 117,874 in 1925 and the average attendance 75,063 as compared with 73,508 in 1925.

130. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continue to show improvement, but progress in these respects is still far from being fully satisfactory. Courses of instruction in school garden work, and manual training were again suspended owing to the necessity of economy, but a very successful Vacation Course, organised and managed by the Jamaica Union of Teachers was held at the Mico College in the summer, over 200 teachers attending.

131. The sums of £1,852 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped.

132. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £159,525 as compared with £155,611 in 1925.

Secondary.

133. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed Schools were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Grants-in-aid. The number of Aided Secondary Schools remained at 16. The results of the Public Examinations continue to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

134. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts and a supplementary subject in the final in Arts.

Technical.

135. The Government Technical and Continuation School continued to do good work.

136. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year, doing useful work. The classes attached to two schools which had been temporarily closed were re-opened.

137. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is serving a long felt need. Good progress has also be made with a Continuation School for Girls near Highgate under the Friends' Mission.

Industrial.

138. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continue to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

139. The mean rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island, for the year 1926, was 66.87 ins. or 9.59 ins. below the 50 year average. The shortage occurred principally in the first half of the year. The rainfall in the North-eastern and Southern Divisions was about 20% below normal; in the West-Central and Northern Divisions the shortage was 4% and 9% respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 126 as compared with 113 for the previous year. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to only 19.73 ins. as compared with the 50 year average of 33.59 ins.

Temperature.

140. At Kingston, the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.9 degrees or 0.2 degrees above the 33 year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 95.1 degrees in August; and the minimum 64.0 degrees in January.

Humidity.

141. For the year the mean relative humidity was 82 % for the 7 a.m. and 65% for the 3 p.m. observations, i.e., about normal.

Weather Disturbances.

142. The year 1926 was marked by an abnormal number of weather disturbances occurring in the Caribbean and southern portion of the North Atlantic Ocean, and within barometric range of Jamaica. In July a severe hurricane occurred causing considerable loss of life and property in Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, Turks Island, The Bahamas and Florida. In August one of minor intensity sprang up increasing in force on a track towards the Yucatan Channel and causing some losses. September had four disturbances, three of which were of moderate strength, but on the 14th one of considerable intensity appeared moving from the north of St. Kitts on a west-north-westerly track, passing Porto Plata (St. Domingo) and Turks Island on the 16th, thence to Southern Florida and onwards, causing considerable damage. In October there were three disturbances two of which were of moderate intensity. The other commenced on the 18th developed to the north of Colon, moved north-westerly over the western end of Cuba, causing great loss of life and property at Havana, and later on at Bermuda.

143. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston on the 2nd, 13th and 15th of January and also on the 15th of February. At Morant Point (east end of Jamaica) a north-westerly gale of short duration occurred on the 13th and 14th of January and was also felt at other places in the Island. A "Norther" of gale force, was felt at Morant Point on the 13th of April.

144. Heavy Hailstorms occurred at Mile Gully on the 30th of May, also at Bensonton and Mount Charles on the same date. Hail fell at Darliston on the 30th of September and the 10th of October.

Earthquakes.

145. Slight shocks were reported at different parts of the Island in February, April, June, July, August and October.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

146. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

147. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse righ agricultural districts near the centre of the island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—900 ft.

148. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1926, was £355,375 and the expenditure £279,333. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 341,218 tons, as compared with 296,944 tons for the year 1925; the number of passengers carried in 1926 was 620,328, as compared with 476,850 in 1925.

149. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

Shipping.

150. The following statement shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1922	entered	1,365	Vessels of	1,920,114	tons
1923	"	1,323	"	2,011,500	"
1924	"	1,306	"	2,056,496	"
1925	"	1,412	"	2,207,618	"
1926	"	1,553	"	2,552,987	"
1922	cleared	1,340	"	1,927,183	"
1923	"	1,335	"	2,005,771	"
1924	"	1,299	"	2,054,100	"
1925	"	1,401	"	2,183,663	"
1926	"	1,550	"	2,553,138	"

151. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Shaw Savill & Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (The two last named Companies are registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., the Alexander Shipping Co., the Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., and the Lanassa Corporation.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Geselleschaft Kosmos Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 1 foreign and 4 British lines.

152. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

153. The island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,271 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

154. During 1926, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £90 per mile, including expenditure on repairing Flood Damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more then 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 51 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

Canals.

155. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

156. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

157. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey it by gravity to several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards of water per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry double that volume.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

158. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1926 there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 61 Telegraph and 82 Telephone Offices. No new lines or offices were authorized during the year.

159. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

160. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

161. The number of messages transmitted in 1925 numbered 335,068 and the receipts totalled £19,137. In 1926, 345,093 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £19,607.

162. There are two Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Island. One situated at Christiana and was established by the Admiralty during the Great War. This Station does not now accept traffic. The other station is at Kingston and is operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. This Company has recently been granted a license to erect a modern wireless station at Stony Hill, nine miles from Kingston for the purpose of handling commercial traffic. This station is expected to be completed in 1927. The Kingston station will then be re-modelled and used for ship to shore work. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

163. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

164. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

165. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

Aerial Services.

166. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

167. No works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out by the Public Works Department during the year under review.

168. Work on the Hermitage Dam, which is being built by the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew for the purpose of conserving the surplus water of the Wag Water, proceeded throughout the year.

169. Owing to financial and other difficulties the work of reconstructing the Kingston Streets, which had been commenced by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, was in abeyance throughout the year.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

170. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	Price. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8	0	Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13 and 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto ditto
Education Code, 1921	1	0	ditto ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915) ..	2	6	The West India Committee, London.

CHAS. W. DOORLY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
27th July, 1927.

Published by Order of the Government of Jamaica and printed by the Government Printing Office

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BRITISH HONDURAS.
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CAYMEN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
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JAMAICA.
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MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
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Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1382.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

REPORT FOR 1927

(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1298 and 1337 respectively, price 3d. each.)

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EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 9*d*.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d*. (10*d*.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Meat, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Fruit, 4*s*. 6d. (4*s*. 10*d*.); Dairy Produce, 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.); Fish, 6*d*. (8*d*.); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d*. (7*d*.). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.
(Dependency of Jamaica.)

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1927.

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Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The Group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° West longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long by one and a quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge

above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with the south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Colombus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a *Custos* was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Passenger Service.

The only circumstance of local moment in the year under review was the realization of a long desired public utility in the establishment of a regular mail and passenger service with Jamaica. Communication with the outside world has been by small sailing vessels

without accommodation. The building of a motor-vessel by a local company under contract with the two Governments and the initiation of a regular service are marks of progress.

Emigration and Immigration.

While seamen from the islands are admitted into the United States for the purpose of shipping on foreign voyages, and visitors are admitted for short periods, the restriction on immigration into the United States is now bearing adversely on natives of these islands. In early 1927 a quota number of 20 persons was allocated to the Cayman Islands, but in the last month this concession was withdrawn and all applicants from the Dependency were placed on the already over-filled Jamaica list. A number of labourers, clerks, etc., emigrated to the eastern coast of Nicaragua where a large area of virgin land is being cleared and planted in bananas. The conditions of life are, however, reported as unfavourable and many have returned. There is no immigration.

Legislation.

Seven laws were enacted in 1927, two being financial, three revenual, and two social, the last named bringing legislation with respect to the slander of women and the suppression of obscene publications in line with other parts of the Empire.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1927 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1922	6,996	7,565
1923	6,611	6,823
1924	6,005	7,013
1925	6,970	6,622
1926	7,320	7,437
Average for five years	6,780	7,092
1927	6,148	7,651

Customs (£4,381) and Post Office (£1,005) together contributed 87.6 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £465.

The expenditure may be summarised as follows : Departments, £3,305 ; Public Works, £1,853 ; Education, £1,500 ; and other services, £993. Unexpected charges and the erection of a Government warehouse caused an excess of expenditure (£1,500) over revenue, and at the end of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £1,922. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The total exports amounted to £13,358, of which all but £64 in value were of domestic produce, and compare favourably with the average for previous five years, £11,405.

The exports are mainly the products of the turtle fishery and of palm-straw rope, a spare-time industry of women and children.

Articles.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Honey	26	98	63	98	140
Turtle, live	2,470	3,750	6,000	5,000	5,400
Turtle skin	526	350	840	206	437
Turtle Shell	2,728	4,749	5,533	4,160	5,132
Rope, straw	1,409	640	1,754	1,710	1,972
Unenumerated	586	249	165	270	277
Totals ...	£7,745	£9,836	£14,355	£11,444	£13,358

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was larger than in 1926. The hawksbill fishers were also more successful than in 1925, the catch weighing 4,830 lb. at an average value of £1 1s. 3d. per lb., as compared with 3,145 lb. and a higher rate of £1 6s. 5d. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope increased from £1,710 in 1926 to £1,972 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership, or to foreigners, is an asset not capable of accurate estimate.

The several items in the turtle fishery and making of rope were all more profitable than in the previous year.

The destination of exports is shown in the following tabulation. The turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

Exports to:	*Food, drink, etc.*	*Raw materials.*	*Manufactured articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	312	—	—	312
Jamaica	150	5,211	1,968	43	7,372
United States ...	5,450	200	—	12	5,662
Other Countries ...	8	—	4	—	12
Totals ...	£5,608	£5,723	£1,972	£55	£13,358

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports reached a total of £40,964, or £255 less than the average normal imports for the previous five years. The values of spirits imported and re-exported in 1923 and 1924 are not included in these figures. This trade has entirely ceased.

The countries of origin are so far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the products or manufactures of the United Kingdom and other countries.

Imports from:	*Food, drink, etc.*	*Raw materials.*	*Manufactured articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	174	—	1,691	220	2,085
Canada	292	—	—	—	292
Jamaica ...	10,806	198	2,406	364	13,774
United States ...	7,098	1,963	10,101	983	20,145
Other Countries	588	41	1,252	155	2,036
Parcels Post ...	—	—	—	2,632	2,632
Totals ...	£18,958	£2,202	£15,450	£4,354	£40,964

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of island vessels not in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Four cattle dips were in operation during the year and material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued from their use.

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks, of branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and used by them in the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money order system is used to some extent, orders paid in the Dependency in 1927 amounting to £4,828, while the orders issued for payment abroad was more, i.e., £5,233.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 46; the deposits for the year have been £686; the withdrawals have amounted to £575; and the balance due depositors stands at £1,250. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners, some of which have motor

auxiliary. In the year under review, however, a long desired mail, passenger, and freight service, by motor-vessel specially built, was established with Jamaica; 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-communication is infrequent. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal fee. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a port of registry having on its register 49 small sailing and 10 motor vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,234 tons. Three vessels with a total tonnage of 63 tons were built and registered in 1927.

One small steamship (241 tons) called at the islands in 1927. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British...	177	13,247	179	12,504
American	11	2,543	10	2,543
Honduranean...	2	57	3	82
Nicaraguan	3	135	3	135
Panamanian	1	48	2	82
Totals ...	194	16,030	197	15,346

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There is no serious crime. In the year under review but one case, wounding, came before the Higher Court, and three persons were committed to prison, for safe custody.

One hundred and six cases came before Petty Sessions, being offences of a minor nature such as disorderly conduct, non-payment of taxes, or breach of regulations with respect to vehicles. The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables, but the duties of the latter are largely in connection with the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Under this head there may be mentioned the erection, on the water-front at Georgetown, of a Government warehouse through which, in future, all goods for the port, or in transit, must pass.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 162 births (31 per *mille*) and 57 deaths (11 per *mille*). Of the latter, eleven were over 80 years of age, twenty-four between 60 and 80, and eight under 5 years of age. Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis came under observation, three being imported. There were four deaths from the disease. Twelve cases of typhoid fever were reported, but no deaths. In the previous ten years there has been an occasional case of malaria fever, generally identified as imported, and the apparent absence of anophelene mosquitoes would make the incidence regarded as negligible. In the past year, however, there has been a larger influx of returned islanders from the Central American coastal towns, many with malarial infection, and there have been cases of malaria fever amongst permanent local residents.

Population.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1927 are estimated at 2,090 whites and 3,560 coloured, a total of 5,650.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken in Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 42.39 inches, the lowest for many years, and 25 inches below the average for the previous five years. The heaviest precipitation was in October (13.19 inches) and the largest single day's rain was on the 16th of that month (6 inches). With a smaller rainfall the mosquito plague was sensibly ameliorated in the summer months. The lack of moisture, however, adversely affected the crops of ground provision, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn, which were less productive than usual. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1927.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with ten private schools, had 1,025 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 805. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,289. Fifty candidates sat to the annual pupil teacher examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; eighteen were successful.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without grant of the Crown. The only areas recognised as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour and no local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant; as seamen to the Gulf ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages; as wood-cutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua; and, to a very small extent, as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN.

24th March, 1928.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Annual General Report for 1927.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are

bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English. The currency consists of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government. Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter-time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local Government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there.

The following is a general description of the principal islands :—

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is the capital of the Dependency. It lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It has a population of about 1,500. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, several stores, a public library, four churches, and Masonic and other lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the island, and the radio-telegraph station is situated in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills on the eastern side of the island, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation. The principal industry is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. Fruit, vegetables, and cattle are imported from Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semicircle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the

south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

1.—GENERAL.

During the year 1927 there was no event of outstanding importance.

The people, with the assistance of the Hurricane Relief Administration, continued their efforts to repair the damage to their houses, boats, etc., done by the hurricane of the previous year.

The reconstruction of the public works, damaged by the hurricanes, continued throughout the year. The expenditure involved nearly exhausted the reserve funds of the Dependency. These works provided employment to many who, in consequence of the depression in the salt industry, would otherwise have been unemployed.

On the 20th of March the Hon. Richard Nosworthy, C.M.G., arrived from Jamaica, in H.M.S. " Wistaria," to enquire into the administration of the hurricane relief measures. The result of his investigation was a verdict entirely in favour of the administration.

2.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last 5 years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1923	11,751	10,950
1924	9,693	12,186
1925	10,459	11,176
1926	9,734	14,055
1927	11,522	14,568

The expenditure in 1927 exceeded the revenue by £3,046. This excess was mainly due to the extraordinary expenditure on repairing the damage by the hurricanes of 1926 to public properties.

The royalty on salt exported amounted to £1,140; being about one-half of the usual amount received annually.

The Customs tariff was revised in May, 1927, with the object of obtaining additional revenue. The Customs import duties collected during the year amounted to £5,146; being about 45 per cent. of the total revenue.

The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1927, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £1,649, as against £4,695, the surplus at the end of the previous year.

The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light.

The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £5,500. A considerable number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes were also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 958 accounts in operation, with £21,519 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £21,321. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands.

The Post Office money-order business has increased considerably. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1927 amounted to £17,092, as against £1,201 in 1922.

3.—PRODUCTION.

Salt.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water, by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States and used there for fish curing and meat packing. The demand for it in 1927 was very slack, with the result that the quantity exported during that year was only about one-half of the average amount exported annually during the previous ten years. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the shipments in 1927 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	420,529	11,590
United States	281,517	5,575
St. Pierre et Miquelon ...	23,030	687
Newfoundland	20,213	562
Jamaica	33,085	518
Haiti	3,457	83
	781,831	£19,015

Sponges.

There was an increase in the trade in sponges. 26,869 lb., valued at £3,004, were exported in 1927, of which 22,472 lb., valued at £2,520, were shipped to the United States of America.

Conchs.

There was a great falling-off in the quantity of conchs exported in 1927. Only 587,550, valued at £588, were shipped, as against

1,522,700 exported in the previous year. This decline was, no doubt, principally due to the destruction by the hurricanes of 1926 of a large number of fishing-boats in the Caicos Islands. This shell-fish is valued at £1 per thousand. The entire quantity was shipped to Haiti where there is a demand for it by the natives.

Conch Shells.

372 barrels of conch shells, valued at £52, were exported during the year.

Turtle Shell.

There was a decrease in the trade in turtle shell as compared with the previous year. The quantity exported in 1927 was only 375 lb., valued at £383. The great loss of small craft, mentioned above, no doubt injuriously affected the turtle-fishing industry.

Shark Produce.

There was also a decline in the shark-fishing business as compared with the previous year. Only 248 skins, 228 fins, and 190 gallons of oil, valued at £48, £15, and £12, respectively, were exported during 1927. The entire output was shipped to the United States.

Cotton.

No cotton or cotton seed was exported in 1927, the stocks on hand being held for a rise in the market price. The hurricanes did great damage to the cotton fields and very little cotton was picked during the year under review.

Sisal.

16,600 lb. of sisal, valued at £109, were exported in 1927, as against 1,000 lb., valued at £6, shipped in 1926.

Minor Produce.

Small quantities of fish (salted), hides, poultry, and ground produce were exported during the year.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last 5 years :—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	30,271	25,630	32,854	30,111	19,015
Sponges	1,436	1,647	2,408	1,937	3,004
Conchs...	1,563	1,217	1,393	1,523	588
Turtle Shell	486	50	162	743	383
Shark Products	—	—	20	198	75
Cotton and Cotton-seed ...	641	904	566	290	—
Sisal	2,168	169	648	6	109

Almost all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

4.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade.

The value of the trade of the Dependency for the last 5 years was as follows :—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	46,560	43,253	41,570	48,850	47,693
Exports	37,455	31,495	39,062	35,936	24,063
Total ...	84,015	74,748	80,632	84,786	71,756

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, during the last 5 years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1923	3,577	2,960	40,023	46,560
1924	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
1927	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693

The direction of the import trade for 1927 is shown in the following table :—

	£
United Kingdom	5,447
Canada	3,868
Jamaica	2,226
Santo Domingo	1,489
United States of America	32,885
Other countries	1,778
	£47,693

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	24,889
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	14
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	19,622
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,168
	£47,693

The principal articles imported during 1927 were as follows :—

Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Cotton goods	—	3,711
Wood, lumber	ft. 486,850	3,629
Flour	bus. 2,146	3,235
Spirits	gal. 6,285	2,686
Sugar	lb. 209,436	1,664
Lard	lb. 67,348	1,592
Hominy and Meal Corn	bus. 1,186	1,469
Beef and Pork (salted)...	lb. 52,819	1,372
Machinery	—	1,334
Oils	gal. 18,379	1,220
Milk (condensed)	cans 1,031	1,211
Butter	lb. 13,351	992
Rice	lb. 159,707	860
Boots and Shoes...	—	835
Haberdashery	—	805
Bacon, Hams, &c.	lb. 16,688	792
Soap (common)	lb. 45,315	598
Paper and Stationery	—	570
Cigarettes	no. 906,200	548

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last 5 years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
1923	750	14,843	21,862	37,455
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	218
Canada	11,837
United States	8,349
Bahamas	732
Haiti	712
St. Pierre et Miquelon	687
Newfoundland	562
Jamaica	518
Santo Domingo	424
Other countries	24
	£24,063

The value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1927 was £23,332 and the value of the re-exports was £731. 80 per cent. of the total exports consisted of salt.

The large decline in the shipments of salt during the year was, as already mentioned above under the head "Production," due to the small demand for that commodity in the Canadian and American markets in 1927.

5.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency; namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead, and ships anchor in from 4 to 7 fathoms of water about one-quarter of a mile from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1927 was as follows:—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	2	105	107
Sailing vessels	123	20	143
	125	125	250

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 16,747, and of the steamships to 113,575.

The falling-off in the amount of tonnage of sailing ships was in consequence of the reduced quantity of salt exported as compared with previous years.

The ships of the Clyde Steamship Company of New York called at Grand Turk every three weeks on their way from Santo Domingo to New York.

A steamer of the Columbus Line, Inc., sailing from New York *en route* to Santo Domingo, called at Grand Turk every three or four weeks to land cargo.

Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, called at Grand Turk for stevedores about three times a month, and called again, on the return voyage, to land them.

Railways.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency.

Roads.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition for wheeled traffic. A few motor cars and trucks are in use. The roads in the Caicos Islands are only "bush paths" and are very rough.

Postal.

The local mails were carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also sent to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk to land passengers from England, and also by small sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Post Office dealt with about 91,000 postal articles during the year under review.

Cables.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

Wireless.

The Government radio-telegraph and telephone system connecting Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and also giving service with ships at sea, was demolished by the hurricane of 1926. The system was reconstructed, and the service re-established in September, 1927, and continued in satisfactory operation to the end of the year.

Telephones.

The public telephone system at Grand Turk was also demolished by the hurricane. It was entirely reconstructed and the service was re-established in the early part of the year under review. It provides for 60 connections.

6.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

Police.

There is a very small Police Force. It consists of one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal, three police constables, and eight district constables. The Magistrate acts as Inspector and the Assistant Treasurer performs the duty of Sub-Inspector. A district constable is stationed at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Prisons.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1927 was 31, of which 24 were men, 4 women, and 3 juveniles. There is complete separation between the males and females. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no Chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison. The male prisoners are mainly employed on road repair work.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons dealt with in the summary courts for crimes and offences was 170; 117 being males and 53 females. The number convicted was 135.

7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department was mainly employed during the year 1927 in repairing the damage by the hurricane of 1926 to the public buildings; the roads, streets, and bridges; the shipping jetties, wharves, and sea-walls; and the telephone and radio-telegraph systems.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612. About 95 per cent. of the people are of African descent.

During the year 1927, 149 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 26.9 per 1,000, and 123 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 22.3 per 1,000. Thirty-nine marriages were registered. The above rates are based on the population of 1921. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 42.

Public Health.

In his Report for 1927 the Government Medical Officer stated that the general health of the Islands was very fair. The following paragraphs are extracted from his report :—

> " *Influenza* : During the first months of the year there were a number of cases of influenza of a comparatively mild form, but there were no fatalities directly attributable to this disease.
>
> *Malaria* : There were some cases of malaria in a mild form, but this Island seems to be comparatively free from the anopheles mosquito, therefore most cases are contracted in the other islands and come here for treatment.
>
> *Pellagra* : There were very few cases of pellagra during the year. In former years during the drought, there were numerous cases. Therefore I am inclined to conclude that having only a few cases this year is due to the fact that fresh fruits

and vegetables have been more plentiful on account of the beneficial rains we have had, thus giving the inhabitants a greater variety of food.

Children's Diseases: For the first time in many years, an epidemic of whooping-cough made its appearance with a few fatalities among the very young children. There were also several cases of measles and chicken-pox, also a number of cases of bowel trouble.

Venereal Diseases: There have been only a few cases of this kind."

Hospitals.

Two small hospitals are maintained by the Government under the direction and supervision of the medical officers. One at Grand Turk, with 8 beds, and one at Cockburn Harbour, having 4 beds.

9.—EDUCATION.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is chairman.

Primary Education.

Primary education is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of six and thirteen years, and is provided free by the Government. The sum of £840 is granted annually to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were 10 Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 768, and the average attendance 568. There were also 7 private elementary schools, under the control of the Board, with an attendance of 91. While the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools. Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as competent. The Board of Education has under consideration the question of making proper provision for the training of suitable young men and women to become teachers in the schools and it now has a candidate undergoing a course of training at the Mico College in Jamaica.

Secondary Education.

There is a secondary school at Grand Turk, controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner. There were 36 pupils on the roll in 1927. The average attendance was 32.

This school receives from the Government a free grant-in-aid of £150 a year. The master of the secondary school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have since been held annually in December.

10.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

As already mentioned above, these Islands have never been completely surveyed. Most of the land is of very poor quality, being very rocky and barren, and only small portions here and there are fit for agriculture. Selected parcels of Crown land, when applied for, are sold at 2s. per acre, and leased at 4d. per acre. Town lots, when applied for, are sold at public auction, with an upset price. The private lands generally are of little value and when sold fetch only nominal prices. A geological survey of the Dependency has never been made.

11.—LABOUR.

Common labourers employed in the salt industry earn from 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day in raking and carting salt, and from 4s. to 8s. a day in shipping it. Stevedores, employed on steamers engaged in the South American trade, that call at Grand Turk for them, receive 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 6s. to 12s. a day. There is a great scarcity of efficient artizans and skilled mechanics. Agriculture is engaged in, on a small scale, by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands. Efficient domestic servants are very scarce.

12.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

Sixteen ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1927.

No. 1 provided for the payment of a fee for a Bill of Health: No. 2 compelled the closing of shops and stores on public holidays: No. 3 amended the Magistrates' Code of Procedure Ordinance so as to extend the jurisdiction of the Magistrate: Nos. 4 and 5 were the usual Appropriation (1927) and Supplementary Appropriation (1926) Ordinances: No. 6 provided for the collection of fees by means of stamps: No. 7 repealed the law regulating the purchase of cotton: No. 8 provided for a weekly half-holiday on Wednesdays: No. 9 amended the Customs tariff: No. 10 provided for the admission free of duty, of certain materials imported by the Cable Company: No. 11 provided for the sittings of the Supreme Court to be held quarterly, instead of bi-monthly: No. 12 provided for the appointment of an acting Magistrate in certain events: No. 13 provided for the suppression of obscene publications: No. 14 amended the law in regard to slaughter-houses: No. 15 amended the law in regard to petty trespass; and No. 16 provided for the payment of a fee in respect of customs bonds.

Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22″ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	21.95 inches.
Maximum temperature	90°
Minimum temperature	63.5°

The average rainfall during the year 1927, from observations at eight stations throughout the Dependency, was 22.42 inches. The maximum was recorded at Cockburn Harbour, measuring 29.83 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 16.06 inches. The average annual rainfall during the 5 years 1923-27 was 25.97 inches.

Paupers.

Fifty-six persons were receiving out-door relief at the end of the year 1927.

Immigration.

During the year under review, the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants by 140. Many of the labourers who left the Dependency in recent years to seek employment in the lumber industry in the Bahamas returned to their homes last year.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
COMMISSIONER.

Grand Turk,
25th May, 1928.

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JAMAICA

REPORT FOR 1927.

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JAMAICA

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1927.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. Longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298¼	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies, being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendents of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island,

among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866 and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

12. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

13. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor

(if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

14. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

15. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694) Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

16. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1927 was 8,030 being at the rate of 8.5 per thousand of population.

Judicial.

17. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate's Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

18. The year 1927 was in most respects a very satisfactory one for Jamaica. Although high winds and rain towards the end of the year did considerable damage, destroying about a million and a half stems of bananas and entailing an expenditure of some forty thousand pounds in repairs to roads and railways, the Colony was so fortunate as to be spared once more from the ravages of hurricanes, and the year as a whole was a good one in respect of agriculture.

19. The most striking feature of the year was that the exports of bananas reached the high figure of over twenty-one million stems, an increase of more than three million stems over that of the year 1926.

20. The exports of coffee increased by over a million and a half pounds and as a result of the application of the Produce Protection Law, there was a marked improvement in the quality of the coffee produced by small settlers.

21. For the same reasons there was a distinct improvement in the quality of ordinary cocoa, so that, although the year's exports show a reduction of some 5,000 cwt., compared with those of 1926 there are good prospects for the future. It should be noted that though the quantities exported were smaller the value of the cocoa was considerably greater than in the previous year.

22. The number of coconuts exported reached the record figure of over 32 million, an increase of nine million on the figures for 1926, and though this increase was to some extent offset by a reduction of about sixteen hundred thousand pounds of copra, the total value of coconut products, exported showed an increase of something like £33,000.

23. Pimento also showed an increase of approximately 10 per cent. in quantity and over £60,000 in value.

24. As regards citrus fruits, there was a great decrease in the export of oranges but grapefruit maintained the position secured in 1926.

25. As one indication of the plenitude of money during the year, it may be mentioned that the value of the motor cars imported amounted to over £227,000 of which more than £72,000 was accounted for by cars manufactured in the British Empire. Five years previously the corresponding figures were £120,807 and £19,000 respectively.

26. That the circumstances of classes other than those that own motor cars were also improved may be inferred from the fact that the number of tax accounts in arrears on the 31st of December, showed a decrease of almost 15 per cent. on that for 1926.

27. It is also generally accepted that a reduction of the prison population is an indication that the conditions of life among the poorer classes have been easier and the figures in this respect for 1927 show a reduction of nearly 10 per cent. on those for 1926.

28. The most noteworthy event of 1927 was the visit paid to the Colony by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, on their way to Australia to open the new Commonwealth Parliament buildings at Canberra

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in the Island on the 20th of January and left on the 23rd: brief as was their visit they nevertheless won the hearts of one and all in Jamaica.

29. In February, the Hon. L. H. Tennyson brought out an English Cricket team which played three matches against " All-Jamaica". These periodical visits besides improving the standard of local cricket do much to strengthen the good feeling towards the Mother Country which obtains amongst the inhabitants of the Colony.

30. During this month the Jamaica Philatelic Society held a successful exhibition in Kingston.

31. In March, a strong squadron of the United States Navy visited Kingston and remained for some days.

32. The Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement which was signed at Ottawa, in 1925 and ratified by the Canadian Parliament in 1926 was brought into operation on the 30th of April.

33. During the year the Jamaica Banana Producers Association was formed. The object of the Association is the marketing of bananas and citrus fruits on co-operative lines.

34. In the latter part of November an Empire Shopping Week was inaugurated by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange for the development of Trade within the Empire, and met with much success.

35. The Honourable Arthur Selborne Jelf, Colonial Secretary, was honoured by the King on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday

with the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. Mr. Jelf was invested with the Order by His Royal Highness the Duke of York during the Royal Visit in January.

36. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Mr. C. E. Law, Resident Magistrate was appointed Judge of the Kingston Court.

Lt. J. H. Owen, D.S.C., R.N.R., Harbour Master, Kingston, was appointed Harbour Master, Malacca.

Mr. W. T. Fretz, Attorney-General, St. Lucia, was appointed Resident Magistrate.

Mr. T. D. H. Bruce, Resident Magistrate, was appointed Solicitor-General, Kenya Colony.

Mr. Adrian Clark, O.B.E., Stipendiary Magistrate, Trinidad, was appointed Puisne Judge.

Mr. A. E. V. Barton, Comptroller of Customs of British Guiana was appointed Collector General.

Commander C. C. Dix, C.M.G., D.S.O., Harbour Master, Barbados, was appointed Harbour Master, Jamaica, vice Lt. Owen.

Dr. A. S. Westmorland, Resident Medical Officer at the Public Hospital, Kingston, was appointed Senior Medical Officer.

Emigration and Immigration.

37. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1925, were 5,449, in 1926, 5,102 and in 1927, 4,755. The arrivals in 1925, were 4,924, in 1926, 5,625 and in 1927, 5,896.

Public Health and Sanitation.

38. The increased interest in Public Health reported last year, continued and much was done towards improving sanitation.

39. Health Week was observed by all the parishes and was a great success.

40. The Hookworm Campaign extended its activities to the parishes of Portland and St. Mary and the parishes of St. Andrew and Manchester carried through the preliminary sanitation of their districts without aid from the central authorities.

41. Alastrim, which has been in the Island since 1920, has almost been eradicated. Only a few sporadic cases were reported in the last half of the year. No other epidemic was reported during the year.

42. A Malarial Survey and a Tuberculosis Survey have been arranged for in the coming year.

Vital Statistics.

43. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1927 was 953,768, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1926, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1927.

44. The number of marriages registered during 1927, was 4,412 the rate being 4.6 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.2 for 1926. During the same period 32,910 births were registered of

which 16,453 were boys and 16,457 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.7 per 1,000 as against 38.4 during 1926.

45. The number of deaths registered was 20,015 of which 9,972 were males and 10,043 females, the death rate being 21.1 per 1,000. The rate for 1926 was 20.5. During 1927, 7,287 or 36.5 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,708 or 28.5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1926 were 40.0 per cent. and 31.5 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.8 in 1926.

46. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 6.2; Congenital Debility, 11.6; Tuberculosis, 10.1; Typhoid Fever, 8.1; Pneumonia, 9.5; Heart Disease, 7.2; Syphilis, 2.7 Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.8; Old Age, 3.7.

Imports and Exports.

47. The Colony's trade in 1927 was the most satisfactory since the war, for although the extravagant figures of the post war boom were not approached, the high mark reached was directly due to steady progress over several years.

48. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £5,717,521 as compared with £5,365,950 in 1926. Prices continued to fall, and the quantity of goods imported was relatively greater.

Class I.—(Food, Drink and Tobacco) showed a decrease in value of £11,238. Nevertheless the quantities of butter, salted and corned fish, rice, flour, salt beef, condensed milk, edible oils and refined sugar imported showed a considerable increase. The only notable decrease was in pickled fish.

Class II.—(Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) also showed a decrease of £8,797 which is accounted for chiefly by decreased importations of coal. The 1926 figures were however swelled by vessels taking coal here during the strike in England, and the local coaling of vessels shows a progressive tendency. There were largely increased importations of timber, petroleum, oils, &c.

Class III.—(Manufactured Articles) showed an increase of £367,673 owing chiefly to larger importations of cotton piece goods, silks, apparel, boots and shoes, motor vehicles and soap. With regard to the sources of supply the United States furnished 34% of the total imports, the United Kingdom 29%, Canada 19% and other countries 18%.

The yield from Import Duties amounted to £984,580, an increase of £66,731 over that of the previous year.

49. The Package Tax realized £63,118 or £4,653 more than in 1926. Of this total £47,339 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £15,779 went to the credit of the parishes in which the Tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £13,286.

50. The improvement noticed in the Island's Export Trade towards the close of 1926 continued in 1927 and resulted in an increased value of £598,235, *i.e.*, from £4,236,855 in 1926 to £4,835,090 in 1927.

51. As regards individual quantities, an increase of 2,850,471 stems of bananas brought the total for that fruit to 21,151,881 stems, thus constituting a record in the history of the Colony. Prices again improved, the average being 4/- per count bunch as against 3/- in 1926.

Figures for sugar, rum and copra are dealt with under Manufactures. 33,179,198 coconuts were exported as against 23,040,616 in 1926.

Cocoa fell off 324,753 lbs. in weight with a total of 6,414,063 lbs., but the value increased from £122,374 to £176,477.

9,152,673 lbs. of coffee valued at £320,178 were exported showing a fair increase in both respects over 1926. In addition to the articles shown above as "manufactures", other exports included oranges 86,238 boxes, or two-thirds of the 1926 figure; honey, 2,269,888 lbs., a large increase over 1926; ginger, a slight decrease at 2,789,404 lbs.; pimento 9,864,441 lbs., an increase of 15%, and logwood 25,641 a decrease of 15%. The chief of the minor products were hides and skins.

52. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 18.9% of the total, chiefly logwood extract, rum, sugar and bananas; Canada absorbed 17.5% comprising mainly coffee and sugar, whilst the United States claimed 44.7% consisting principally of fruit, nuts and cocoa. Other countries took bananas, dyewoods, logwood extract, pimento and tobacco to the extent of 21.9%.

A matter of note was the large increase in the export of bananas to Germany, which took nearly 18% of the total exported.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

53. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094

Expenditure.

1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593	2,046,205	1,980,888

54. The total Expenditure during the year 1927-28 was £294,206 less than the total Revenue.

The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1928, were £1,173,868 and £754,256 respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £419,612.

55. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1928, was £4,922,330. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,199,437. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,722,893) exceeds by only £702,518 the estimated Revenue for the current financial year (1928-29). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

56. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1927.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	48,000,000	7,652,687,904	159.4
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica .. .	904,405	4,671,640	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1927, viz.: £2,023,586 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2 18s. 6d. The year 1926-27 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1927-28 are not available locally.

57. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £159,310 at 31st March, 1928.

Taxation.

58. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 6 of 1927 "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws"—This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1927, the following Laws:—

(a) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919, Law 9 of 1919.

(b) The Excise Duties (Temporary increase) Law 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the surtax on matches and King's Warehouse fees.

(2) Law 11 of 1927. A Law to amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925, to give effect to the provisions of the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925.

(3) Law 29 of 1927. A Law to further amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925. This law was introduced to stimulate local production of the following articles, viz.:—Biscuits, matches, edible oils, potatoes, laundry soap, cigarettes, cigars, cordage, sauce and corn.

Currency.

59. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1927, to the extent of £79,783 12s. 6d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/, and 10/.

2/6 Notes.	5/ Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
132 12 6	37,535 10 0	42,115 10 0	79,783 12 6

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

60. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1886. It must, however, be pointed

out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1927 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.	1927 to 31.12.27.
Value of Exports	1,280,118	1,470,241	1,992,007	2,821,234	4,236,855	4,835,000
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950	5,717,521

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B.

Agriculture and Industry.

61. Although the Island rainfall for 1927 was 4 inches below normal, the distribution was again favourable for agricultural production.

62. The outstanding fact of 1927 was the exportation of 21,151,881 stems of bananas, an increase of over 3 million stems over the previous record of 1926, and but for the autumnal gales which destroyed 2 million stems of fruit the banana crop of 1927 would have passed the 23 million mark.

63. The fight against Panama Disease has continued. With an increased staff of Inspectors, it has been possible to supervise the chief banana areas. The records show that 40,000 diseased plants were dealt with during the year.

64. The parish of Portland continues to supply over 70 per cent. of cases of this disease. Encouragement has followed the commercial cultivation of the immune "Robusta" banana on clay lands in St. Mary infected with Panama Disease.

65. The Banana Breeding Experiments are now approaching a very interesting stage.

A number of hybrids between edible species have grown so quickly that fruit may be expected in 2½ years from sowing the seed. The variations in seedlings from the same cross are marked and it is hoped that continuous efforts in the raising of cross-fertilised banana seedlings will produce the immune commercial banana required to solve the problem of Panama Disease.

66. The exports of coffee show an increase of over 2½ million pounds in weight. The Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Department continued the work of issuing coffee plants whereby 59,000 plants were sold to the public at one shilling per hundred—the estimated cost of production of theseedlings.

67. The effect of the new Produce Protection Law has been quite marked in the case of small settlers' coffee which had previously been badly prepared and deteriorated greatly through the absence of proper and necessary equipment for the production of good commercial coffee. Co-operative selling of small settlers' coffee has been tried with success. This should lead to a great improvement in the coffee trade of the Colony which is now chiefly in the hands of small growers.

68. Cacao shows a small reduction on last year's record of 3,000 tons. Here, again, the Produce Protection Law with its drastic provisions has forced a number of Chinese buyers of cacao to erect suitable apparatus for curing and drying the cacao which they buy from small producers. Commercial firms report that a marked improvement in Jamaica "ordinary" cacao has recently taken place.

69. Coconuts.—A record for the coconut industry was created in 1927 by the export of over 32 million nuts and copra to a total equivalent of 55,730,000 nuts, as against an equivalent of 51,439,000 nuts in 1926 which constituted the previous record for coconuts from Jamaica.

By the passing of a protective duty on imported Cottonseed and Corn oils the Legislative Council at its Autumn Session sought to inaugurate a local industry in the production of edible coconut oil. The Government Laboratory has carried out successfully, experiments to test the simplest methods of (a) deodorising (b) removing rancidity from native coconut oils.

The health of the coconut groves remains excellent and a marked recovery has been made by the plantations at the eastern end of the Colony which were damaged by the hurricane of 1917.

70. Sugar continues to improve and the exports for 1927 stood at just over 50,000 tons, valued at £800,000. An even larger crop may be expected this year, for favourable seasons combined with a higher standard of tilling on the larger areas of sugar cane have produced the highest tonnage of canes grown in Jamaica for the past half century. The substitution of some of the new canes introduced by the Department of Agriculture for the standard estate cane has greatly improved the yield of sugar on many fields and a rapid extension of new canes is now taking place.

71. The problem of Rum remains one of grave difficulty. Estates are seeking to reduce the production of rum by every means and some are even using molasses as manure for the cane fields, a proceeding hitherto unknown in this Colony, which had always been able to find a profitable use for molasses in the manufacture of rum. Some new canes resistant to Mosaic Disease are of great promise and the best of these are being propagated at Hope for issue to planters next season.

72. The Fibre industry has received encouragment by the fiscal protection for locally made Sisal rope which was effected by the Legislature at its Autumn Session. The Government Sisal Plantation and Factory at Lititz has been leased and is now to be operated by the lessee.

73. Ginger yielded a good crop slightly below that of 1926.

74. Citrus suffered a decline of 50 per cent. in the export of oranges. Grapefruit, however, shows an increase of 4,000 boxes and now stands at 80,000 boxes approximately. The Department continued to supply grapefruit plants on a large scale, a total of 90,000 plants having been issued in 1926 and 1927.

75. The loss in trade from oranges was offset by an increase in the manufacture of orange oil from 64,000 to 88,000 lbs. Under present conditions of transport and trade it would appear that Jamaica is more likely to secure a good trade for grapefruit with Canada and England than for oranges.

In a few years the large plantings of grapefruit recently established should have an effect on the available supply of grapefruit for export.

76. Honey, due to a more favourable year, increased from 124,000 to 156,000 gallons (approximately). The Foul-brood epidemic in Kingston and St. Andrew was successfully dealt with by burning all infected hives and a system of frequent inspection of all apiaries in the declared area. For the past seven months no new cases have been found and the Order has now been revoked.

77. Logwood.—A modest recovery has taken place but the exports of wood show a reduction on those for the previous year. A good deal of logwood has recently been cut and chipped at the west end of the Island and there would appear to be some recovery in the trade in this dyewood.

78. Tobacco again shows a drop in the export of cigars. The Jamaica Agricultural Society is carrying on a system of nurseries and prizes to encourage the tobacco industry among small growers in St. Elizabeth and other places. The duty on imported cigarettes having been raised there is now a greater encouragement to the local producers of native cigarettes.

79. Animal Diseases—No cases of Anthrax or Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in 1927.

80. Livestock.—The Legislature having decided to reduce the area of "Grove Place" in Manchester from 3,000 to 1,000 acres by sale of 2,000 acres for purposes of land settlement, the herd was reduced from 450 to approximately 200 head which is now regarded as a convenient number to utilise the pastures associated with the public Stud Farm at this centre.

The sum of £2,397 was realised from the sale of cattle at "Grove Place" and paid to the credit of General Revenue.

The Hope Farm had a very successful year and substantial improvements were effected out of current revenue.

The average milk yield of the herd has been increased by 45 per cent. since 1922 by selection and breeding.

Agricultural Education.

81. The Farm School at Hope has been enlarged and improved in many ways and is now in a flourishing condition with 54 students in residence.

The Government Stock Farm, Hope.

82. When the Farm School was started 18 years ago, the lands available for practical farming were only about 50 acres in extent and the live stock at the start consisted of 5 horses, 3 donkeys, 15 cattle, 2 pigs, 4 sheep. In the following year, the old Hope lands of approximately 1,600 acres in extent were leased at a rental of £200 per annum for the extension of the operations of the Farm School. These lands were purchased by Government for £5,423 in 1914 and have been placed free of rent at the disposal of the Agricultural Department for the development of a Government Stock Farm to be operated in conjunction with the Farm School. Although no rent has been paid, large sums have been expended by the Farm in the development of the Estate which is now valued in the region of £28,000.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

83. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military

Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,566,977 acres have been alienated, leaving 281,183 un-alienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

84. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

85. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

86. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

87. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

88. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 300 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,333 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

89. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1927, 46,852 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1927 was 414 acres of morass land to one purchaser for £70. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

90. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1

to £5 per acre, according to their situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

91. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

92. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

93. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 42 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

94. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was a "a large amount of gold."

95. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

96. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed

towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

97. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

98. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

99. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

100. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

Fishing.

101. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

102. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

Manufactures.

103. The principal articles manufactured are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal Hemp, Banana Figs, Essential Oils, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

104. *Sugar.*—The Sugar industry has been improving since 1925 for the more lucrative prices received in 1925 stimulated production. In 1927 we exported 49,799 tons, an increase of 1,644 tons over the 1926 figure, and 12,073 over 1925, though prices were lower in 1926-27 than in 1925.

105. *Rum.*—The local consumption of Rum increased to omes extent. The quantity exported, however, though greater than in 1926, fell short of the 1925 quantity, as the following figures indicate.

Year.	Exports.
1925	1,121,332 gallons
1926	693,435 "
1927	740,528 "

106. *Copra.*—The manufacture of Copra decreased from 9,682,834 lbs. in 1926 to 8,078,991 lbs., but this was more than set off by an increased export of coconuts.

107. *Sisal Hemp.*—Only 1,503 bales were exported as against 2,349 in 1926, but the production of Sisal rope increased from 92 to 119 tons.

108. *Banana Figs.*—The output of Banana Figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs. as against 745,919 lbs. in 1926.

109. *Essential Oils.*—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils. 13,319 gallons were produced as against 7,638 in 1926. There was, however, a large decrease in the quantity of oranges exported, and much fruit went to waste.

110. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—The Cigar industry continued to decline, and the export figure of 61,519 lbs. was less than in 1926 by 14,821 lbs. This, however, was due to a strike at the chief factory, and not to a decreased demand. The cigarette industry received a stimulus from the protective tariff introduced in November, and showed a great immediate improvement.

111. *Leather.*—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 15,471 lbs. were exported.

112. *Logwood Extract.*—The manufacture of Logwood Extract, which re-commenced in 1926, continued to progress, and 9,806 packages valued at £103,988 were exported as compared with 7,197 packages valued at £74,830 in 1926.

113. The Minor Industries include Aerated and Mineral Waters, Ice, Soap, Coconut Oil, Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets and Furniture. By Law 29 of 1927 Import Duties on soap and edible oils were increased, and present indications point to a probable development of these industries locally.

Water Power.

114. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

115. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been

considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

116. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

117. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

118. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st of December, 1927, was as follows:—

	£
Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	139,349
The Bank of Nova Scotia	25,118
The Royal Bank of Canada	16,226
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,988

These Banks all have their principal Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

119. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 84 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178, in 1927, £573,646.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1927 to £546,825.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for

1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1927, all of which will be carried to the Reserve Fund, is £4,921.

120. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

121. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 55 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e. g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

122. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:

Total loans made to 31st December, 1927 . . .	£122,076	1	4
Repayments do do	108,858	19	0
Balances outstanding	13,217	2	4

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1926, a sum of £38,674 share capital in addition to £108,859 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by aking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £56,641 has been loaned to nine Banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

123. Thirty-nine Laws were passed during the year 1927. A brief summary of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below.

Law 1 *of* 1927.—A Law to enable Law Agents to act for remuneration in conveyancing and other matters. Under this Law, Law Agents admitted by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands are entitled, for reward, to act in the Cayman Islands in the preparation or completion of, or in advising on, any Contract, Conveyance, Lease, Mortgage, Will, or other Instrument.

Law 2 *of* 1927.—A Law to make further provision for expenses incurred in the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway. This Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £12,840, to meet

the extra cost incurred in completing the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway and making up the amount by which the original loan fell short.

Law 3 *of* 1927.—A Law to prohibit the photographing of prisoners. This Law makes it an offence for anyone to take or attempt to take, with a view to publication, any portrait or sketch of any prisoner.

Law 4 *of* 1927.—A Law to authorise the raising of loans in England independently of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921, and of the Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922. This Law gives power to the Governor or the Crown Agents acting on his behalf, to raise loans in England independently of anything contained in the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921 (Law 12 of 1921) and The Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922 (Law 11 of 1922). The principal moneys and interest on any such loan are to be charged upon and payable out of the General Revenues of this Colony.

Law 8 *of* 1927.—A Law to suppress obscene publications. This Law makes it an offence for any person who for the purposes of or by way of trade or for distribution or public exhibition makes or produces or has in his possession any obscene writings, drawings, prints, paintings, or any other obscene objects.

Law 9 *of* 1927.—A Law to amend the Motor Vehicle Law, 1922 (Law 21 of 1922). This Law amends and substitutes new sections in the principal Law, namely Law 21 of 1922.

Law 10 *of* 1927.—A Law relating to the carriage of goods by sea. This Law deals with carriage of goods by sea in ships carrying goods from any port in this Island to any other port whether in or outside of this Island, and also secures international uniformity of Maritime Law as regards bills of lading.

Law 11 *of* 1927.—A Law to amend the Tariff Law 1925 (Law 4 of 1925). The first schedule to the principal Law (Law 4 of 1925) is repealed by this Law and a new schedule substituted.

Law 15 *of* 1927.—A Law to amend the Protection from Diseases (Plants) Law 1925. Under this Law it is compulsory for any owner, tenant, occupier, or other person in charge of lands, who knows or suspects the existence of any notifiable plant disease on the land, with all practicable speed, to give notice thereof in writing to the Director of Agriculture of the fact.

Law 17 *of* 1927.—A Law to amend the Agricultural Produce Law 1926 (Law 19 of 1926). This Law repeals sections 2 (5) and 24 (4) and substitutes new sub-sections and also adds a new sub-section to section 17 of the principal Law, namely Law 19 of 1926.

Law 21 *of* 1927.—A Law to regulate Local Forces in the Island. This Law deals with the constitution and actual service of Local Forces. "Local Forces" under this Law means the Jamaica Militia Artillery, the Kingston Infantry Volunteers, the Band, and any other Corps raised in the Colony in accordance with the provisions of any Law.

Law 25 *of* 1927.—A Law to provide for the trial "in camera" of cases against children. This Law provides for the trial of any child under the age of fourteen years, charged with any offence triable in a Resident Magistrate's Court or a Court of Petty Sessions, to be heard in camera as the Resident Magistrate or presiding Justice may think fit to order.

Law 28 *of* 1927.—A Law to authorise the raising of a loan for the relaying of certain portions of the track of the Jamaica Government Railway. Under this Law the Governor is authorised to raise by the issue of a loan either at one time or by instalments a sum of £200,000, and such further sum as may be necessary for the relaying of the Railway track.

Law 30 *of* 1927.—A Law to regulate the Milk River Bath in the parish of Clarendon. This Law repeals Laws which placed the management of the Milk River Bath under the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon and gives the Governor power to appoint in lieu thereof a Board of Management which shall consist of the Custos for the time being of the parish of Clarendon, the Member for the time being of the Legislative Council for the said parish, the Superintending Medical Officer for Jamaica, the Director of Public Works and three other Members appointed annually by the Governor on the nomination of the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon: the Custos being ex-officio Chairman of the Board. The Law also vests all property of the Bath in the Colonial Secretary for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Jamaica. Power is also given to the Board with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council and subject to the consent of the Legislative Council, to lease the property or any part thereof.

Law 33 *of* 1927.—A Law to regulate afforestation. Under this Law it shall be lawful for the Governor in Privy Council from time to time as occasion may require to declare to be a Forest Reserve any land in the Island necessary to be utilised without acquisition or to be acquired for afforestation purposes.

Law 34 *of* 1927.—The Soap License Duty Law. This Law repeals the excise duty on soap and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of soap.

Law 35 *of* 1927.—The Match License Duty Law. This repeals the excise duty on matches and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of matches.

Law 36 *of* 1927.—The Dental Practitioners Law. This Law makes provision for the examination and registration of persons practising dentistry in this Island, and ensures that only persons properly qualified are permitted to practise dentistry.

Law 37 *of* 1927.—A Law further to amend the Motor Vehicle Law 1922 (Law 21 of 1922) and the Motor Vehicle Amendment Law 1927 (Law 9 of 1927). This Law makes provision for the making of regulations to control effectively the increased Motor Vehicle traffic and introduces a system of licensing that will ensure prompt payment of the duties required by the principal Law.

Law 38 *of* 1927.—A Law to regulate the sale of Spirits and the granting of Licenses in connection therewith. The principal alterations made by this Law are:—

(1) The establishment of a Licensing Authority for each parish.
(2) More stringent conditions with regard to Taverns and Hotels.
(3) The creation of a Town off License and a Special Hotel License.
(4) Alteration of some of the hours of opening and closing.
(5) The abolition of the system of the renewal of a license as was contained in the old Laws.

Law 39 *of* 1927.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Resident Magis-

trates Law. The chief alteration in this Law is the increased jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates in Common Law actions, Equity and Probate and Administration.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

124. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year again show a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 125,739 for 1927 as compared with 122,337 in 1926 and the average attendance 76,990 as compared with 75,063 in 1926.

125. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision by Managers, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show improvement..

Courses of instruction in school garden work and manual training were still in suspension owing to the need for economy.

126. The sum of £2,161 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this as usual enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped.

127. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £166,567 as compared with £159,525 in 1926.

Secondary.

128. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the grants-in-aid. The number of Aided Secondary Schools was 17 an increase of one. The results of the Public Examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

129. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, which for the first time was the examination for the Jamaica Scholarship (Girls), the intermediate examinations in Arts and Science and the final in Arts. For the Matriculation examination the number of candidates increased from 21 to 26 and the number of passes from 6 to 16, the number of candidates for intermediate was again 4 and the number of passes increased from 1 to 2, whilst the number who sat for the final B.A. increased from one, in a supplementary subject, to 5 of whom 2 obtained Honours and 2 a pass.

Technical.

130. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work.

131. The Manual Training classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year and doing some useful work.

132. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church has made very satisfactory progress as also has a smaller but similar institution near Highgate under the Friends Mission.

Industrial.

133. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

134. The mean rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island for the year 1927 was 72.45 inches, or 4.01 inches below the 50-year average. The shortage occurred in the first half of the year. The rainfall in the North-eastern Division was 3% below normal; in the Northern, West-central, and Southern Divisions, the shortage was 10%, 5%, and 5%, respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 125, as compared with 126 for the previous year. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to only 25.73 inches, as compared with the 50-year average of 33.59 inches.

Temperature.

135. At Kingston the mean temperature for thetwelve months was 78.3 degrees or 0.4 degrees below the 33-year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 92.6 degrees in August, and the minimum 62.3 degrees in January.

Humidity.

136. For the year the mean relative humidity was 83% for the 7 a.m., and 63% for the 3 p.m. observations, *i.e.*, about normal.

Weather Disturbances, &c.

137. There was no tropical disturbance reported in the Caribbean in July, August and September; but on October 17th a weather disturbance of minor intensity developed to the south-west of Cayman Islands, and proceeded on a track in a north-easterly direction, passing across eastern Cuba, and thence into the Atlantic Ocean. Heavy gales were felt in some districts on the northside of the Island at the same time, causing some damage to cultivation. On 28th October a depression, of minor intensity, occurred over the Island of St. Lucia, and moved in a north-westerly direction towards the west of Porto Rico.

138. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in January and also at Morant Point and at Negril Point during the months of January and November.

139. Hail fell at Darliston on the 30th June and on the 21st and 30th July, also at Grange Hill on the 23rd June. On the 20th August, hail was reported to have fallen at Kempshot and on the 19th September, a hailstorm occurred at Wallingford.

Earthquakes.

140. Shocks of earthquake of slight to moderate intensity were reported at different parts of the Island, in the months of February, March, June, July, August, September, October and November.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

141. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield —23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line), to New Works—3 miles.

No passenger trains are run over this branch.

142. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—900 feet.

143. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1927, was £387,430 and the expenditure £354,820. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 378,834 tons, as compared with 341,218 tons for the year 1926; the number of passengers carried in 1927 was 659,794, as compared with 620,328 in 1926.

144. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

Shipping.

145. The following statement shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1923	entered	1,323	Vessels of	2,011,500	tons.
1924	"	1,306	..	2,056,496	"
1925	"	1,412	"	2,207,618	"
1926	"	1,553	"	2,552,987	"
1927	"	1,754	"	3,001,232	"
1923	cleared	1,335	"	2,005,771	"
1924	"	1,299	"	2,054,100	"
1925	"	1,401	"	2,183,663	"
1926	"	1,550	"	2,553,138	"
1927	"	1,754	"	3,008,172	"

146. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Shaw Savill & Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (The two last named Companies are

registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., the Alexander Shipping Co., the Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., and the Lanassa Corporation.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

147. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

148. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,277 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

149. During 1927, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £91 per mile, including expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 51 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

Canals.

150. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

151. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

152. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey it by gravity to several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards of water per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry double that volume.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

153. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1927, there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 Telegraph and 84 Telephone Offices. Only one new Telephone Office was opened during the year.

154. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

155. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

156. The number of messages transmitted in 1926 numbered 34,593 and the receipts totalled £18,007. In 1927, 362,234 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £19,589.

157. There are two Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Admiralty during the Great War. This station does not now accept traffic. The other station is at Kingston and is operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. This Company was granted a license to erect a modern Wireless Station at Stony Hill, nine miles from Kingston for the purpose of handling commercial traffic. This station was completed during the year. The Kingston station will be re-modelled and used for ship to shore work. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

158. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

159. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

160. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

Aerial Services.

161. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

162. An extensive programme of Road Construction was commenced during the year, with the object of improving access to fertile areas and of improving through traffic.

A Scheme for the general improvement of Hospitals was commenced, and one important parish Hospital has been replaced by a new and up to date structure.

The provision of Government Elementary Schools, in all parts of the Island, was steadily pushed on, and a number of buildings completed.

163. The Hermitage Dam which was being built for the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew, or the purpose of conserving the surplus water of the Wag Water River, was completed in May and has been put into use.

164. The reconstruction, in Asphalt, of the Kingston Streets, commenced in 1925, was resumed in the early part of the year, and a considerable mileage was completed.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

165. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	Price. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8	0	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W. 1
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually)	10	0	ditto
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1921	1	0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto
Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S., parts 1-3 (1928)	3	0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2	6	The West India Committee, London.

D. H. HALL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
30th August, 1928.

11 Mr '29

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CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

THE EMPIRE'S AGRICULTURE

An historical event of importance in the development of the Empire's Agriculture took place towards the close of 1927. The foundations were, it is believed, then laid for the ultimate creation of a real and effective British agricultural commonwealth. The occasion was the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference held in Great Britain in October and November, 1927, which was attended by delegates of high standing from all countries in the Empire.

"The Report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference," just issued, contains a full account of the events leading up to the Conference, the recommendations (both in full and in summary form) there made and the views expressed by the highest authorities on agriculture in all quarters of the Empire. The recommendations deal with the following subjects:—The establishment of an Imperial chain of Agricultural Research Stations. The establishment of Imperial clearing houses of information. The recruitment, training and interchange of scientific workers in agriculture for the whole Empire. The action immediately necessary to secure co-operative work in such specialist subjects as Veterinary Science, Animal Nutrition and Genetics, Dairying, Soils and Fertilisers, Plant Breeding and Pathology, Fruit Growing, Entomology, Preservation and Transport, and Agricultural Economics.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

REPORT FOR 1928

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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 9*d*.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d*. (10*d*.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d*. (8*d*.)

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Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6*d*. (8*d*.).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929 (E.M.B. 15.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 3*d*.).

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately midway between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° West longitude, and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long, by one and a-quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the bluff, indicating that the low land about the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are

no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman" —alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a *Custos* was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vic., chap. 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty Acts passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency.

The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer, and presides, ex officio in the absence of a special appointment, as Judge of the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. He has no jurisdiction in cases of capital felony.

I.—GENERAL.

Mail and Passenger Service.

The continuance through 1928 of the mail and passenger service with Jamaica established in 1927 under contract with the two Governments has further shown itself to be of great public utility

and, it is satisfactory to report, the venture, due entirely to local enterprise and capital, has been a financial success. A regular service has been maintained, also by motor-vessel, between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and Tampa in the Southern United States of America.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restriction on emigration to the United States of America continues to bear adversely on the people of the Cayman Islands, who from the earliest days had been, because of their industry, sobriety, and general good behaviour, well received as dock and barge labourers, mechanics, and clerks in the seaports of the Gulf of Mexico. Emigration, save that of seamen who find deep-sea employment in the ports of the Gulf, is now restricted to small numbers who seek work in Honduras and other Central American republics. There is no immigration.

Legislation.

Two laws only were enacted in 1928, both financial; one to validate certain special votes and small excesses of expenditure in 1927, and the other amending the Tariff Law with the object of securing in 1929 a small increase of Customs revenue.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1928 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1923	6,611	6,823
1924	6,005	7,013
1925	6,970	6,622
1926	7,320	7,437
1927	6,148	7,651
Average of five years	6,611	7,109
1928	5,909	7,679

Customs (£4,225) and Post Office (£919) together contributed 87 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £340, as compared with £1,696, the average sales in previous ten years.

The expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,691, Public Works £794, Education £1,500, and other services £1,694.

The writing off of certain losses by defalcations in 1913–18, and unexpected charges in the year under review, caused an excess of expenditure (£1,770) over revenue, and at the end of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £152. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The total exports amounted to £13,439, of which all but £150 in value were of domestic produce, and compare favourably with the average for the previous five years, viz., £11,347.

The exports are mainly the products of the turtle fisheries, and of palm straw rope, a spare-time industry of women and children. The green-turtle fishery has a single market, Key West in Florida, where the catch is disposed of for but two-fifths the price it realises a week or ten days later in New York and other northern cities of America.

Recent enquiries as to phosphatic earth available in quantities have not yet resulted in shipments. Prospective borings for oil, which some years ago occasioned much local excitement, have not yet taken place.

The following table shows items and values of exports in five years :—

Articles.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
Honey	98	63	98	140	155
Turtle, live	3,750	6,000	5,000	5,400	4,825
Turtle skin	350	840	206	437	1,011
Turtle shell	4,749	5,533	4,160	5,132	5,295
Rope, straw	640	1,754	1,710	1,972	1,647
Unenumerated	249	165	270	277	506
Totals	£9,836	£14,355	£11,444	£13,358	£13,439

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was smaller than in 1927. The hawksbill fishers were also less successful than in 1927, the catch of shell weighing 4,450 lb., at an average value of £1 4s. 3d. per pound, as compared with 4,830 lb., and a lower rate of £1 1s. 3d. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope fell from £1,972 in value in 1927 to £1,647 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership, or to foreigners, is an asset not capable of accurate estimate.

The destination of exports is shown in the following table ; the turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

Exports to	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	720	—	—	720
Jamaica	272	5,714	1,782	27	7,795
United States ...	4,540	147	6	7	4,700
Other foreign ...	174	—	50	—	224
Totals ...	£4,986	£6,581	£1,838	£34	£13,439

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports reached a total of £38,793, or £3,232 less than the average of imports for the previous three years. The values of spirits imported and re-exported in 1923 and 1924 gave a fictitious lift to trade in those years. This trade has entirely ceased.

The countries of origin are so far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the products of the United Kingdom, and of other countries, chiefly the United States of America.

Imports from	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	537	—	1,552	160	2,249
Canada	999	—	—	9	1,008
Jamaica	8,855	309	2,696	462	12,322
United States ...	7,004	1,039	8,592	1,685	18,320
Other foreign ...	395	27	1,073	200	1,695
Parcels post... ...	—	—	—	3,199	3,199
Totals ...	£17,790	£1,375	£13,913	£5,715	£38,793

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of vessels owned in the Dependency but not worked in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Four cattle-dips were in operation during the months of tick activity, and material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued by their use.

Banking Facilities.

There are no local banks or branches of foreign banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks and on branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and are used by them as remittances for the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money-order system is used to some extent, the orders paid in the Dependency in 1928 amounting to £4,345, while the orders issued for payment abroad was more, viz., £6,882.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 47 ; the deposits for the year have been £406, the withdrawals have amounted to £441, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,242. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners some of which in more recent years have had motor auxiliary. In the year 1927, however, a long-desired mail, passenger, and freight service by a specially built motor-vessel was established with Jamaica, consisting of 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States. This service was given uninterruptedly in 1928 and was well patronised.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, and inter-communication is now frequent and regular by the operation of the Cayman Islands—Jamaica mail service. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry, having on its register 53 small sailing and 12 motor vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,367 tons. Five small vessels with a total tonnage of 101 tons were built and registered in 1928.

Five small steamships (2,318 tons) called at the islands in 1928. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared :—

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	200	14,908	212	14,159
American	2	28	3	42
Panamanian	2	86	2	86
Total	204	15,022	217	14,287

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Other than one case of murder there was no serious crime, though reports of predial larceny and other undetected petty offences are being made in increasing numbers. Fifty-nine persons were convicted in all classes of offences in 1928. Three persons were held in prison for safe custody and one person for punishment.

The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables; but the duties of the latter are largely in connection with the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Under this head may be mentioned the completion, on the waterfront at Georgetown, of a Government warehouse through which, in future, all goods for the port or in transit must pass.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 189 births (36 per *mille*) and 58 deaths (11 per *mille*). Of the latter, ten were over 75 years of age, fifteen between 50 and 75, twelve between 25 and 50, four between 5 and 25, two between 1 and 5 years, and fifteen under one year. Five deaths were returned as caused by pulmonary tuberculosis and four by enteric. Malarial fevers are occasionally noted in persons who have resided for varying periods in the Central American Republics where this disease is endemic.

Population.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1928 are estimated at 2,100 whites, or near whites, and 3,650 coloured and black, total 5,750.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken in Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 41.87 inches, the lowest for many years and 25 inches below the average for the previous five years. The heaviest precipitation was in October (10.39 inches) and the largest single day's rain was on the 1st July (4.50 inches). With a smaller rainfall the mosquito plague was sensibly ameliorated in the summer months. The lack of moisture, however, adversely affected the crops of ground provisions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn, which were less productive than usual. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1928, and there was an entire absence of north-westerly gales.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Ten Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with eight private schools, had 1,081 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 880. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,672. Forty-three candidates sat to the annual pupil teachers' examination set by the Jamaica Education Department, and twenty-three were successful.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without any grant of the Crown. The only areas recognised as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour and no local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant—as seamen to the Gulf Ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages, as wood-cutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua, and, to a very small extent, as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
13*th April*, 1929.

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Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679]. 3*s*. 0*d*. (3*s*. 2*d*.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

REPORT FOR 1928.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Annual General Report for 1928.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

Another hurricane passed over these Islands during the night of the 14–15th September, 1928, and did much damage and caused the loss of 17 lives.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English. The currency consists of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government. Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter-time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local Government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there.

The following is a general description of the principal islands :—

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is the capital of the Dependency. It lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It has a population of about 1,500. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, several stores, a public library, four churches, and Masonic and other lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the island, and the radio-telegraph station is situated in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills on the eastern side of the island, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation. The principal industry is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for

which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. Fruit, vegetables, and cattle are imported from Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of

Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL.

Hurricane.

The principal local occurrence during the year 1928 was the disastrous hurricane that passed over these Islands during the night of the 14–15th September, being the third hurricane to visit this Dependency within two years. While the damage done by it throughout the Islands was great indeed, the general destruction was not so extensive as that caused by the hurricane of September, 1926, notwithstanding the fact that on this occasion the wind attained a higher velocity, the barometer fell lower, and the storm was of much longer duration than in the case of the hurricane of September, 1926. The lesser damage this time was probably due to the direction of the wind, which first blew from the north-east and then gradually veered round to the south-east.

The warning received by cable from the Weather Bureau at Washington, D.C., about midday that a hurricane was moving towards these Islands enabled the Commissioner to notify the people and advise them to prepare to meet it. The warning was promptly passed on by radio-telegraph to Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos.

The hurricane approached these Islands from the south-east, travelling to the north-west. The centre passed over the southern part of the Turks Islands and the middle and north-western portion of the Caicos Islands, with the result that greater damage was done to the settlements at Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour, Bottle Creek, Kew, and Blue Hills than to other parts of the Dependency.

The fact that extensive reconstruction and repairs had been effected after the 1926 hurricane would explain the reason why greater damage was not done to the small houses of the labouring classes. A large number of these had been repaired and many new ones built by the Hurricane Relief Office since September, 1926. These withstood the force of the storm very well and sustained

little or no damage, whilst the buildings that were demolished or suffered considerable damage this time were those that were not much damaged by the 1926 hurricane, i.e., out-houses and kitchens. Owing to the easterly direction of the wind, the Islands escaped injury by the sea, which did so much damage in September, 1926.

Unfortunately, this hurricane caused the loss of the lives of seventeen men who had been conch-fishing in a small sloop near Ambergris Cay. The island under the lee of which they anchored their boat in a small creek for safety was entirely submerged, the craft overturned and all but four of the twenty-one men on board were drowned. Eight of those lost were married men with families dependent upon them.

Two large sailing vessels, the *C. Maud Gaskill* and the *William A. Naughler*, both in port loading salt, were driven by the storm on to the north coast of Salt Cay and became total wrecks. Fortunately the lives of the two crews were saved.

Owing to the destruction of nearly all of the small craft of the outlying Caicos Islands, news as to the effect of the hurricane in the several settlements in those Islands was very late in reaching Grand Turk (the seat of Government). The reports arrived slowly and each told its pitiful tale of woe and want. The fields and plantations had been destroyed and the people were face to face with starvation and would have to be supplied with food for several months.

The Government was faced with the difficult problem of having to provide supplies of food for large numbers of sufferers and also of having to assist in repairing the damage to their dwellings, boats, etc.

The Commissioner decided to deal with the situation in the same way or on the same plan adopted in the case of the 1926 hurricane, namely, that he alone, with the assistance of a hurricane relief officer and an advisory board, should assume the responsibility for the direction of all relief measures and the entire control of all expenditure in connection therewith.

He reopened the late Hurricane Relief Administration Office and placed Mr. W. R. Tatem in charge. The sum of £481 9*s.* 1*d.*, being the unexpended remainder of the 1926 Hurricane Relief Fund, was brought forward to form the nucleus of a new relief fund (The 1928 Hurricane Relief Fund). A meeting of the Legislative Board was convened at which votes were passed as follows :—£1,000 as a grant to the Relief Fund and £1,000 towards the cost of repairing the damage to the public properties. Owing to the great depletion of the public funds, due to the large expenditure on public works repairs after the 1926 hurricane, the public treasury of the Dependency was not in a position to make larger grants.

The Government of Jamaica very generously assisted the Dependency in its distress by a grant of £2,000, and the people of

Bermuda very kindly contributed £228 16*s.* 3*d.* to the Relief Fund. This brought the total of the fund up to £3,710 5*s.* 4*d.*

The following gracious message of sympathy was received from His Majesty the King :—

> " 18th September.—His Majesty the King is greatly concerned to learn of the disastrous consequences of the hurricane in Turks Islands and desires you to express his heartfelt sympathy with the sufferers."

H.M.S. *Durban* arrived at Grand Turk on the 26th September and offered assistance. Whilst the offer was greatly appreciated, the nature of the requirements of the situation was such that the Commissioner could see no way in which he could make use of it. However, in consideration of the food shortage at that time, Captain Coleridge was good enough to land a ton of potatoes for distribution among the needy. The ship sailed for Nassau, Bahamas, the next day.

According to the records of the Hurricane Relief Office, the visible damage by the hurricane amounted to £10,658 7*s.* 0*d.* This figure may be regarded as very conservative. There is no doubt that the total actual damage far exceeded that amount.

The expenditure from the Relief Fund was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash Grants	1,557	10	0
Food Supplies	893	11	1
Repairs (Labour and Material)	889	13	7
Salaries	180	0	0
Travelling and Incidental Expenses	38	8	2
Total ...	£3,559	2	10

The small remainder was carried forward to meet any further expenditure.

The Hurricane Relief Office was closed on the 30th April, 1929, and a full detailed report on the hurricane and the subsequent relief measures has been prepared and submitted by the officer-in-charge.

When H.M.S. *Durban* arrived on the 26th September, His Royal Highness Prince George, who was on board, came ashore incognito and spent the evening at Government House, together with the Captain and a party of officers from the ship. It was the first time that this Dependency had been honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family.

In March, 1928, the Commissioner paid a short official visit to Jamaica.

During the year under review Mr. W. Stanley Jones, Mr. W. Arthur Darrell, and Mr. L. Lea Smith were appointed to be non-

official members of the Legislative Board of the Dependency, vice Mr. B. C. Frith, Mr. H. F. Harriott, and Mr. A. J. M. Durham, and Mr. J. D. Wood was re-appointed to be a member of the Board for a further term.

In compliance with the suggestion of Mrs. Jelf, the President of the Victoria League Poppy Day Committee of Jamaica, an appeal was made in this Dependency on "Poppy Day" (Saturday, 10th November, 1928) for contributions to Earl Haig's Fund for ex-service men, with the result that the sum of £134 2*s*. 6*d*. was collected and forwarded to headquarters. With regard to this collection, Earl Jellicoe, the President of the British Legion, made the following remark in his letter to the Commissioner on the subject, dated the 24th January, 1929 :—

> "The total you were able to achieve is really an astonishingly generous one, particularly in view of the fact that your island is still suffering as a result of the recent hurricane, and also that so many of your people are themselves in distress."

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1924	9,693	12,186
1925	10,459	11,176
1926	9,734	14,055
1927	11,522	14,568
1928	14,853	12,787

The revenue in 1928 exceeded the total expenditure by £2,066. This excess was due to the large sales, to stamp-dealers and collectors, of the new issue of postage and revenue stamps.

The royalty on salt exported amounted to £2,044, being about the usual amount received annually.

The Customs import duties collected during the year amounted to £4,831, being about 32 per cent. of the total revenue.

The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1928, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £3,715, as against £1,649 the surplus at the end of the previous year.

The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light.

The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £6,000. A number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes were also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 922 accounts in operation, with £19,047 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments

amounted to £18,321. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands.

The Post Office money-order business has increased considerably within recent years. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1928 amounted to £16,034, as against £1,201 in 1922.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water, by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States and used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. The demand for it in 1928 was fair, with the result that the quantity exported during that year was only a little below the average amount shipped annually during the previous ten years. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1928 :—

	Quantity. Bushels.	*Value.* £
Canada	645,448	12,598
United States	433,447	7,287
Jamaica	129,854	1,939
Porto Rico...	78,310	1,221
Newfoundland	51,893	1,061
St. Pierre et Miquelon ...	38,645	754
Bermuda	12,002	209
France	7,083	148
Trinidad	4,536	66
	1,401,218	£25,283

It was estimated that the hurricane of September, 1928, caused the loss of about 225,000 bushels of salt.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1924 £	*1925* £	*1926* £	*1927* £	*1928* £
Salt	25,630	32,854	30,111	19,015	25,283
Sponges	1,647	2,408	1,937	3,004	2,193
Conchs...	1,217	1,393	1,523	588	1,523
Turtle Shell	50	162	743	383	164
Shark Products	—	20	198	75	33
Cotton and Cotton-seed ...	904	566	290	—	1,183
Sisal	169	648	6	109	415

Nearly all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last three years :—

		1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*
Salt	bus.	1,510,817	781,831	1,401,218
Sponges...	lb.	21,189	26,869	21,556
Conchs	No.	1,522,700	587,550	1,523,275
Turtle Shell	lb.	735	375	194
Cotton (Raw)	lb.	3,949	Nil	24,133
Cotton-seed	lb.	22,942	Nil	30,793
Sisal	lb.	1,000	16,600	37,945

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade.

The value of the trade of the Dependency for the last five years was as follows :—

	1924	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	43,253	41,570	48,850	47,693	41,766
Exports	31,495	39,062	35,936	24,063	31,755
Total ...	74,748	80,632	84,786	71,756	73,521

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1924	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
1927	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693
1928	4,431	4,012	33,323	41,766

The direction of the import trade for 1928 is shown in the following table :—

	£
United Kingdom	4,431
Jamaica	1,928
Canada	1,636
United States of America	30,714
Santo Domingo	1,604
Other countries	1,453
	£41,766

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	24,041
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	5
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	14,061
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,659
	£41,766

The principal articles imported during 1928 were as follows :—

Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Flour	bus. 2,163	3,082
Cotton goods	—	2,660
Lard	lb. 72,152	1,722
Beef and Pork (salted)...	lb. 53,149	1,563
Hominy and Meal	bus. 1,173	1,525
Rice	lb. 175,048	1,437
Sugar	lb. 248,511	1,431
Spirits	gal. 4,386	1,419
Wood, lumber	ft. 160,013	1,321
Milk (condensed)	cases 1,058	1,310
Haberdashery	—	1,143
Oils	gal. 18,532	1,131
Machinery	—	1,119
Butter	lb. 15,067	1,106
Bacon, Hams, &c.	lb. 15,685	756
Boots and Shoes...	—	686

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom. £	*British Dominions.* £	*Foreign Countries.* £	*Total.* £
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063
1928	1,443	16,828	13,484	31,755

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	1,443
Canada	13,023
United States of America	9,550
Jamaica	1,939
Haiti	1,536
Porto Rico	1,227
Newfoundland	1,068
St. Pierre et Miquelon	757
Bahamas	492
Bermuda	240
Santo Domingo	148
France	148
Other countries	184
	£31,755

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1928 was £30,985, and the value of the re-exports was £770.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency; namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor in from 4 to 7 fathoms of water about one-quarter of a mile from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1928 was as follows:—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	1	85	86
Sailing vessels ...	183	35	218
	184	120	304

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 23,382 and of the steamships to 93,652.

Steamers of the Columbus Line, Inc., sailing from New York *en route* to Santo Domingo, called at Grand Turk about once a month to land cargo and mails.

Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, called at Grand Turk for stevedores about twice a month, and called again, on the return voyage, to land them.

The ships of the Clyde Steamship Company of New York, which had been visiting this Dependency regularly for a great many years, stopped calling here in May, 1928.

Railways.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency.

Roads.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition for wheeled traffic. A few motor cars and trucks are in use. The roads in the Caicos Islands are only "bush paths" and are very rough.

Postal.

The local mails were carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also sent to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk to land pas-

sengers from England, and also by small sailing vessels whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Post Office dealt with about 91,000 postal articles during the year under review.

Cables.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

Wireless.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea. The aerial mast at Salt Cay was blown down by the hurricane of September, 1928. Early repairs were effected and the service with that place was restored in November.

Telephones.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for 60 lines. The system was considerably damaged by the hurricane of September, 1928. Immediate repairs were carried out and the entire service was restored within two weeks.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction on matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

Police.

There is a very small Police Force. It consists of one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal, and three constables. The Magistrate acts as Inspector and the Assistant Treasurer performs the duty of Sub-Inspector. A district constable is stationed at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Prisons.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1928 was 22, of which 11 were men, 6 women, and 5 juveniles. There is complete separation between the males and females. There is a Prison Board, which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no Chaplain, but clergymen made occasional visits to the prison. The male prisoners are mainly employed on road repair work.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons dealt with in the Summary Courts for crimes and offences was 213, 154 being males and 59 females. The number convicted was 181.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal public works carried out during the year were those in connection with the repairing of the damage done by the hurricane of September, 1928.

During the year, the Government of Jamaica was good enough to present this Dependency with a street-roller, which was greatly needed, and the gift was much appreciated.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Dependency, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612. About 95 per cent. of the people are of African descent.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*
1924	178	123	31·7	21·9
1925	181	78	32·8	14·1
1926	174	118	31·5	21·4
1927	149	123	26·9	22·3
1928	183	91	33·1	16·4

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 19, as against 42 in 1927.

The Government Medical Officer of Turks Islands made the following statement on his annual report for 1928 :—

> " Were it not for the extreme poverty of many of the people, I am quite convinced the death-rate would not be so high, as malnutrition is one of the contributing causes to the high mortality which exists in these islands."

Forty-one marriages were registered during the year 1928.

Public Health.

The general health of the Dependency was good during the year under review. No case of quarantinable disease occurred.

The following information is extracted from the Annual Medical Report for 1928 :—

> "In the early part of the year there were a few cases of influenza of a mild type. There were no cases of whooping-cough, measles, chicken-pox, or any of the other diseases of childhood. There were not many cases of malaria. A few cases of dysentery. No cases of typhoid. No new cases of syphilis. There were several cases of pellagra and many cases of chronic constipation which were due to the lack of green vegetables and fruit."

The local dentist is subsidised by the Government to give free dental service to the paupers and prisoners and all others who may be unable to pay ; dental service at reduced rates to those unable to pay the regular charges ; and free examination and diagnosis in the case of the students at the public and private schools.

During the year 1928 a further agreement was made with him to give free dental service to the scholars in the Government Elementary School at Grand Turk, for which he received a grant from public funds.

With reference to this service, the following remarks were made in the Annual Report of the Government Medical Officer for Turks Islands :—

> "We were very fortunate in having secured the services of a resident dentist whose work already amongst the school children is showing beneficial results. The teeth of many of the inhabitants of this, and the adjacent islands, are in a deplorable condition, owing to the fact, no doubt, that heretofore we have been dependent on the desultory visits of travelling dentists."

There are only two medical practitioners in this Dependency ; both being the Government Medical Officers. They are allowed to engage in private practice. The Medical Officer for Turks Islands resides at Grand Turk and visits Salt Cay whenever necessary and at least once a month. The Medical Officer for the Caicos Islands is stationed at Cockburn Harbour and visits the out-islands when required to do so.

Hospitals.

Two small hospitals are maintained by the Government under the direction and supervision of the Medical Officers. One at Grand Turk, with 8 beds, and the other at Cockburn Harbour, having 4 beds.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the chairman.

Primary Education.

Primary education is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. The sum of £840 is granted annually to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were nine Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 854, and the average attendance 622. There were also seven private elementary schools, under the control of the Board, with an attendance of 108. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools. Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as really competent. The Board of Education had under consideration the question of making proper provision for the training of suitable young men and women to become teachers and during the year it had a candidate undergoing a course of training at the Mico College in Jamaica. At the end of the year this young man had finished his training and received a very satisfactory report. He returned to the Dependency in January, 1929, and was appointed to the post of head-master of the Government Elementary School at Grand Turk.

Secondary Education.

There is a secondary school at Grand Turk, controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner. This school receives from the Government a free grant-in-aid of £150 a year. There were 29 pupils on the roll in 1928, and the average attendance was 28. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have since been held annually in December.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

As already mentioned above, these Islands have never been completely surveyed. Most of the land is of very poor quality, being very rocky and barren, and only small portions here and there are fit for agriculture. Selected parcels of Crown land, when

applied for, are sold at two shillings per acre, and leased at fourpence per acre per annum. Town lots, when applied for, are sold at public auction, with an upset price. The private lands generally are of little value and when sold fetch only nominal prices. A geological survey of the Dependency has never been made.

XI.—LABOUR.

Common labourers employed in the salt industry earn from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a day in raking and carting salt, and from 4*s.* to 8*s.* a day in shipping it. Stevedores, employed on steamers engaged in the South American trade that call at Grand Turk for them, receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 6*s.* to 12*s.* a day. There is a great scarcity of efficient artisans and skilled mechanics. Agriculture is engaged in, on a small scale and in a primitive manner, by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands. Efficient domestic servants are very scarce.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

Only four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1928.

Nos. 1 and 2 were the usual Appropriation Laws; No. 3 governed the Offices, Duties, and Salaries of the Public Officers; and No. 4 amended the Education Law.

Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows:—

Rainfall	28.35 inches.
Maximum temperature	90.5°
Minimum temperature	60°

The average rainfall during the five years 1924–28 was 26.66 inches.

Paupers.

Eighty-six persons were receiving out-door relief at the end of the year 1928.

Emigration.

During the year under review the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants by 167.

Many of the labourers who left the Dependency in recent years to seek employment in the lumber industry in the Bahamas have since returned to their homes.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk,
10*th May*, 1929.

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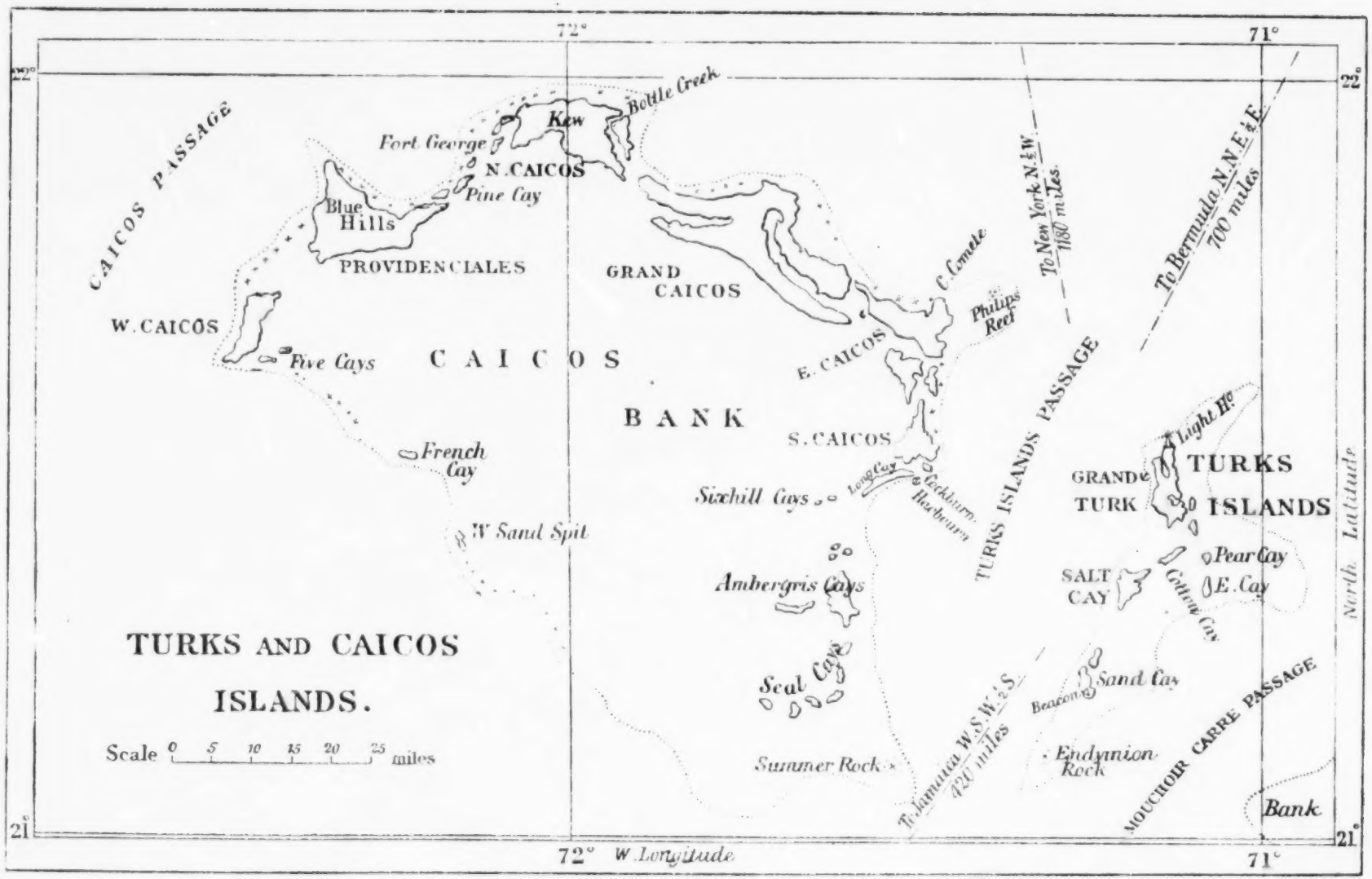
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N. CAICOS
Pine Cay
GRAND CAICOS
C. Comete
Philips Reef
E. CAICOS
S. CAICOS
French Cay
W Sand Spit
Sixhill Cays
Long Cay
Cockburn Harbour
Ambergris Cays
Seal Cays
Summer Rock
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To New York N.E.&N. 1180 miles
To Bermuda N.N.E.&E. 700 miles
To Jamaica W.S.W.½S. 420 miles
Light Hse
GRANDE TURK
TURKS ISLANDS
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E. Cay
SALT CAY
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REPORT FOR 1928.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies, being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island,

among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866 and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

12. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

13. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-

Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

14. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

15. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

16. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1928 was 8,288 being at the rate of 8.2 per thousand of population.

Judicial.

17. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate's Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

18. The year 1928 has shewn a falling off from the high level of prosperity attained in 1927 but still the Colony has much to be thankful for.

19. Although a prolonged drought in the earlier part and tempestuous northerly winds in the latter part of the year reduced the output of fruit and caused considerable distress in parts of the Island, the Colony has again been so fortunate as to escape the hurricanes which did so much harm in other parts of the West Indies. This happy immunity has enabled Jamaica to show its sympathy with less favoured communities by making contributions towards the relief of distress, and thus to do something to strengthen the causes both of Imperial unity and of international goodwill. Jamaica has felt the need of help in the past and has reason to be glad that it has now been possible to assist others. Jamaica can say with truth "*Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco.*"

20. The Colony has also been fortunate in having suffered during the past year from no serious epidemic or infectious diseases. It is pleasant to note the continued and increasing interest in matters of public health which has been shewn both by the Parochial Boards and by the Public in general and for which no doubt the admirable work done by the Health Education Bureau is in no small degree responsible.

21. One very satisfactory effect of this interest has been a notable improvement in the public water supplies. There are now five chlorinating plants in operation in the Island and it is hoped that the good results which have attended the use of these will stimulate other public bodies to follow the example which has thus been set.

22. That the importance of the provision of good water is recognised, has been shewn by the passing of the Law to enable the Government to give financial assistance to public bodies who desire to establish or improve water supplies.

23. In regard to trade, the position was not so satisfactory. As a result of the drought and wind, the export of bananas shewed a decrease of nearly four million stems as compared with the record figure for 1927. The export of dried bananas fell to 235,783 lbs., less than a quarter of the export for 1927, but in this case the decrease was due not so much to the weather as to a change in market conditions.

24. It would be a matter for great regret if this product, the export of which has assumed considerable proportions in recent years, should cease to be a source of profit and it is satisfactory to note from the figures available for the current year that there appears to be a revival in the trade, over 42,506 lbs. having been exported in the first three months of 1929 as compared with 12,740 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1928.

25. The exports of cocoa, coffee, coconuts, sugar and honey have shewn large decreases; while on the other hand there were considerable increases in the export of copra, rum and grapefruit and smaller increases in the case of oranges, orange oil and cigars. A diminution in the amount of pimento exported was counter balanced by the very high prices received.

26. The banana industry has still to face the ever present menace of Panama Disease, but during the year it was controlled at a lower figure than was anticipated from experience of the past.

27. Prospects for the future must however depend greatly on the solution of the problem of discovering a banana which is both acceptable to the trade and resistant to Panama Disease, and the experiments which have for some time been carried on by the Department of Agriculture give good cause for hope that this solution may be found in the near future.

28. The department has raised 287 seedlings bananas from the Jamaica banana, as seed-parent, crossed with various edible bananas which are immune or resistant to the disease and some seedlings of great promise are now being tested for resistance. Should the efforts of the department be crowned with success, it will have rendered a service to the Island the value of which can scarcely be overestimated.

29. The outlook for sugar is, as usual, obscure and doubtful, but it is at least satisfactory to be able to record that a new cane from Java which is immune to Mosaic Disease and has good juice and factory qualities is being rapidly distributed and that it is confidently believed that by its use the yield of sugar will be increased by 25 per cent.

30. The trade in citrus fruit shews satisfactory signs of increasing

and many thousands of plants are being distributed throughout the Island.

31 Other agricultural industries appear also to be in a healthy condition and prospects generally may be regarded with quiet confidence.

32. No event of outstanding interest or importance occurred in the Colony during the year. The most important happening was, perhaps, the establishment on a firm footing of the Jamaica Producers Association, the Managing Committee of which spent the year in perfecting its organization both in Jamaica and in the United Kingdom and also in completing the arrangements for the purchase of ships.

33. Emigration abroad diminished considerably, especially emigration to the Republic of Cuba. Conditions in Cuba were most unfavourable throughout the year.

34. His Excellency the Governor Sir R. E. Stubbs, was honoured by the King on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, by being promoted to the rank of Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

35. His Excellency proceeded to the United Kingdom on leave of absence in June and returned in November. During his absence the Government of the Colony was administered by the Honourable A. S. Jelf, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary. Mr. D. H. Hall acted as Colonial Secretary.

36. The Honourable Brigadier A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., demitted office as Officer Commanding the Troops, Jamaica, in September and was succeeded by the Hon. Brigadier G. C. Grazebrook, C.M.G., D.S.O.

37. The Right Revd. W. G. Hardie was consecrated Assistant Bishop of Jamaica in May and arrived in the Island in June.

38. A series of fires occurred during the year, both in Kingston and in country towns, and losses amounting to several thousands of pounds were incurred.

39. Units of the North America and West Indies Squadron paid visits to Jamaica in January, February and October, and the Island also received visits during the year from Units of the Australian and New Zealand Navies and from the Navies of the U.S.A. and the Republic of Mexico.

40. The Honourable Lionel Tennyson (now Lord Tennyson) again brought an English Cricket Team to Jamaica. Three matches against All-Jamaica sides were played, Jamaica winning two and drawing one.

The Dolores College of Santiago de Cuba sent an Association Football Team to Jamaica which engaged in matches with the Secondary Schools.

41. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:—

Mr. C. W. Doorly, Asst. Colonial Secretary, was appointed to be Administrator of St. Lucia.

Mr. J. L. Devaux, Chief Justice, Seychelles, was appointed to be a Resident Magistrate.

Mr. E. S. Murray, Inspector of Income Tax, was appointed to be Supervisor of Revenue.

Mr. W. E. A. Pigou, Chief Clerk, Income Tax Dept., was appointed to be Inspector of Income Tax.

Mr. J. H. Mair, was appointed to be Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept.

Mr. W. Shillingford was appointed to be Director of Prisons.

Emigration and Immigration.

42. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1926 were 5,102, in 1927, 4,755, and in 1928, 3,421. The arrivals in 1926 were 5,625, in 1927, 5,896, and in 1928, 5,864.

Public Health and Sanitation.

43. 1928 is an important year in the annals of Public Health in Jamaica. The inauguration of a Malaria Survey, of a Tuberculosis Survey, of a Tuberculosis Dispensary, and of a Health Unit marks a distinct advance in our programme of safeguarding the Public Health through disease prevention.

44. The Hookworm Treatment Campaign extended its activities to Manchester and St. Ann and the preliminary sanitation of St. Thomas was started. It has been found necessary to employ a second unit to undertake the preliminary sanitation of districts and it will be stationed in St. James.

45. Small localized outbreaks of Typhoid Fever occurred in St. Elizabeth and St. Catherine. The number of notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows an increase, but this is probably due to the interest created in its prevention by the Tuberculosis Survey and Dispensary.

46. No cases of Alastrim were reported for the last quarter and only three for the third quarter, so that this epidemic may be considered finished.

The health of the Colony has been good throughout the year.

Vital Statistics.

47. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1928 was 974,742, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1927, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1928.

48. The number of marriages registered during 1928, was 4,348 the rate being 4.5 per 1,000 of population as compared with 4.6 for 1927. During the same period 34,616 births were registered of which 17,285 were boys and 17,331 were girls. The birth rate works out 35.8 per 1,000, as against 34.7 during 1927.

49. The number of deaths registered was 19,062 of which 9,384 were males and 9,678 females, the death rate being 19.7 per 1,000. The rate for 1927 was 21.1. During 1928, 6,973 or 36.7 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,433 or 28.6 per cent. were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1927 were 36.5 per cent. and 28.5 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 15.7 per cent. as compared with 17.3 in 1927.

50. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 9.5; Congenital Debility, 12.1; Tuberculosis, 9.6; Typhoid Fever, 6.3, Pneumonia, 5.3; Heart Disease, 5.8; Syphilis, 2.5; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.8; Old Age, 5.0; Fever (not otherwise defined) 4.2.

Imports and Exports.

51. The Colony's trade in 1928 can hardly be considered to be as satisfactory as that of the previous year. While the value of imports shows an increase, that of the exports has considerably decreased.

52. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £6,089,156 as compared with £5,717,521 in 1927.

Class I.—(Food, Drink and Tobacco) shows an increase in value of £123,597. As regards quantities the following articles show considerable increases:—butter, and butter substitutes, mackerels, flour, meal, corn, rice, milk, salt, tea and leaf tobacco, while decreases are noticed under fish, dry salted, herrings, beef, wet salted, and cigarettes.

Class II.—(Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) shows a slight increase in value of £53,526 which is accounted for chiefly by motor spirit, pitch pine lumber and coal.

Class III.—(Manufactured Articles) shows an increase of £198,573 owing chiefly to larger importations of motor vehicles, Railway rolling stock, hardware and ironmongery, matches, paper manufactures and silks. With regard to the sources of supply the United States furnished 32% of the total imports, the United Kingdom 30%, Canada 19% and other countries 19%.

The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcel Post duties, amounted to £1,094,559, an increase of £109,979 over that of the previous year. Parcel Post duties amounted to £46,877, an increase of £539.

53. The Package Tax ceased to be collected after the 31st March, 1928. For the period ended 31st March, 1928, it realized £16,746, of this amount £12,560 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £4,186 went to the credit of the parishes in which the tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £3,548.

54. The improvements noticed in the Island's Export Trade in 1927 disappeared in the year 1928. The Export Trade for 1928 resulted in a decreased value of £660,612 from that of the previous year, i.e., from £4,835,090 in 1927 to £4,174,478 in 1928.

55. As regards individual quantities, a decrease of 4,070,984 stems of bananas brought the total for that fruit to 17,080,897 stems. The average price was 3/3 per count bunch as against 4/- in 1927.

Figures for sugar, rum and copra are dealt with under manufactures. 31,104,831 coconuts were exported as against 33,179,198 in 1927.

Cocoa fell off 1,369,680 lbs. in weight with a total of 5,044,380 lbs. The value also decreased from £176,477 to £110,011.

8,832,328 lbs. of coffee valued at £378,118 were exported showing a fair increase in value but a decrease in quantity from 1927. In addition to the articles shown above as "manufactures," other exports included oranges, 65,582 boxes; honey, 1,664,244 lbs.; a large decrease from 1927; ginger, a slight decrease at 2,370,121 lbs; pimento, 8,652,816 lbs, a decrease in quantity but an increase in value; and logwood, 27,855 tons, a slight increase. The chief of the minor products were hides and skins.

56. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 20% of the total, chiefly logwood extract, rum, sugar and bananas; Canada absorbed 22.5%, comprising mainly coffee and sugar, whilst the United States claimed 38.8%, consisting principally of fruit, nuts and cocoa. Other countries took bananas, dyewoods, logwood extract, pimento and tobacco to the extent of 18.7%.

The export of bananas to Germany was 13.3% of the total exported.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

57. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1924-25	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28	1928-29
£	£	£	£	£
1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094	2,212,851 12s. 10¼d.

Expenditure.

1924-25.	1925-26	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
£	£	£	£	£
2,022,746	2,099,593	2,046,205	1,980,888	2,317,433 11s. 6¼d.

58. The total Expenditure during the year 1928-29 was £104,582 more than the total Revenue.

The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1928, were £1,164,411 and £849,381 respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £315,030.

59. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1929 was £5,040,699. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,360,083. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,680,616) exceeds by only £488,213 the estimated Revenue for the current financial year (1929-30). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advanec of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

60. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1928.

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,630,972,670	158.9
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica ..	953,768	4,922,330	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1928, viz.: £2,199,437 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2 17s. 1d. The year 1927-28 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1928-29 are not available locally.

61. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £199,749 at 31st March, 1929.

TAXATION.

62. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 1 of 1928 "A Law to continue a certain Expiring Law." This law continued in force from the first April, 1928, the following law:—

The Excise Duty (Temporary increase) Law, 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the following items:

On all matches subject to Excise Duty under "The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901 (Law 12 of 1901), and any laws amending the same an additional duty after the rate of ten per cent. on such Excise Duty.

On all amounts payable as King's Warehouse fees under the Wharfage Law, 1895 (Law 15 of 1895), a surtax after the rate of ten per cent. of such fees.

(2) Law 7 of 1928, "A Law further to amend the Income Tax Law, 1919 (Law 24 of 1919) by which the official emoluments of the Officer Administering the Government were exempted from Income Tax.

(3) Law 18 of 1928, "A Law further to amend the Stamp Duty Law, 1903 (Law 40 of 1903) by which receipts given for or on account of any salary, pay or wages, etc., are exempted from Stamp Duty.

(4) Law 21 of 1928, "A Law to amend the Income Tax Law, 1919 (Law 24 of 1919), by which incomes not exceeding £300 were exempted from tax and increasing the allowance for relief because of wife and children.

Currency.

63. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1928, to the extent of £76,462 15s. in denominations of 2/6, 5/-, and 10/-.

2/6 Notes.			5/- Notes.			10/- Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
129	5	0	33,447	0	0	42,886	10	0	76,462	15	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Trade.

64. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1886. It must, however, be pointed out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1928 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.	1927 to 31.12.27.	1928 to 31.12.28.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,280,118	1,470,241	1,992,007	2,821,234	4,236,855	4,835,000	4,174,478
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950	5,717,521	6,089,156

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B. Drought conditions undoubtedly is a further explanation.

Agriculture and Industry.

65. The Island rainfall for 1928 was only 63 inches or 13½ inches below the average. The conditions were unfavourable for a high agricultural production and the year was a difficult and disappointing one to planters.

66. The drought affected the size and quality of bananas and the exports fell by 4 million stems to 17,203,039 as against the record achieved in 1927.

67. Panama Disease continues to spread but the incidence for the year was about 25 per cent. less than that to be expected from previous experience with this disease. Efforts to produce a resistant banana are being made by the Department of Agriculture through the crossing of the Jamaica banana with various edible varieties of banana that are immune or highly resistant to the disease, although themselves not satisfactory as a commercial fruit. A collection of 287 hybrid seedling bananas has already been obtained in this way, some of which are of great promise. The best seedlings are being tested out for immunity to the disease on a highly infected area.

68. Coffee continues to offer inducement to producers. The exports remained steady at approximately 9 million pounds weight while the value has appreciated 25 per cent. since 1927. A good demand for coffee plants has taxed the reserves of the Hope nursery which is now being extended so as to supply the demand.

69. Cacao was affected by the drought and fell to a little over 5 million pounds in weight. The quality of the Jamaica or "ordinary" cacao has decidedly improved owing to the enforcement of the Produce Inspection Law by the new staff of Inspectors.

Under present conditions the larger planters are not inclined to extend their area in Cacao.

70. Owing to the effects of drought there was a slight drop in the exports of nuts and copra. A beginning has been made with the local industry in coconut oil. Two factories have started and find a ready output for their oil in the local market. The copra cake has been tested at the Government Farm and found to be wholesome and nutritive both for milch cows and young stock. The Government Laboratory succeeded in producing a clear oil of full coconut flavour which was also of good keeping quality by filtering the crude oil through a stream-line filter after removing the free fatty acids with a little alkali. A coconut oil of full flavour is appreciated locally provided it will keep.

71. The exports of sugar which had been originally placed at 60,000 tons only yielded an export of 48,714 tons of sugar due to the long period of drought. Prices were also low. A bold effort is being made to meet the reduced prices of sugar by increasing the output of the fields. Deep cultivation by mechanical tillage and the selection of improved seedling canes have combined to raise the yield on large areas of sugar lands by at least 25 per cent.

Until 1920 no seedling sugar canes that had been tested in Jamaica could effectively replace the standard or "White Transparent Cane."

During recent years certain canes from Barbados have been proved to be definitely superior to the old Jamaica cane. Of these B.H. (10) 12 S.C. 12/4 and Ba 11569 have been found to be of outstanding merit. The new Java cane P.O.J. 2725 which is immune to Mosaic Disease is being rapidly extended and is a valuable introduction. Rum continues to be over-produced and its sale is attended with difficulties. The high flavoured descriptions for the Continental Market have experienced more favourable trade conditions than the ordinary or 'common clean' style of Jamaica Rums.

72. The ginger crop was reduced owing to unfavourable season. A good deal of interest has recently been taken in the improvement of their cultivations of ginger by the small producers who are alone concerned in the production of this staple in Jamaica. With favourable seasons and satisfactory prices larger crops may be expected in the near future.

73. The export of grapefruit increased from 80,000 to over 100,000 boxes. Large numbers of plants have been issued from the Hope nursery and a good deal of interest is now being taken in the commercial possibilities of this crop which has hitherto been hampered by difficulties of transport.

74. The drought reduced the honey crop. This industry greatly needs the assistance of organization and co-operative marketing.

The Produce Protection Law legislated for honey so as to secure the use of new packages and a clean product. The Jamaica Agricultural Society has appointed a special instructor in Bee-keeping. A model apiary and the breeding of selected queen bees are useful features of this work.

No cases of Foul Brood were recorded during the year and it is therefore hoped that the steps taken in 1927 have effectively dealt with the infection in the Kingston area.

75. The export of cigars has remained steady while the production of local cigarettes has increased. Attempts are being made to grow and cure Virginian and Turkish Cigarette Tobaccos.

76. No case of Anthrax or of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred during the year.

77. Many stockmen experienced difficulty owing to lack of feed and water during the long drought. The Hope Farm afforded a remarkable demonstration of the value of ensilage under such circumstances. With the assistance of 600 tons of Guinea Corn silage in the three concrete silos the herd of 350 head of cattle was maintained in good condition, while at the peak of the drought the record milk-production was made. The Grove Place Stud Farm was reduced to an area of 1,000 acres by the sale of over 2,000 acres to the north and south of the homestead for purposes of land settlement. A total stud-service of 2,354 mares, she asses and cows has been effected at this Stud Farm since it was opened in 1921. A valuable distribution of good blood has thus been effected among a large number of owners of stock all over the Island. The Hope Farm continues to prosper. For the financial year 1927-1928 the accounts show a profit of £2,495.

78. The Government Farm School at Hope was extended during the year so as to accommodate 60 students in residence. For the 25 vacancies in January 45 applications were received. The records of the men who have been trained at this Institution show that the majority of them are rendering service in agriculture to the Colony.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

79. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,568,186 acres have been alienated, leaving 279,974 unalienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

80. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

81. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

82. Between the years 1867 and 1887, the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

83. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

84. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 301 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,343 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

85. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1928, 47,595 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1928 was 96 acres of land to one purchaser for £60. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

86. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 20s. per nominal acre per annum. While

the value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years. Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £5 per acre, according to their situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

87. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

88. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet. In December, 1927, the Afforestation Law, 1927, Law 33 of 1927, was passed, and on 3rd July, 1928, the Acting Governor in Privy Council under the power conferred on him by Sec. 3 (a) of that Law made an order declaring certain Government lands aggregating about 30,310 acres to be a Forest Reserve.

89. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 42 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

90. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

91. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597, Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish

cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

92. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

93. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

94. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

95. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

Fishing.

96. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

97. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

Manufactures.

98. The principal articles manufactured are sugar, rum, copra, sisal, hemp, banana figs, essential oils, cigars, cigarettes, leather and logwood extract.

99. *Sugar.*—In 1928 we exported 48,716 tons, and in 1927, 49,799 tons, a decrease of 1,083 tons.

100. *Rum.*—The local consumption of rum decreased to some extent. The quantity exported, however, though greater than in 1927, fell short of the 1925 quantity, as the following figures indicate :—

Year.			Exports.
1925	..	..	1,121,332 gallons
1926	..	..	693,435 "
1927	..	..	740,528 "
1928	..	..	807,503 "

101. *Copra.*—The manufacture of copra decreased from 8,078,991 lbs. in 1927 to 7,650,242 lbs.

102. *Sisal Hemp.*—In 1927 the value of sisal hemp exported was £8,035 while in 1928 the value exported was £9,096. The production in 1927 was 119 tons and in 1928, 135 tons.

103. *Banana Figs.*—The output of banana figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs., as against 235,783 lbs. in 1928.

104. *Essential Oils.*—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils. 13,319 gallons were produced in 1927 as against 14,839 gallsons in 1928. There was a large decrease in the quantity of oranges exported.

105. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—The cigar industry was practically stationary. The export figure was 61,519 lbs. in 1927 and 61,374 lbs. in 1928. It is worthy of note, however, that a cigarette manufactured partly of imported leaf tobacco and partly of native grown tobacco is competing very favourably with the imported cigarette.

106. *Leather.*—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 15,726 lbs. were exported.

107. *Logwood Extract.*—The manufacture of logwood extract recommenced in 1926, and 8,914 packages valued at £90,494 were exported in 1928 as compared with 9,806 packages valued at £103,988 in 1927.

108. The minor industries include aerated and mineral waters, ice, soap, coconut oil, jippi jappa hats, baskets and furniture.

Water Power.

109. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

110. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

111. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANK AND BANKING FACILITIES.

112. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial

Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

113. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st December, 1928, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£119,487
The Bank of Nova Scotia	89,971
The Royal Bank of Canada	16,256
The Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	5,732

These Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

114. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 89 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is full demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1928, £571,848 19s. 7½d.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other Securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1927 to £574,540.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1927 which was carried to the Reserve Fund was £4,919. The net profit for 1928 to be carried to the Reserve Fund is £4,033 13s. 6d.

115. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

116. *Co-operative Loan Banks.*—There are 54 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary

powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

To 31st December 1928, £126,006 was lent, and £110,657 received in repayment. The sum of £56,641 was also lent to Banks to purchase 10 properties for the purpose of Land Settlement, of which £34,060 was repaid.

117. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1928 ..	£126,006 1s. 4d.
Repayments do. do. ..	110,657 5s. 11d.
Balances outstanding	15,344 15s. 5d.

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1926, a sum of £38,674 share capital in addition to £126,006 loan money repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £59,641 has been loaned to ten Banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

118. Twenty-nine Laws were passed during the year 1928. A brief summary of those which may be considered of interest is given below.

Law 2 *of* 1928.—The Public Utilities Protection Law. This Law protects the works of all public utilities from interference by unauthorised persons, and gives Resident Magistrates jurisdiction.

Law 3 *of* 1928.—The Jamaica Hotels Law. Law 15 of 1904 (except section 9) is re-enacted and continued until the 30th June, 1930, to facilitate the erection of hotels for the general development of the trade of the Island.

Law 5 *of* 1928. The Jamaica Co-Operative Marketing Association Protection This Law is designed to give adequate protection to co-operative marketing contracts made with co-operative marketing associations by members thereof and to further the principles of co-operative marketing in the interests of agricultural producers.

Law 6 *of* 1928.—The Jamaica Banana Producers Association Limited Debenture. Under this Law the Jamaica Banana Producers Association is empowered to issue debentures or certificates bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 5%. The Debentures are guaranteed by the Government and provision made for Interest and Sinking Fund.

Law 7 *of* 1928.—The Income Tax Further Amendment Law. This Law relieves the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica from the payment of Income Tax.

Law 8 *of* 1928.—The Marine Board Law Amendment Law. This Law extends the definition of "Home Trade Ship" thereby enabling Officers holding certificates of competency to take charge of vessels trading outside the former home trade limits.

Law 9 *of* 1928.—Loss of British Nationality and Status Law. This Law makes provision locally to deal with cases set out in section 2 and to bring the Law into conformity with the Imperial British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act.

Law 11 *of* 1928.—The Dangerous Drugs Amendment Law. In view of the application to Jamaica of the Geneva Opium Convention, 1925, additional legislation was necessary to extend and amplify the provisions of Law 40 of 1924 to bring it into conformity with Article 15 of the Convention.

Law 12 *of* 1928.—The Canada—West Indies Hotels Company Limited Debenture Law. The object of this Law is to facilitate the erection of a hotel on the old Constant Spring land and to authorise the Governor to guarantee the Thirty Year Gold Debenture issuable under the Law on the conditions named therein.

Law 15 *of* 1928.—Land Surveyors Further Amendment Law. This Law enlarges the powers of the Supreme Court to grant orders to persons of the classes mentioned in Laws 31 of 1894 and 20 of 1908, andvalidates commissions issued prior to the coming into operation of this Law.

Law 18 *of* 1928.—Stamp Duty Further Amendment Law. This Law creates a new exemption under the head "Receipts" to bring our Laws into conformity with Imperial legislation.

Law 21 *of* 1928.—The Income Tax Amendment Law. This Law increases the exemption amount on incomes of £100 p.a. to £300 p.a., and also makes provision enabling an assessment to be reviewed by the Assessment Committee after assessment by them without having in the first instance to appeal to a Judge in Chambers. The Law however, preserves the right to appeal should the tax-payer and the Committee disagree.

Law 24 *of* 1928.—The Petroleum and Oil Fuel (Landing and Storage) Amendment Law. This Law extends the definition of "A Store for oil fuel" and confers additional regulation making powers.

Law 26 *of* 1928.—Repatriation of Destitute West Indian Immigrants. This Law deals with the repatriation of destitute immigrants from certain West Indian Colonies mentioned in the schedule to the Law and is in the nature of reciprocal legislation.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

119. Attendance at the Public Elementary Schools continues to improve, the average number on the Registers in 1928, being 127,785 as compared with 125,739 in 1927, and the average attendance 78,929 as compared with 76,990 in 1927. Attendance at Friday sessions continued to improve slowly.

120. School garden work was handicapped by the prolonged drought and by lack of tools, but greater interest was reported. Supervision of the schools by Managers was in too many cases inadequate.

There is shortage of teachers qualified in Manual Training and Infant School work but courses both in these and school gardening were still suspended on account of cost.

121. Six new Government Schools were completed during the year. The sum of £[illegible]374 was disbursed in building grants for schools and teachers' quarters but many denominational school buildings remained in disrepair.

122. The total departmental expenditure for the year was £172,562, as compared with £166,567 in 1927, and £159,525 in 1926. In 1920, the last year under the old system, it was £123,012.

Secondary.

123. The endowed Secondary Schools and also some unendowed schools which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission were inspected, and in all cases the reports recommended continuance of the grants in aid. The number of aided Secondary Schools was 18, an increase of one. The results of the Public Examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

The following Examinations of the University of London were held in Jamaica, the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examinations in Arts, Laws and Divinity, and the Final Examinations in Arts and Divinity.

124. Thirty-four candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination—an increase of 8—and 16 passed including two in the First Division. For the Intermediate Examination there were 11 candidates, 3 of whom passed. 1 candidate sat for Intermediate Laws and passed. 1 candidate sat for the Final Examination in Divinity and was placed in the First Division.

Technical.

125. The Government Technical and Continuation Schools, Kingston, the Continuation and Domestic Training Schools at Carron Hall (Presbyterian) and at Highgate (Friends Mission) maintained their efficiency.

The Manual Training Classes attached to seven Government Schools have been favourably reported upon, but three are in abeyance and the remainder are not working at full capacity on account of shortage of qualified staff.

126. No new industrial schools or homes were opened during the year but those already in existence continued to do useful work. Vocational training is given at the larger institutions.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

127. The mean rainfall, including the four divisions of the Island, for the year 1928 was 63.21 ins., representing 13.25 ins. below that of the 50-year average. This deficiency was more marked during the first half of the year, when for the six months a total of only 20.66 ins. was gauged, against a normal aggregate of 31.91 ins. For the year the precipitation in the North-Eastern Division was 6% below normal; in the Northern, West-Central and Southern Divisions the shortages were 21%, 23% and 25%, respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 110, as against the 33-year normal of 122. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to 28.89 ins. as compared with the 50-year normal of 33.59 inches.

Temperature.

128. At Kingston the mean temperature for the year was 78.4 degs., or 0.3 of a degree below the 33-year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 94.4 degs. on 16th July, and the minimum 63.9 degs. on 5th May.

Humidity.

129. For the year the mean relative humidity was 83% for the 7 a.m. observations, and 66% for the 3 p.m., representing about 2% below normal.

Weather Disturbances.

130. In the month of August there were many tropical disturbances within barometric range of Jamaica. (1) One of considerable intensity developed on 5th in the vicinity of Great Inagua, and proceeded in a course through the State of Florida, U.S.A., causing great loss of life and property. (2) On 9th another appeared of some intensity originating in Lat. 15 degs. N. and Long. 69 degs. west. It passed to the south of Jamaica moving west-north-westerly, high winds were felt at Morant Point. (3) On 11th a slight disturbance was located between Jamaica and Cuba, moving west-north-westerly. (4) On 15th a disturbance was reported about 100 miles to the south of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, apparently passed to the south of Jamaica moving westerly, followed by heavy rains over the Island. (5) On 17th a hurricane passed over the western section of Haiti, causing great loss of life and property.

In the month of September. (6) On 2nd a disturbance was observed to the west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and it continued in a track between Jamaica and Cuba, passing Yucatan later on 5th. (7) On 11th a tropical disturbance was reported in a locality about 800 miles to the eastward of Dominica, which proceeded in a course through the Leeward Islands, Porto Rico, north-east coast of San Domingo, south of Turks Island, near Nassau and finally through southern Florida. This hurricane was one of the most disastrous experienced in the West Indies. Great loss of life and property resulted.

The Island of Jamaica, therefore, escaped all these threatening storms.

Northers.

131. Fresh to moderate "Northers" were felt at Kingston in January, and several days in November and December. At Negril Point also in January, November and December. And at Morant Point towards the end of January and the middle of November. In November "Northers" of unusual intensity were felt over other parts of the Island, especially in the north-eastern section. At Morant Point it was recorded as of gale force.

Earthquakes.

132. Shocks of slight to moderate intensity were reported at different parts of the Island in the months of January, February, May, July and November. On November 3rd one was felt, generally, throughout the Island as a sharp shock. In December a slight shock was recorded. No damage was occasioned.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway.

133. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line), to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

134. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

135. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1927, was £328,011 and the expenditure, £270,685. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 320,697 tons, as compared with 341,218 tons for the year 1926; the number of passengers carried in 1927 was 593,748, as compared with 620,328 in 1926.

136. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

137. Since 1925, the work of replacing old 60lb. rails with 80lb. rails has been proceeding; 133 miles of 60lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously. Up to the end of December, 1928. 67½ miles had been relaid.

Shipping.

138. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1924	entered	1,306	vessels of	2,056,496	tons
1925	"	1,412	"	2,207,618	"
1926	"	1,553	"	2,552,987	"
1927	"	1,754	"	3,001,232	"
1928	"	1,593	"	3,076,996	"
1924	cleared	1,299	"	2,054,100	"
1925	"	1,401	"	2,183,663	"
1926	"	1,550	"	2,553,138	"
1927	"	1,754	"	3,008,172	"
1928	"	1,562	"	3,042,893	"

139. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Canadian National Steamship Co., The Shaw Savill and Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse Ltd., The Cana-

dian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., The Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co. (The two last named companies are registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders & Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact coentrolled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U. S. A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co. Inc., The Alex- ander Shipping Co., The Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co. Inc., The Aluminium Line, Standard Fruit Co., Gulf Pacific Line, Waterman Steamship Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

Norwegian.—Scandinavian West Indies Line, Ltd.

140. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

141. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,289 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

142. During 1928, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £104 per mile, excluding expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 62 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

Canals.

143. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Irrigation.

144. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parishof St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

145. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation Scheme is in operation. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of some 70 feet and conveyed by open concrete lined channels to the lower parts of the plain where banana cultivation is now being commenced on an extensive scale.

A second pumping unit of the most modern type has recently been installed at the Pumping Station.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

146. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1928, there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 Telegraph and 95 Telephone Offices. Ten new Telephone Offices were opened during the year.

147. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

148. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 47 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

149. The number of messages transmitted in 1927 numbered 362,234 and the receipts totalled £19,589. In 1928, 357,696 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £18,890.

150. There are two wireless stations in the Island under Government license both owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.

One is situated at Kingston and the other at Stony Hill.

The former is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

151. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

152. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

153. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

Aerial Services.

154. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

PUBLIC WORKS.

155. The programme of road construction begun in 1927 with the object of opening up the fertile areas and providing feeders to the Government Railway has been steadily pushed on.

156. The general scheme of Hospital improvement is well in hand. A second important district hospital is nearing completion and the re-modelling and enlargement of two others is in progress.

157. A large number of new Elementary Government School Houses and Teachers' Cottages have been built during the year and others are now in progress.

158. Further schemes are under consideration for the augmentation of the Kingston and St. Andrew Water Supply.

159. The reconstruction of the Kingston streets in asphalt is approaching completion, all the principal thoroughfares, with a few exceptions, having now been done.

160. Stream gauging and the collection of Hydrographic data in connection with several Irrigation proposals are being systematically carried on.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

161. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	Price. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8	0	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W. 1.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually) to 1927	10	0	ditto
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1929 ..	1	0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto
Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S., parts 1–3 (1928)	3	0	ditto

	Price.		Where obtainable.
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Irrigation Reports, C. Stewart Baker, M.I.C.E., 5 reports,	0	6	ditto
Map of Jamaica, 13″x 26″ in colours	0	6	ditto
Map of Jamaica, 6 ft. x 2 ft. in colours	2	0	ditto
Jamaica Gazette (p.a. including postage)	18	0	ditto
Report of the First West Indies Conference (1929)	2	6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2	6	The West India Committee, London.

W. D. Battershill,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.
Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679]. 3*s*. 0*d*. (3*s*. 2*d*.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.
Report. [Cmd. 2387.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

WEST AFRICA.
Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4*s*. 0*d*. (4*s*. 6*d*.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.
Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2*s*. 0*d*. (2*s*. 1½*d*.).

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No. 1481.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

REPORT FOR 1929.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately midway between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° west longitude, and in the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long, by one and a quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, called the "Bluff," indicating that the low land about the base,

much the smaller part of the islands area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as " Bartlett's Deep " and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from " caiman " —alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century ; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected " governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria chapter 51) recognizing the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency.

The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer, and presides, *ex officio* in the absence of a special appointment, as Judge of the Grand Court where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. He has no jurisdiction in cases of capital felony.

I.—GENERAL.

Mail and Passenger Service.

The continuance through 1929 of the mail and passenger service with Jamaica established in 1927 under contract with the two governments has further shown itself to be of great public utility and, it is satisfactory to report, the venture due entirely to local enterprise and capital has been a financial success. A regular service has been maintained, also by motor-vessel, between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and Tampa in the Southern United States of America.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restriction of emigration to the United States of America continues to bear adversely on the people of the Cayman Islands who from the earliest days had been, because of their industry, sobriety, and general good behaviour, well received as dock and barge labourers, mechanics, and clerks in the sea-ports of the Gulf of Mexico. Emigration, save that of seamen who find deep-sea employment in the ports of the Gulf, is now restricted to small numbers who seek work in Honduras, Nicaragua, and other Central American Republics. There is no immigration.

Legislation.

Four laws only were enacted during the year 1929. Numbers 1 and 4 were the usual Appropriation Laws for 1929 and 1930; No. 3 to validate certain special votes and small excesses in expenditure in 1928; and No. 2 amended the Coconut Palm Disease Law, 1913.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1929 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1924	6,005	7,013
1925	6,970	6,622
1926	7,320	7,437
1927	6,148	7,651
1928	5,909	7,679
Average of five years	5,488	7,280
1929	6,962	7,022

Customs (£5,052), Post Office (£845), and Internal Revenue (£752), together contributed the major portion of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £209, as compared with £1,566, the average sales in previous ten years.

The expenditure may be summarized in Departments £3,491, Public Works £1,040, Education £1,500, and other services £989.

Unexpected charges in the year under review caused an excess of expenditure (£59) over revenue, and at the end of the year the surplus stood at £92. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The total exports amounted to £12,324, of which all were of domestic produce, and compare favourably with the average for the previous five years of £12,984.

The exports are mainly the products of the turtle fisheries, and of palm straw rope, a spare-time industry of women and children. The green turtle fishery has a single market, Key West in Florida, where the catch is disposed of for but two-fifths the price it realizes a week or ten days later in New York and other northern cities of America.

Recent enquiries as to phosphatic earth available in quantities have not yet resulted in shipments. Prospecting borings for oil, which some years ago occasioned much local excitement, have not yet taken place.

The following table shows items and values of exports in five years :

Articles.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Honey	63	98	140	155	5
Turtle, live	6,000	5,000	5,400	4,825	3,670
Turtle skin	840	206	437	1,011	893
Turtle shell	5,533	4,160	5,132	5,295	5,962
Rope, straw	1,754	1,710	1,972	1,647	1,450
Unenumerated	165	270	277	506	344
Totals ...	£14,355	£11,444	£13,358	£13,439	£12,324

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was smaller than in 1928. The hawksbill fishers were more successful than in 1928, the catch of shell weighing 4,590 lb. at an average value of £1 5*s*. 0*d*. per pound, as compared with 4,450 lb. at a lower rate of £1 4*s*. 3*d*. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope fell from £1,647 in value in 1928 to £1,450 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership, or to foreigners is an asset not capable of accurate estimate.

The destination of exports is shown in the following table ; the turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

Exports to.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	600	—	—	600
Jamaica	30	6,529	1,451	17	8,027
United States ...	3,646	—	—	—	3,646
Other foreign ...	43	—	2	6	51
Totals ...	£3,719	£7,129	£1,453	£23	£12,324

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports reached a total of £42,710, or £1,975 more than the average imports for the previous three years. The values of spirits imported and re-exported in 1923 and 1924 gave a fictitious lift to trade in these years. This trade has entirely ceased.

The countries of origin are as far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the products of the United Kingdom, and of other countries, chiefly the United States of America.

Imports from.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	687	—	2,189	126	3,002
Canada	443	—	108	37	588
Jamaica	10,326	587	3,789	327	15,029
United States ...	8,323	1,619	10,145	1,039	21,126
Other foreign ...	419	187	118	92	816
Parcels Post ...	—	—	—	2,149	2,149
Totals ...	£20,198	£2,393	£16,349	£3,770	£42,710

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of vessels owned in the Dependency but not worked in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Four cattle-dips were in operation during the months of tick activity, and material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued by their use.

Banking Facilities.

The are no local banks or branches of foreign banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks and on branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops, and are used by them in remittances for the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money-order system is used to some extent, the orders paid in the Dependency in 1929 amounting to £5,198, while the orders issued for payment abroad was £6,035.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 56 ; the deposits for the year have been £1,364 ; the withdrawals have amounted to £895 ; and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,740. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners, some of which in more recent years have had motor auxiliary. In the year 1927, however, a long desired mail,

passenger, and freight service, by a specially built motor-vessel, was established with Jamaica, consisting of 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States. This service was given uninterruptedly in 1929, and was well patronised.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, and inter-communication is now frequent and regular by the operation of the Cayman Islands-Jamaica mail service. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry having on its register 53 small sailing and 9 motor vessels with a total tonnage of 3,244 tons. Three small vessels with a total tonnage of 132 tons were built and registered in 1929.

Three small steamships (1,284 tons), called at the islands in 1929. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	183	14,856	181	13,640
American	6	695	6	695
Columbian	1	36	1	36
Honduranian	1	32	—	—
Nicaraguan	—	—	1	16
Panamanian	4	169	4	174
Totals ...	195	15,788	193	14,561

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

No serious crimes were reported during the year. Reports of predial larceny and other undetected petty offences are being made in increasing numbers. Twenty-nine persons were convicted in all classes of offences in 1929. Five persons were held in prison for safe custody and two persons for debt.

The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables, but the duties of the latter are largely in connection with the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Under this head may be mentioned the completion at Cayman Brac, East, of a Government office building for general purposes at a cost of £99. This will satisfy a long felt need in the district.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 155 births (29 per mille) and 53 deaths (10 per mille). Of the latter fourteen were over 75 years of age, fifteen between 50 and 75, ten between 25 and 50, none between 5 and 25, five between 1 and 5 years, and nine under one year. One death was returned as caused by pulmonary tuberculosis, and one by enteric. Malarial fevers are occasionally noted in persons who have resided for varying periods in the Central American Republics where the disease is endemic.

Population.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1929 are estimated at 2,140 whites, or near whites, and 3,710 coloured and black, total 5,850.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rain gauge was broken in the early part of the year and not replaced until November. The rainfall was estimated at 72 inches, the highest for many years. The heaviest precipitation was in October—say 21 inches, and the largest single day's rain was on 12th October—say 10 inches. The increased rainfall was very beneficial to agriculture generally, the crops of ground provisions such as yams, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn being the largest within recent years. The air temperature ranges from 70° F. to 80° F. in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1929.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Ten Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with eight private schools, had 1,082 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 902. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,629. Forty-three candidates at Grand Cayman and sixteen at Cayman Brac sat for the annual pupil teachers examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; twenty-one were successful in Grand Cayman and seven at Cayman Brac.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

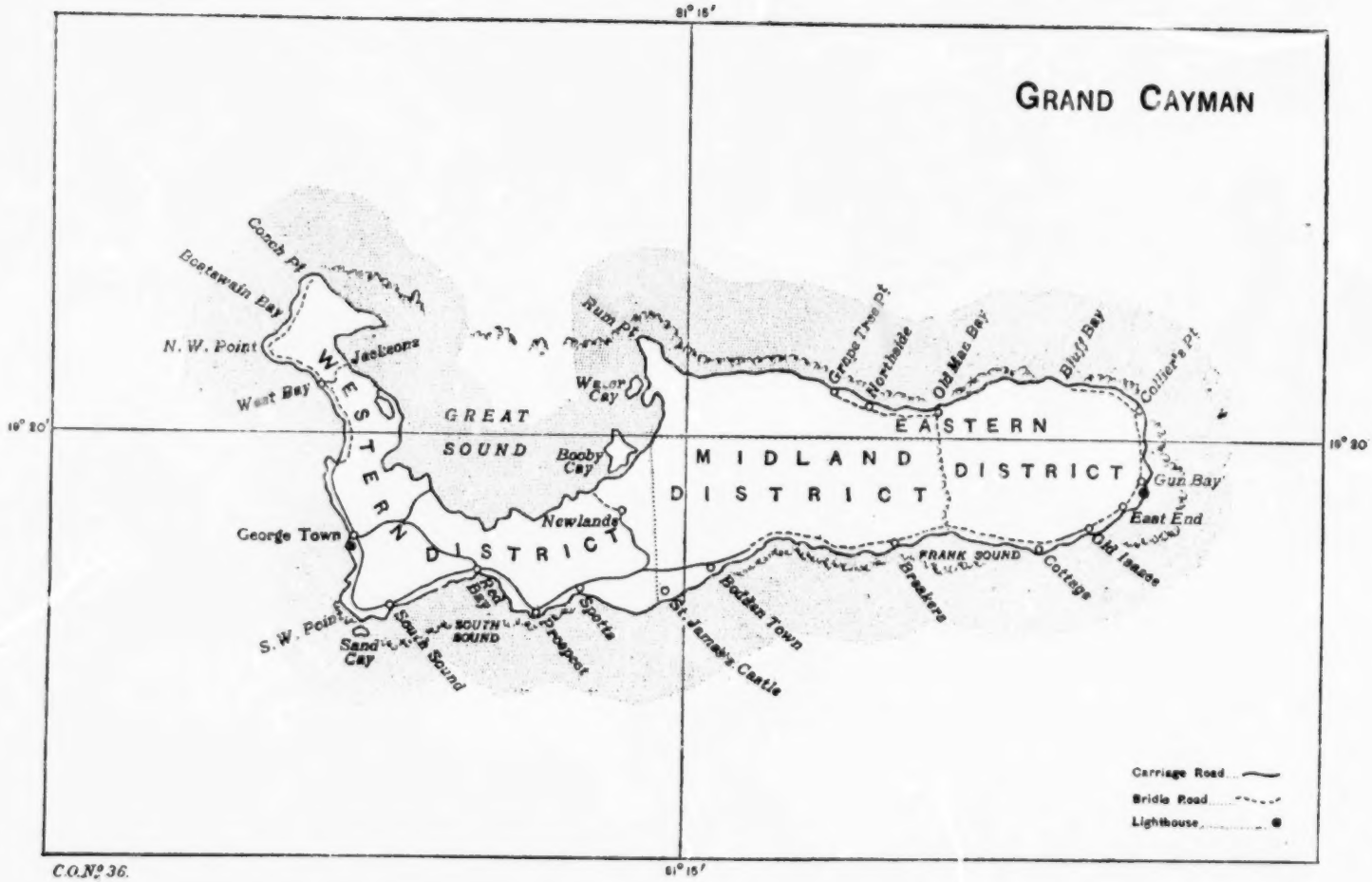
There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without any grant of the crown. The only areas recognized as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour and no local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant as seamen to the Gulf Ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages, as wood-cutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua, and, to a very small extent as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

G. H. FRITH,
Acting Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN,
25th April, 1930.



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REPORT FOR 1929.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Annual General Report for 1929.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

Another hurricane passed over these Islands during the night of the 14–15th September, 1928, and did much damage and caused the loss of 17 lives.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English. The currency consists of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government. Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter-time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local Government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there.

The following is a general description of the principal islands :—

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is the capital of the Dependency. It lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It has a population of about 1,500. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, several stores, a public library, four churches, and Masonic and other lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the island, and the radio-telegraph station is situated in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills on the eastern side of the island, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation. The principal industry is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for

which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. Fruit, vegetables, and cattle are imported from Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of

Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL.

During the year 1929 there was a long and severe drought in the Caicos Islands which caused the entire failure of the crops and, in consequence, great distress among the people of those islands, a great number of whom faced starvation. In the circumstances, the Government was compelled to purchase and send large quantities of food supplies for the relief of the sufferers.

The Hurricane Relief Office, opened in September, 1926, having dealt with the relief measures relative to the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928, was closed at the end of April, 1929. A report on those hurricanes was prepared by Mr. W. R. Tatem, the officer in charge of that office, and forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief in May. Printed copies of that report were, at a later date, sent to the principal subscribers to the Relief Fund.

During the year under review a new market was found for the Dependency's principal product—salt. Two shipments, amounting to 63,405 bushels, were made to Vancouver, British Columbia, by steamer going there via the Panama canal.

The foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Methodist Church at Grand Turk was laid on the 13th May.

On Sunday, the 7th July, thanksgiving services were held in the churches throughout the Dependency for the King's recovery from his illness.

Mr. T. G. Southby, Magistrate, etc., was absent from the Dependency, on leave, from the 27th March to the 28th August, during which period Mr. L. Lea Smith, late Assistant Commissioner, retired, performed the duties of his several offices.

Mr. G. H. Frith, Assistant Treasurer, etc., left the Dependency on the 26th of June to take the post of Acting Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, and Mr. T. W. Willis, Clerk to the Commissioner, was appointed to act in his place.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1925	10,459	11,176
1926	9,734	14,055
1927	11,522	14,568
1928	14,853	12,787
1929	11,260	11,605

The total expenditure in 1929 exceeded the revenue by £345. This excess was caused by certain unforseen extraordinary expenditure during the year.

The royalty on salt exported amounted to £2,497, being above the usual amount received annually.

The Customs import duties collected during the year amounted to £4,728, being about 42 per cent. of the total revenue.

The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1929, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £3,370, as against £3,715, the surplus at the end of the previous year.

The Dependency has no public debt, and taxation is very light.

The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £5,500. A small number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes were also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 932 accounts in operation, with £16,909 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £16,474. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands.

The Post Office money-order business has increased considerably within recent years. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1929 amounted to £16,563.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water, by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States and used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. The demand for it in 1929 was good, with the result that the quantity exported during that year was above the average amount shipped annually during the

previous ten years. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1929 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	785,160	18,974
United States	660,163	11,797
Porto Rico	93,348	1,822
Jamaica	100,128	1,376
St. Pierre et Miquelon... ...	54,816	1,290
Newfoundland	18,655	416
	1,712,270	£35,675

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1925 £	1926 £	1927 £	1928 £	1929 £
Salt	32,854	30,111	19,015	25,283	35,675
Sponges	2,408	1,937	3,004	2,193	2,135
Conchs	1,393	1,523	588	1,523	1,350
Turtle Shell	162	743	383	164	343
Shark Products	20	198	75	33	70
Cotton and Cotton-seed ...	566	290	—	1,183	331
Sisal	648	6	109	415	39

Nearly all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last three years :—

		1927	1928	1929
Salt	bus.	781,831	1,401,218	1,712,270
Sponges	lb.	26,869	21,556	22,547
Conchs	No.	587,550	1,523,275	1,349,800
Turtle Shell	lb.	375	194	376
Cotton (Raw)	lb.	Nil	24,133	6,865
Cotton-seed	lb.	Nil	30,793	16,458
Sisal	lb.	16,600	37,945	6,489

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade.

The value of the trade of the Dependency for the last five years was as follows :—

	1925 £	1926 £	1927 £	1928 £	1929 £
Imports	41,570	48,850	47,693	41,766	42,827
Exports	39,062	35,936	24,063	31,755	40,679
Total	80,632	84,786	71,756	73,521	83,506

IMPORTS.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
1927	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693
1928	4,431	4,012	33,323	41,766
1929	3,585	4,556	34,686	42,827

The direction of the import trade for 1929 is shown in the following table :—

	£
United Kingdom	3,585
Jamaica	2,302
Canada	1,832
United States of America ...	30,961
Santo Domingo	2,094
Other countries	2,053
	£42,827

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	24,371
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	14
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	15,012
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,430
	£42,827

The principal articles imported during 1929 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Flour	barrels	2,317	3,163
Cotton goods		—	3,086
Wood, lumber	ft.	217,830	1,723
Hominy and Meal	barrels	1,349	1,720
Lard	lb.	70,598	1,615
Rice	lb.	191,291	1,412
Milk (condensed)	cases	1,078	1,336
Oils	gal.	20,407	1,307
Sugar	lb.	219,255	1,266
Spirits...	gal.	3,786	1,144
Haberdashery		—	1,031
Butter	lb.	12,945	895
Beef (salted)	lb.	30,377	872
Bacon, Hams, etc.	lb.	16,257	782

			£
Machinery		—	717
Boots and Shoes		—	657
Pork (salted)	lb.	20,800	572
Soap	lb.	37,349	546
Cigarettes	No.	878,100	533
Biscuits	lb.	15,038	401
Medicines		—	366
Paper and Stationery		—	307
Cheese	lb.	3,375	220

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063
1928	1,443	16,828	13,484	31,755
1929	1,453	21,807	17,419	40,679

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	1,453
Canada	19,249
United States of America	12,778
Porto Rico	1,844
Haiti	1,388
Jamaica	1,376
St. Pierre et Miquelon	1,290
Bahamas	766
Newfoundland	416
Santo Domingo	71
Cuba	48
	£40,679

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1929 was £40,209, and the value of the re-exports was £470.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead, and ships anchor in from 4 to 7 fathoms of water about one-quarter of a mile from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1929 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	11	88	99
Sailing vessels ...	196	45	241
	207	133	340

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 31,627 and of the steamships to 139,758.

The s.s. *Patuca*, of the Elders and Fyffes Line, called at Grand Turk every six weeks, on her way from England to Jamaica, bringing parcel-mails and freight and any passengers offering. This service commenced in May, 1929.

The cargo steamers of the Columbus Line, Inc., trading between New York and the Dominican Republic, stopped calling here on and from July, 1929.

The s.s. *Huron*, of the Porto Rico Line (late Clyde Line), gave a three-weekly mail, passenger, and freight service from and to New York as from the 25th July, 1929.

Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, called at Grand Turk for stevedores and deck-labourers about twice a month, and called again on the return voyage, to land them.

Railways.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency.

Roads.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition for wheeled traffic. A few motor cars and trucks are in use. The roads in the Caicos Islands are only " bush paths " and are very rough.

Postal.

The local mails were carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also sent to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk to land passengers from England, and also by small sailing vessels whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Post Office dealt with about 91,000 postal articles during the year under review.

Cables.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

Wireless.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea.

Telephones.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for 60 lines.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction on matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

Police.

There is a very small Police Force. It consists of one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal and three constables. The Magistrate acts as Inspector. A district constable is stationed at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Prisons.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1929 was 50, of which 42 were men, 6 women, and 2 juveniles. There is complete separation between the males and females. There is a Prison Board, which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no Chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison. The male prisoners are mainly employed on road repair work.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons dealt with in the Summary Courts for crimes and offences was 177, 132 being males and 45 females. The number convicted was 138.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In addition to the usual up-keep of the roads, public buildings, etc., the undermentioned public works were carried out during the year :—

Grand Turk : The Jackson tank catchment was renovated ; the Government School building was repaired and re-roofed ; and the stone wall around the prison was repaired.

Cockburn Harbour : A new engine was installed at the radio-telegraph station.

Salt Cay : The dock was repaired and deepened.

Bottle Creek : The school building was enlarged.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population of the Dependency, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612. About 95 per cent. of the people are of African descent.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*
1925	181	78	32·8	14·1
1926	174	118	31·5	21·4
1927	149	123	26·9	22·3
1928	183	91	33·1	16·4
1929	161	99	29·1	17·7

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 9, as against 19 in 1928.

Thirty-nine marriages were registered during the year 1929.

Public Health.

The general health of the Dependency was good during the year under review. No case of quarantinable disease occurred.

The following information is extracted from the Annual Report for 1929 of the Government Medical Officer :—

> "*Pellagra.*—This disease was almost epidemic during the early spring months compared to previous years. There were some twenty cases, which is most unusual for this Island, the average number being about six or seven. The history of

these cases brought to light the fact that some of the victims of this disease had a habit of eating large quantities of raw starch or raw meal. Other cases were among those who lived on a diet of insufficiently cooked food, consisting of rice and grits.

"*Influenza.*—During the early months of the year we had an epidemic of influenza which, while comparatively mild, was responsible for a number of deaths, either directly or indirectly."

The local dentist was subsidized by the Government to give free dental service to the pupils in the public and private schools and to certain others.

There are only two medical practitioners in this Dependency; both being the Government Medical Officers. They are allowed to engage in private practice. The Medical Officer for Turks Islands resides at Grand Turk and visits Salt Cay whenever necessary and at least once a month. The Medical Officer for the Caicos Islands is stationed at Cockburn Harbour and visits the out-islands when required to do so.

Hospitals.

Two small hospitals are maintained by the Government under the direction and supervision of the Medical Officers. One at Grand Turk, with 8 beds, and the other at Cockburn Harbour, having 4 beds.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary Education.

Primary education is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. The sum of £840 is granted annually to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were ten Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 824, and the average attendance 586. There were also nine private elementary schools, under the control of the Board, with an attendance of 123. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools. Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as really competent.

Secondary Education.

There is a secondary school at Grand Turk, controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner. This school receives from the Government a free grant-in-aid of £150 a year. There were 26 pupils on the roll in 1929, and the average attendance was 24. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established in 1924, and local examinations have since then been held annually in December.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

As already mentioned above, these Islands have never been completely surveyed. Most of the land is of very poor quality, being very rocky and barren, and only small portions here and there are fit for agriculture. Selected parcels of Crown land, when applied for, are sold at two shillings per acre, and leased at fourpence per acre per annum. Town lots, when applied for, are sold at public auction, with an upset price. The private lands generally are of little value and when sold fetch only nominal prices. A geological survey of the Dependency has never been made.

XI.—LABOUR.

Common labourers employed in the salt industry earn from 3*s*. to 3*s*. 6*d*. a day in raking and carting salt, and from 4*s*. to 8*s*. a day in shipping it. Stevedores, employed on steamers engaged in the South American trade that call at Grand Turk for them, receive 2*s*. 6*d*. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 6*s*. to 12*s*. a day. There is a great scarcity of efficient artisans and skilled mechanics. Agriculture is engaged in, on a small scale and in a primitive manner, by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands. Efficient domestic servants are very scarce.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

Four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1929.

Nos. 1 and 3 were the usual appropriation laws; and No. 2 amended the Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance, 1896. No. 4 (to impose an export duty on spirits) did not receive the Governor's assent.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	27.61 inches.
Maximum temperature	91.0°
Minimum temperature	63.5°

The average rainfall during the last five years was 28.36 inches.

PAUPERS.

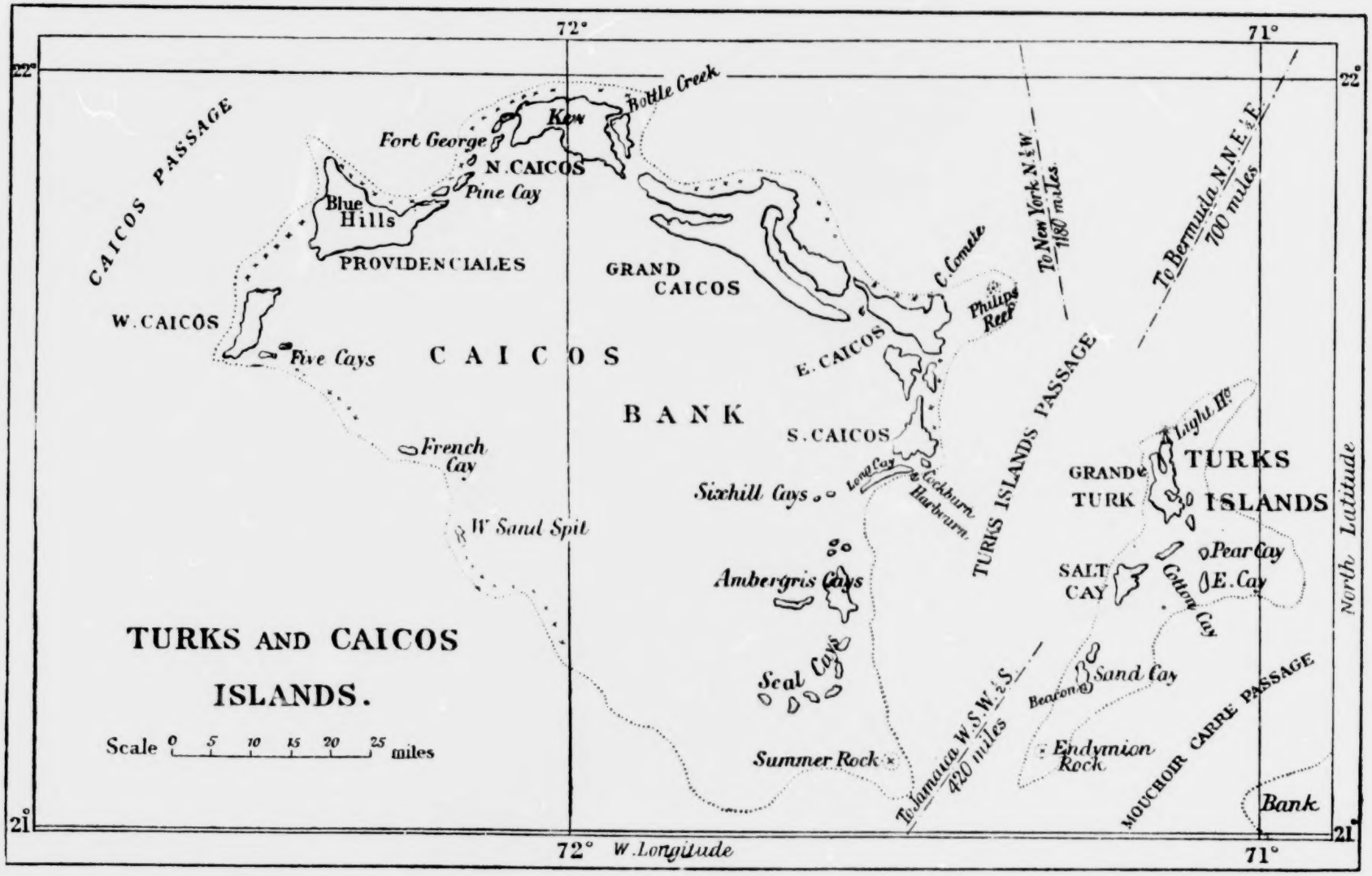
Eighty-six persons were receiving out-door relief at the end of the year 1929.

EMIGRATION.

During the year under review the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants by 253.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

GRAND TURK,
10*th May*, 1930.



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JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1929.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

PREFACE.

HISTORICAL.

1. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

2. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

3. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

4. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

5. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

6. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

7. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

8. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

9. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694) Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

10. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1929, was 8,915, being at the rate of 9.1 per thousand of population.

Language.

11. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, &c., &c., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

There are many purely local words, such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

Currency.

12. British currency and United States gold are legal tender in Jamaica and accounts are kept in sterling, but American silver and notes are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks.

Loca Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1929, to the extent of £75,562 in denominations of 2/6, 5/- and 10/-.

2/6 Notes.			5/- Notes.			10/- Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
125	15	0	29,288	15	0	46,147	10	0	75,562	0	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica issue local notes which are also legal tender in the Island, and Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d. and ¼d. denominations.

Weights and Measures.

13. British Weights and Measures are used in Jamaica, and the standard weights and measures are the same as those used in England. It is interesting to note, however, that a "stone" (14 lbs.) is much more used as a unit of weight than it is in England, many commodities such as potatoes, onions, hay, etc., being sold by the stone.

In measurements, too, a "chain" (66ft.) and a "link" (7 ins.) are common units of measurements. Work in the fields and on the roads is always measured by the "chain" and in describing distances between two points less than a mile apart, the "chain" is nearly always used as the unit of description.

Geographical.

14. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

15. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

16. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies,

being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

17. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

18. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

19. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

PART I.

General Observations.

20. During the year 1929, Jamaica has again been spared from any serious calamity. The hurricanes which have struck other countries in this part of the world have passed the Colony by and it has been free from any serious attacks of epidemic disease.

21. A severe drought in St. Elizabeth and in parts of Manchester caused considerable hardship to the people of those parishes and necessitated the institution of special measures of relief by the Government and the Parochial Authorities. The problem of dealing with these recurrent droughts is a difficult one, but it is hoped that the provision of additional tanks, which is now being undertaken, will minimize the distress which they cause, and investigations are at present being made into the possibility of pumping water to the dry plains of St. Elizabeth.

22. In other districts of the Island the conditions were favourable but it is difficult to say whether on the whole the year should or should not be described as a prosperous one for agriculture.

23. The year has been an important one to Jamaica since it has seen the inauguration of two enterprises which, if proper advantage is taken of them, cannot fail greatly to enhance the prosperity of the people of the Island, the Shipping Line of the Producers Association, and the new service to and from Canada. The first has brought the producer for the first time into close touch with the consumer in the Mother Country: the second has given a new and direct access to the great Dominion which is the natural market for our products.

24. These two enterprises have been in operation for so short a period that it would be premature to speak yet of actual results, though it is worth while to mention the fact that in 1928, the direct exports of bananas to Canada were something over 57,000 stems valued at £8,500, while in 1929, they amounted to over 2¼ million stems of

the value of £321,000. It is of interest to record that in the month of April, the first ship of the Jamaica Producers Association arrived at Kingston, the first of the new vessels under the Trade Treaty with Canada also arrived, and the foundation stone of the new Constant Spring Hotel, which is being constructed by the Canadian-West Indies Hotels Company, was laid by His Excellency the Governor. It may be said therefore, that the month of April marked a definite step in advance in the establishment of closer relationships between the United Kingdom, Canada and Jamaica.

25. During the year a Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Association was formed, also a Citrus Growers Association, a Co-operative Dairymen's Association, and a Pimento Growers Association, showing that the country is recognising the benefits to be obtained from co-operation in Agriculture.

26. It is estimated that, if climatic conditions are favourable, a crop of 25 million stems of bananas can be available for export next year, subject always to the possibility of keeping Panama Disease in check.

27. The spread of this disease during the year has been greater than was estimated. The Director of Agriculture ascribes this increase largely to the hiding of cases of disease, and to the neglect of proper quarantine methods. It is earnestly to be hoped that banana growers will realize that this penny-wise and pound-foolish policy threatens the very existence of Jamaica's main industry, for which the only hope of continued prosperity lies in the possibility of keeping Panama Disease in check until the efforts to produce a banana, which is both immune to the disease and suitable for export, have come to fruition:—a consummation which is not yet within sight although the officers who are working at the problem are hopeful of success.

28. The revived interest in citrus fruit, indicated by the establishment of a Citrus Growers Association, the great extension of plantation and the cleaning and cultivation of old trees will also lead to a large supply of fruit being available for export.

29. Jamaica has now therefore, the products, the means of transportation and the markets. In these circumstances it would have been justifiable to regard the outlook for the future as very favourable if it had not been for the depression of the sugar industry, a world wide question, in which the share of the Island, though very important to its inhabitants, is a very small factor. Nothing that can be done in Jamaica can affect the general situation, and all that can be done is to wait patiently and hopefully to see whether as a result of the Report of the Sugar Commission, which Jamaica has recently been glad to welcome not only for its own sake, but because its Chairman, Lord Olivier, was a former Governor, His Majesty's Government will be able to find a solution of the problem of keeping alive the sugar industry in the West Indies.

30. The importance of maintaining this industry in Jamaica, is so fully realized that it is unnecessary to stress the point. The Council has made provision for enabling it to be carried on pending the decision of His Majesty's Government, and the Estimates for 1930-31 provide a sum of £80,000 to defray the cost of the subsidy on exported sugar.

31. Conditions in Cuba and the neighbouring Central American Republics continued unfavourable throughout the year, and emigration abroad continued to diminish. Conditions in Cuba were such that many Jamaicans who had established temporary homes in the Republic were unable to earn a livelihood there, and were forced to apply to the

Secretary for Immigration at Santiago to be repatriated to Jamaica. This was especially so towards the end of the year, and the following figures are illuminating. In 1928, 156 Jamaicans were repatriated by the Secretary for Immigration; in 1929, no less than 840 were repatriated. Of these 122 were repatriated between January and June, and 718 between July and December.

32. Jamaica was represented at the 2nd West Indian Conference, held at Barbados, and at the West Indian Press Conference held at the same place. Jamaica also sent a contingent to the Boy Scouts Jamboree in England.

33. Units of the America and West Indies Squadron paid visits to Jamaica in January and October, and the Island also received visits during the year from Units from the Navies of the U.S.A. and the Argentine Republic.

34. Mr. Frank Cundall, Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica was honoured by the King in the New Year's Honours List, being appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and Mr. Anthony Baker, late Surveyor General, was appointed to be a Member of the Imperial Service Order, on the same occasion.

35. The Honourable A. S. Jelf, C.M.G., Colonial Sectetary, proceeded on leave of absence in May, and during his absence the duties of Colonial Secretary were performed by Mr. W. D. Battershill, Assistant Colonial Secretary.

36. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Serivice of the Colony:—

Mr. W. D. Battershill, 2nd Assistant Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, was appointed to be Assistant Colonial Secretary of Jamaica.

Mr. H. Nankivell, Principal Clerk, Colonial Secretariat, was appointed to be Assistant Colonial Secretary of Trinidad.

Mr. S. A. Hammond, Superintendent, Education Department, Nigeria, was appointed to be Director of Education, Jamaica.

Captain H. W. Salter was appointed to be Staff Officer, Local Forces Jamaica, vice Captain A. R. Ford.

Dr. G. C. Strathairn, Senior Sanitary Medical Officer, was appointed to be Chief Medical Officer, Cyprus.

The Honourable A. E. Barton, Collector General, was seconded for service as Collector of Customs, Trinidad.

Mr. E. F. Wilson, First Class Collector of Taxes, and Mr. G. H. Deerr, Assistant Director of Education, retired from the Service having reached pensionable age.

37. The 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders left Jamaica on completion of their tour of duty in the Colony, and were relieved by the 1st Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment.

PART II.

Finance.

38. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
£	£	£	£	£
1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094	2,212,851 12s. 10¼d.

Expenditure.

1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
£	£	£	£	£
2,022 746	2,009,593	2,046,205	1,980,888	2,317,433 11s. 6¼d.

39. The total Expenditure during the year 1928-29, was £104,582 more than the total Revenue.

The Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1929, were £1,164,411 and £849,381, respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £315,030.

40. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1929, was £5,040,699. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,360,083. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,680,616) exceeds by only £488,213, the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1929-30. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

41. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1929:—

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,620,853,547	158.7
		PublicDebt.	
Jamaica ...	970,000	5,040,699	5.2

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1929, viz.: £2,360,083 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2 15s. 3d.

42. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £199,749 at 31st March, 1929.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

43. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

44. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st December, 1929, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£144,520
The Bank of Nova Scotia	120,797
The Royal Bank of Canada	41,651
The Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	10,957

These Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Browns' Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank o Commerce has no branches

45. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3 per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 95 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1929, £612,842 18s. 7½d.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other Securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1929 to £607,069.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919, was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1928 which was carried to the Reserve Fund was £4,033 13s. 6d. The net profit for 1929 to be carried to the Reserve Fund is £4,464 18s. 4d.

46. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Local Government or other Colonial Government Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

47. *Co-operative Loan Banks.*—There are 54 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for cultivation, the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

To 31st December, 1929, £128,581 was lent, and £113,669 received in repayment. The sum of £59,641 was also lent to Banks to purchase 11 properties for the purpose of Land Settlement, of which £38,045 was repaid.

48. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtain loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1929		£128,581 1s. 4d.
Repayments	do. do.	113,668 13s. 10d.
Balances outstanding	.. ..	14,912 7s. 6d.

Interest paid since the inception of the operations of the Board amounted to £35,965 9s. 8d. and 47 Banks from which returns were received collected share capital amounting to £42,760. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers.

PART III.

PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industry.

49. Although depression in some lines of trade had to be faced, there was a marked expansion in the export of Bananas arising from the new co-operative movement and its new line of ships to Europe, together with the inauguration of the Canadian Government ships which carried Bananas and other products of Jamaica in direct bottoms to Dominion Ports

50. On the southern portions of the island acute drought conditions persisted for several months but providentially light rains fell in the Banana areas so as to enable the highest number of stems ever shipped from Jamaica to be produced (22,047,536 stems equal to 14,118,571 "count" bunches of nine hands or over, valued at £2,509,878). A feature of this trade was that a large number of small six-hand stems (four counting as one bunch) were shipped to Europe by the co-operative Association. The total value was the greatest in the history of the Banana Trade of the Colony—the previous record having been made in 1927.

51. The planting of Bananas continues to extend, and if no untoward circumstances intervene, the crop of 1930 should show a still higher record. Meanwhile the restrictive influence of Panama Disease is becoming increasingly felt particularly in the parishes of Portland and St. Mary.

52. Three hybrid seedlings obtained from the Jamaica Banana crossed with the "Robusta" variety have been found to be highly resistant to Panama Disease and to offer some usefulness to planters in infected areas. The fruits are too short in the finger to equal the "Gros Michel" but are otherwise good bananas and suitable for emergency cultivation until the better banana has been produced.

It is encouraging to find that the "Gros Michel" is capable of yielding seedlings which are immune or highly resistant to Panama Disease and themselves of good edible quality.

53. Coffee suffered from drought conditions in certain areas and the exports fell from about 9 million to a little over 6½ million pounds. Blue Mountain Coffee was in good demand and the highest recorded price for this luxury article was obtained in the London Market during the year. The difficulties in Brazil and the consequent demoralisation of the market for ordinary coffee, has recently caused a drop in price for the lower grades of Jamaica Coffee. There is, however, no reason to lose faith in this well-tried staple and a continuance of the co-operative efforts in manufacturing and marketing a better quality of small holders' coffee is to be commended.

54. Cacao showed an increase in quantity from 5 to about 6¾ million pounds. The inspection of Cacao by the Produce Inspector has ensured a better standard of the cured product for export. The price of Cacao is now low due to over-production and a congestion of markets. No new plantings of Cacao are to be observed and growers generally consider that this product is not very encouraging under present conditions of price. A good deal of old Cacao has been cut down and replaced by Bananas.

55. Coconuts and Copra have gained in quantity and the output of nuts almost reached the forty million mark. The market for nuts is at present poor, and the immediate outlook is not very encouraging.

The Copra cake is in strong demand locally for feeding dairy cattle. An excellent soap is now being made from Coconut Oil that finds a ready sale in the local market.

56. Sugar did better than might have been expected with an export record of 37,380 tons valued at £482,952. Most estates covered expenses or made a small profit due to improved yields of cane from the fields. But towards the end of the year a crisis arose in this industry all over the West Indies due to the fall in price of sugar below the cost of production.

The planters have been making marked strides in the cultivation of improved canes, in deep tillage, irrigation, the use of lime and fertilisers whereby greatly improved yields of canes have been obtained for purposes of manufacture. Of new seedling canes B.H. (10) 12 is the most generally successful.

The new Java canes POJ 2725 and POJ 2878 are expected to prove of decided advantage to cane planters and are being distributed as rapidly as stocks permit.

57. Rum is kept as low as possible by the Estates owing to difficulties of sale. The high-flavoured rums were in good demand and some satisfactory prices were obtained for this class of rum. Ordinary rum were slow of sale and the prices low.

58. Honey did fairly well with an export of 1,850,000 lbs. priced at over £21,000. The recent change in the German tariff has shut out this important market for Jamaican honey. It is hoped that co-operative efforts may place the honey industry on a much better footing as regards quality, grading and the marketing of the product.

59. Logwood continues to be depressed and it is difficult to secure a market for the wood while the manufacture of logwood extracts continues at a low standard of production. This industry is a valuable one to Jamaica as it affords a good deal of labour while giving employment for skilled workers in the local factories. It is to be hoped that a recovery of prosperity may soon be experienced in this product of the Colony.

60. Pimento soared to record standards of price, and £348,000 was received for a crop of over 9 million pounds weight of pimento. The

price has since fallen to a lower level but the prospects for the next crop are considered to be encouraging. A co-operative scheme for marketing pimento has been organised, with the object of reducing the injury done to the trade by speculators which did so much damage during the past year. Pimento leaf oil is still found to be a profitable product, particularly where non-bearing or "male" pimento trees are plentiful.

Animal Industry.

61. No outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease or of Anthrax occurred during the year. The Government Stock Farm at Hope had a successful year and was able to complete the large tropical dairy building, besides importing some very fine sires out of its current revenue. The thanks of the Colony are due to The Earl of Lonsdale for the generous manner in which he made it possible for us to obtain the splendid Thoroughbred Stallion "Royal Highness" by "The Tetrarch," for service at Grove Place Farm in Manchester. This horse was a successful sire at Lord Londsdale's stud farm in England, and should improve both the size and stamina of our local thoroughbreds.

Agricultural Education.

62. A Committee appointed at the instance of the Legislative Council enquired into the Government Farm School and has made a useful report on which action is being taken so as to improve the efficiency and scope of this institution. The enlarged accommodation, which now suffices for 60 students in residence, was fully occupied during the year and there is a good demand for admission whenever vacancies occur in the institution.

Forestry.

63. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889, and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

64. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes, up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet. In December, 1927, the Afforestation Law, 1927, Law 33 of 1927, was passed, and on 3rd July, 1928, the Acting Governor in Privy Council under the power conferred on him by Section 3 (a) of that Law, made an order declaring certain Government lands, aggregating about 30,310 acres to be a Forest Reserve.

On 1st March, 1929, an Assistant Conservator of Forests was appointed as an officer of the Lands Department.

65. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation, and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature, that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under

hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 42 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

MINING.

66. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

67. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597, Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

68. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

69. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co., extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore, which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

70. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

71. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

Land Settlement.

72. The Government acquired a property of 5,065 acres called Kelletts, situated in the parishes of St Ann, St. Catherine and Clarendon, at a cost of £10,300 for sub-division and sale to small settlers on easy terms. The sub-division of this property has been placed with the Surveyor General's Department, to be managed in the same manner as Spring Garden in St. Thomas, a property of 746 acres which was bought for £5,000 and resold to 236 small settlers, the capital cost of which, with interest, has been repaid this year, after a period of 6 years since purchase.

Fishing.

73. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of, and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

74. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

PART IV.

TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports and Exports.

75. The Colony's trade in 1929, showed improvement over the previous year's trade. The value of both Exports and Imports increased.

76. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcel Post), amounted to £6,746 as compared with £6,089,156 in 1928. A comparative table showing the principal articles and the percentage of each obtained from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and other Countries is given.

	Principal Articles imported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of Quantity or value.	1928. Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U. S. A.	Other Countries.
	Total imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	Value	£	6,089,156	30.5	19.4	31.5	18.6
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	Quantity	galls.	243,252	68.5	..	..	31.5
	Butter	"	lb.	560,246	3.0	88.9	3.1	5.0
	Butter Substitutes	"	"	518,692	53.1	.1	.3	46.5
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	"	14,707,871	.6	34.7	.1	64.6
	Pickled	"	"	7,549,778	..	93.5	.4	6.1
	Grain, Flour	"	bags	408,533	..	84.1	15.9	..
	Meats—Beef, wet salted	"	lb.	848,465	97.5	1.4	.7	.4
	Ham	"	"	318,904	21.0	3.0	74.7	1.3
	Pork, wet salted	"	"	1,029,174	3.1	31.9	64.8	.2
	Milk, Condensed	"	"	4,613,718	20.4	51.8	15.1	12.7
	Oils, Edible	"	galls.	316,403	73.3	.4	1.1	25.2
	Sugar, Refined	"	lb.	2,203,486	.7	86.2	10.9	2.2
	Tobacco—Cigarettes	"	"	262,162	99.6	..	.4	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	Quantity	tons	123,266	51.0	..	49.0	..
	Lumber—Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	"	ft.	17,837,958	..	14.6	82.8	2.6
	Hoops and shooks	Value	£	54,821	4.8	6.0	85.1	4.1
	Oils—Illuminating	Quantity	galls.	1,326,503	..	..	83.2	16.8
	Motor Spirits	"	"	3,697,981	..	.6	21.9	77.5
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	Value	£	104,185	48.6	1.8	40.6	9.0
	Boots and Shoes	"	£	224,025	39.0	11.3	44.0	5.7
	Carriages—Motor Cars	"	£	218,431	2.7	39.2	57.9	.2
	Parts of	"	£	134,681	8.8	36.3	49.4	5.5
	Cement	Quantity	brls.	68,212	55.7	6.9	..	37.4
	Cotton—Piece-Goods	Value	£	392,833	58.7	.1	40.0	1.2
	Other Manufactures	"	£	122,513	45.4	1.6	38.2	14.8
	Hardware	"	£	130,247	46.4	2.7	35.3	15.6
	Medicines and Drugs	"	£	64,179	32.0	6.4	54.2	7.4
	Metals—Iron galvanized, Steel bars and Sheets, Nails, Screws and Rivets ..	"	£	83,633	64.6	8.0	16.2	11.2
	Silk Manufactures	"	£	106,378	54.9	2.2	3.5	39.4
	Soap—Laundry	Quantity	lb.	6,507,323	78.4	.2	19.0	2.4
	Wool—Manufactures	Value	£	60,729	92.1	..	.6	7.3

	Principal Articles imported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of Quantity or value.	1929. Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U. S. A.	Other Countries.
	Total imports (not including Parcels Post)	Value	£	6,746,095	26.3	18.0	31.0	24.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	Quantity	galls.	281,512	71.6	..	..	28.4
	Butter	"	lb.	552,922	1.3	62.9	2.5	33.3
	Butter Substitues	"	"	512,228	61.0	.7	.3	38.0
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	"	13,480,065	1.1	60.6	.1	38.2
	Pickled	"	"	9,110,730	..	97.0	..	3.0
	Grain, Flour	"	bags	384,728	..	86.5	13.5	..
	Meats—Beef, wet salted	"	lb.	977,940	92.5	.1	4.8	2.6
	Ham	"	"	371,149	20.9	1.5	76.8	.8
	Pork, wet salted	"	"	1,139,240	..	32.5	67.5	..
	Milk, Condensed	"	"	5,083,991	17.3	46.8	12.7	23.2
	Oils, Edible	"	glas.	271,026	92.0	..	.4	7.6
	Sugar, Refined	"	lb.	2,745,007	15.4	80.8	2.1	1.7
	Tobacco—Cigarettes	"	"	233,046	99.3	..	.7	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	Quantity	tons	112,887	39.0	..	61.0	..
	Lumber—Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	"	ft.	19,661,440	..	9.6	87.6	2.8
	Hoops and shooks	Value	£	48,349	6.7	4.0	82.2	7.1
	Oils—Illuminating	Quantity	galls.	1,520,073	..	..	87.3	12.7
	Motor Spirits	"	"	5,498,123	..	..	18.0	82.0
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	Value	£	98,603	38.7	1.7	46.8	12.8
	Boots and Shoes	"	£	219,806	33.6	23.1	41.8	1.5
	Carriages—Motor Cars	"	£	216,720	7.9	30.5	61.5	.1
	Parts of	"	£	141,306	18.6	30.3	48.7	2.4
	Cement	Quantity	brls.	70,039	83.0	3.6	..	13.4
	Cotton—Piece-Goods	Value	£	466,974	43.5	..	54.6	1.9
	Other Manufactures	"	£	131,706	42.9	4.0	38.0	15.1
	Hardware	"	£	138,358	43.9	3.4	38.0	14.7
	Medicines and Drugs	"	£	71,305	29.5	10.5	50.8	9.2
	Metals—Iron galvanized, Steel bars and Sheets, Nails, Screws and Rivets	"	£	96,598	56.6	9.2	12.8	21.4
	Silk Manufactures	"	£	85,443	66.1	1.4	8.2	24.3
	Soap—Laundry	Quantity	£	6,665,130	72.0	..	23.8	4.2
	Wool—Manufactures	Value	£	58,802	92.2	..	.6	7.2

Principal Products Exported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of quantity or value.	1928. Total.	1928. United Kingdom.	1928. Canada.	1928. U.S.A.	1928. Other Countries.	1929. Total.	1929. United Kingdom.	1929. Canada.	1929. U.S.A.	1929. Other Countries.
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post)	Value.	£	4,174,478	20.0	22.5	38.8	18.7	4,649,130	18.4	23.7	33.9	24.0
Bananas	Quantity	stems	17,080,895	16.2	.3	68.3	15.2	22,047,536	18.3	11.6	48.6	21.5
Sugar—Unrefined	"	tons	48,716	24.2	75.4	..	.4	37,380	7.5	92.0	..	.5
Spice—Pimento	"	lb.	8,752,816	4.4	3.4	26.4	65.8	9,039,147	2.2	2.7	22.8	72.3
Coffee	"	"	8,832,328	3.4	84.1	9.4	3.1	6,571,902	4.8	88.6	5.8	.8
Coconuts	"	No.	31,104,831	4.6	16.9	78.3	.2	39,918,498	6.1	9.1	84.2	.6
Copra	"	lb.	7,650,242	15.1	..	8.1	76.8	7,888,809	13.1	..	16.6	70.3
Cocoa	"	"	5,044,380	8.9	19.9	49.4	21.8	6,723,132	9.1	44.9	32.6	13.4
Logwood Extracts	"	pkgs.	8,915	67.4	..	3.4	29.2	7,838	61.1	..	3.8	35.1
Logwood	"	tons	27,855	.3	..	35.2	64.5	21,010	.5	..	6.7	92.8
Rum	"	galls.	807,503	79.8	4.1	..	16.1	810,908	75.4	5.1	..	19.5
Grapefruit	"	No.	8,652,963	86.8	7.4	2.7	3.1	10,213,560	86.6	9.2	.7	3.5
Spice—Ginger, Dry	"	lb.	2,370,121	47.6	7.0	38.8	6.6	2,128,576	56.8	8.2	29.2	5.8

The yield from Import duties exclusive of Parcels Post duties amounted to £1,143,358 an increase of £48,799 over that of the previous year. Parcel Post duties amounted to £47 092, an increase of £215.

77. The Export Trade exclusive of Parcel Post exports for 1929, resulted in an increased value of £474,652 over that of the previous year, i.e., from £4,174,478 in 1928 to £4,649,130 in 1929.

78. The comparative table of the twelve principal products exported is interesting. The products are arranged in the order of their importance.

Taxation.

79. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 1 of 1929, "A Law to continue a certain Expiring Law." This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1929, the following Law:—

The Excise Duty (Temporary increase) Law, 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the following items:

On all matches subject to Excise Duty under "The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901 (Law 12 of 1901), and any laws amending the same an additional duty after the rate of ten per cent. on such Excise Duty.

On all amounts payable as King's Warehouse Fees under the Wharfage Law, 1895 (Law 15 of 1895), a surtax after the rate of ten per cent. of such fees.

(2) Law 12 of 1929—"A Law to amend the Stamp Duty Law, 1903, (Law 40 of 1903)."

(3) Law 15 of 1929—"A Law to amend the Estate Duty Law, 1916 (Law 21 of 1916)."

Trade.

80. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1888. It must, however, be pointed out that in 1888 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1929 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1888 to 30.9.89	1889 to 31.3.90	1909 to 31.12.09.	1919 to 31.12.19.	1929 to 31.12.29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,614,800	1,868,100	2,628,300	5,627,300	4,669,200
Value of Imports	1,597,600	1,844,300	2,561,700	5,085,600	7,022,590

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures, such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B. Drought conditions undoubtedly is a further explanation.

Manufactures.

81. The principal articles manufactured are sugar, rum, copra, sisal hemp, banana figs, essential oils, cigars, cigarettes, leather and logwood extract.

82. The production of Sugar and Rum for the years 1927, 1928 and 1929 is set out below:—

Year.		Sugar.	Rum.
1927	..	62,138 tons	14,111 phns.
1928	..	53,431 „	12,231 „
1929	..	57,633 „	13,438 „

Sisal Hemp.—In 1928 the value of sisal hemp exported was £9,096 while in 1929 the value exported was £9,544. The production in 1928 was 135 and in 1929, 130 tons.

Banana Figs.—The output of banana figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs. as against 235,783 lbs. in 1928, and 55,217 lbs. in 1929.

Essential Oils.—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils. 14,839 gallons were produced in 1928 as against 16,358 gallons in 1929. There was a large decrease in the quantity of oranges exported.

Cigars and Cigarettes.—The cigar industry was practically stationary. The export figure was 61,519 lbs. in 1927, 61,374 lbs. in 1928, and 65,268 in 1929. It is worthy of note, however, that a cigarette manufactured partly of imported leaf tobacco and partly of native grown tobacco is competing very favourably with the imported cigarette.

Leather.—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 17,124 lbs. were exported.

Figures for exports of *Copra* and *Logwood Extract* are given under imports.

The minor industries include aerated and mineral waters, ale, beer, stout, ice, soap, coconut oil, jippi jappa hats, baskets and furniture.

Shipping.

83. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1925	entered	1,412	vessels of	2,207,618 tons
1926	„	1,553	„	2,552,987 „
1927	„	1,754	„	3,001,232 „
1928	„	1,593	„	3,076,996 „
1929	„	1,651	„	3,337,919 „
1925	cleared	1,401	„	2,183,663 „
1926	„	1,550	„	2,553,138 „
1927	„	1,754	„	3,008,172 „
1928	„	1,562	„	3,042,893 „
1929	„	1,635	„	3,310,243 „

84. The following regular steamship lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., The Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Canadian National Steamship Co., Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The Shaw Savill and Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., The Webster Steamship Line and The Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co. (The two last named companies are registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders & Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co. Inc., The Alexander Shipping Co., The DiGiorgio Fruit

Steamship Co., Inc., The Aluminum Line, Standard Fruit Co., Gulf Pacific Line, Waterman Steamship Line, Krogstads Agencies Inc., Thavenot Co., The Columbus Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

Norwegian.—Scandinavian West Indies Line, Ltd.

85. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

PART V.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.

86. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two class (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,324 miles which are maintained, out of the General Revenue of the Colony, and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

87. During 1929, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £117 per mile, excluding expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 97 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

88. The programme of road construction begun in 1927 with the object of opening up the fertile areas and providing feeders to the Government Railway, has been steadily pushed on.

Canals.

89. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Railway.

90. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio —63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line), to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

91. The main lines run across high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being northeast, and Montego Bay northwest, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The guage is 4′ $8\frac{1}{2}$″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

92. The revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1929, was £361,653 and the expenditure, £319,071. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimate for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 341,224 tons, as compared with 320,697 tons for the year 1928; the number of passengers carried in 1929 was 612,693, as compared with 593,748 in 1928.

93. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

94. Since 1925, the work of replacing old 60lb. rails with 80lb. rails has been proceeding; 133 miles of 60lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously. Up to the end of December, 1929, $82\frac{1}{2}$ miles had been relaid.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

95. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1929, there were 1,645 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 61 Telegraph and 99 Telephone Offices. Five new Telegraph and Telephone offices were opened during the year.

96. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

97. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 47 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

98. The number of messages transmitted in 1927 numbered 362,234 and the receipts totalled £19,589. In 1929, 380,142 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £22,923 8s. $3\frac{1}{2}$d.

99. There are two wireless stations in the Island under Government license both owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.

One is situated at Kingston and the other at Stony Hill.

The former is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated

nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

100. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

101. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

102. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co. Ltd. maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

These two Cable Companies have been merged into the Imperial & International Communications Co., Ltd., but in Jamaica retains their old names and are operated as formerly.

PART VI.

JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

JUDICIAL.

103. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate's Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

LEGISLATION.

104. Thirty Laws were passed during the year 1929, and a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest is given below.

Law 4 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Pensions Law, 1904 (Law 24 of 1904.)" This Law abolishes the contribution made by Officers towards their pensions and changes the method of computation from a yearly to a monthly basis.

Law 5 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Settled Land Law, 1888 (Law 16 of 1888.)" This Law is a transcript of the English Statutes 53 and 54 Victoria, chapter 69, and 56 and 57 Victoria chapter 53.

Law 7 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend The Attorneys Admission Law, 1869 (Law 9 of 1869.)" This Law provides that a Solicitor shall not be entitled to take Articled Clerks unless he has been seven years in actual practice; existing rights are preserved in the Law.

Law 8 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Reformatories and Industrial Schools Law, 1881 (Law 34 of 1881.)" The amendment gives the Governor power to detain a child in a Reformatory or Industrial School up to the age of eighteen years where the Governor is satisfied that such detention is in the interests of the child or in the interests of the community.

Law 12 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Stamp Duty Law, 1903 (Law 40 of 1903.)" This Law reduces the Banker's tax from sixty shillings per one hundred pounds to twenty shillings per one hundred pounds.

Law 14 *of* 1929.—"A Law to vest a portion of the Kingston Race Course in Trustees for the purposes of Child Welfare." This Law vests certain lands known as the Race Course Lands, and which is vested in the Kingston and Saint Andrew Corporation, in Trustees of the Child Welfare Association in Kingston.

Law 15 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Estate Duty Law, 1916 (Law 21 of 1916.)" This Law reduces the rate of Estate Duty on Estates which do not exceed in value the amount of £10,000.

Law 16 *of* 1929.—"The Criminal Justice Law, 1929." This Law makes provision for improving the administration of Criminal Justice with regard to the following:—The granting of continuous bail. Power to Justices to order production of documents. The enlargement of powers in reference to convictions on Indictments and the removal of anomalies. Power to direct re-trial at another Circuit Court. Enlargement of the provisions for execution of warrants and power of arrest under warrant. Power of reduction of sentences passed in Petty Sessions. Filing of Grounds of Appeal.

Law 18 *of* 1929.—"The Telegraph Control Law, 1929." This Law repeals Laws 7 of 1904 and 24 of 1926, and defines afresh what comes within the meaning of a telegraphic apparatus, mechanism or contrivance. It also gives the Governor power to appoint any person to enter any premises in order to inspect any telegraphic apparatus, mechanism or contrivance which he suspects of being therein.

Law 20 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend the Married Woman's Property Law, 1886." This Law abolishes the liability of a husband for the torts of his wife, it also makes a married woman personally liable on her contracts whether made before or after marriage and in respect of torts committed by her whether before or after marriage.

Law 22 *of* 1929.—"A Law to amend Law 6 of 1894 (A Law to amend A Law to regulate the salary of Officers Administering the Government of Jamaica and the furnishing of Government House.") The Governor is by this Law relieved from any liability in respect of the furniture at King's House in pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Legislative Council on the 2nd of May, 1929.

Law 24 *of* 1929.—"A Law further to amend the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for enforcement) Law, 1923 (Law 15 of 1923.)" This Law increases the facilities for reciprocity in dealing with Maintenance Orders.

Law 25 *of* 1929.—"A Law to make provision for the taking from time to time of a Census for Jamaica and its Dependencies and for otherwise obtaining statistical information with respect to the population of Jamaica and its Dependencies." The object of this Law is to provide legislation under which a census can be taken without the necessity of passing a fresh census Law whenever it is decided that a Census should be taken.

Law 26 *of* 1929.—"A Law in aid of the Sugar Industry." Under this Law the Government is empowered to give temporary aid to the Sugar Industry under the existing adverse circumstances which affect it. The Law provides for the following:—A compulsory retention in the Island for local consumption of 20% of the sugar manufactured. Regulation of retail price by the Government. Compulsory exportation of 80 of the sugar manufactured. Grant of a subsidy or bonus of £2 per ton on each ton of sugar exported when the price is below £16 per ton F.O.B., Jamaica. Prohibition of the importation of sugar except under license to be granted by the Board constituted under the Law.

Law 29 *of* 1929.—"A Law to enable the erection and maintenance of a Jetty or Pier in the Harbour of Montego Bay and of a Railway Line to connect same with the existing Jamaica Government Railway." This Law gives the necessary power and authority to Messrs. J. E. Kerr and Company Limited, or a Company to be formed for the purpose of erecting a deep water pier and connecting the same by rail with the Jamaica Government Railway.

Law 30 *of* 1929.—"A Law for the Licensing and Control of Motor-omnibuses and the Owners and Drivers thereof." The Law gives the Governor power to appoint a Transport Board, to consist of seven members, for regulating the licensing and control of motor-omnibusses and the owners and drivers thereof. The Law also prescribes the fees to be paid thereunder.

The Jamaica Constabulary.

105. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old police force, dating from 1834, and a law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved police or constabulary force. Under that Law the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers; and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as sub-officers and constables. The present authorised strength of the force is 23 Officers and 1,049 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for membership unless he can produce a certificate

of character from a magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory medical examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read, without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand. Every candidate is enrolled for five years (3 months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the office of Constables. There are separate Detective and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class of small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police.

Prisons.

106. *Classification*—Prisons in the Colony are classified as follows:—

(a) General Penitentiary, Kingston, for convicted male prisoners with sentences of 6 months and over; all European prisoners, and all female prisoners.

(b) Saint Catherine District Prison for male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and all convicted prisoners with sentences under 6 months.

(c) Juvenile Adult prison, Spanish Town, for selected young prisoners up to a total of 66, between the ages of 16 and 21.

Internal classification is also made at (a) by placing all, except 1st offenders, at first class hard labour for a period to be determined by their conduct and industry, from which they may graduate to trade parties, orderlies, etc. First offenders are located and worked as one party for purposes of segregation from more hardened criminals. At (c) Special grading is in force based on the Borstal system. Any prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21 not selected for the special prison are worked and located as a separate party in the adult prisons.

107. Revenue from Prison Sales shows a satisfactory increase since 1926, in spite of the facts that during 1929 demand for bricks (manufacture of which has been considered the main industry) has decreased by nearly 50 ; and about 100 men have been employed as carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, painters and builders labourers in the erection of a modern range of 108 cells, whose labour was not revenue producing.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
The figures for comparison are	£9,934 4 1	£9,992 12 1	£14,467 17 3	£14,000 0 7
The net cost per prisoner, per annum	27 2 4½	31 16 7½	30 12 7¾	29 1 0¾

PART VII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

108. The general scheme of hospital improvements is well in hand. A second important district hospital has been completed and the remodelling and enlargemenrt of three others is in progress.

109. The building of Government Elementary Schools is going steadily on. A number are now in progress.

110. New public buildings undertaken during the year included a new Police Court for Kingston, three country Court Houses, and new and up to date Water Police Station for Kingston, six country Police Stations and a number of district Post Offices. The erection of a powerful new Lighthouse at Portland Point was also in progress.

PART VIII.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

111. The Report of the Medical Committee of the Legislative Council was adopted at the Spring Session. This report recommends the appointment of a whole-time Medical Officer of Health for each parish, the medical officers to be selected, paid and supervised by the Central Board of Health. This principle was inaugurated in 1928 on the establishment of the Health Unit in St. Mary and this was followed out by another Unit in Trelawny in 1929. The Report recommends the extension of this principle throughout the Island. Many of the Parochial Boards have signified their agreement.

112. The Report also recommends wholetime District Medical Officers in certain specified district and the abolition of fees together with an increase in salary for all District Medical Officers

113. The Hookworm Commission has been very active during the year. There are now only 4 parishes in which the Commission has not worked and arrangements have alreadybeen made to begin work in two of these as soon as the Sanitation Units can be released from the parishes where they are now at work.

114. Malaria Control Work has been carried out in several of the endemic areas. The work has followed out the methods indicated in the report of the previous year's survey. The use of Paris Green as a larvicide has proved very successful in large anopheline breeding areas.

115. The Tuberculosis Clinic has been attended by an increased number of patients. Tuberculin tests are carried out at schools and other institutions.

116. The Bureau of Health Education issues a number of pamphlets on special subjects in addition to the publication of "Jamaica Public Health." This periodical now has a circulation of 19,000 a month. It is used as a text book on Hygiene in over 200 schools in the Colony.

117. The work of School Dental Clinics was increased during the year.

118. The incidence of typhoid fever, as shown by the notifications, is slightly greater than the previous years.

119. Only two cases of alastrim were notified during the year.

PART IX.

EDUCATION.

120. The total departmental expenditure for the year 1928-29 was £173,805, an increase of £5,332 upon the expenditure for 1927-28.

Elementary

121. Attendance at the public Elementary Schools continues to improve, the average number on the Registers in 1929 being 128,154 compared with 127,785 in 1928, and in the average attendance for the 288 best sessions, on which grants are based, being 80,016 compared with 78,929 in 1928. Attendance at Friday sessions continued to improve slowly.

122. Five new Government-owned schools and eight teacher's cottages were opened during the year 1928-29. A sum of £2,499 17s. 0d. was disbursed in 1928-29 in building grants for denominational schools and teachers' quarters, but many denominational school buildings remained in bad repair.

Secondary.

123. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, eighteen in number, under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, were inspected, and in all cases the reports recommended continuance of the grants.

124. The accepted external examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge syndicate of Local Examinations, held in 19 centres. In the last examinations held, 248 (63) candidates passed the Junior Examination, 96 (53) the School Certificate, and 9 (45) the Higher School Certificate.

125. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica, 39 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination, an increase of 12 on the previous year, and 15 passed, including 2 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 10 candidates, 3 of whom passed and 2 were referred. One candidate sat for Intermediate Laws and passed. One candidate sat for the Final Honours Examination in Divinity and passed in the Second Division. One candidate sat for the Final Arts Examination but failed.

126. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three scholarships tenable at British Universities and for one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

Continuation and Technical.

127. The Government Technical and Continuation Schools, Kingston, have been maintained as before, and the Continuation and Domestic Training Schools at Carron Hall (Presbyterian) and at Highgate (Friends Mission) have been aided by grants. Manual Training Departments are attached to nine Government Schools but three are in abeyance and the remainder are not working at full capacity on account of shortage of qualified staff.

Industrial Schools and Orphanages.

128. There are 9 certified Industrial Schools, and 3 Orphanages not certified but in receipt of grants.

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

129. This is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, nine miles from Kingston, and excepting the difficulty of water supply, is an ideal site for the purpose.

130. The general system is for the children to do half of each day at manual work in the work shops, farms, gardens, laundry, cook house, bakery, etc., and the other half in school.

131. The school has been divided into 8 houses—6 for boys and 2 for girls—which are conducted on the same lines as adopted by the Borstal Institutions of England. This system has proved very successful and is developing an excellent form of team spirit and a healthy competitive element without the incentive of personal gain.

132. A full day, in which drill, industries and school work, play, hobbies, scouting, and evening continuation classes for senior boys each take important parts, is arranged for every inmate, and it is gratifying to watch the physical and mental development of the boys and girls many of whom are poor specimens on admission.

133. Some good furniture is made in the carpenter's shop and the demand for this has become so great that machinery for the heavier forms of sawing and planing has been installed in order to speed up the output.

134. The troop of Baden Powell Boy Scouts, formed in 1928, has proved a great incentive to nonmembers and a most helpful and interesting form of character training for members

135. The School has its own brass band.

PART X.

LANDS AND SURVEY AND PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

136. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,569,322 acres have been alienated, leaving 278,838 unalienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

137. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc.' The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of

coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

138. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

139. Between the years 1867 and 1887, the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upward of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

140. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1891, 71,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

141. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 301 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,343 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

142. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1929, 48,860 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1929, was 360 acres of land to one purchaser for £200. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

143. There are large numbers of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 20s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands were up to the end of the year still being sold at from £1 to £5 per acre, according to their situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

PART XI.

Labour Conditions in Jamaica.

144. During the year 1929, labour conditions in Jamaica were generally good, an extensive and constant demand existed. Wages to the unskilled class were on the whole fair; skilled labour was generally well paid. There is not a sufficient supply of the latter. The stimulus given to the banana and other agricultural industries, extensive programmes in new road construction, relaying of railway tracks, and general building, provided an increased field. The demand for unskilled labour sometimes exceeded the supply. This is chiefly due to apathy in seeking work amongst certain sections of this class.

PART XII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

145. The mean rainfall, including the four Divisions of the Island, for the Calendar Year, 1929 was 60.22 inches, which represents a deficiency of 16.24 inches upon the 50-year normal of 76.46 inches, and still greater shortage by about 3 inches than that of the previous year 1928. During the first half of the year the precipitation gauged two-thirds of the aggregate normal, or only 21.16 inches against the aggregate normal of 31.91 inches. The second half of the year had 39.06 inches. For the year the distribution shewed deficiencies as follows:—North-eastern Division 19 , Northern 23 , West-central 18 and the Southern 21%. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was, however, 124 as against the 33-year normal of 122. The total rainfall for the City of Kingston amounted to only 19.96 inches, and the 60-year normal being 31.77 inches. The total number of rainy days being 80 as against the 49-year normal of 79.4 days.

Temperature.

At Kingston the mean temperature for the year was 78.2 degrees, and the 33-year normal 78.7 degrees, or 0.5 degree below. The extreme maximum temperature for the 12 months was 93.4 degrees on 24th July, and the extreme minimum 62.7 degrees on 29th January.

Humidity.

For the year the mean relative humidity was about equal to the normal of 77 . That for the 7 a.m. being 83 and the 3 p.m. 67 .

Weather Disturbances.

July—There were no Tropical Weather Disturbances, within barometric range of Jamaica, in July.

August—During the month of August there was only a minor tropical disturbance, of slight intensity, located near to the Island of St. Lucia on the night of the 18th, and it appears, according to the reports of the United States Weather Bureau, to have moved on a track in a west-north-westerly direction, passing to the south of Jamaica on or about the 21st; then Central and not far from the Cayman Islands on 21st and 22nd, otherwise, the Caribbean Sea and West India Islands were particularly free of hurricanes.

September—During this month the region of the Caribbean was again remarkably free of weather disturbances, but towards the close of the month, on the 25th, the United States Weather Bureau issued a warning by wireless telegraph that a tropical disturbance was central, in the forenoon near to the south of the Great Abaco Island, Bahamas, apparently moving slowly westward. This disturbance developed into hurricane force, and caused loss of life and property at Nassau and surrounding waters on 25th in the evening. It, apparently, continued

on a track through lower Florida State, into the Gulf of Mexico, reaching south-east Pensacola on 30th, and then South-west Georgia State on 1st October, causing considerable damage on land as well as to shipping.

October—A warning message was issued by the United States Weather Bureau on 19th October, stating that a tropical disturbance of moderate intensity passed north or north-east of Swan Island moving north-eastward, and apparently about 100 miles to west or north-west of Grand Cayman Islands, on 20th moving north-eastward, then passed over Cuba into the Southern Florida Strait and was no longer identified. This disturbance occasioned brisk S.E. wind at Morant Point, as well as at Negril Point, causing also low barometric pressure.

For the balance of the year no other disturbances were reported.

Drought Conditions.

The southern sections of the parishes of Saint Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon suffered much from deficiency of rainfall during the earlier months of the year, entailing the necessity for relief to be extended to the famine stricken peasantry; good rains fell from July to the end of the year which helped to restore conditions to normal.

Northers.

Fresh to moderate "northers" were noted at Kingston a few days in January, on 3rd and 11th February, also on 24th and 25th December at Morant Point.

Earthquakes.

Shocks of slight to moderate intensity were reported at different parts of the Island at one place. *May*, nine places (eastern part of Island). *September*, many places in Kingston, St. Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon on 5th. *October*, nineteen places about the 28th and 29th. *November*, 1st two places.

WATER POWER.

146. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island which is operated by water power is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

147. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

148 A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and Lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the sugar factory, saw mills, etc.

Irrigation.

149. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

150. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme is in operation. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of some 70 feet and conveyed by open concrete-lined channels to the lower parts of the plain where banana cultivation is now being commenced on an extensive scale.

A second pumping unit of the most modern type has recently been installed at the pumping station.

Emigration and Immigration.

151. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1927 were 4,755, in 1928, 3,421 and in 1929, 3,337. The arrivals in 1927 were 5,896, in 1928, 5,864 and in 1929, 5,231.

Vital Statistics.

152. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1929, was 994,419, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1928, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1929.

153. The number of marriages registered during 1929, was 4,271, the rate being 4.3 per 1,000 of population as compared with 4.5 for 1928. During the same period 33,788 births were registered of which 17,027 were boys and 16,761 were girls. The birth rate works out 34.2 per 1,000, as against 35.8 during 1928.

154. The number of deaths registered was 18,167 of which 8,968 were males and 9,199 females, the death rate being 18.4 per 1,000. The rate for 1928, was 19.7. During 1929, 6,791 or 37.4 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,413 or 29.8 per cent. were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1928, were 36.7 per cent. and 28.6 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16.0 per cent. as compared with 15.7 in 1928.

155. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 5.4; Congenital Debility, 11.1; Tuberculosis 10.0; Typhoid Fever, 5.5; Pneumonia, 5.8; Heart Disease, 7.9; Syphilis, 2.4; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 4.9; Old Age, 3.3; Fever (not otherwise defined) 4.7; Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 3.3; Bronchitis, 2.7

Official Publications.

156. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s.	d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8	0	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London W.C.
Jamaica in 1924	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W., 1.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually) to 1928	10	0	ditto
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1929 ..	1	0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto
Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S., parts 1-3 (1928)	3	0	ditto
Statistics of the Sugar Industry (1929)	2	0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West Indies Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto
Irrigation Reports, C. Stewart Baker, M.I.C.E., 5 reports,	0	6	ditto
Map of Jamaica, 13 in. x 26 in., in colours	0	6	ditto
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Jamaica Gazette (p.a. including postage)	18	0	ditto
Report of the First West Indies Conference (1929)	2	6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915) ..	2	6	The West India Committee, London

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 9*d.*).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9*d.* (11*d.*).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 10*d.*).

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British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 26.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Cocoa. World Production and Trade. May, 1930. (E.M.B. 27.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1929 to May, 1930. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 28.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

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Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927–29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

Another hurricane passed over these Islands during the night of the 14th–15th September, 1928, and did much damage and caused the loss of 17 lives.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English. The currency consists of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government. Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter-time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local Government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands, take effect there.

The following is a general description of the principal islands :—

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is the capital of the Dependency. It lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It has a population of about 1,500. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, several stores, a public library, four churches, and Masonic and other lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the island, and the radio-telegraph station is situated in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills on the eastern side of the island, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation. The principal industry is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for

which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. Fruit, vegetables, and cattle are imported from Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of

Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—GENERAL.

During the year 1930 there was no local occurrence of outstanding importance.

The Commissioner paid an official visit to Jamaica in February and another in September. He was granted vacation leave of absence from the 15th September to the 24th December which was spent in England. During his absence the Government was administered by the Magistrate, Mr. T. G. Southby.

In July all the known cases of leprosy (ten men and women who had been certified by the Medical Officers to be lepers) were collected and sent to the Leper Home in Jamaica for proper treatment. It was hoped that that action would rid these Islands of leprosy but since then a new case has been discovered at Lorimers, Caicos.

Energetic steps were taken in the middle of the year to suppress and prevent the smuggling into the Dependency of spirituous liquors from Haiti.

As in 1929 and previous years the Caicos Islands suffered again from another severe drought which caused the complete failure of the crops. This, as usual, created great distress among the people of those Islands and the Government was compelled once more to send food supplies for their relief to prevent starvation.

During the year the Dependency suffered generally from the great trade depression which appeared to prevail throughout the world. There was a large falling off in the exports of salt, its principal product. This led to a considerable decline in the imports which in turn adversely affected the customs revenue.

The Dependency was fortunate in receiving from the Colonial Development Fund a free grant of £1,000 to be spent on improving the condition of the road to the lighthouse at Grand Turk. This road was hardly more than a winding narrow pathway, quite unfit for wheel-traffic. On either side were tracts of some of the best agricultural land on the island from which small planters or peasants

could make a living by growing produce for the local market. In the past attempts to cultivate these lands had been made but owing to the lack of a proper road, as a means of transportation, very little could be done and in many instances cultivation had to be abandoned. The work on this road was commenced in January, 1931. The employment of a considerable number of men and women on this work helped to relieve the unemployment situation which had become very grave.

This Dependency has never been very prosperous and there has always been much poverty throughout these Islands due mainly to the barrenness of the soil and to the very low value of the principal product, salt. It might be said that the prevailing poverty has become almost chronic and that it is partly due to certain causes over which the people have no control and for which they are not responsible. For instance, during the last seven years the labourers of these Islands have suffered from several great misfortunes. Prior to the year 1924 large numbers of them had been employed regularly as stevedores and deck-labourers on the steamers of three steamship lines which traded between the United States of America and the Dominican Republic. It is alleged that the three steamship companies spent in this Dependency in wages and other expenses over £20,000 a year. Towards the end of that year a law was enacted in the Dominican Republic which practically prohibited the employment of Turks Islands labourers on ships entering the ports of that country. It is said that the stoppage of that regular employment was more injurious to this Dependency than the effects of a hurricane. Then followed the three disastrous hurricanes of 1926 and 1928, in addition to a series of severe droughts and floods in the Caicos Islands which ruined the crops. The most recent blow was the closing down at the end of 1930 of a large sugar-estate in the Dominican Republic which used to employ a great many labourers from these Islands. This last set-back deprived the Dependency of the large sum of money paid out in wages, etc., and greatly increased the number of the unemployed. And now the present poor demand for salt, due to the loss of certain markets and other causes, has created great trade depression and much unemployment in these Islands.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926	9,734	14,055
1927	11,522	14,568
1928	14,853	12,787
1929	11,260	11,605
1930	9,427	11,728

The expenditure in 1930 exceeded the revenue by £2,301. The decline in the revenue was due to the great depression in trade, which greatly reduced the amount of the exports and imports, and in consequence caused a large falling off in the receipts from customs import duties and royalty on salt.

The royalty on salt exported only amounted to £1,696 which was far below the usual amount received annually.

The customs import duties collected during the year amounted to £4,561, being about 48 per cent of the total revenue.

The balance sheet at the end of the year showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £1,069.

The Dependency has no public debt, and taxation is very light.

The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £5,500. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 894 accounts in operation, with £14,798 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £14,498. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands.

The Post Office money-order business has increased considerably within recent years. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1930 amounted to £15,938.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Turks Islands salt is famous for its purity and it has a high reputation in the markets abroad due to its excellent quality. For various reasons the demand for it in 1930 was very poor with the result that the quantity exported during that year was far below the average amount shipped annually. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground).

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1930 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	596,976	12,157
United States	386,775	6,785
Porto Rico	84,538	1,456
Newfoundland	45,795	935
St. Pierre et Miquelon	28,432	592
Jamaica	13,219	196
France	7,217	150
Bahamas	200	4
	1,163,152	£22,275

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	30,111	19,015	25,283	35,675	22,275
Sponges	1,937	3,004	2,193	2,135	2,269
Conchs	1,523	588	1,523	1,350	1,188
Turtle Shell	743	383	164	343	220
Cotton and Cotton-seed ...	290	—	1,183	331	17
Sisal	6	109	415	39	37

Nearly all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last four years :—

		1927	1928	1929	1930
Salt	bus.	781,831	1,401,218	1,712,270	1,163,152
Sponges ...	lb.	26,869	21,556	22,547	26,964
Conchs ...	No.	587,550	1,523,275	1,349,800	1,187,900
Turtle Shell ...	lb.	375	194	376	103
Cotton (Raw)	lb.	Nil	24,133	6,865	49
Cotton-seed ...	lb.	Nil	30,793	16,458	7,310
Sisal	lb.	16,600	37,945	6,489	3,776

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade.

The value of the trade of the Dependency for the last five years was as follows :—

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	48,850	47,693	41,766	42,827	34,165
Exports	35,936	24,063	31,755	40,679	26,403
Total	84,786	71,756	73,521	83,506	60,568

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1926	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
1927	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693
1928	4,431	4,012	33,323	41,766
1929	3,585	4,556	34,686	42,827
1930	2,867	2,339	28,959	34,165

The direction of the import trade for 1930 is shown in the following table :—

	£
United Kingdom	2,867
Jamaica	1,139
Canada	715
Bahamas	422
United States of America ...	25,843
Dominican Republic	1,844
Haiti	531
Germany	324
Holland	287
Other Countries	193
	£34,165

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	20,298
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	3
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	10,535
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,329
	£34,165

The principal articles imported during 1930 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Flour	barrels	2,070	2,602
Cotton goods		—	2,063
Lard	lb.	73,073	1,541
Spirits...	gal.	5,150	1,447
Rice	lb.	171,100	1,321
Oils	gal.	19,083	1,129
Sugar	lb.	245,211	1,124
Milk (condensed)	cases	912	1,121
Hominy and Meal	barrels	965	1,044
Corn and Grain	barrels	1,638	1,001
Butter	lb.	14,176	868
Haberdashery		—	855
Beef (salted)	lb.	28,606	706
Vegetables (fresh)		—	681
Wood, Lumber	ft.	97,696	673
Bacon, Ham, etc.	lb.	13,595	670
Paper and Stationery		—	535
Boots and Shoes		—	519
Pork (salted)	lb.	19,150	487
Cigarettes	No.	817,300	463
Bran and Pollard	bags	1,077	420
Soap (Laundry)	lb.	36,010	417

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Beans and Peas		—	404
Fruits (fresh)		—	370
Fish (salted)		—	363
Biscuit	lb.	11,826	343
Tobacco (Plug)	lb.	3,456	336
Oats	bags	477	298
Machinery		—	288
Meats (canned)		—	264
Beer, etc.	gal.	766	259
Medicines		—	237
Tea	lb.	2,355	211

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063
1928	1,443	16,828	13,484	31,755
1929	1,453	21,807	17,419	40,679
1930	412	14,421	11,570	26,403

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	412
Canada	12,306
United States of America	8,116
Porto Rico	1,461
Haiti	1,203
Newfoundland	938
Bahamas	919
St. Pierre et Miquelon	592
Jamaica	258
France	150
Other Countries	48
	£26,403

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1930 was £26,169, and the value of the re-exports was £234.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead, and ships anchor in from 4 to 7 fathoms of water a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1930 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	17	85	102
Sailing vessels ...	155	58	213
	172	143	315

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 16,891 and of the steamships to 158,293.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line on their way to Jamaica call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers for Jamaica. About every three weeks one stops to land parcel-mails and goods from England.

Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail trading between New York and South American ports call at Grand Turk on their way south about two or three times a month for a gang of deck-labourers and call again on the return voyage to disembark them. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

A steamer of the Porto Rico Line arrives from New York about every three weeks with cargo and mails, but no passengers. She does not call here on her return voyage to the United States.

Railways.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency.

Roads.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition for wheeled traffic. A few motor cars and trucks are in use. The roads in the Caicos Islands are only " bush-paths."

Postal.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world are despatched and received via New York by the steamers mentioned above.

Mails are also sent to Jamaica by steamers of the Fyffes Line and by sailing vessels whenever an opportunity presents itself.

The Post Office dealt with about 93,700 postal articles during the year under review.

Cables.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, to Barbados, and to Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year.

The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

Wireless.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Gay, and with ships at sea within short range.

Telephones.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction on matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

Police.

There is a very small Police Force. It consists of one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal and three constables. The Magistrate acts as Inspector. A district constable is stationed at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Prisons.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1930 was 33, of which 24 were men, 4 women, and 5 juveniles. There is complete separation between the males and females. There is a Prison Board, which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no Chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison. The male prisoners are mainly employed on road repair work.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons dealt with in the Summary Courts for crimes and offences was 189, 145 being males and 44 females. The number convicted was 149.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No large or extraordinary public work was undertaken during the year.

In addition to the regular maintenance and up-keep of the roads, public buildings, etc., the undermentioned works were carried out :—

Grand Turk : The lighthouse was repaired and repainted ; and the powder magazine was thoroughly repaired.

Cockburn Harbour : The roof of the north tank was renewed.

Salt Cay : The breakwater was repaired ; and the roof of the south tank was renewed.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Dependency, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612. About 95 per cent. of the people are of mixed African descent.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.
1926	174	118	31·5	21·4
1927	149	123	26·9	22·3
1928	183	91	33·1	16·4
1929	161	99	29·1	17·7
1930	177	75	31·5	13·4

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 20.

Thirty-four marriages were registered during the year 1930.

Public Health.

The general health of the Dependency was good during the year under review. No case of quarantinable disease occurred.

In his annual report for 1930 the Government Medical Officer of Turks Islands reported as follows :—

> " During the winter months there were numerous cases of influenza, of both the respiratory and intestinal form.
>
> Apart from a few cases of chickenpox, this Island was free from the usual diseases of childhood, such as whooping-cough, measles, etc. There were only a few cases of malaria during the year. There were ten cases of dysentery due undoubtedly to negligence in having the drinking water boiled and food properly cooked. There were no fatalities. There were no cases of typhoid. Several cases of syphilis came under observation and treatment, but none of the patients continued the treatment after the first symptoms disappeared, which was unfortunate.

There were three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in the incipient stage of the disease to come under observation. There were ten cases of pellagra during the year, eight of which were of a mild character and recovered under treatment. Two ended fatally. Many of these intractable cases have a syphilitic complication. Three cases of hookworm were treated during the year. Undoubtedly there are many cases which do not come under observation. Hardening of the arteries and Bright's Disease, with the accompanying complications, have been the cause of most of the fatalities."

The local dentist was subsidized by the Government to give free dental service to the pupils in the public and private schools and to certain others.

There are only two medical practitioners in this Dependency; both being the Government Medical Officers. They are allowed to engage in private practice. The Medical Officer for Turks Islands resides at Grand Turk and visits Salt Cay whenever necessary and at least once a month. The Medical Officer for the Caicos Islands is stationed at Cockburn Harbour and visits the out-islands when required to do so.

Hospitals.

Two small hospitals are maintained by the Government under the direction and supervision of the Medical Officers; one at Grand Turk, with 8 beds, and the other at Cockburn Harbour, having 4 beds.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary Education.

Primary education is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, and is provided free by the Government. The sum of £840 is granted annually to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were ten public elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 848, and the average attendance 711. There were also eight private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools. Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities,

there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

Secondary Education.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. This school receives from public funds a free grant-in-aid of £150 a year. There were 26 pupils on the roll in 1930, and the average attendance was 25. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established in 1924, and local examinations have since then been held annually.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

As already mentioned above, these Islands have never been completely surveyed. Most of the land is of very poor quality, being very rocky and barren, and only small portions here and there are fit for agriculture. Selected parcels of Crown land, when applied for, are sold at two shillings per acre, and leased at fourpence per acre per annum. Town lots, when applied for, are sold at public auction, with an upset price. The private lands generally are of little value and when sold fetch only nominal prices. A geological survey of the Dependency has never been made.

XI.—LABOUR.

Common labourers employed in the salt industry earn from 3*s*. to 3*s*. 6*d*. a day in raking and carting salt, and from 4*s*. to 8*s*. a day in shipping it. Stevedores, employed on steamers engaged in the South American trade that call at Grand Turk for them, receive 2*s*. 6*d*. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 6*s* to 12*s*. a day. There is a great scarcity of efficient artisans and skilled mechanics. Agriculture is engaged in, on a small scale and in a primitive manner, by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands. Efficient domestic servants are very scarce.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1930.

Nos. 1 and 2 were the usual appropriation laws ; No. 3 imposed an export duty on liquors ; No. 4 amended the pensions law ; and No. 5 amended the Customs Tariff.

Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitute 21° 22′ N. and longitude 71° 27′ W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	27·77 inches.
Maximum temperature	90°
Minimum temperature	64°

Paupers.

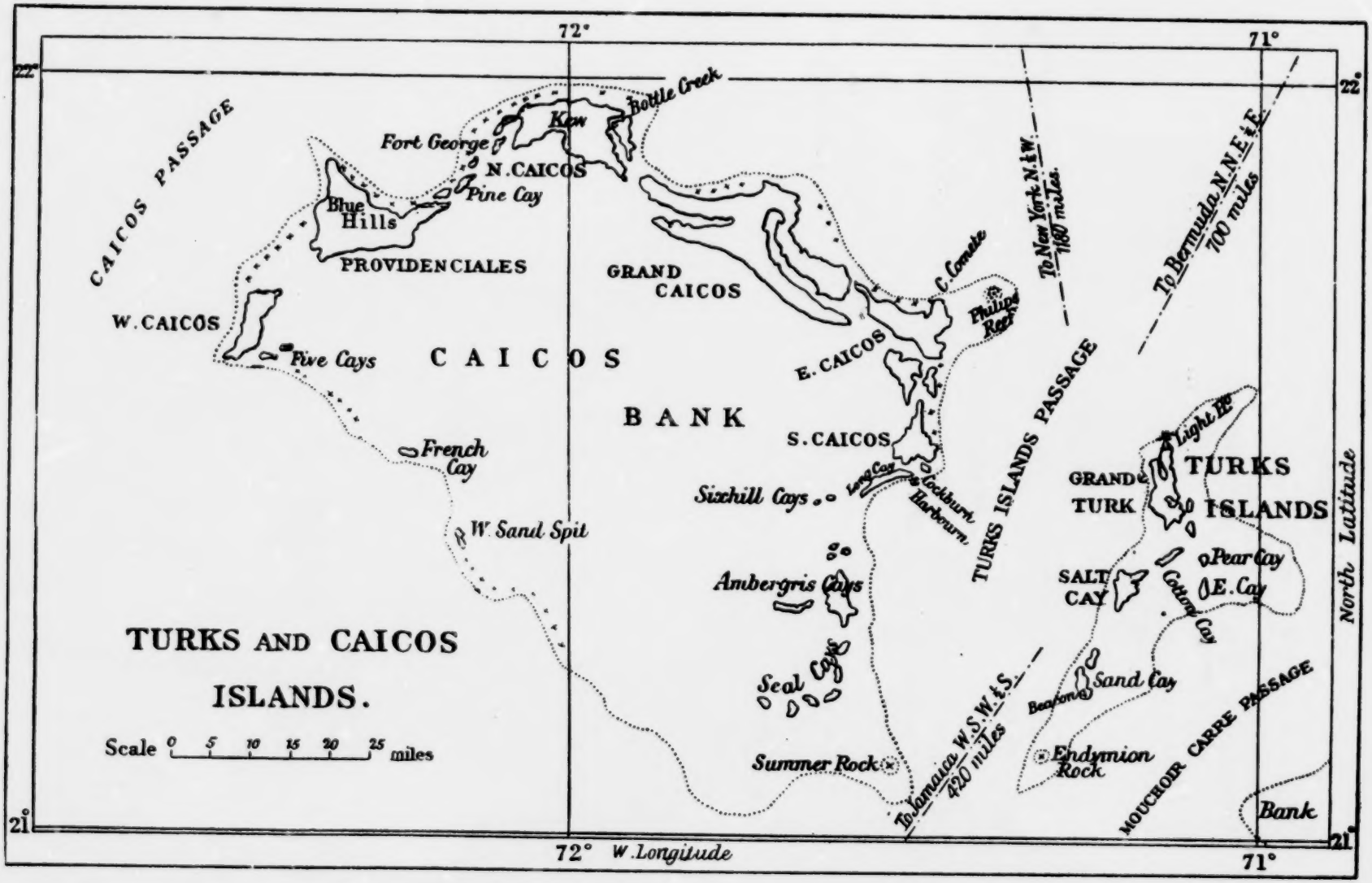
The number of persons receiving out-door relief at the end of the year was 102.

Immigration.

During the year 1930 the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants by 195.

H. E. PHILLIPS.
Commissioner.

GRAND TURK,
18*th May*, 1931.



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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6d. (7d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

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Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9d. (11d.).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 10d.).

Wool, a study of the fibre. September, 1929. (E.M.B. 21.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 11d.).

The Demand for Cheese in London. November, 1929. (E.M.B. 22.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

Indian Sunn (or Sann) Hemp. Its Production and Utilization. February, 1930. (E.M.B. 25.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

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Cocoa. World Production and Trade. May, 1930. (E.M.B. 27.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

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The Biological Control of Insect and Plant Pests. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 29.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 4d.).

Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927–29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

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(Dependency of Jamaica)

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1930.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately midway between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° west longitude, and in the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long, by one and a quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the "Bluff," indicating that the low land about

the base, much the smaller part of the islands area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as " Bartlett's Deep " and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtles in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from " caiman " —alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century ; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected " governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria chapter 31) recognizing the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency.

The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer, and presides, *ex officio* in the absence of a special appointment, as Judge of the Grand Court where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. He has no jurisdiction in cases of capital felony.

I.—GENERAL.

Mail and Passenger Service.

The continuance through 1930 of the mail and passenger service with Jamaica established in 1927 under contract with the two governments has further shown itself to be of great public utility and, it is satisfactory to report, the venture, due entirely, to local enterprise and capital, has been a financial success. A regular service has been maintained, also, by motor-vessel, between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and Tampa in the Southern United States of America.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restriction on emigration to the United States of America continues to bear adversely on the people of the Cayman Islands who from the earliest days had been, because of their industry, sobriety, and general good behaviour, well received as dock and barge labourers, mechanics, and clerks in the sea-ports of the Gulf of Mexico. Emigration, save that of seamen who find deep-sea employment in the ports of the Gulf, is now restricted to small numbers who seek work in Honduras, Nicaragua, and other Central American Republics. There is no immigration.

Legislation.

Two laws only were enacted during the year 1930, both financial One was to validate certain special votes and small excesses in expenditure in 1929; the other was the usual Appropriation Law for 1931.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1930 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1925	6,970	6,622
1926	7,320	7,437
1927	6,148	7,651
1928	5,909	7,679
1929	6,962	7,022
Average of five years	6,662	7,282
1930	6,466	6,228

Customs (£4,472), Post Office (£955), and Internal Revenue (£664), together contributed the major portion of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £299, as compared with £1,430, the average sales in the previous ten years.

The expenditure may be summarized in Departments £3,233, Public Works £576, Education £1,500, and Other Services £919.

Revenue for the year exceeded the expenditure by £238, and at the end of the year the surplus stood at £330. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The total exports amounted to £11,450, all of which were of domestic produce, and compare favourably with the average for the previous five years of £12,984.

The exports are mainly the products of the turtle fisheries, and of palm-straw rope, a spare-time industry of women and children. The green turtle fishery has a single market, Key West in Florida, where the catch is disposed of for but two-fifths the price it realizes a week or ten days later in New York and other northern cities of America.

Recent enquiries as to phosphatic earth available in quantities have not yet resulted in shipments. Borings for oil, the prospect of which some years ago occasioned much local excitement, have not yet taken place.

The following table shows items and values of exports in five years :

Articles.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£
Honey	98	140	155	5	80
Turtle, live	5,000	5,400	4,825	3,670	4,428
Turtle skin	206	437	1,011	893	1,914
Turtle shell	4,160	5,132	5,295	5,962	1,975
Rope, straw	1,710	1,972	1,647	1,450	2,014
Unenumerated	270	277	506	344	1,039
Totals ...	£11,444	£13,358	£13,439	£12,324	£11,450

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was larger than in 1929. The hawksbill fishers were less successful than in 1929, the catch of shell weighing 3,000 lb. at an average value of 15*s*. 0*d*. per pound, as compared with 4,590 lb. at a higher rate of £1 5*s*. 0*d*. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope increased from £1,450 in value in 1929 to £2,014 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels, which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership, or to foreigners, is an asset not capable of accurate estimate.

The destination of exports is shown in the following table ; the turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

Exports to.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	522	—	—	522
Jamaica	180	3,135	2,624	1	5,940
United States ...	3,628	422	—	—	4,050
Other foreign ...	700	97	141	—	938
Totals ...	£4,508	£4,176	£2,765	£1	£11,450

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports reached a total of £41,762, or £940 more than the average of imports for the previous three years.

The countries of origin are as far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the produce of the United Kingdom, and of other countries, chiefly the United States of America.

Imports from.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	871	—	3,361	186	4,418
Canada	207	—	43	—	250
Jamaica	8,229	78	3,073	228	11,608
United States ...	7,616	1,972	9,528	780	19,896
Other foreign ...	1,130	30	38	201	1,399
Parcels Post ...	—	—	—	4,191	4,191
Totals ...	£18,053	£2,080	£16,043	£5,586	£41,762

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of vessels owned in the Dependency but not worked in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependants here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Four cattle-dips were in operation during the months of tick activity, and material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued by their use.

Banking Facilities.

There are no local banks or branches of foreign banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks and on branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops, and are used by them as remittances for the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money-order system is used to some extent, the orders paid in the Dependency in 1930 amounting to £5,999, while the orders issued for payment abroad amounted to £7,790.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 60 ; the deposits for the year have been £1,183 ; the withdrawals have amounted to £874 ; and the balance due to depositors stands at £2,092. Investments with the Crown Agents, as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past, all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners, some of which in more recent years have had auxiliary motors. In the year 1927, however, a long desired mail,

passenger, and freight service, by a specially built motor-vessel, was established with Jamaica, consisting of 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States. This service was given uninterruptedly in 1930, and was well patronized.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba ; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between settlements on each island, and inter-communication is now frequent and regular by the operation of the Cayman Islands-Jamaica mail service. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three immediate stations, are connected by telephone. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry having on its register 52 small sailing and 10 motor vessels with a total tonnage of 4,483 tons. Five vessels with a total tonnage of 203 tons were built and registered in 1930.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	155	15,696	161	13,853
American	5	803	2	314
Honduranian	1	24	1	24
Nicaraguan	1	42	1	42
Panamanian	8	352	8	383
Santo Domingan ...	1	146	—	—
Totals ...	171	17,063	173	14,616

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

No serious crimes were reported during the year, other than one case of murder, the trial of which comes before the Grand Court Sessions in June, 1931. Reports of predial larceny and other undetected petty offences are being made in increasing numbers. Forty persons were convicted in all classes of offences in 1930. Five persons were held in prison for safe custody and two persons for debt.

The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables, but the duties of the latter are largely in connection with the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No new construction work was done during the year. A considerable amount was spent in the maintenance and improvement of the main public roads throughout Grand Cayman.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 185 births (35 per mille) and 48 deaths (9 per mille). Of the latter twelve were over 75 years of age, thirteen between 50 and 75, five between 25 and 50, six between 5 and 25, two between 1 and 5 years, and ten under one year. One death was returned as caused by pulmonary tuberculosis, and one by enteric.

Population.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1930 are estimated at 2,207 whites, or near whites, and 3,780 coloured and black, total 5,987.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rainfall was 47 inches. The heaviest precipitation (9.36 inches) was in August, and the largest single day's rain (4 inches) was on 9th June. The rainfall was very beneficial to agriculture generally, the crops of ground provisions such as yams, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn being on an average with recent years. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1930.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Ten Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with four private schools, had 977 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 888. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,682. Forty-four candidates at Grand Cayman and twenty-two at Cayman Brac sat for the annual pupil teachers' examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; sixteen were successful in Grand Cayman and six at Cayman Brac.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

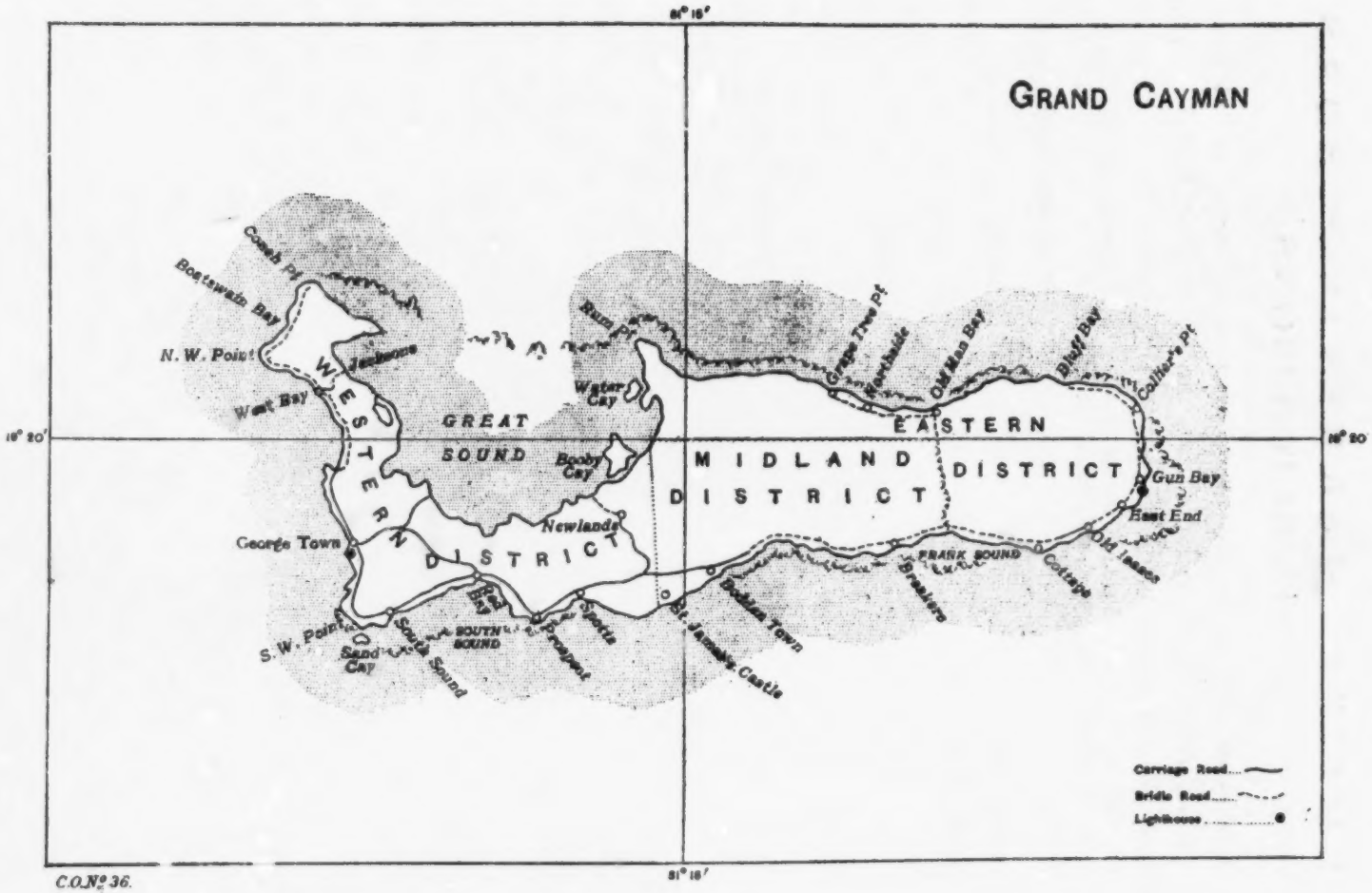
There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without any grant of the crown. The only areas recognized as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour nor any local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant; as seamen to the Gulf Ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages; as wood-cutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua; and, to a very small extent as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

G. H. FRITH,
Acting Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN,
15*th May*, 1931.



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JAMAICA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1930.

PREFACE.

HISTORICAL.

1. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

2. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

3. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

4. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representive one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

5. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

6. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

7. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

8. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

9. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694) Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, (2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

10. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1929 was 8,915, being at the rate of 9.1 per thousand of population.

Language.

11. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Iago de la Vega, &c., &c., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

There are many purely local words, such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

Currency.

12. British currency is legal tender in Jamaica and accounts are kept in sterling, but American silver and notes are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks.

Local Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1804, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1930, to the extent of £81,420 5s. in denominations of 2/6, 5/- and 10/-.

2/6 Notes.			5/- Notes.			10/- Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
124	0	0	32,518	5	0	48,778	0	0	81,420	5	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

The commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica issue local notes. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d. and ¼d. denominations.

Weights and Measures.

13. British Weights and Measures are used in Jamaica, and the standard weights and measures are the same as those used in England. It is interesting to note, however, that a "stone" (14 lbs.) is much more used as a unit of weight than it is in England, many commodities such as potatoes, onions, hay, etc., being sold by the stone.

In measurements, too, a "chain" (66ft.) and a "link" (7 ins.) are common units of measurements. Work in the fields and on the roads is always measured by the "chain" and in describing distances between two points less than a mile apart, the "chain" is nearly always used as the unit of description.

Geographical.

14. Jamaica is an island in the Carribean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

15. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

16. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies,

being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

17. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

18. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

19. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

PART I.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

20. During 1930 Jamaica has been fortunate as compared with many—perhaps with most—other parts of the world The hurricanes which brought destruction to other islands in the Carribbean passed Jamaica by. No epidemic diseases of man or beast occurred and the seasons were exceptionally favourable to agriculture.

21. Had the conditions of the outside world been normal, 1930 might well have been a year of exceptional prosperity for the Island. Unfortunately, but inevitably, the general depression throughout the world has exercised a detrimental effect upon the Colony's position. Increased production has been off-set by lower prices and all the principal articles of export have had to be disposed of in the world's markets at very unremunerative rates. As an illustration, the export of bananas reached the record figure of 24,496,585 stems, an increase of over 2½ million stems over the number exported in 1929—and the increase in the quantity of fruit was greater than is indicated by the number of stems, since the count bunches in 1930 were nearly 17½ millions, against a little over 14 millions in 1929—: but the value fell from £2,509,878 to £2,309,741. Similarly, exports of cocoa and coffee, considerably in excess of those of the previous year brought in respectively £35,000 and £103,000 less in money, while nine and a half million pounds of pimento were sold for more than £150,000 less than had been received for nine million pounds in 1929.

22. In this respect, however, Jamaica's experience has been that of the whole world and it would be unreasonable to complain.

23. The past year has seen the beginnings of an undertaking which bids fair to be of great importance to the Island in the future—an aeroplane service. The advantages of an air-mail have been secured and with the development of the base for which an excellent site has

been provided on Bumper Hall Pen, a great extension of the use of the air for the transport of mails and passengers, may be expected. There seems to be no reason why Jamaica should not in time become an important junction in the air route from Europe to South America. Al ocal Company—the Caribbean Airways Company—has been formed and it is proposed to lease the base to this Company on conditions which provide for the necessary Government control of aerial traffic.

24. The completion of the Constant Spring Hotel, which was made possible by the approval given by the Legislative Council to the proposals for a guarantee of the issue of debentures, is also deserving of mention.

25. It may confidently be expected that this fine building and the new golf course which even in an unfinished state earned commendation will serve to attract the best class of visitors and by making the name of Jamaica better known in the North, will help to strengthen the Colony's ties with Canada to the mutual benefit of the trade of both countries.

26. The Child Welfare Association has established during the year a Children's Outdoor Clinic and Creche on the fine site provided by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. This building should greatly assist the Association in extending the valuable work, which has now earned for it the high honour of the grant of the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen.

27. A very important feature of the year has been the growth and consolidation of the policy of co-operation which is the foundation on which the future prosperity of Jamaica will be based.

28. The Banana Producers Association handled over eight million stems in the year 1930 and established itself in the markets of the United States, Canada, England and the Continent of Europe. A new ship, the first to be owned entirely by the Association, has just been launched and the Colonial Development Fund Committee has shown its sense of the importance of the co-operative movement by obtaining the approval of His Majesty's Government to the grant on very favourable terms, of a loan of £50,000 to assist in the provision of a second vessel. This recognition of the value of the Association's work must be most gratifying not only to the Directors but to the Legislative Council, whose action in guaranteeing its debentures made possible the establishment of the Direct Fruit Line. The following is a passage from the letter in which the Committee recommended to His Majesty's Government the grant of this loan:—

> "The Committee desire to record the high opinion which they have formed of the Association's methods and results as disclosed by its activities up to the present. To have succeeded in building up a co-operative organization of such magnitude, and to have placed it by prudent management on so stable a financial basis are achievements of which those responsible for the policy of the Association may well be proud: and the Committee feel that the assistance which they have recommended, if approved by His Majesty's Government, will not only add materially to the strength of the Association in carrying on this valuable developmental work but will serve as a token of appreciation and an encouragement to further effort."

Such commendation from men of the standing of those who constitute the Committee, is almost more gratifying than the loan itself.

29. Another offshoot of the Producers Association, the Citrus Growers Association has made a good beginning. The packing house,

of which the cost was advanced by the Government, has been in operation for some months and it is already evident that it will have a marked effect on the quality of the fruit exported from the Island.

30. A Coconut Producers Association was also formed during the year, and it has now reached the point where it is possible to contemplate the establishment of a factory for the production of coconut oil. The value of edible oils imported into the Island during 1930 reached the high figure of £56,000. If the Association's factory can produce a suitable article to replace these imported oils and so obtain this trade, an important step will have been taken towards re-establishing the prosperity of an industry which at present is depressed owing to the low prices of coconuts and copra in foreign markets.

31. It has been unfortunate for the Co-operative Associations that this period of low prices has come just at the time when they are struggling to establish themselves on a firm basis. It is really when prices are low that co-operative undertakings are most valuable, securing as they do that the small grower gets the best possible return for his produce, but, while the principle of co-operation is still so new that many people do not fully understand it and some even regard it with suspicion, there is a danger that producers, disappointed by the low prices which they receive, may be led to believe that the fault lies with the system and to lose faith in the idea of co-operation.

32. Conditions in Cuba during the year went from bad to worse. Unemployment was rife and numbers of Jamaicans who had settled in Cuba became destitute and had to be repatriated by the Government of Jamaica. During the year a total of 2,049 persons were repatriated at a cost of £5,462. In spite of adverse conditions abroad, however, 1,374 Jamaicans emigrated during the year. Of these 205 went to Cuba, 59 to Hayti and the remainder to neighbouring Spanish-American Republics.

33. Units of the America and West Indies Squadron paid visits to Jamaica in January, March, April and October and the Island also received visits during the year from Units from the Royal Canadian Navy and the Navies of the United States of America and France.

34. Field Marshal Lord Methuen, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., L.L.D., visited the Island in February and inspected the Local Forces.

35. Mr. D. L. Feurtado, Assistant Director of Public Works, was honoured by His Majesty the King in the Birthday Honours List, being appointed a Member of the Imperial Service Order.

36. His Excellency the Governor proceeded on leave of absence in June and during his absence the Government was administered by the Honourable A. S. Jelf, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

37. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Public Service:—

The Honourable Brigadier G. C. Grazebrook, C.M.G., D.S.O. Commanding the Troops, Jamaica, died on the 21st July and was succeeded by The Honourable Brigadier G. A. Stevens, C.M.G., D.S.O ,

Dr. G. C. Strathairn, Senior Sanitary Medical Officer, Jamaica, was appointed to be Director of Health, Cyprus and Dr. J. A. Henderson, Senior Medical Officer, Palestine, was appointed Senior Sanitary Medical Officer, Jamaica.

Mr. R. H. Browne, District Magistrate, Antigua, was appointed to be a Resident Magistrate, Jamaica, vice Mr. L. C. Levy, who died in February as the result of an accident.

Mr. F. S. Passingham, Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Jamaica, was appointed Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Cyprus, and Mr. A. G. B. Mathews, Assistant Superintendent, Government Press, Nigeria, was appointed in his place.

Mr. John Powter, C.B.E., Director of the Jamaica Government Railway, died as the result of an accident on the 24th October.

Mr. D. L. Feurtado, Assistant Director of Public Works, and Mr. T. J. Field, Inspector of Police, retired from the Service having reached pensionable age.

PART II.

FINANCE.

38. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
£	£	£	£	£
2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094	2,212,851	2,292,869

Expenditure

1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29	1929-30
£	£	£	£	£
2,009,593	2,046,205	1,980,888	2,317,433	2,310,502

39. The total Expenditure during the year 1929-30, was £17,633 more than the total Revenue.

The Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1930, were £1,118,883 and £821,486, respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £297,397.

40. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1930, was £5,237,909. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,357,010. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference £2,880,899 exceeds by only £631,691, the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1930-31. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

41. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1930:—

	Population.	National Debt.	*Per Capita.*
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,596,210,000	158.2
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	990,000	5,237,909	5.3

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1930, viz.: £2,357,010 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2 18s. 2d.

42. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £209,035 at 31st March, 1930.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

43. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

44. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st December, 1930, was as follows:

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£111,493
The Bank of Nova Scotia	145,599
The Royal Bank of Canada	37,569
The Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	12,810

These Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

45. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 100 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1930, £640,327 19s. 5d.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other Securities in 1919, amounted to £335,734 and in 1930 to £659,938 19s. 10d.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919, was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1929 which was carried to the Reserve Fund, was £4,464 18s. 4d., and the net profit for 1930 to be carried to the Reserve Fund is £7,829 10s. 10d.

46. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and

Local Government or other Colonial Government Securities, (2) in real securities in Jamaica, (3) on deposit in Banks, (4) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

47. *Co-operative Loan Banks.*—There are 55 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for cultivation, the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

In 1930, Law 15 of 1930 was passed, giving the Board further and better powers, and extending their duties of supervision to all Agricultural Loan Societies.

To 31st December, 1930, £132,806 was lent to 37 Banks and £117,613 received in repayment. The sum of £59,641 was also lent to Banks to purchase 12 properties for the purpose of Land Settlement, of which £40,714 was repaid.

48. Interest paid since the inception of the operations of the Board amounted to £37,538 and 49 Banks from which returns were received collected share capital amounting to £44,944. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers.

PART III.

PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industry.

49. The planters of Jamaica have passed through a difficult period during the year 1930, due to the world-wide depression in trade and the difficulties of selling island produce, even at greatly reduced prices. The island rainfall for the year was 62.2 inches, or a shortage of over 14 inches on the average for the past 50 years. A serious drought extended from East Portland to Falmouth on the North Coast which greatly affected the Banana Crop and caused great loss to pimento growers in that section of the Island. Cattle also suffered from the burning up of the pastures.

50. Despite these difficulties, however, record crops of Bananas and of Sugar were produced. The number of stems of Bananas exported was in round numbers 24½ million or an increase of over 2½ million stems on the record crop of 1929. So great was the crop that at one period quantities of bananas ripened in the fields unharvested owing to lack of transport to foreign markets. The Co-operative Banana Association continued to flourish and it is now manifest that if this effort had not emerged as a successful business enterprise, the trade of the Colony would have had a very severe set-back during the year, for it has been the Banana Trade that has chiefly kept up the prosperity of the Colony despite the unfavourable markets for nearly all the other staples of the export trade.

51. Panama Disease increased by about 100 per cent. during the year, while the parish of Portland was permitted to treat the disease without departmental control, having reached the salvage stage over large areas of the frontage lands. The small cultivators of Portland are now extending bananas on the high hills and the Crown Lands are being planted up.

52. For the third year in succession, practically the whole crop of pollinated bananas at Castleton Gardens was lost owing to a winter "Norther" and the number of new banana seedlings obtained during the year was only nine. Several hundred of seeds were obtained from which further plants are expected.

53. The first cross seedlings of the "Gros Michel" pollinated with "Robusta" have been found to be highly resistant to Panama Disease and also to yield seeds far more readily than the present variety. No seedling has, however, yet attained to the length of finger required for commercial purposes. In order to extend the work of raising banana seedlings, four acres of land at Caymanas Estate, kindly lent for the purpose by the owner, have been planted out with seedling bananas and other varieties required for the breeding work.

54. Two alleged "cures" for Panama Disease were tested out by the inventors at the testing plot of the Government Laboratory. In each case the test plants developed the disease within two months. Several other "cures" have been propounded during the year and facilities have been provided for the testing of these methods by their sponsors on the special plot reserved for these trials.

55. Experiments were carried out on methods of destroying diseased banana stools without involving digging out the plants. Promising results were obtained by the use of a petroleum oil known as "gas oil" which killed the plants when poured over the stools at the rate of 1 to 2 quarts per plant. Field trials of the new method are now in hand.

56. Coconuts and Copra despite the low prices, over 30 million coconuts were exported. Copra increased from less than 8 million pounds to over ten million. It is regrettable that the co-operative scheme for making coconut oil and securing the local trade for edible oils has not yet been effected. A local trade of £50,000 a year for edible oil is at present being lost which should be a useful asset to the Coconut industry of the Colony.

57. Coffee—The exports of coffee remained steady at rather less than 7 million pounds for the year. The market for Blue Mountain coffee after registering the highest price on record, suddenly collapsed and planters have found it difficult to sell their crop even at a substantial reduction on the average prices realised for this grade of coffee during recent years.

A certain amount of planting is still taking place despite the

discouraging state of the market. Forty thousand coffee plants were distributed from the Hope nursery during the year.

58. Logwood continues to languish and exports of wood and "extract" were even lower than last year.

59. Ginger—The exports of ginger show a gain of 160 tons over those for 1929. A scare in the United States was created through the spread of a mysterious disease with symptoms of paralysis which was attributed to the consumption of liquid extract of ginger, generally known as "Jamaica Ginger." It was eventually found that the ginger was not the cause of the damage but that the presence of certain ingredients used in connection with Industrial Alcohol was responsible for the illness of the consumers of the extract of ginger.

It is hoped that no lasting prejudice against the excellent and wholesome ginger of Jamaica will survive as a result of this scare.

60. Cocoa—The cocoa trade remained steady with exports at about 3,000 tons for the year. The market for cacao has continued to be depressed and sales are difficult to effect.

61. Grapefruit—The export of grapefruit shows a sharp decline from 120,000 boxes to rather less than 100,000 boxes. This was principally due to the raising of the standard whereby about 30,000 boxes of early fruit was prevented from being shipped. The new Co-operative Packing House was opened during the year and is equipped with the latest machinery for cleaning, grading, colouring and packing the fruit. This represents a big advance by the growers of citrus fruits in Jamaica who are now enabled to pack and ship their fruit with a refinement of technique equal to that of their bigger trade competitors in the United States.

62. Honey was a slightly larger crop than that of the previous year. The loss of the German market through a protective tariff was a serious set-back to the honey trade. If the honey industry can be rationalised by co-operative effort, its future is by no means unpromising.

The Bee Instructor of the Jamaica Agricultural Society has been in great request and has distributed a large number of Queen Bees of improved strains.

63. Pimento shows a slight gain over the crop of 1929 with a total of over 4,200 tons. A complete demoralisation of this trade was fortunately prevented by the formation of a Co-operative Pimento Association. Although trade was slow and difficult, a fair price was successfully maintained for pimento during the year.

64. Sugar exceeded all expectations by an export of over 47,000 tons, representing one of the largest crops since the installation of the vacuum process in place of the old muscovado system of sugar manufacture.

Owing to the bounty of £2 per ton paid by the Colonial Government for the crop of 1930, and the pooling of the market for local grocery sugars, the losses to the planters have been substantially reduced despite the complete demoralisation of the world markets for sugar.

65. Rum—A series of crashes in the continental trade for rum made it very difficult for high-flavoured rums to be sold. There was a good local demand for the lighter "Common Clean" type of Jamaica Rum. A revolution has recently been affected on large areas of sugar lands in Jamaica by deep mechanical tillage, irrigation, the substitution of new canes for the old Jamaica cane, and the rational use of fertilisers mainly nitrogenous in character.

It is to these developments that the record crop of 1930, must rightfully be attributed.

Of the new canes the Barbados seedling B.H. (10) 12 has now generally displaced the White Transparent as the standard cane of Jamaica. Of the hybrid canes from Java, POJ 2725, POJ 2727 and POJ 2714, have made good on many cane lands in Jamaica in the order named.

During the past year the Agricultural Department has issued plants of the "Wonder Cane" of Java named "POJ 2878," to every Estate in the Island and to many small settlers.

The highest recorded yield from cane on an Estate in Jamaica was from the Java Cane EK 28 in Vere where this cane gave 78 tons per acre which is about double the yield of the old Estate cane. During the past decade the Hope Nursery has issued over 4 million plants of new canes to growers all over the Island. The result of this work can now be seen in the complete revolution that has taken place in the varieties of sugar cane which now enable far higher yields of sugar to be obtained than formerly from the cane lands of the Colony. An application has been made at the instance of the Jamaica Imperial Association for a grant of £3,000 a year for 5 years from the Colonial Development Fund in order to finance an effective scheme of field research in the raising of new canes and the improved cultivation of sugar canes on the varied sugar lands of the Colony.

66. Distribution of Plants—During the past three years the Department of Agriculture has made special efforts to extend the planting of grapefruit in the Colony. Over 126,000 plants of grapefruit have been recently distributed to growers all over the Island. A free gift of plants to small settlers in Portland who had suffered loss from Panama Disease has resulted in 45,000 grapefruit plants being satisfactorily set out on diseased lands in Portland during the recent planting season under the guidance of the Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture.

Bombay Mangoes—This luscious fruit is rapidly gaining recognition and large numbers of common trees are being converted into the Bombay variety by the process of budding. The Department of Agriculture has now converted 1,860 common mango trees on the Hope Estate, while 1,700 grafted plants of Bombay mango were supplied to the public during the past year.

Coffee—During the past three years the Department and the Jamaica Agricultural Society have co-operated in an effort to extend coffee among the small producers. Over 130,000 coffee plants grown from the best Blue Mountain seed have been issued from the Hope Nurseries to small growers all over the island.

67. Irrigation in Pedro—An experiment in irrigating from wells in the dry zone of Pedro Plains in St. Elizabeth is now in progress. The Public Works Department have installed an engine and pump for one well and a large Aeromotor pump for another. The Department of Agriculture has laid out the land and established crops of Bombay mangoes, grapefruit, bananas and catch crops to be cultivated under irrigation.

68. Animal Diseases—The Colony has to congratulate itself on a "nil" return for both Anthrax and Mouth Disease during the past year. The drought on the Northside caused much trouble to stock-owners during the summer months but a rapid recovery has now been made and the general state of the livestock in the Colony may be regarded as satisfactory.

69. Government Stock Farm—As a result of a successful year's work the Farm has been able from its own revenue to improve its

equipment at a cost of £1,600 during the past year. Electro-magnetic milking for the native herd of 60 dairy cows, a Ruston and Hornsby Oil Engine of 37 H.P. from England for cutting up fodder and making ensilage have been provided. A Tractor has enabled silage crops to be planted during a severe time of drought. A fine Friesian bull has been imported from Canada, while the generosity of Lord Lonsdale has enabled the Stud Farm at Grove Place to place the services of the thoroughbred horse, "Royal Highness," at the disposal of the public. The services of this Stallion have been fully engaged.

70. Farm School—As a result of a Committee appointed at the instance of the Honourable Member for St. Ann, the staff and equipment of the Farm School has been improved. The branch at "Grove Place" will soon be opened. Two Scholarships were recently offered and fifty candidates competed. The Farm School continues to keep up its numbers at full capacity.

71. Reafforestation—As a result of recent propaganda in reafforestation and the appointment of a special officer on the staff of the Surveyor General, greater efforts have been made in reafforesting lands, and the planting of timber trees. The Agricultural Department has issued free of charge 83,000 plants of valuable timber during the past two years indicating a revival of public interest in this important aspect of our agricultural affairs.

Forestry.

72. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889, and Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

73. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes, up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places, destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet. In December, 1927, the Afforestation Law, 1927, Law 33 of 1927, was passed, and on 3rd July, 1928, the Acting Governor in Privy Council under the power conferred on him by Section 3 (a) of that Law, made an order declaring certain Government lands, aggregating about 30,310 acres to be a Forest Reserve.

On 1st March, 1929, an Assistant Conservator of Forests was appointed as an officer of the Land Department.

74. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation, and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature, that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 44 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees, and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

Mining.

75. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

76. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597, Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

77. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

78. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co., extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore, which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

79. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

Geological Surveys.

80. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

Land Settlement.

81. The Government acquired the properties of Tobolski and Monklands as additions to their Land Settlement Schemes. Tobolski,

a property of 2,050 acres was bought at a cost of £8,500, and Monklands a property of 1,500 acres was bought for £4,000. These properties are being sub-divided by the Surveyor General on similar lines to that of Kellets which was bought last year.

Fishing.

82. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of, and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

83. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

PART IV.

TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports and Exports.

84. The Colony's trade in 1930 was less than that of the previous year's trade. The value of both Exports and Imports decreased.

85. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £5,823,037 as compared with £6,746,095 in 1929. A comparative table showing the principal articles and the percentage of each obtained from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and other countries is given.

[Table "A" Pages 17 and 18.]

The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcels Post Duties amounted to £1,069,380 a decrease of £73,978. Parcels Post Duties amounted to £47,431, an increase of £339.

86. The Export Trade exclusive of Parcels Post exports for 1930 resulted in a decrease. The value was £4,649,130 in 1929 and £4,075,473 in 1930.

87. The comparative table of the twelve principal products exported is interesting. The products are arranged in the order of their importance.

[Table "B" Page 19.]

TABLE "A."

	Principal Articles imported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of Quantity or value.	1929. Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U. S. A.	Other Countries.
Total Imports (not including Parcels Post)		Value.	£	6,746,095	26.3	18.0	31.0	24.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	Quantity	galls.	281,512	71.6	..	..	28.4
	Butter	"	lbs.	552,922	1.3	62.9	2.5	33.3
	Butter Substitutes	"	"	512,228	61.0	.7	.3	38.0
	Fish—Dried, salted	"	"	13,480,065	1.1	60.6	.1	38.2
	Pickled	"	"	9,110,730	..	97.0	..	3.0
	Grain, Flour	"	bags	384,728	..	86.5	13.5	..
	Meats—Beef, wet, salted	"	lbs.	977,940	92.5	.1	4.8	2.6
	Ham	"	"	371,149	20.9	1.5	76.8	.8
	Pork, wet, salted	"	"	1,139,240	..	32.5	67.5	..
	Milk, condensed	"	"	5,083,991	17.3	46.8	12.7	23.2
	Oils, Edible	"	gals.	271,026	92.0	..	.4	7.6
	Sugar, Refined	"	lbs.	2,745,007	15.4	80.8	2.1	1.7
	Tobacco—Cigarettes	"	"	233,046	99.3	..	.7	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	Quantity	tons.	112,887	39.0	..	61.0	..
	Lumber—Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	"	ft.	19,661,440	..	9.6	87.6	2.8
	Hoops and Shooks ..	Value	£	48,349	6.7	4.0	82.2	7.1
	Oils—Illuminating ..	Quantity	gals.	1,520,073	..	..	87.3	12.7
	Motor Spirits	"	"	5,498,123	..	..	18.0	82.0
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	Value	£	98,603	38.7	1.7	46.8	12.8
	Boots and Shoes	"	£	219,806	33.6	23.1	41.8	1.5
	Carriages—Motor Cars	"	£	216,720	7.9	30.5	61.5	.1
	Parts of	"	£	141,306	18.6	30.3	48.7	2.4
	Cement	Quantity	brls.	70,039	83.0	3.6	..	13.4
	Cotton—Piece Goods	Value	£	466,974	43.5	..	54.6	1.9
	Other Manufactures ..	"	£	131,706	42.9	4.0	38.0	15.1
	Hardware	"	£	138,358	43.9	3.4	38.0	14.7
	Medicines and Drugs	"	£	71,305	29.5	10.5	50.8	9.2
	Metals—Iron galvanized, Steel Bars and Sheets, Nails, Screws and Rivets ..	"	£	96,598	56.6	9.2	12.8	21.4
	Silk Manufactures	"	£	85,443	66.1	1.4	8.2	24.3
	Soap—Laundry	Quantity	lbs.	6,665,130	72.0	..	23.8	4.2
	Wool—Manufactures	Value	£	58,802	92.2	..	6	7.2

	Principal Articles imported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of Quantity or value.	1930. Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U. S. A.	Other Countries.
Total Imports (not including Parcels Post)		Value.	£	5,823,037	29.8	16.4	33.2	20.6
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	Quantity	galls.	263,380	77.0	..	..	23.0
	Butter	"	lbs.	563,012	6.0	31.0	2.0	61.0
	Butter Substitutes	"	"	406,871	85.8	..	..	14.2
	Fish—Dried, salted	"	"	13,430,120	.6	38.2	.1	61.1
	Pickled	"	"	10,942,300	..	96.4	..	3.6
	Grain, Flour	"	bags	320,210	.2	84.6	15.2	..
	Meats—Beef, wet, salted	"	lbs.	1,055,220	97.1	.2	2.7	..
	Ham	"	"	317,827	20.5	1.2	77.3	1.0
	Pork, wet, salted	"	"	963,641	..	27.8	72.2	..
	Milk, condensed	"	"	5,129,318	26.5	38.4	11.5	23.6
	Oils, Edible	"	gals.	311,964	91.8	..	.2	8.0
	Sugar, Refined	"	lbs.	1,109,758	16.9	79.3	3.7	.1
	Tobacco—Cigarettes	"	"	201,422	98.8	..	1.1	.1
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	Quantity	tons.	62,054	31.1	..	68.9	..
	Lumber—Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	"	ft.	19,656,761	..	3.8	95.6	.6
	Hoops and shooks	Value	£	62,844	6.4	3.6	88.8	1.2
	Oils—Illuminating	Quantity	gals.	1,408,971	..	..	74.9	25.1
	Motor Spirits	"	"	4,471,522	..	..	20.9	79.1
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	Value	£	107,453	32.4	2.3	48.9	16.4
	Boots and Shoes	"	£	230,624	36.6	12.7	45.6	5.1
	Carriages—Motor Cars	"	£	172,571	9.8	27.5	62.7	..
	Parts of	"	£	98,290	10.9	32.9	53.4	2.8
	Cement	Quantity	brls.	126,368	81.8	7.3	..	10.9
	Cotton—Piece Goods	Value	£	434,749	44.8	.1	53.3	1.8
	Other Manufactures	"	£	134,024	48.2	2.3	35.3	14.2
	Hardware	"	£	175,286	45.5	6.0	37.1	11.4
	Medicines and Drugs	"	£	75,336	34.4	6.6	51.6	7.4
	Metals—Iron galvanized, Steel Bars and Sheets, Nails, Screws and Rivets	"	£	66,771	41.7	6.5	26.7	25.1
	Silk Manufactures	"	£	82,595	53.0	2.7	14.5	29.8
	Soap—Laundry	Quantity	lbs.	7,193,917	78.1	..	15.7	6.2
	Wool—Manufactures	Value	£	59,688	90.3	.1	.4	9.2

TABLE "B"

Principal Products Exported.	Whether percentage based on quantity or value.	Unit of quantity or value.	1929.					1930.				
			Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U.S.A.	Other Countries.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	U.S.A.	Other Countries.
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post)	Value.	£	4,649,130	18.4	23.7	33.9	24.0	4,075,473	27.3	25.9	33.4	13.4
Bananas	Quantity	stems	22,047,536	18.3	11.6	48.6	21.5	24,596,585	30.1	12.9	49.7	7.3
Sugar—Unrefined	"	tons	37,380	7.5	92.0	..	.5	50,374	13.3	86.5	..	.2
Spices—Pimento	"	lbs.	9,039,147	2.2	2.7	22.8	72.3	9,522,824	1.9	2.5	23.6	72.0
Coffee	"	"	6,571,902	4.8	88.6	5.8	.8	6,875,316	7.9	89.7	1.7	.7
Coconuts	"	No.	39,918,498	6.1	9.1	84.2	.6	31,190,105	4.6	9.3	85.7	.4
Copra	"	lbs.	7,888,809	13.1	..	16.6	70.3	10,181,975	32.0	..	9.6	58.4
Cocoa	"	"	6,723,132	9.1	44.9	32.6	13.4	6,785,953	6.7	35.8	44.1	13.4
Logwood Extracts	"	pkgs.	7,838	61.1	..	3.8	35.1	6,133	62.0	..	2.0	36.0
Logwood	"	tons	21,010	.5	..	6.7	92.8	16,240	1.6	..	16.2	82.2
Rum	"	galls.	810,908	75.4	5.1	..	19.5	679,210	72.8	4.4	..	12.8
Grapefruit	"	No.	10,213,560	86.6	9.2	.7	3.5	9,084,821	73.3	23.9	1.0	1.8
Spices—Ginger, Dry	"	lbs.	2,128,576	56.8	8.2	29.2	5.8	2,486,252	50.8	9.6	33.6	6.0

TAXATION.

88. The following Laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 1 of 1930, "A Law to Continue a Certain Expiring Law." This Law continued in force from the first April, 1930, the following Law:—

The Excise Duty (Temporary increase) Law, 1920 (Law 9 of 1920) with the exception of the following items:—

On all matches subject to Excise Duty under "The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901 (Law 12 of 1901)," and any Laws amending the same an additional duty after the rate of ten per cent. on such Excise Duty.

On all amounts payable as King's Warehouse Fees under the Wharfage Law, 1895 (Law 15 of 1895), a surtax after the rate of ten per cent. of such fees.

TRADE.

89. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1890. It must, however, be pointed out that in 1890 the values of Imports were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1930 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1890 to 31.3.91	1900 to 31.3.01	1910 to 31.12.10	1920 to 31.12.20	1930 to 31.12.30
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,902,814	1,797,077	2,568,222	6,715,310	6,101,513
Value of Imports	2,190,745	1,652,675	2,614,943	10,313,282	4,091,573

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures, such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B.

MANUFACTURES.

90. The principal articles manufactured are sugar, rum, copra, sisal hemp, banana figs, essential oils, cigars, cigarettes, leather and logwood extract.

91. The production of sugar and rum for the years 1928, 1929 and 1930 is set out below.

Year.		Sugar.	Rum.
1928	..	53,431 tons	12,231 phns.
1929	..	57,633 „	13,438 „
1930	..	67,244 „	14,254 „

Sisal Hemp.—In 1929 the value of sisal hemp exported was £9,544, while in 1930 the value exported was £1,593. The production in 1929 was 270 tons and in 1930 174½ tons.

Banana Figs.—The export of banana figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs., in 1928, 235,783 lbs., and the negligible quantities 55,217, lbs., in 1929 and 71,837 lbs. in 1930.

Essential Oils.—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils, 16,358 gallons were produced in 1929 against 8,749 gallons in 1930.

The number of boxes of oranges exported was small.

Cigars and Cigarettes.—The cigar industry was practically stationary, the export figure was 61,374 lbs. in 1928, 65,268 in 1929 and 69,190 lbs. in 1930. It is worthy of note, however, that a cigarette manufactured partly of imported leaf tobacco and partly of native grown tobacco is competing very successfully with the imported cigarette.

In 1928 the output of cigarettes was 91,733,718, in 1929, 149,591,504 and in 1930, 159,816,920.

Leather.—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 19,780 lbs. were exported in 1930.

Figures for *Copra* and *Logwood Extract* are given under Exports.

The minor industries include aerated and mineral waters, ale, beer, stout, ice, soap, coconut oil, jippi jappa hats, baskets and furniture.

Shipping.

92. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1926	entered	1,553	vessels of	2,552,987	tons.
1927	"	1,754	"	3,001,232	"
1928	"	1,593	"	3,076,996	"
1929	"	1,651	"	3,337,919	"
1930	"	1,631	"	3,573,731	"
1926	cleared	1,550	"	2,553,138	"
1927	"	1,754	"	3,008,172	"
1928	"	1,562	"	3,042,893	"
1929	"	1,635	"	3,310,243	"
1930	"	1,625	"	3,541,633	"

93. The following regular steamship lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., The Canadian Transport Co., The Canadian National Steamship Co., Pacific Steam Navigation Co., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., The Webster Steamship Line. (The last named company is registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., The DiGiorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line, Munson Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

94. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

PART V.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.

95. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total

length of 2,371 miles which are maintained, out of the General Revenue of the Colony, and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,345 miles of which 1,823 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

96. During 1930, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £113 per mile, excluding expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 113 miles of roads has been improved and tar sprayed.

97. The programme of road construction begun in 1927 with the object of opening up the fertile areas and providing feeders to the Government Railway, has been steadily pushed on.

Canals.

98. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

Railway.

99. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio —63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

100. The main lines run across high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north--east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

101. The revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1930, was £402,577 and the expenditure, £309,421. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 381,994 tons as compared with 341,224 tons for the year 1929; the number of passengers carried in 1930 was 754,288 as compared with 612,693 in 1929.

102. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

103. Since 1925, the work of replacing old 60lb. rails with 80lb. rails has been proceeding; 133 miles of 60lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously. Up to the end of December, 1930, 82½ miles had been relaid.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

104. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1930, there were 2,255 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 61 Telegraph and 108 Telephone Offices. Nine new Telegraph and Telephone Offices were opened during the year.

105. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

106. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 47 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

107. In 1929, 380,142 telegrams were despatched, and the revenue amounted to £22,923 8s. 3½d. In 1930, 395,544 and £22,709 17s. 2½d., respectively.

108. There are three wireless stations in the Island under Government license, two owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., and one by Pan-American, Airways Inc.

Two are situated at Kingston, and the other at Stony Hill.

Of the 2 owned by the D. W. I. Cable Co., one is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. The Pan-American Airways W/T Station is used for point to point Services and for control of their aeroplanes operating between North and South America and the Caribbean Islands—Short wave only is used. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Stations exist in the Island. No amateur transmitting licenses are issued.

109. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

110. The cable of the former company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-

Atlantic service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office,.

111. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

These two Cable Companies have been merged into the Imperial and International Communication Co., Ltd., but in Jamaica retain their old names.

PART VI.

JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

JUDICIAL.

112. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court —"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate's Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding Courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

LEGISLATION.

113. Twenty-five Laws were passed during the year 1930, and a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest is given below.

Law 3 *of* 1930.—"The Casual Revenue Amendment Law, 1930" This provides that the personal estate of persons who die intestate and without next of kin shall be deemed to be casual revenue and not droit of the Crown.

Law 5 *of* 1930.—"A Law to provide for Retiring Allowances and Gratuities to Teachers of Certain Training Colleges in Jamaica." Under this Law provision is made for Retiring Allowances and gratuities to teachers of certain Training Colleges mentioned in the Law and to teachers of any others which may be added to the Schedule by the Governor in Privy Council. Provision is made for continuity of service both in Elementary and Secondary Schools or in Government appointments. A contribution of 2% is to be made for the purposes of computation of Retiring Allowances.

Law 6 *of* 1930.—"The Parochial Officers Pensions Law." The Law gives to Parochial Officers the benefits of the provisions contained in the Pensions Law, 1904 (Law 24 of 1904) and provides for mixed service as to Parochial and Public Service employment.

Law 7 *of* 1930.—"A Law to provide for Retiring Allowances to Teachers in Elementary Schools." This Law offers more substantial

benefits to teachers in Elementary Schools than they previously enjoyed. The Law is a result of recommendations made by a committee appointed to prepare and submit a detailed scheme on the subject of pensions and gratuities to teachers in Elementary Schools.

Law 8 *of* 1930.—"A Law to extend the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Law, 1924 (Law 40 of 1924), The Dangerous Drugs Amendment Law, 1928 (Law 11 of 1928) and the Dangerous Drugs Law Amendment Law, 1928 (Law 23 of 1928) to the Dependencies of Jamaica." This Law extends the Laws mentioned in the title thereof to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands with certain amendments.

Law 10 *of* 1930.—"A Law to enable the Governor to Borrow Money by the Issue of Treasury Bills in the Island." This Law enables the Governor to borrow money by the issue of local Treasury Bills in the Island.

Law 12 *of* 1930.—"The Railway Administration and Pensions Law, 1930." The Law divides persons in the service of the Jamaica Government Railway into two classes—(a) Officers of the Railway who have been gazetted or who may be gazetted as holding pensionable offices under the Pensions Law, 1904 (Law 24 of 1904) and (b) all other employees whose offices are described in the First Schedule of the Law. The scheme of the Law follows as far as possible the Pensions Law of 1904.

Law 13 *of* 1930.—"A Law to Authorise the Raising of a Loan for the Restoration of the No. 1 Railway Pier." The Law gives effect to a Resolution of the Legislative Council passed on the 16th May, 1929, authorising the raising of a loan to erect the No. 1 Railway Pier, and also for providing funds for altering, improving or adding sidings, buildings and road approaches to the Railway Piers.

Law 14 *of* 1930.—"A Law further to amend the Motor Vehicle Law, 1922 (Law 21 of 1922)." Under this Law regulations may be framed for arriving at the schedule weight which a motor vehicle may weigh when loaded, and also for regulating the placing of weights on the roofs and other parts of a motor vehicle.

Law 15 *of* 1930.—"A Law to confer further Powers on the Agricultural Loan Societies Board." This Law confers additional powers on the Board which will enable more effective and closer supervision. Such additional powers are set out in Section 1 of the Law.

Law 17 *of* 1930.—"A Law further to amend the Adulteration Law, 1908 (Law 25 of 1908)." The Law gives power to the Governor in Privy Council to make regulations which shall extend to colouring matter as well as preservatives and to make it clear what is permissible in regard to the addition of preservatives and/or colouring matter in such articles of food and drink.

Law 18 *of* 1930.—"A Law relating to the Institute of Jamaica." This Law repeals the other Laws relating to the Institute and embodies certain amendments. Provision is made in the Law that a member who absents himself from the meetings for six months without leave, thereby vacates his seat.

Law 23 *of* 1930.—"A Law further to amend the Cattle Trespass Law, 1888, Law 13 of 1888." The Law provides that the location of damages complained of shall be pointed out, if required, to the party to whom such complaint is made.

Law 24 *of* 1930.—"A Law further to amend the Marine Board Law, 1903 (Law 36 of 1903)." This Law further extends the field of operation of a "Home Trade Ship" by substituting a new definition of "Home Trade Ship," and enables vessels of greater capacity and more powerful equipment to be engaged in the trade. The Law also makes it compulsory that such vessels should carry two engineers, viz.: a first and second engineer. The Law further provides that motor ships shall be subjected to the same provisions as steamships.

Law 25 of 1930.—"A Law to Authorise a Loan to the Jamaica Banana Producers Association, Limited." The Colonial Development Advisory Committee recommended a loan of £50,000 from Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Jamaica, to be re-lent to the Jamaica Banana Producers Association, Limited. This Law gives effect to that decision by giving the Governor power to borrow the said sum of £50,000 for the purpose of re-lending the same to the Association.

The Jamaica Constabulary.

114. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old police force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. Under that Law the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers; and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as sub-officers and constables. The present authorised strength of the force is 23 Officers and 1,079 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for membership unless he can produce a certificate of character from a magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory medical examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read, without hesitation, any printed or written document and to write a fair hand. Every candidate is enrolled for five years (3 months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the office of Constables. There are separate Detective and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class of small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police.

Prisons.

115. *Classification*—Prisons in the Colony are classified as follows:—

(a) General Penitentiary, Kingston, for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months; all European prisoners, and all female prisoners.

(b) Saint Catherine District Prison for male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and all convicted prisoners with sentences of 6 months and under and imprisonment without hard labour.

(c) Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town, for selected young prisoners up to a total of 66, between the ages of 16 and 21.

Internal classification is also made at (a) by placing all, except first offenders, at first class hard labour for a period to be determined by their conduct and industry, from which they may graduate to trade parties, orderlies, etc. First offenders are located and worked as separate parties for purposes of segregation from more hardened criminals. At (c) special grading is in force based on the Borstal System. Any prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21 not selected for the special prison are worked and located as separate parties in the adult prisons.

116 In spite of the fact that the demand for bricks has decreased to such an extent that the industry was discontinued early in 1930, revenue from Prison Sales has reached a very satisfactory figure, particularly so when allowance is made for the non-revenue producing work being performed by 100 to 200 prisoners in constructing a road along the Palisadoes from Kingston to Port Royal, and for the great decrease in population during the latter portion of the year. This latter fact also has a bearing on the increased net cost per prisoner, as most overhead charges remain the same whether the population is 1,000 or 2,000.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The figures for comparison are	9,934 4 1	9,992 12 1	14,467 17 3	14,000 0 7	13,670 17 7
The net cost per prisoner per annum	27 2 4½	31 16 7½	30 12 7¾	29 1 0¾	30 1 4½

PART VII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

117. The general scheme of hospital improvements is being steadily pursued. Extensive enlargements and improvements have been effected at the Lunatic Asylum and in the hospitals of Kingston, Black River, Port Maria, Linstead and Spanish Town.

118. The building of Government Elementary Schools is going steadily on. Three schools were completed and several are now in progress.

119. New Public Buildings undertaken during the year included a new Police Court for Kingston, which was nearing completion at the end of the year, also the completion of four new Court Houses, three District Post Offices, and seven Police Stations. The erection of a powerful new Lighthouse at Portland Point, was practically completed.

PART VIII.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

120. Steady progress was made in all branches of Public Health in Jamaica during 1930. The most important single advance was the inauguration of the plan of full time Health Officers for all parishes that accepted the terms of the Report of the Medical Commission. This report was approved by the Legislative Council in 1929, and received the further approval of the Colonial Office during that year. It became effective on April 1, 1930, the beginning of the financial year. At the end of the year all but three of the Parochial Boards had committed themselves in favour of the plan laid down in the Report. On December 31, 1930, permanent appointments of full-time Medical Officers of Health had been made in six parishes, Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Mary, Trelawny, St. Catherine and Clarendon. Temporary full time appointments had been made in St. James, Hanover, St. Elizabeth and temporary part-time appointments in St. Thomas and Portland. As rapidly as trained men are available the temporary appointees will be replaced by permanent officers.

121. The Report of the Medical Commission also recommends whole-time District Medical Officers in certain specified districts and the abolition of fees together with an increase in salary for all District Medical Officers.

122. The Hookworm Commission was very active during the year. There are now only three parishes in which the Commission has not worked, and arrangements have already been made to begin work in two of these as soon as the Sanitation Units can be released from the parishes where they are now at work.

123. Malaria Control Work was carried out in several of the endemic areas. The work followed out the methods indicated in the report of the previous year's survey. The use of Paris Green as a larvicide has proved very successful in large anopheline breeding areas.

124. The Tuberculosis Clinic in Kingston was attended by an increased number of patients. Tuberculin tests were carried out at schools and other institutions. Similar clinics were opened in three other parishes.

125. The Bureau of Health Education issues a number of pamphlets on special subjects in addition to the publication of "Jamaica Public Health." This periodical now has a circulation of 20,000 a month. It is used as a text book on Hygiene in over 200 schools in the Colony.

126. The work of School Dental Clinics was increased during the year, and is at present conducted in seven parishes.

127. The incidence of Enteric Fever, as shown by the notifications, was less than that of the previous year.

PART IX.

EDUCATION.

128. The total departmental expenditure for the year 1929-30 was £183,266, an increase of £9,461, upon the expenditure for 1928-29.

Elementary.

129. Attendance at the public Elementary Schools continues to improve, the average number on the Registers in 1930 being 131,543 compared with 128,154 in 1929, and in the average attendance for the 288 best sessions, on which grants are based, being 85,480 compared with 81,016 in 1929. Attendance at Friday sessions continued to improve slowly.

130. Four new Government-owned Schools were opened during the year 1929-30. A sum of £4,138 12s. 2d. was disbursed in 1929-30 in Building Grants for denominational schools and teachers' quarters, but many denominational school buildings remained in bad repair.

Secondary.

131. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, nineteen in number, under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended continuance of the grants.

132. The accepted external examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations, held in 19 centres. In the last examinations held, 276 (58) candidates passed the Junior Examination, 143 (57%) the School Certificate, and (54%) the Higher School Certificate.

133. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica, 33 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination, and 11 passed, including 2 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts, there were 12 candidates, 4 of whom passed and 2 were referred. One candidate sat for Intermediate Laws and passed. Three candidates sat for the Final Arts Examination and 2 passed. One candidate sat for the Final Examination in Laws and failed.

134. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three Scholarships tenable at British Universities and for one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

Continuation and Technical.

135. The Government Technical and Continuation Schools, Kingston, have been maintained as before, and the Continuation and Domestic Training Schools at Carron Hall (Presbyterian) and at Highgate (Friends Mission) have been aided by grants. Manual Training Departments are attached to nine Government Schools, but three are in abeyance and the remainder are not working at full capacity on account of shortage of qualified staff.

Industrial Schools and Orphanages.

136. There are 9 certified Industrial Schools, and 3 Orphanages not certified but in receipt of grants.

Government Industrial School.

137. This is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, nine miles from Kingston, and excepting the difficulty of water supply, is an ideal site for the purpose.

138. The general system is for the children to do half of each day at manual work in the work shops farms, gardens, laundry, cook house, bakery, etc., and the other half in school.

139. The school has been divided into 8 houses—6 for boys and 2 for girls—which are conducted on the same lines as adopted by the Borstal Institutions of England. This system has proved very success-

ful and is developing an excellent form of team spirit and a healthy competitive element without the incentive of personal gain.

140. A full day, in which drill, industries and school work, play, hobbies, scouting, and evening continuation classes for senior boys each take important parts, is arranged for every inmate, and it is gratifying to watch the physical and mental development of the boys and girls many of whom are poor specimens on admission.

141. Some good furniture is made in the carpenter's shop and the demand for this has become so great that machinery for the heavier forms of sawing and planing has been installed in order to speed up the output.

142. The troop of Baden Powell Boy Scouts, formed in 1928, has proved a great incentive to non-members and a most helpful and interesting form of character training for members.

143. The School has its own brass band.

PART X.

LANDS AND SURVEY AND PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

144. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which was carried out by the Military Authorities in 1912 for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 cares, of which 2,570,329 acres have been alienated, leaving 277,831 unalienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

145. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves, (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

146. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

147. Between the years 1867 and 1887, the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

148. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

149. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 301 time-expired East Indian immigrants 3,343 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

150. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1930, 50,067 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1930, was 136 acres of land to one purchaser for £149. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

151. There are large numbers of praedial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 24s. per nominal acre per annum. The value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, and the price of Crown lands was increased during the year from £1 to a minimum of £2 per acre, and go up to £5 per acre, according to situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

PART XI.

Labour Conditions in Jamaica.

152. During the year 1930, labour conditions in Jamaica were generally good, and extensive and constant demand existed. Wages to the unskilled class were on the whole fair; skilled labour was generally well paid. There is not a sufficient supply of the latter. The stimulus given to the banana and other agricultural industries, extensive programmes in new road construction, relaying of railway tracks, and general building, provided an increased field. The demand for unskilled labour sometimes exceeded the supply. This is chiefly due to apathy in seeking work amongst certain sections of this class.

PART XII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorological, 1930.

Rainfall.

153. The mean rainfall, derived from the four Divisions of the Island, for the calendar year 1930, was only 62.13 inches, which

when compared with the 50-year normal, of 76.46 inches shews a deficiency of 14.33 inches. This total is slightly above that of 1929. The year 1930 is the 6th in succession with rainfall below normal. During the first half of the year the precipitation was 1.66 inch less than the aggregate normal, and in the second half, the rainfall was somewhat less than three-quarters of normal. The months of February, April and November were the only months registering above the 50-year normal, the other months gauged below. For the year the distribution shewed deficiencies, approximately, as follows: North-eastern Division 17%, Northern 16%, West-Central 20 and Southern 26% below their 50-year normals, respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was only 113 as against the normal of 122, representing a little over half an inch per rainy day. The total rainfall for the City of Kingston amounted to only 15.48 inches; the 60-year normal being 31.57 inches. The total number of rainy days being 72 as against the 49-year average of 79.4 days.

Temperature.

154. At Kingston the mean temperature for the year was 79.0 degrees, and the 33-year normal 78.7 degrees or 0.3 degree above. The extreme maximum temperature for the 12 months was 94.6 degrees on 22nd September; and the lowest minimum 63.7 degrees on 9th January.

Humidity.

155. For the year the mean relative humidity was 77% or 2% below normal. That for the 7 a.m. being 82%, and 3 p.m. 65%.

Weather Disturbances.

156. *July.*—There were no tropical weather disturbances, within barometric range of Jamaica in July.

157. *August.*—The Caribbean Sea was remarkably free of hurricanes during this month, but on 25th a wireless report from United States Weather Bureau stated there was evidence of a tropical disturbance detected about 400 miles to NNE. of the Island of Porto Rico. This storm, apparently, remained nearly stationary until the 25th, and was of comparatively slight intensity. Then, subsequent reports received from Washington indicated that the storm was located earlier at, or near, latitude 21° north and longitude 56° west.

158. *September.*—A most disastrous hurricane swept over the Island of San Domingo—Haiti on 3rd September, causing very great loss of life in the City of San Domingo, and large property damage. This storm was of small diameter, but of very great intensity, with an estimated maximum velocity varying from 150 to 200 miles per hour. The barometric pressure at Kingston on 3rd fell to 29.79 inches or 0.11 inch below normal.

159. *October.*—During this month there were no tropical disturbances within barometric range of Jamaica.

For the balance of the year no other disturbances were reported.

Drought Conditions.

160. During the month of March there was considerable deficiency of rainfall. The parishes which suffered, with only 1 inch, or less, of

rainfall were Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Mary, St. Ann, St. James and St. Catherine. St. Mary also suffered in August. The annual rainfalls of parishes with the least record, were Kingston 16 inches, St. Andrew 50 inches, Clarendon 44 inches, St. Catherine 48 inches; whilst Portland had 116 inches.

Northers.

161. Fresh to brisk "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in January, March, November and December. At Morant Point in January, February, March, April and November and December. At Negril Point in March on the north side of the Island early in January and in April.

Hailstorms.

162. Hail fell at May Pen in Clarendon on 9th May, also at Four Paths, Mocho, Clarendon Park and several places in Manchester. In August at Colchis Pen. November 20th, hail was reported at places in lower St. Andrew and Kingston.

Earthquakes.

163. Shocks of earthquakes of slight to moderate intensity were reported as occurring at Kingston on 3rd and 6th March, and a sharp shock was felt at all parts of the Island on 21st March. This shock, as registered at Kingston, shewed a horizontal movement of a tenth of an inch. On 26th April a slight shock was felt at Kingston. At Swift River a moderate shock on 27th May. A moderate shock was experienced throughout the Island on 27th July, more so in the south-western section. A slight shock at Clifton Hill on 9th August. Also at Warieka (Long Mountain) on 4th September. In January, June, October, November and December no shocks were reported.

Water Power.

164. There has been little progress in the development of water power. The only plant of importance in the Island is that on the Rio Cobre near Bog Walk, which generates part of the electric current used by the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which company operates the tramways and lighting Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine.

165. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

166. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the sugar factory, saw mills, etc.

Irrigation.

167. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes.

The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 39 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres of which some 18,000 acres are now under irrigation.

168. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme is in operation. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of some 70 feet and conveyed by open concrete-lined channels to the lower parts of the plain where banana cultivation is now being commenced on an extensive scale.

A second pumping unit of the most modern type has recently been installed at the pumping station.

169. In southern St. Elizabeth some small experimental pumping plants for irrigation from wells have been installed by Government, mainly as an object lesson to small cultivators in an area where ground water exists at moderate depth, but where conditions render any large irrigation undertaking impracticable.

Emigration and Immigration.

170. There was a noticeable decrease in the Emigration and an increase in Immigration during 1930. The departures in 1928 were 3,421, in 1929, 3,337 and in 1930, 1,919. The arrivals in 1928 were 5,864, in 1929, 5,231 and in 1930, 6,688.

Vital Statistics.

171. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1930, was 1,022,152, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1929, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1930.

172. The number of marriages registered during 1930, was 4,188, the rate being 4.1 per 1,000 of population as compared with 4.3 for 1929. During the same period 37,340 births were registered of which 18,848 were boys and 18,492 were girls. The birth rate works out 37.0 per 1,000 as against 34.2 during 1929.

173. The number of deaths registered was 17,214, of which 8,571 were males and 8,643 females, the death rate being 17.0 per 1,000. The rate for 1929 was 18.4. During 1930, 6,487 or 37.7 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,282 or 30.7 per cent. were those of children under one year of age.

The corresponding figures in 1929, were 37.4 per cent. and 29.8 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 14.1 per cent. as compared with 16.0 in 1929.

174. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 5.4; Congenital Debility, 10.1; Tuberculosis, 11.7, Typhoid Fever, 5.2; Pneumonia, 4.5; Heart Disease, 8.3 Syphilis, 2.2; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.6; Old Age, 4.4; Fever (not otherwise defined) 3.4; Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over), 2.5; Bronchitis, 1.8; Cancer and other malignant Tumours, 3.1.

Official Publications.

175. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price. s. d.	Where obtainable.
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8 0	The Crown Agents for Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London W.C.
Jamaica in 1928	2 0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W. 1
Flora of Jamaica, by William Fawcett, B.Sc. and Alfred Barton Rendle, M.A., D.Sc. 1910 et seq.	10 6	British Museum, London.
Historic Jamaica (1915) ..	2 6	The West India Committee, London
The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society .. (published monthly)	0 6	The Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1 0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually) to 1928 ..	10 0	ditto
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The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C.C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2 0	ditto
Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z S., parts 1-3 (1928)	3 0	ditto
Statistics of the Sugar Industry (1929)	2 0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West Indies Agricultural Conference (1925)	2 6	ditto
Irrigation Reports, C. Stewart Baker, M.I.C.E., 5 reports	0 6	ditto
Map of Jamaica, 13 in. x 26 in., in colours	0 6	di to
Map of Jamaica, 6 feet x 2 ft., in colours	2 0	ditto
Jamaica Gazette (p.a., including postage)	18 0	ditto
Report of the First West Indies Conference (1929)	2 6	ditto

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6d. (7d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6d. (8d.).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9d. (11d.).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 10d.).

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Empire Marketing Board. May, 1929 to May, 1930. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 28.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).

The Biological Control of Insect and Plant Pests. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 29.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 4d.).

Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927–29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

REPORT FOR 1931

For Report for 1929 see No. 1481 (price 9d.) and for Report for 1930 see No. 1540 (price 9d.)

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately midway between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° west longitude, and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 20 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long, by one and a quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the "Bluff," indicating that the low land about

the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The total area of the three islands is about 100 square miles. Ocean depth of a hundred fathoms closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as "Bartlett's Deep" and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman" —alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 19th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who remained domiciled in the Dependency. The proportion of white population is higher than is usual in the West Indies.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were added in 1832, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, Chapter 31) recognizing the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency.

The Commissioner is President of the Assembly and in addition to his administrative duties is Collector-General and Treasurer. He presides, *ex officio*, in the absence of a special appointment, as Judge of the Grand Court where, when sitting alone, he has the power of three Justices of the Peace. He has no jurisdiction in cases of capital felony.

I.—GENERAL.

Mail and Passenger Service.

The mail and passenger service with Jamaica established in 1927 under contract with the two governments continues to prove of great public utility. A regular service has been maintained, also by motor-vessel, between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and Tampa in the Southern United States of America.

Emigration and Immigration.

The restriction on emigration to the United States of America continues to bear adversely on the people of the Cayman Islands who from the earliest days had been, because of their industry, sobriety, and general good behaviour, well received as dock and barge labourers, mechanics, and clerks in the sea-ports of the Gulf of Mexico. Emigration, save that of seamen who find deep-sea employment in the ports of the Gulf, is now restricted to small numbers who seek work in Honduras, Nicaragua, and other Central American Republics.

There is no immigration.

Legislation.

Five laws were enacted during the year 1931.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1931 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average for that period.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926	7,320	7,437
1927	6,148	7,651
1928	5,909	7,679
1929	6,962	7,022
1930	6,466	6,288
Average of five years	6,561	7,215
1931	6,210	7,290

Customs (£4,288), Post Office (£722), and Internal Revenue (£818), together contributed the major portion of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors fell to £130, as compared with £1,317, the average sales in the previous ten years.

The expenditure may be summarized in—Departments £3,535, Public Works £1,140, Education £1,500, and Other Services £1,115.

Expenditure for the year exceeded the revenue by £1,080, and at the end of the year the deficit was £749. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The following table shows items and values of exports in five years :

Articles.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Honey	140	155	5	80	32
Turtle, live	5,400	4,825	3,670	4,428	4,552
Turtle skin	437	1,011	893	1,914	885
Turtle shell	5,132	5,295	5,962	1,975	2,160
Rope, straw	1,972	1,647	1,450	2,014	1,626
Unenumerated	277	506	344	1,039	708
Totals ...	13,358	13,439	12,324	11,450	9,963

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was slightly larger than in 1930. The hawksbill fishers were less successful than in 1930, the catch of shell weighing 2,160 lb. at an average value of £1 per pound, as compared with 3,000 lb. at a lower rate of 15*s.* 0*d.* in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope decreased from £2,014 in value in 1930 to £1,626 in the year under review, due to a drop in prices. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous bread-winner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels, which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership or to foreigners, is an asset not capable of accurate estimate. During 1931, six such vessels, with a total registered tonnage of 326 tons, were built and registered in Georgetown.

The destination of exports is shown in the following table ; the turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

Exports to.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	—	—	—	—	—
British Honduras ...	132	74	—	—	206
Jamaica	254	2,628	1,632	4	4,518
United States ...	3,600	421	—	—	4,021
Other foreign ...	700	97	141	—	938
Totals ...	4,686	3,220	1,773	4	9,683

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of imports totalled £35,140, or £6,195 less than the average of value of imports for the previous three years.

The countries of origin are so far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the products of the United Kingdom, and of other countries, chiefly the United States of America.

Imports from.	*Food, Drink, etc.*	*Raw Materials.*	*Manufactured Articles.*	*Miscellaneous.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	807	8	1,724	277	2,816
Canada	163	—	116	—	279
Jamaica	5,251	60	2,347	449	8,107
United States ...	6,469	1,799	8,494	1,611	18,373
Other foreign ...	1,099	—	111	137	1,347
Parcels Post ...	—	—	—	4,218	4,218
Totals ...	£13,789	1,867	12,792	6,692	35,140

The excess of imports over exports is met by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of vessels owned in the Dependency but not worked in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependants here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Banking Facilities.

There are no local banks or branches of foreign banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks and on branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops, and are used by them as remittances for the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money-order system is used to some extent, the orders paid in the Dependency in 1931 amounting to £4,249, while the orders issued for payment abroad amounted to £5,745.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 67 ; the deposits for the year have been £1,124 ; the withdrawals have amounted to £1,486 ; and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,772. Investments with the Crown Agents, as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past, all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coast of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners, some of which in more recent years have had auxiliary motors. In the year 1927, however, a mail, passenger, and freight service, by motor-vessel specially built, was established with Jamaica, providing 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States.

Postal and Telephone Services.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, and inter-communication between the islands is now frequent and regular by the operation of the Cayman Islands—Jamaica mail service. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three immediate stations, are connected by telephone. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry having on its register 58 small sailing and 11 motor vessels with a total tonnage of 4,831 tons.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	*No. entered.*	*Tons.*	*No. cleared.*	*Tons.*
British	180	15,506	180	14,945
Columbian	1	23	1	23
Panamanian	9	390	7	305
Totals ...	190	15,919	188	15,273

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Forty-eight persons were convicted in all classes of offences in 1931. Three persons were held in prison for safe custody.

The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables, but the duties of the latter include the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No new construction work was done during the year. The telephone system and the main public roads were maintained and repaired.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 178 births (33 per mille) and 67 deaths (12 per mille). Of the latter, 24 were over 75 years of age, 21 between 50 and 75, 4 between 25 and 50, 4 between 5 and 25, 2 between 1 and 5 years, and 12 under one year. No deaths were returned as caused by pulmonary tuberculosis.

Population.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1931 are estimated at 2,270 whites, or near whites, and 3,912 coloured and black, total 6,182.

Meteorological.

Observations are taken at Georgetown only. The rainfall was 102 inches. The heaviest precipitation (27.10 inches) was in October, and the largest single day's rain (6.50 inches) was on 31st October. The rainfall was unusually heavy and caused injury to many of the crops, particularly cassava and yams. The air temperature ranges from 70° to 80° in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1931.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Eleven Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with a few small private schools, had 984 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 917. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,413. Thirty-eight candidates at Grand Cayman and eighteen candidates at Cayman Brac sat for the annual pupil teachers' examination set by the Jamaica Education Department; sixteen were successful in Grand Cayman and four at Cayman Brac.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

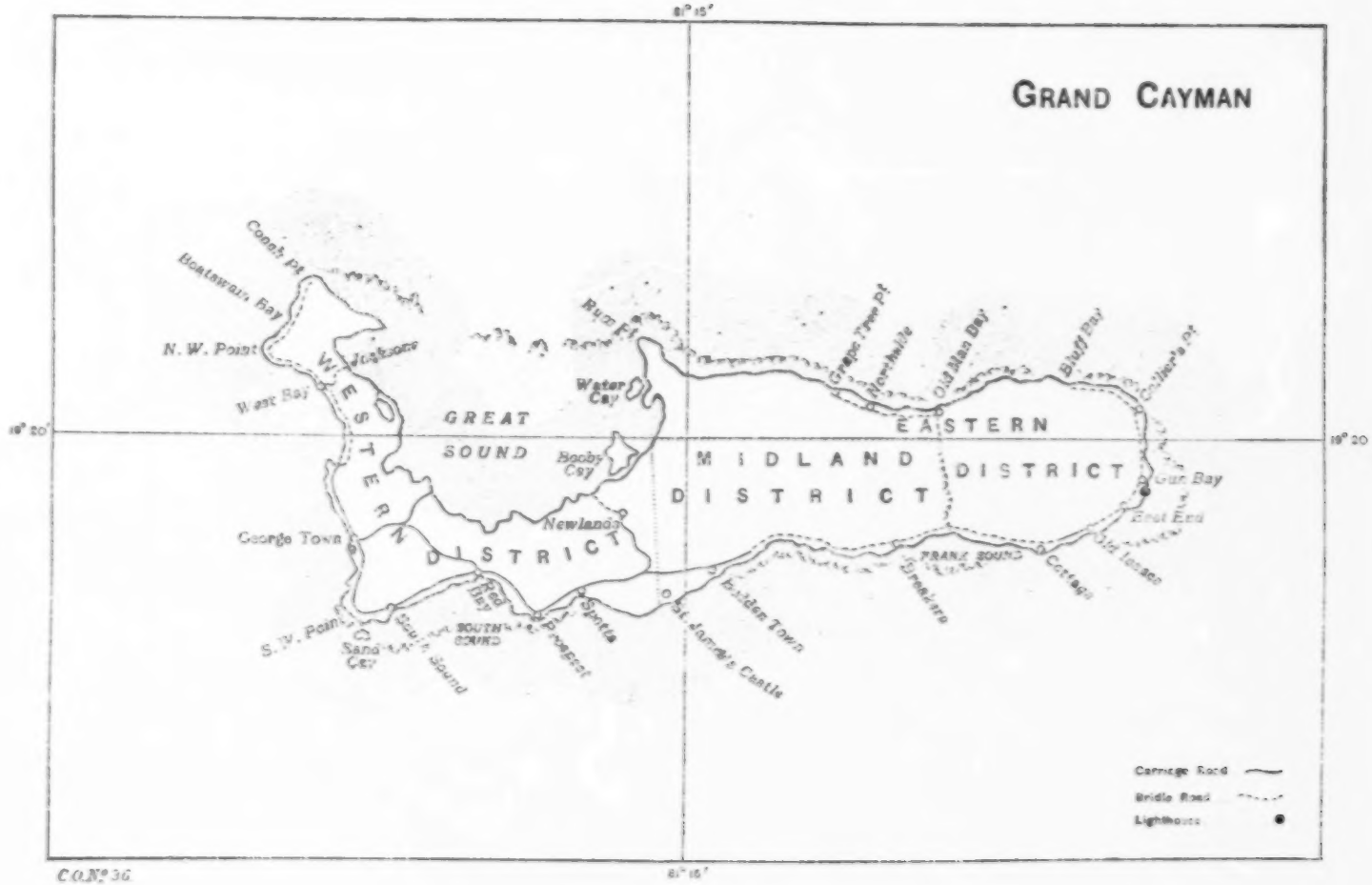
There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without any grant of the crown. The only areas recognized as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless. A geological survey of the islands was made in 1926, but this did not discover any mineral deposits of commercial value.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour nor any local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant; as seamen to the Gulf Ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages; as woodcutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua; and, to a very small extent, as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

E. A. WESTON,
Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN,
27th May, 1932.



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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° North latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ West longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In 1931 the maximum air temperature registered at the Weather Bureau at Grand Turk was 90·5°, and the minimum was 60°.

The general average annual rainfall is about 29 inches. The rainfall during 1931 was exceptionally great. The amount registered at the Weather Bureau was 45·14 inches, while at Cockburn Harbour it amounted to 51·23 inches.

These Islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over these Islands in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these Islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1931 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931 owing to the lack of funds.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent. were "coloured" (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent. were "white," and that about 1,800 people live in Turks Islands and 3,500 in Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

Most of the people of the Turks Islands are employed in the salt industry, while the people of the Caicos Islands are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.
1927	149	123	26·9	22·3
1928	183	91	33·1	16·4
1929	161	99	29·1	17·7
1930	177	75	31·5	13·4
1931	177	82	32·0	14·8

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 27; equal to a death-rate of 152 per 1,000 births.

Nineteen marriages were registered during the year.

Sixty-four persons were receiving pauper relief from the Government at the end of the year.

As regards immigration and emigration, 540 persons entered the Dependency in 1931 and 566 departed.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

The general health of the Dependency was good during the year 1931.

The following information is extracted from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer.

In the dispensary practice there were fewer cases than in the previous year and they consisted mostly of diseases of the circulatory system and the digestive tract. There were numerous cases of eczema, impetigo, and acute pemphigus among infants and small children. Pellagra, which is a common disease in Turks Islands, is one of the major causes of mortality. There was, however, a decrease in 1931 in the number of cases and deaths due to that disease. Malaria was not as prevalent in the Caicos Islands as in former years. Infectious diseases such as smallpox, whooping-cough, and measles were absent during the year. In the early months of the year there was a widespread epidemic of influenza at Grand Turk and Salt Cay. The intestinal form was very severe in some cases, especially in children. The fatality, however, was not high, except in the case of young children. There were no cases of enteric fever and pulmonary tuberculosis was not in evidence. Sporadic cases of leprosy continued to make their appearance in the Caicos Islands. Only a few cases of hookworm came under observation and treatment. Doubtless there were many cases which did not come under the observation of the Medical Officers. The infantile mortality was high, mainly due, no doubt, to the great poverty of the people. There were no cases of quarantinable diseases.

As regards preventive measures, only minor anti-mosquito measures were taken, such as clearing away bush and undergrowth and the filling up of pools. Major works could not be undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements and the Inspectors of Nuisances were responsible to those Boards and to the Medical Officers for seeing that all premises were kept in a proper sanitary state.

Hygiene is one of the subjects taught in all the schools.

There was regular dental inspection of the pupils in the schools by a dentist who receives a subsidy from the Government for his services to the school-children and certain others.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and the other at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and they visit the out-islands when necessary.

There is a Nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a small public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the directions and supervision of the Medical Officer.

There was no public health legislation enacted during the year under review.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these Islands. 1,233 were inhabited and 181 uninhabited; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these Islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Turks Islands' salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above.

The abnormal rainfall during the year 1931 did much to hinder the salt-industry and prevented the usual production. For various reasons the demand in 1931 was very poor with the result that the

quantity exported during that year amounted to only about one-half of the average quantity shipped annually. Two grades are exported —coarse and fishery (ground).

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1931 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	375,838	7,509
United States	302,637	4,415
Jamaica	68,699	834
Newfoundland	5,810	121
Haiti	1,005	15
Dominican Republic	30	1
	754,019	£12,895

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1927. £	*1928.* £	*1929.* £	*1930.* £	*1931.* £
Salt	19,015	25,283	35,675	22,275	12,895
Sponges	3,004	2,193	2,135	2,269	2,016
Conchs	588	1,523	1,350	1,188	1,122
Turtle shell	583	164	343	220	257
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	—	1,183	331	17	—
Sisal	109	415	39	37	47

Nearly all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last five years :—

		1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Salt	bus.	781,831	1,401,218	1,712,270	1,163,152	754,019
Sponges	lb.	26,869	21,556	22,547	26,964	25,749
Conchs	No.	587,550	1,523,275	1,349,800	1,187,900	1,121,800
Turtle shell ...	lb.	375	194	376	103	257
Cotton (raw) ...	lb.	—	24,133	6,865	49	—
Cotton-seed ...	lb.	—	30,793	16,458	7,310	—
Sisal	lb.	16,600	37,945	6,489	3,776	8,492

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The following import and export statistics show how severely the world-wide economic depression affected the trade of this Dependency.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows :—

	1927. £	*1928.* £	*1929.* £	*1930.* £	*1931.* £
Imports	47,693	41,766	42,827	34,165	24,291
Exports	24,063	31,755	40,679	26,403	16,589
Total	£71,756	73,521	83,506	60,568	40,880

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1927	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693
1928	4,431	4,012	33,323	41,766
1929	3,585	4,556	34,686	42,827
1930	2,867	2,339	28,959	34,165
1931	2,568	1,844	19,879	24,291

It will be noticed that the decrease in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom was not as great as in the case of the imports from foreign countries.

The direction of the import trade in 1931 is shown in the following table :—

	£
United Kingdom	2,568
United States of America ...	18,304
Jamaica	1,374
Dominican Republic	1,127
Bahamas	222
Haiti	215
Canada	211
Germany	103
Holland	101
Other countries	66
	£24,291

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	13,735
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	—
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	7,827
Miscellaneous and unclassified	2,729
	£24,291

The principal articles imported during 1931 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Cotton goods		—	1,636
Flour	barrels	2,036	1,599
Lard	lb.	61,194	1,114
Sugar	lb.	222,414	895
Haberdashery		—	893
Milk (condensed)	cases	813	892

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Rice	lb.	148,869	886
Oils (mineral)	gal.	17,487	758
Spirits...	gal.	2,503	673
Butter and substitutes	lb.	10,941	623
Vegetables (fresh)		—	586
Bacon, ham, etc.	lb.	10,872	461
Cigarettes	No.	774,900	443
Fruits (fresh)		—	418
Groceries		—	418
Hominy and meal	barrels	463	408
Beef (salted)	lb.	25,020	400
Textiles		—	389
Soap (laundry)	lb.	32,563	374
Carriages, carts, and wagons		—	347
Beans and peas		—	339
Tobacco (plug)	lb.	3,424	335
Boots and shoes		—	325
Pork (salted)	lb.	16,400	316
Corn and grain	barrels	404	258
Meats (canned)		—	254
Machinery		—	241
Biscuits	lb.	7,564	240
Bran and pollard	bags	642	235
Cattle...	No.	95	217
Fish (salted)		—	214
Medicines and drugs		—	213
Paper and stationery		—	211

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063
1928	1,443	16,828	13,484	31,755
1929	1,453	21,807	17,419	40,679
1930	412	14,421	11,570	26,403
1931	208	9,752	6,629	16,589

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	208
Canada	7,617
United States of America	5,436
Bahamas	1,180
Haiti	1,144
Jamaica	834
Newfoundland	121
Other countries	49
	£16,589

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1931 was £16,473, and the value of the re-exports was £116.

As regards trade and commerce it appears that the year 1931 was the worst in the history of these Islands.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Common labourers employed in raking and carting salt earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a day of nine hours and from 3s. to 7s. 6d. a day when shipping it. Labourers employed on the steamers that call here for them receive 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours. The Government minimum wage for adult unskilled labour is 3s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 6s. to 45s. a month with board and lodging.

The cost of living is comparatively high, especially in the case of officials and persons from abroad.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions:—bread, 4d. per lb.; biscuits 1s. 3d. per lb.; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb.; salt meat, 10½d. per lb.; salt fish, 9d. per lb.; flour, 3d. per lb.; rice, 5d. per qrt.; hominy and corn meal, 4d. per qrt.; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt.; potatoes, 4d. per lb.; lard, 9d. per lb.; eggs, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per doz.; milk (condensed), 9d. per tin; butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb.; cheese, 2s. per lb.; sugar, 2½d. per lb.; syrup, 1s. per qrt.; tea, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per lb.; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.; cocoa, 1s. 6d. per lb.; common soap, 6d. per lb.; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the poor nature of the soil, there is hardly any agriculture.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools.

There are ten such schools throughout the Dependency; one in each of the principal settlements.

The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 867, and the average attendance 614. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. There were 27 pupils on the roll in 1931, and the average attendance was 25. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a fair assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica, and one of them stops regularly every six weeks to land goods from England.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular

monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Dominicana and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe were despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 93,000 postal articles during the year 1931.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, to Barbados, and to Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. During the year under review one of the main roads in the Island of Grand Turk was greatly improved by the aid of a free grant of £1,000 from the Colonial Development Fund, with the result that much more of the adjacent land was put under cultivation. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are really only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1931 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	14	63	77
Sailing vessels ...	138	41	179
	152	104	256

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 8,820 and of the steamships to 103,457.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these Islands. At the end of 1931 there were 860 accounts in operation with £13,613 on deposit. The investments amounted to £11,951.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver and bronze coins, and Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these Islands.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the lack of funds no major public works were undertaken during the year 1931, except the reconstruction of the main road leading to the lighthouse at Grand Turk, which was financed by the grant from the Colonial Development Fund as already mentioned above.

The usual minor public works such as the upkeep of the public buildings, streets, and roads, etc., were carried on throughout the year but on a reduced scale.

In consequence of the failure of the salt industry, due to the excessive rains during the year, unemployment relief works, financed by a loan by the Government of Jamaica, were carried on at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. These measures consisted mainly of work on the roads and streets of those settlements and relieved somewhat the acute distress caused by the stoppage of the salt-raking operations.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of five men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation, and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison and the senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison.

The total number of persons committed to prison in 1931 was 55, of which 50 were men, 2 women, and 3 juveniles. 26 were committed for safe custody till trial or for want of bail, and 29 for the purposes of penal imprisonment. Of the latter, 19 had been previously convicted once, 3 twice, and 7 thrice or more. Of the 29 referred to, 25 served only short sentences of three months or less. The daily average number in prison during the year 1931 was 2·75.

There were 170 crimes and offences reported or known to the Police, of which 167 were brought before the Magistrate's Court. 204 persons were proceeded against. 32 were apprehended and 172 summoned.

The number of persons dealt with in the Magistrate's Court amounted to 204, of which 166 were males and 38 females. 32 were discharged for want of prosecution and 10 on the merits of the case, while 4 were committed for trial. 158 persons were convicted summarily. Nine were sentenced to imprisonment, 3 whipped, 124 fined, and 22 bound over or otherwise disposed of. Of the total

number of convictions in that Court, 29 were for offences against the person, 2 for praedial larceny, 1 for malicious injury to property, 33 for other offences against property, 3 for offences against the revenue or other laws, and 90 for miscellaneous minor offences.

Four men were sent up for trial by the Supreme Court. One, charged with rape, was convicted and sentenced, while three, charged with an offence against property with violence to the person, were not convicted.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

Only three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board in 1931. One fixed the maximum amount of light-dues payable by any ship entering the ports of this Dependency, and the other two were the usual Appropriation Ordinances.

Jamaica Law No. 15 of 1931 extended to this Dependency the provisions of the Customs (Importation Prohibition) Law, 1916 (Law 23 of 1916).

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, nor legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there any legislative provision for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1927	11,522	14,568
1928	14,853	12,787
1929	11,260	11,605
1930	9,427	11,728
1931	10,318	12,820

In 1931 the ordinary revenue amounted to only £7,365, being £3,555 below the estimate, while the ordinary expenditure amounted to £10,304, being £531 below the estimate but £2,939 in excess of the ordinary revenue.

The great decline in the ordinary revenue was mainly due to the extraordinary depression in trade which caused a large falling-off in the amount of the exports and imports. This naturally greatly reduced the receipts from Customs import duties and royalty on salt exported.

The royalty paid on salt shipped in 1931 amounted to only £1,099, which was less than one-half of the usual amount received annually.

The Customs import duties collected during the year amounted to only £3,757, being over £1,200 below the estimate.

The year 1931 opened with a surplus of £1,069 and closed with a deficit of £1,431.

The amount of the Public Debt is £1,500, representing the advances received from the Government of Jamaica during the year under review. The Dependency has no other public debt.

The items of the ordinary revenue were as follows :—

	£
Import Duties	3,757
Royalty on Salt	1,099
Port Dues	581
Internal Taxation	262
Payments for Specific Services	193
Post Office	688
Revenue from Government Property	62
Interest	86
Miscellaneous Receipts	634

The items of extraordinary revenue were :—

	£
Appreciation of Savings Bank Investments	452
Grant from the Colonial Development Fund	1,000
Loans from Jamaica	1,500

The items of the ordinary expenditure were as follows :—

	£
Pensions	945
Commissioner's Department	1,756
Treasury and Customs	977
Judicial Department	754
Police and Prisons	872
Medical Department	1,692
Paupers and Lunatics	407
Education	1,050
Miscellaneous	448
Post Office	306
Lighthouses	292
Public Works Department	400
Public Works Recurrent	400

The items of the extraordinary expenditure were :—

	£
Public Works Extraordinary	56
Depreciation of Investments	625
Lighthouse Road	1,000
Unemployment Relief Works	834

Every effort was made during the year to keep down the ordinary expenditure to the lowest possible point.

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income-tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals, or vehicles; no poll tax, and no excise, or stamp duties.

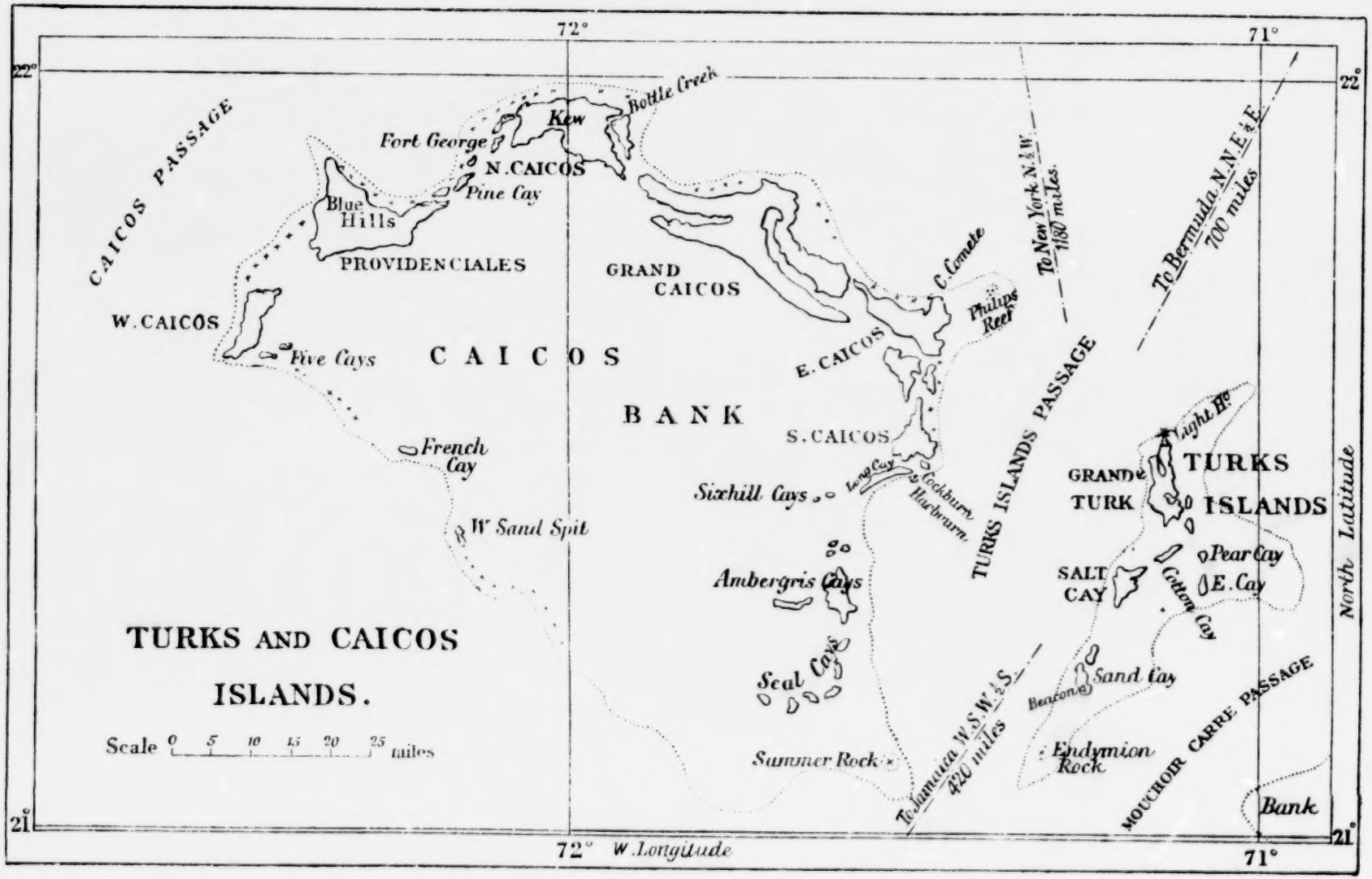
The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the Free List pay duty as follows:

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. *ad valorem*.
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

GRAND TURK,
10th June, 1932.



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No. 1603

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

JAMAICA, 1931

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Jamaica for the year 1931.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78°20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the Island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807,

there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, &c., &c., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen 2 in number, are elected by the Council from Voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew are ex-officio members of the Council. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1931 was 9,215 being at the rate of 9.1 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/7 per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

20. There was a noticeable decrease in emigration and a considerable increase in immigration during 1931. The departures in 1929 were 3,337, in 1930, 1,980 and in 1931, 1,842. The arrivals in 1929 were 5,231, in 1930, 6,761 and in 1931, 11,565.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1931 was 1,050,667, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1930, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1931. The last census was held in 1921.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1931 was 3,604, the rate being 3.4 per 1,000 of population as compared with 4.1 for 1930. During the same period 36,173 births were registered of which 18,344 were boys and 17,829 were girls. The birth rate works out to 34.8 per 1,000 as against 37.0 during 1930.

23. The number of deaths registered was 19,377 of which 9,704 were males and 9,673 females, the death rate being 18.6 per 1,000. The rate for 1930 was 17.0. During 1931, 6,966 or 35.9 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,566 or 28.7 per cent were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1930 were 37.7 per cent and 30.7 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 15.3 per cent. as compared with 14.1 in 1930.

24. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis 7.83, Congenital Debility 8.64, Tuberculosis 12.12, Typhoid Fever 4.58, Pneumonia 6.72, Heart Disease 7.77, Syphilis 1.91, Cerebral Haemorrhage Apoplexy 2.84, Old Age 5.74, Fever (not otherwise defined) 1.91, Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 2.61, Acute Nephritis (including unspecified under 10 years of age) 175, Bronchitis 2.43, Cancer other malignant Tumours 2.43.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

25. The year 1931 is likely to be remembered for the excessive rainfall in many parts of the Island and for the effects in the Colony of the world-wide depression in trade. The rainfall resulted in an increase of Malaria in many places notably in Trelawny where it became a serious epidemic. There was, however, no increase in those areas in which the Malaria Commission was engaged in anti-malarial work. There was also an increase in Yaws which is always far more prevalent in wet districts. In other respects the general health of the Colony was good during the year.

26. The financial situation called for the utmost economy and the much needed additions and improvements to many of the Public Hospitals

had to be deferred. The very conditions which made these economies so necessary also caused an increased demand on the services of the Department. Many people who, in times of prosperity, can afford to consult private practitioners are unable to do so in times of depression and so increase the numbers seeking aid at the Government Institutions.

27. *Vital Statistics.*—There has been a steady decrease in the death rate of the Colony during the past ten years. In 1921 it was 28 per thousand. In 1930 it had fallen to 17 per thousand which was the lowest that had ever been recorded. Conditions in 1931 were in several respects so unfavourable that an increase was expected. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the rate only increased to 18 per thousand which was the rate in 1929 and at that time was the lowest on record.

28. The infantile mortality is recorded as the number of infants who die before attaining the age of 1 year for every 1,000 births. The rate for 1930 was 141, the lowest on record. In 1931 the figure went up to 153 but this is lower than the 1929 rate which was 160. The mortality rate for children under 5 years of age has also increased slightly from 193 to 214.

29. The birth rate for 1931 was 34 per thousand. The excess of births over deaths for the year was therefore 16 per thousand. In other words, the population increased during the year by about 16,000 as the population is now slightly over one million.

Principal Disease Groups.

30. *Enteric Fevers.*—900 cases were notified under the Public Health Act. The number in 1930 was 928. 244 cases were treated in Kingston General Hospital and 383 in the District Hospitals; these numbers in 1930 were 264 and 370 respectively.

31. The notification of this disease is, I think, carried out more thoroughly now than in previous years due, to a great extent, to the activities of the whole-time Medical Officers of Health in many of the parishes. Although these figures do not show any appreciable change on the previous year yet almost every District Medical Officer reports that there was less Enteric Fever than usual during the year.

32. *Malaria.*—224 cases with 5 deaths were treated in Kingston General Hospital. In the District Hospitals 2,437 cases were treated with 114 deaths. These figures are much higher than in 1930 and most of the District Medical Officers report an increase but those stationed in areas where control work is carried out report no increase or a continued diminution both in numbers of cases and severity of attack.

33. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—67 cases were treated in Kingston General Hospital and 98 cases in the District Hospitals. The numbers in 1930 were 68 and 87 respectively.

34. The reports of District Medical Officers on the prevalence and spread of the disease vary greatly. Many report that cases are rare and that there does not appear to be any increase. Others report that the disease appears to be increasing. There is no doubt that the public are taking a great interest in the subject and are to some extent learning that early diagnosis and rational treatment offer good prospect of arrest or cure. That the hopeless, fatalistic outlook is giving way to a more intelligent view as is well shewn in a brief report of the Tuberculosis Commission included in this Chapter.

1,327 cases were notified under the Public Health Act as compared with 1,082 in 1930.

35. *Venereal Diseases*—The reports of District Medical Officers do not, on the whole, indicate any increase in these diseases. Many still emphasize the ignorance displayed and the delay in getting treatment until complications have arisen. The neglect to continue treatment until cure of the disease, and not merely cure of the symptoms, is completed, is very common. 394 cases of Syphilis and 351 cases of Gonococcal Infection were treated as in-patients at Kingston Hospital. In the District Hospitals the numbers were 654 in-patients for syphilitic infections and 678 in-patients for Gonococcal Infections.

36. *Yaws.*—27,398 cases were treated during the year. The drugs used were Bismuth Sodium Tartrate, Neo and Sulph-arsphenamine, and Halarsol. Very promising results have been obtained with this last preparation which is convenient to use in district work.

37. *Small-pox.*—The Colony remained free from Small-pox throughout the year. Vaccinations were performed.

38. *Scarlet Fever.*—157 cases of this disease were notified during the year. Most of these were in the early months of the year only 28 being reported after 30th June. The type of the disease is very mild and there can be little doubt that many cases are never seen by a medical man. This renders control a very difficult matter.

Hospitals.

39. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	30
Public Lunatic Asylum, Kingston ..	1,747
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay ..	30
" " " Hordley ..	40
" " " Port Antonio ..	55
" " " Buff Bay ..	50
" " " Annotto Bay ..	60
" " " Port Maria ..	65
" " " St. Ann's Bay ..	40
" " " Cave Valley ..	12
" " " Ulster Spring ..	6
" " " Falmouth ..	25
" " " Montego Bay ..	70
" " " Lucea ..	20
" " " Savanna-la-Mar ..	66
" " " Black River ..	70
" " " Mandeville ..	35
" " " Lionel Town ..	50
" " " Chapelton ..	33
" " " Spanish Town ..	70
" " " Linstead ..	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

40. The work of the Kingston General Hospital continues to increase. 6,005 cases were treated with 537 deaths. There were over 132,000 attendances at the Out-patient Department. 2,996 operations were performed on in-patients. The number of minor operations in the Out-patient Department was 3,298.

41. In the X-Ray Department 1,352 patients attended.

42. The work of the District Hospitals has increased a great deal in recent years. The equipment has in many cases been improved but much remains to be done both in building and equipment to bring some hospitals up to the standard of modern requirements. A great deal of good medical and surgical work is done in some of the District Hospitals and the Matrons and Nursing Staffs are deserving of praise.

13,089 patients were treated on the wards with 886 deaths. The attendances at the Out-patient Departments number over 42,000.

43. The surgical work consisted of 3,325 operations of importance and 1,502 minor operations. Among the operations carried out at District Hospitals are included 47 Salpingectomies, 25 Hysterectomies and 177 Appendicectomies.

Prevention of Disease.

44. *Jamaica Hookworm Commission.*—Two units of sanitation were conducted during 1931 in areas in the parishes of Trelawny, St. James and Westmoreland. In Trelawny, 1,462 homes were sanitated, the population being 10,603. In St. James 5,727 homes were sanitated, housing a population of 28,372. In Westmoreland 535 homes had completed their latrines at the end of the year, while 1,014 had latrines under construction; the population being 9,247. The total number of homes sanitated during the year was 9,291, representing a population of 50,560 people.

45. Two units of treatment campaign were also conducted, one in the parish of Manchester and the other in St. Thomas. A total of 24,004 people were examined out of a population of 24,008. Of those examined 16,712 were infected with Hookworm and 15,439 were treated, while 15,025 were cured. Public Health education was conducted during the treatment campaign there being 85 lectures given to an estimated total audience of about 17,865.

46. *School Hygiene and Dental Clinics*—Dental Clinics were conducted in seven parishes: St. Andrew, Kingston, St. Mary, Trelawny, Clarendon, Hanover and St. James. During the year 149 schools were visited and 36,426 treatments were given to 13,979 pupils.

47. *Bureau of Health Education*—The Bureau of Health Education continued as a clearing house for all of the units of co-operative work. Volume 6 of "Jamaica Public Health" was published during 1931, reaching a monthly circulation of 20,000 copies. The bulletin is used in the elementary schools of the island as a text in hygiene and its mailing list includes health workers in all parts of the world. The division of pre-natal work was continued. A revised edition of the nine pre-natal letters was issued and 4,203 letters were sent to 467 expectant mothers.

48. *School for Sanitary Inspectors*—No session of the school for sanitary inspectors was held during 1931 since Parochial Boards already have trained inspectors for their more important districts. The next session will be held during the Autumn of 1932. The School has played

an important part in the development of public health in Jamaica and during the past five years part-time officers have been largely replaced by full-time inspectors. Also it may be mentioned the average pay received by sanitary inspectors is now more than double what it was five years ago.

49. *The Malaria Commission*—Efforts against Malaria in Jamaica during 1931 may be divided into two sections, first the maintenance of control by larvacidal agents in eight endemic centres, and second, measures against epidemic malaria in two large centres.

50. It will be recalled that the Malaria Commission has attempted to combat the disease in the areas where Malaria was proved to be highly endemic in the island-wide survey conducted in 1927-28. Excessive rainfall throughout the entire island during 1931 is the outstanding difference, from a malaria standpoint, that has been present in this year as compared to previous years during which the Commission has been at work. The average rainfall based on observations of over fifty years is 76.46 inches, during 1931, an average of 91 inches of rain fell over the island. Control measures have been largely limited to the distribution of Paris Green over water collections known to be breeding anopheline mosquitoes. A brief resumé of the results in each area is appended.

51. *Golden Grove*—Malignant malaria has been endemic in this section for many years. Control operations were begun in July, 1930. The area comprises about ten square miles and has a population of 2,100. In the survey of March, 1928 the blood rate in children was 31.5 per cent. and the spleen rate 26 per cent. In 1931 re-survey shows a blood rate of 8 per cent. and a very low fever incidence.

52. *Caymanas*—Control measures were started here in July, 1929. The spleen index was 14 per cent. and the blood index 17.5 per cent. In 1931 the spleen rate was 7 per cent. and the blood index 13 per cent. In this area a rather constant turnover of labour is one of the factors mitigating against more complete reduction of the disease.

53. *Vere*—This is a large area, roughly 15 miles in length and 9 in width, with a population of 3,000 people. In January, 1930, after a long dry period, the blood rate was 35 per cent. In 1931 the spleen rate had risen to 20.4 per cent. but the blood rate was perceptibly lower.

54. *Black River*—This area was known to be one of the most highly endemic centres of malaria in Jamaica. In January, 1929, the spleen rate was 41.3 per cent. and the blood rate 13.8 per cent. Short radius work was begun in May, 1931. The large swamps that surround the town were disregarded by necessity. What is considered one of the most amazing reductions in malaria that has ever followed an anti-larval campaign over a short period of time in Jamaica has occurred here. Mosquito and larvae catches have been greatly reduced and no case of fever was reported during the third quarter. The spleen index in 1928 was 41.3 per cent. and the blood index 13.8. The spleen index in 1931 (at the end of the year) was 5.3 per cent. and the blood index 4 per cent.

55. *Montego Bay*—Control work in and around the town was begun in June, 1930. The population affected is about 9,000 and the area 12 square miles. Sledging out of rock holes in an area of 170 acres and the routine application of Paris Green as well as the straightening and aligning of some drainage ditches have been the

methods employed. The spleen rate in 1928 was 6 per cent. and the blood rate 12.43 per cent. The spleen index in 1931 was 1 per cent. and the blood rate considerably lower.

56. *Oracabessa*—In this district control work was begun in February, 1930. The chief problem encountered was the breeding of anopheline mosquitoes in rock holes. These were done away with by cracking out the sides with sledges. Paris Green is regularly employed along a river which has previously contributed many anopheles to the vicinity. The blood rate in 1928 was 10 per cent. and in 1931 only 3 per cent.

57. *Annotto Bay*—This is the largest single undertaking that the Malaria Commission has carried out. During 1930, one mile of permanent subsoil drainage was laid out at the edge of the town. A total of 138,520 square yards of water surface have been dusted monthly during the entire period. The spleen index in 1928 was 46.6 and in 1931—8.76 per cent. The blood index dropped from 21 per cent. in 1928 to 5 per cent. in 1931.

58. In general it may be stated that the use of Paris Green as a larvicide has been attended with exceptional success in Jamaica. So little of the anopheline breeding territory can be drained within economical feasible limits that by necessity one is forced to revert to regular applications of larvicide. Much of the success of the work has been due to the careful observation made by the Medical Officer in charge and it is apparent that malaria control can be carried out at a cost within the means of the Government by the present personnel. It is easily seen that the work has become very popular and it is gratifying to note the response on the part of the population in the various areas under control.

59. *Epidemic Malaria*—Extensive rainfall is responsible for a severe outbreak of malaria in the Falmouth district where malaria had previously been a matter of very minor importance. Heavy rains, increased swamping of land in and around Falmouth and uncommon dilution of previously salt water pools were responsible for the enormous increase of Anopheles albimanus in the vicinity. Cases of malaria occurred in practically every house in the town of Falmouth and in an area within seven miles around the town. More than 3,800 cases were reported and about 120 deaths occurred. Treatment of cases was begun on July 22, and the epidemic was under good control by November. Paris Green distribution in the swamps near the town and opening up canals to the sea were the measures employed.

60. *Red Hills*—The Red Hills form the north-western boundary of the Liguanea Plain about 7 miles from Kingston. Epidemic malaria broke out in this vicinity at the end of July. 262 cases were treated in August and 67 in September. The epidemic had ceased by October.

61. *Resumé*—The striking fact about malaria control in Jamaica seems to be that despite unusually heavy rainfall the control areas where operations had been carried on for over eight months showed a decrease in malaria when compared to previous years. 1931 was the exception to prove the rule and it is apparent that measures now in force are sufficient to cope with any situation which may arise.

62. *Tuberculosis Commission*—The Tuberculosis Dispensary in Kingston was highly successful during 1931. It was visited by 2,275 persons who were examined for Tuberculosis, also, there were, 4,556

visits from old patients and 1,573 persons who had been in contact with patients, also came for tuberculin tests. A total of 3,290 sputum examinations were made. Of the 2,275 persons examined, 647 were found to have the disease while 1,551 did not, and 77 examinations have not yet been completed. The nurses made visits to the homes of 6,035 patients during the year.

63. As a result of the interest created by the Dispensary the parishes of St. James, St. Ann and St. Mary have built special wards at their Poor Houses. The Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation have just completed tuberculosis wards at their Poor House. Dispensaries have also been established in St. Catherine, St. James, Trelawny, St. Mary, St. Andrew, Clarendon and Portland parishes.

64. During the year an X-ray Laboratory was established in connection with the Dispensary which greatly facilitated the complete examination and earlier diagnosis of the disease. During 1931, 4,489 roentgenological examinations were made, of these 2,467 were patients referred from the Dispensary.

65. As a result of the successful work accomplished by the Dispensary it was decided to widen the scope of the study being made of tuberculosis by a survey to ascertain more facts regarding the disease as it exists in Jamaica and in the tropics. This survey was begun on August 10th in a section of Smith Village containing about 1,700 people. Educational work was conducted and the people were brought to the X-ray Laboratory where they were given tuberculin tests and X-ray examinations. Up to the end of the year 1,286 or 78.6 per cent. of the population of Smith Village had been examined. These came from 492 households among which there were 85 containing tuberculous members—18 of active disease and 103 of a latent disease. The results thus far show an incidence rate of 1.4 per cent. active disease and 8 per cent. latent disease. Among the 18 positive cases, 5 have already been found to be sputum positive.

66. Survey of operations were also extended to Hannah Town before the end of the year and 224 individuals were examined representing 87 households among which 17 were found to contain members having tuberculosis. There were 11 cases of latent disease and 6 of active.

67. The incidence rate for active disease was 2.6 per cent and for latent disease 4.9 per cent. but only one of the six active cases has been found to be sputum positive.

68. Survey work was also carried out in Falmouth through the Trelawny Parochial Health Department; this work commenced September 1st. The pupils of the Falmouth and other schools have been given tuberculin tests; a total of 855 children being tested. A portable X-ray machine was operated in Montego Bay, 22 miles from Falmouth and is used as an aid to diagnosis of doubtful cases. Up to the end of the year 453 patients were examined and 5 re-examinations were made. Visits were made to 81 homes and a total of 731 persons were given tuberculin tests, while 84 X-ray examinations were made. The cost of the Tuberculosis Commission is borne by the Rockefeller Foundation except the drugs which are supplied by the Government.

69. *Parochial Health Departments*—Growing out of the work started by the Hookworm Campaign health education was brought to all parts

of the Colony and has led to the inauguration of the various units of health activities. The latest and most advanced unit is that of Parochial Health Departments. On April 1st, 1930, as a result of the approval by the Legislative Council, a plan of Parochial Health Departments was inaugurated. This plan provides for a full-time Health Officer with a staff and equipment for each parish and up to the end of 1931 twelve of the fourteen parishes of the island had accepted the plan. The Health Officer, it may be stated, is selected and paid by the Central Government. To assist in demonstrating the practicability of such Health Departments the Rockefeller Foundation co-operated with Government and the Parochial Boards in the organisation of demonstration departments in St. Mary, Trelawny and St. Catherine. The Health Officers chosen for these Departments were given special training on Foundation Fellowships. The first Department was opened in St. Mary in October, 1928, the second in Trelawny in November, 1929, and the third in St. Catherine, December, 1930. The demonstration in each parish is to continue for three to four years the object being to find the most effective methods of conducting health work in a Jamaica parish. The staff consists of the full-time Health Officer, an office clerk, a chief sanitary inspector and from 4 to 8 assistants. The first work undertaken by each department has been the control of infections. Prevention of typhoid is the most important item under this head and after this is the provision of sanitation and the installation of latrines which will control hookworm, dysentery and other bowel complaints. Public health education is conducted through lectures and demonstrations. School medical inspection is also given attention and treatment is provided for pupils with hookworm disease and dental defects, these being the common handicaps of school children. Correct records were kept of the work done in each parish and monthly reports made to the Local and Central Boards of Health.

70. *St. Mary Health Department*—In addition to the routine work this Department supervises the malaria control measures in the Oracabessa area. Tuberculosis and typhoid were the only infectious diseases of importance and these were met by the vaccination of contacts and the establishment of local dispensaries. A local laboratory is maintained and specimens of blood, sputum and faeces are examined. During 1930 special attention was paid to the improvements of water supplies. The sanitary inspectors made 42,913 inspections and caused 224 nuisances to be abated while 3,220 latrines were made sanitary.

71. *Trelawny Health Department*—During more than half of the year this Department was engaged in work connected with the malaria epidemic in Falmouth. The staff in addition to their routine work, assisted in the treatment of the sick and in control measures. During the year they caused 1,991 homes to be sanitated and made 28,584 inspections and abated 642 nuisances. Special attention was given to the examination of food handlers and markets. This Department demonstrated the great value of such an organisation in coping with an epidemic and has merited the approval given to it by the Parochial Board and the people of the parish.

72. *St. Catherine Health Department*—This Department conducted the usual routine work laying stress upon health education and the control of epidemics. Investigations were made of all cases of typhoid,

whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever. The Health Officer gave 10,246 injections of anti-typhoid vaccine to 4,072 persons. Tuberculosis dispensaries were held in Spanish Town and Linstead and 85 cases of the disease located. Child hygiene work was begun in August and there is a nurse connected with the Department who gives half of her time to tuberculosis work and the remainder to child hygiene work. The 10 sanitary inspectors made 65,441 inspections and 5,441 latrines were made sanitary. There were 72 public lectures given during the year to an estimated audience of about 7,000.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

73. The housing accommodation of the wage-earning population varies greatly in different parts of the colony. In rural areas many of the houses are built by the owners with little skilled assistance. Rough stone is sometimes used in areas in which it is readily available. Other forms of construction are timber framing filled in with clay or covered with thatch, or old discarded timber. Thatch and corrugated iron are chiefly used for roofing, but wood shingles are used in the better type of houses. Those who are able to afford it, have their houses built of imported lumber, with doors and glass window frames.

74. Water supply is either from a shallow well or from a stream if there is one in the vicinity. In some of the country parts where rainfall is low and droughts are not unusual, Parochial Boards have built large concrete catchment areas with reserve tanks from which people can obtain supplies at a small cost. In many rural districts many small houses have tanks of their own, the construction of which is frequently financed from loans made to them by the Parochial Board of their parish. Parochial Boards being empowered by Law to make loans from the General Fund of the parish to enable private individuals to establish private water supplies at their homes. As a result of the hardships frequently experienced through lack of water by the inhabitants of areas subject to periodical drought, a Law was passed in 1928, Law 25 of 1928, to empower the Government to assist Parochial Boards by way of loans or grants or both to establish or to effect improvements to public water supplies in dry districts. The scheme has worked most successfully and in many districts a reserve supply of water has been established and the inhabitants in time of drought are no longer forced to go long distances to rivers or streams to obtain supplies of water for domestic purposes.

75. The provision of a sanitary latrine for each house is the aim of the Hookworm Commission which has been at work in the Colony for the past 11 years. The Commission has two Sanitation Units and 2 Treatment Units always at work. The method is to select certain areas in a parish for demonstration purposes and to bring about the construction of sanitary latrines in these areas, and when this is completed to examine all the residents of this area for Hookworm Disease, and treat until cured, those who are infected. When these Demonstration areas have been dealt with, the Hookworm Commission passes on to another parish, and the completion of the work throughout the parish and its maintenance is left to the local Board of Health. The work of the Commission will come to an end in the course of the

next 2 or 3 years, when Demonstration Areas in each of the fourteen parishes will have been completed.

76. On the whole the housing accommodation in rural areas is fairly good, and is improving, taking into account the economic conditions of the great majority of the inhabitants. The faults are chiefly inadequate and impure water supplies and poor ventilation, especially at night, owing to the habit of closing up all windows and doors. Rents in the country are not, on the whole, unreasonable.

77. Housing conditions in the towns are not nearly so good as in the rural areas. The houses of the poor people and those rented to the poor people, are of a bad construction and far too close together. Overcrowding at nights is very bad. There are many yards where all the space except a very small central area, is entirely occupied by shacks of the poorest construction and there may be only one insanitary latrine for the use of many houses, while the water supply for the whole yard consists of one standpipe in the centre. In Kingston especially high rents are paid for this poor accommodation. Ten shillings a month is often charged in the crowded areas of Kingston for each room 9′ x 9′ in a row, such rooms all made chiefly from old packing cases or other still more unsuitable material.

78. The underlying cause of these thoroughly bad buildings and exorbitant rents is the old trouble of Slum Landlordism; the land is let and sub-let, the houses are let and sub-let, so that possibly no one individual is making a scandalously high profit, but many individuals are all taking their share and doing little working for it. The "Grass Yard" area, south of the Spanish Town Road, and east of the May Pen Cemetery, is possibly the worst of Kingston slums.

79. The Public Health Law 18 of 1925 and its Bye-laws provide for:—

1. The licensing of hotels and lodging-houses. Lodging houses are required to provide 300 cubic feet of space for adults and one-half that amount for children under 12. There are regulations with regard to sanitary arrangements, water supplies, and details of construction.
2. Health Officers can take action in regard to overcrowding in any building either by tenants or permanent occupiers.
3. Health Officers are required to examine building plans.
4. Barracks have to be constructed and maintained in accordance with regulations.
5. The following are included in the list of nuisances under the Law:—
   (a) Any latrine of any type which is injurious or dangerous to health, or likely to become so.
   (b) Any yard or enclosure overgrown with vegetable matter.
   (c) Any tree, bush or building which interferes with the entrance of sunlight or with free ventilation of any neighbouring premises.
   (d) Any building with inadequate water supply.
   (e) Any collection of water which may become a nuisance or injurious to health in any way, including the breeding of mosquitoes.

80. Buildings may not be erected on filled areas until they have become or have been made innocuous. Local Boards can serve notices on tenants or owners of buildings which are dangerous to public health and can require their improvement or demolition.

81. Owing to economic conditions, and also to the general standard of education of the poorer classes, these Laws and Regulations have to be enforced gradually and with discretion by the Health Officers and the Sanitary Inspectors. Education of the people on sanitary matters is going on steadily, and great interest is taken by the more enlightened ones. The vital statistics of the Colony point to a steady improvement in living conditions generally. The death rate was 28.3 per 1,000 in 1921. It had fallen to 17 per 1,000 in 1930 which is the lowest yet recorded. The infantile mortality has fallen over the same period, from 197 to 141.

82. Thriving Building Societies exist in Kingston and in the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland, and St. Elizabeth. Those in St. Ann, St. James and Westmoreland were established as far back as the year 1874. They perform the usual functions of Building Societies in other countries and through their instrumentality many persons with small incomes have been enabled to acquire homes.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

83. The year 1931 was remarkable for its liberal and well distributed rainfall, whereby crops of all sorts flourished and large yields were obtained from every kind of cultivated crop all over the island. The rainfall for Jamaica was 91.5 inches or 15 inches above the average of the previous 50 years Although threatened repeatedly with hurricanes in the season of tropical storms, Jamaica fortunately escaped calamitous losses by wind and the agricultural record for the year was indeed a fortunate one.

84. This advantage, however, was offset by the rapid shrinkage of World Markets and the failure of credits, followed by the collapse of Sterling as a medium of exchange. Practically every article of tropical produce had been encouraged to greater output by the good prices ruling for the past 15 years. Suddenly the world demand for these products shrank away and producers found themselves faced with enormous stocks of produce which were unable to find a market, even at ruinous prices.

85. It is really due to the Banana Industry that Jamaica has not experienced an even more drastic depression in trade than has been the case in 1931. Historians of the Colony in future days will doubtless indicate that during the world trade crisis, Jamaica was saved through the miracle of a co-operative fruit Association that had actually emerged as a live and succes ful business effort whereby the Colony was enabled to entrench its premier industry and to hold its head above the floods of the world-wide trade crisis.

86. *Bananas*—The exports for 1931 amounted to 22,287,242 stems as against 24,585,505 for the previous year or a reduction of 2,296,263

stems. Prices in North America, particularly in the United States, were very unsatisfactory and, at times, bananas were practically given away by the various Fruit Companies owing to the lack of demand. On the other hand, England and Rotterdam afforded reasonably good markets so as to enable the standard price of 2/- per count bunch to be more than realised by the Co-operative Association. The new fruit ship of the Association proved itself a fast and economical transporter of bananas to England and to Europe and it is due to the success of this vessel that the "Producers" have been able to satisfy their clients as to the minimum price to be paid for bananas before profits are shared.

87. The battle with Panama Disease has been faithfully carried on by a staff of 19 Inspectors. A great economic advantage in the cost of treating the disease has resulted from the experiments recently carried out by the Microbiologist whereby it has been found that certain grades of fuel oil are most effective for killing banana plants *in situ* without the cost of digging out and burning the plant material. It is estimated that a reduction of about 50 per cent. in the cost of treating a case of Panama Disease has thus been effected.

88. The Banana Breeding work continues to progress. A large number of quite good seedling bananas, immune to Panama Disease, have been produced. Each time the plants ratoon the fingers get longer and the bunches larger. Several bunches of the seedling bananas were, in fact, sold and accepted by the Trade as Jamaica Bananas in 1931, showing that the seedlings have already approximated to the desired standard. The next crop of seedlings of the second generation is awaited with great interest and among these may be a fruit suitable for the new conditions. The appointment of a Geneticist to assist in the work of banana breeding in Jamaica should be of great assistance in guiding our future efforts into the most profitable channels. Thanks are due to the Imperial Government for a free grant from the Colonial Development Fund which has provided the necessary funds for equipping the new Laboratories of the Agricultural Chemist and the Geneticist.

89. *Sugar*—The remarkably continuous rainfall of 1931 resulted in the production of a heavy tonnage of canes in the field, but these, in many cases, failed to ripen and there was a considerable lowering in the Sucrose content of the juice. Thus many factories were forced to grind a good deal more cane than usual in order to produce a ton of sugar. The general result of these conditions was a reduction in the export of sugar from 70,200 tons in 1930 to 64,560 tons in 1931.

90. The rum market was also in difficulties, some estates finding themselves with a three years' crop of rum still unsold. The rum exported in 1931 amounted to 4,083 puncheons as against 6,500 puncheons in the previous year. These conditions, however, have been met in a heroic manner by the passing of the "Rum Restriction Law" whereby an equality of sacrifice in the production of rum for the coming crop has been imposed on all estates by legal compulsion. It is thus hoped that the trend of trade will enable the unsold rum from previous crops to be assimilated in the markets of the world, while a reasonable and fair allocation of the useful but limited local market for rum has been provided for all the producers alike. Despite the grave difficulties which all sugar producers in the world are now facing, the Jamaica Sugar Planters have put up a splendid fight. Cultivation has not been

neglected but has in fact, been improved. New canes giving larger yields have replaced the old varieties and in 1932, the largest crop of sugar produced in Jamaica during the past 50 years is confidently expected.

91. The Barbados cane "BH 10 (12)" is now established as the standard cane for average conditions in Jamaica. This cane possesses many excellent qualities and is without doubt the best West Indian cane introduced into Jamaica during the past forty years. On inferior lands in Vere a cane of similar parentage known as "S.C.12/4" is giving wonderful results both as plants and ratoons. The Hawaiian cane "E.K. 28" has done well in some of the best soils of Vere but is not generally suitable for cultivation in Jamaica. The immune Java cane "P.O.J. 2725" is rapidly replacing "Uba." It gives a fine tonnage but suffers from the disadvantage of early arrowing and requires special treatment in planting and reaping to give the best results. The "wonder cane" of Java "P.O.J. 2878," has been widely distributed throughout all the sugar lands of the Colony and is now under estate trial. It shows great promise and is a cane of noble appearance but it is susceptible to wind storms and appears rather soft for hard conditions. There is reason to believe that in favourable areas in Jamaica it will produce large yields of sugar and become of commercial importance.

92. *Coconuts*—A good crop of nuts resulted from favourable seasons. The exports were nearly 35 million nuts or 4 million more than in the previous year. On the other hand the export of Copra fell from 300 tons to 180 tons (approximately). Owing to trade difficulties and the severe competition of whale oil the foreign markets for Copra were gravely affected. The reflex action of this state of trade has resulted in the practical organisation of the Coconut Co-operative Association whereby the local markets for soap and edible oils should now be provided for by the produce of our own coconuts. The local soap made from pure coconut oil is a complete success. The factory finds a ready sale for its soap and is making a profit at a time when most manufacturers of soap are finding it difficult to cover their cost of production. The by-product in the form of Coconut Cake is proving very useful to dairymen and poultry keepers.

93. *Logwood*—This product remains in a somewhat stagnant condition. The manufactured extract has remained at last year's very moderate standard. The demands for wood were slightly better and for the first three-quarters of the year the values of logwood exported were recorded as £43,000 compared with £34,000 for 1930.

94. *Coffee*—The high-grade Blue Mountain Coffee has kept its trade and maintained its high price The ordinary and lower qualities of Jamaica Coffee have suffered through the gigantic over-production of Brazil which is reported to have coffee for the whole world for three years stored in one port alone.

95. *Cocoa* has been a drug in the market; the quantity exported was 2,660 tons as against 3,000 tons (approximately) in the previous year, while the financial returns have been very poor indeed, less than £17 per ton on the average. This ruinous state of the Cocoa market which has been chiefly brought about by excessive production in West Africa, is so unpromising that very little interest is now being taken n this staple in Jamaica. As the larger producers are reducing their

acreage of cocoa while many small settlers leave their cocoa trees neglected, it is to be expected that the production of cocoa in Jamaica will soon dwindle to quite small dimensions.

96. *Ginger*—The exports of ginger fell by 250 tons to 867 tons which were valued at an average price of 28/- per 100 lbs. At present bananas offer a better prospect for the small growers than ginger and it is likely that the output of the latter will now be reduced. This reduction of crop should eventually lead to some improvement in the price, for Jamaica ginger is unrivalled for real ginger quality and flavour. Unfortunately, the market is strictly limited and no drop in price has any appreciable effect on the consumption of this article.

97. *Citrus Fruits*—Until the close of the year the trade in citrus fruits was most disappointing. Markets were poor and the heavy autumnal rains rendered the fruit liable to rot in transit. Heavy losses were incurred by shippers particularly in the month of October from this cause. The Citrus Producers' Association obtained the services of the Microbiologist to investigate the matter and a large scale test of various methods of treatment was carried out at the Central Packing House. These researches proved that the gassing of the fruit with Ethylene gas increased the loss by 'Stem-rot' by 300 per cent. and confirmed the complaints of shippers that the compulsory gassing of their fruit was resulting in serious losses of fruit by rotting. By using small, repeated doses of gas and removing the button or attachment of the stalk after such treatment citrus fruits were found to suffer very small losses from this cause in comparison with heavily gassed fruit in which the infected stalk was permitted to remain.

98. Recently, both in the English and Canadian markets there has been a strong revival of trade a l by the preferences granted to our fruit by the Imperial and the Canadian governments, Jamaica is now placed in a position to take up citrus production with some confidence.

99. The exports of grapefruit remained practically the same as last year, just under 100,000 boxes. The large distribution of grapefruit plants to small cultivators which has been made in the last few years by the Hope Nursery will enable a large quantity of this fruit to be produced by small settlers in a few years' time.

100. The exports of orange oil in 1931 amounted to 63,000 lbs., an increase of 16,000 lbs. over the previous year.

101. *Honey* remained steady at about the same standard as last year, viz.: 132,550 gallons. Prices have fallen, as might be expected. This product will amply repay the formation of a Co-operative Association whereby the honey can be graded and marketed to the best advantage.

102. The honey produced in Jamaica varies greatly in colour and flavour. That produced from Logwood is of the highest quality and capable of holding its own with the fine honeys from New Zealand and elsewhere. A new Demonstration Apiary was established at the West End of the island during the year by the Agricultural Society who received a special grant for the purpose.

103. *Pimento*—The year was favourable for the production of pimento so that the exports stand at over 5,300 tons as compared with 4,200 tons for 1930. The price, however, fell to a very low standard and many producers found that there was a very small margin left over

the cost of production. The trouble with pimento is that the world does not require as much as Jamaica produces in an average year and it is only in years of scarcity that the price is satisfactory. If the island could reduce its output to one half of the production of 1931, a far more satisfactory trade would result.

104. Pimento leaf-oil has been depressed and it is difficult for the producers to meet the present l w standard of price.

105. *Tobacco.*—The Cigar Trade has felt the effects of the general trade depression so that the exports are less than in 1930 both in quality and value. The local cigarette trade has benefited from recent tariff changes but unfortunately this has not helped the local growers of tobacco as the cigarettes are mainly manufactured from imported leaf.

106. The native industry of "rope-tobacco" continues to flourish and this crop affords a useful outlet for the people in the dry areas of St. Elizabeth who find this a remunerative business.

107. *Sisal Hemp*—The world markets for fibre have been so poor that it has not been possible in Jamaica to produce sisal fibre at the price obtainable abroad. Fortunately the local rope market, with some assistance from scientific tariff, has enabled a fair proportion of the local fibre to be utilised at a profit. The native sisal rope is found to be excellent and has almost displaced the imported article in the smaller sizes which are generally used for roping donkeys and drays and on cattle pens.

108. *Livestock*—Except for a few sporadic cases of Anthrax which were speedily suppressed by vaccination methods, the year has been free from any dangerous diseases of stock. In certain parts of the island losses of cattle arise from the presence of "nightshade" (*Eurechites suberecta*) in the pastures. When this poisonous plant has been boiled down in cleaning pastures it dries and is then frequently eaten by the stock.

109. Efforts have been made to seek an export market and the visit of Mr. R. E. Montgomery, R.M.C.V.S., Adviser on Animal Health to the Colonial Office, was helpful in directing the minds of the pen-keepers in Jamaica to the possibility of selling fat cattle to Trinidad and possibly the Bahamas. There are difficulties in the way but if Trinidad would help this Colony as we have been doing in the case of her oil products it should be practicable for the superior beef cattle of Jamaica to be sold to mutual benefit in the sister colony. The dairy industry is growing steadily. During the past 20 years the 500 bulls distributed from the Government Stock Farm at Hope have played a great part in improving the cattle of the Colony and there are large numbers of cows all over the island capable of commercial exploitation for dairy purposes if the requisite business organisation were established.

110. The influence of the "Sanhiwal" or Montgomery breed of Zebu cattle from India has been found to be truly remarkable. Composite animals containing ¼ to ⅛ of this Indian blood have been found superior to all the pure-bred dairy cattle tested at Hope Farm. Hardy, productive cows suitable for outdoor life in the tropics have thus been produced at Hope which give excellent yields of rich milk. As a result of 23 years of concentrated effort the finances of the Government Stock Farm at Hope are in a satisfactory state, showing a gain of £15,832 19s. 2d. in Assets and a net gain of £42,460 in the capital value of the Hope Estate which was purchased as a public property for £5,422 in 1914.

111. *Agricultural Education*—The Government Farm School has been reorganised in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee as approved by the Legislative Council. The new Headmaster arrived in July and has been actively engaged in reorganising the curriculum and internal affairs of the Farm School. The new branch at "Grove Place" in Manchester has been given an excellent start and the new venture is proving a practical success. The students are gaining valuable practical experience during their 6-week periods at "Grove Place," while the new Experiment Station and Plant Nursery will doubtless be helpful to the people in the vicinity. The old estate buildings at "Grove Place" were converted, at a very moderate cost, into commodious and airy quarters by the Public Works Department. The Colony now possesses in its Farm School an institution admirably suited, equipped and staffed for training young men on sound and practical lines so as to promote the success of the agricultural industries which are suitable for local conditions in Jamaica.

112. *Land Settlements.—Spring Garden Estate* in the parish of St. Thomas, containing 746 acres which was acquired in 1923 for land settlement, has been sub-divided into 236 lots and sold on terms of payment spread over a period of five years. This property has now been sold off.

113. *Kellets*—A property of 5,065 acres in the parish of Clarendon, having about 650 tenants, was acquired on 1st July, 1929, for a land settlement. About 1,100 acres are considered unsuitable for settlement and it is proposed to reserve this area as forest. Two rivers and several streams pass through the property and the margins of these are to be reserved for water conservation and to prevent pollution. The ruins of the old hospital and sugar works which have a certain amount of historic value, are also being reserved. At a point where the main roads radiate in four directions, about 50 acres have been laid out into a small township, special portions being reserved for public purposes. About 10 miles of bridle roads were constructed through the property preparatory to its being cut up into lots. At the end of 1931, 2,240 acres had been cut into 473 holdings and sold, and sales are continuing.

114. *Tobolski*—During the year 1930, this property containing 2,050 acres in St. Ann, was acquired for land settlement at a cost of £8,666 3s. 10d., at the end of 1931, 841 acres had been sold to 47 small settlers and sales are continuing.

115. *Monklands* containing 1,500 acres in St. Thomas, was also acquired for land settlement during 1930, at a cost of £4,033 7s. 6d. This property is being sold off, so far 350 acres have been sold to 38 settlers.

116. *Glenbrook* in Westmoreland, a property of 600 acres, has been divided into 115 lots which have been sold with the exception of a lot of about 14 acres. Purchased during 1931.

117. *Burnt Savannah* which was also bought in 1931, is a property in Westmoreland of 585 acres, and applications have been received for all the land. It is expected that it will be cut up at a very early date and handed over to the respective purchasers.

118. *Progress in Co-operative Associations.*—The progress of the Agricultural Co-operative movement during the past year has again been satisfactory.

119. In spite of the unprecedented world-wide depression in trade affecting every commodity, the Banana Association has not only been able to maintain its position as a leading factor in the Banana World but has been able *materially* to increase its financial strength during the year. The percentage of the island's total exports of Bananas handled by the Association has been further increased and its membership has grown to approximately 12,000 growers with an area under contract of over 50,000 acres.

120. The co-operative marketing of Citrus Fruit under the auspices of the Citrus Producers Association has also made most gratifying progress during the past year. The membership of the Association has increased over 100% and there has been a very large increase in the amount of fruit handled and exported over the previous season. Serious difficulties were encountered by the industry during the early part of the present season owing to an excessive amount of wastage principally caused by the abnormal rains during 1931. Much valuable work was done by the Government Microbiologist and extensive experiments carried out in co-operation with the Association in an attempt to bring down the percentage of waste in shipments to a minimum. Special advertising and marketing campaigns which the Association have carried out this season particularly in Canada, have led to a very large demand for Jamaica Citrus Fruit which is reflected in the larger exports of oranges from the island this season, and the maintenance of grapefruit shipments in a year of unprecedented world depression and low market prices. Many members of the Association have intimated that they are increasing their cultivation of Citrus Fruit. The Association gives employment to large numbers of workers both in Kingston and in the country. The Citrus Industry has benefited greatly from the better handling, preparation and marketing of fruit through the Association Central Packing House and the Co-operative Association.

121. The Co-operative Marketing of Coconuts by the Coconut Producers Association and the development of edible oil manufacture is now taking definite shape with the passing of recent legislation for the protection of the locally made product. Within the next few months the Association whose membership represents a big proportion of the island's total production expects to complete its Central Factory in Kingston and be turning out sufficient oil to meet the island's consumption.

122. The organisation of the Dairymen and the Bee-keepers for co-operative marketing of their products has been discussed during the year but has not yet taken definite shape.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

123. In 1931, the value of the Exports and Imports of the Colony showed a decrease compared with the figures for the preceding year.

124. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £4,734,401 as compared with £5,823,037 in 1930. A comparative statement showing the quantities and values

of the principal articles from the principal countries, is given in Table A. pp. 23–25.

125. The yield in 1931 from Import Duties (exclusive of Parcels Post) amounted to £1,002,036, a decrease of £67,344. Parcels Post duties amounted to £35,549, a decrease of £11,882.

126. The value of the Export Trade, (exclusive of Parcels Post exports) decreased from £4,075,473 in 1930 to £3,399,892 in 1931. A comparative table of the quantities and values of the twelve principal products exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and other countries, is given in Table B. pp. 26–28

127. The following statements shows the values of Exports and Imports for the years 1913, 1928 to 1931.

	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Exports	2,430,208	4,197,056	4,669,173	4,091,573	3,420,750
Imports	2,837,447	6,376,298	7,027,013	6,101,513	4,945,539

128. Prices of imported goods generally showed a decline as compared with previous years, due chiefly to over-production and the abandonment of the gold standard in several countries. There was a slight increase in trade with the British Empire, as the following percentages show:—

Imports.

	1930.	1931.
	%	%
British Empire	58.0	60.5
Other Countries	42.0	39.5

Exports.

British Empire	54.1	60.0
Other Countries	45.9	40.0

129. The following table shows the change in the direction of Trade, with the principal Countries in 1913-4 and during the past three years:—

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity	1929. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	£		£ 1,775,623		£ 1,217,720		£ 2,089,306		£ 1,663,446		£ 6,746,095
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	201,477	65,481	31	10	79	26	79,925	25,977	281,512	91,494
	Butter	lbs.	6,905	653	347,929	33,768	13,858	1,351	184,230	17,910	552,922	53,682
	Butter Substitutes	"	312,445	8,731	3,460	86	1,350	49	194,973	5,362	512,228	14,228
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	146,921	3,231	8,163,708	180,407	11,340	250	5,158,096	113,383	13,480,065	297,271
	Pickled	"	6,250	45	8,822,980	99,205	3,000	45	278,500	2,410	9,110,730	101,705
	Grain—Flour	bags-	192	227	332,880	395,293	51,656	61,437	..	..	304,728	456,957
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	812,330	22,339	1,000	28	42,110	1,158	22,500	618	877,940	24,143
	Ham	"	77,450	5,971	5,912	453	284,982	21,819	2,865	208	371,149	28,451
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	..	..	367,980	9,949	771,260	20,690	..	..	1,139,240	30,639
	Milk, Condensed	"	879,620	36,825	2,380,915	69,210	647,495	16,262	1,175,961	30,358	5,083,991	152,655
	Oils, Edible	galls.	249,169	45,417	..	..	1,002	400	20,855	4,492	271,026	49,309
	Sugar, Refined	lbs.	421,471	3,372	2,217,075	15,361	56,811	425	49,650	382	2,745,007	19,540
	Tobacco, Cigarettes	"	231,269	49,648	..	..	1,583	485	194	85	233,046	50,218
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons.	44,002	79,069	..	..	68,885	112,316	..	..	112,887	191,385
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	1,893,745	14,911	17,221,150	165,872	546,545	5,441	19,661,440	186,224
	Hoops and Shooks ..		..	3,238	..	1,928	..	39,768	..	3,415	..	48,349
	Oils,—Illuminating	galls.	..	..	..	..	1,326,800	82,250	..	..	1,520,073	94,816
	Motor Spirit	"	10	2	..	..	1,004,260	57,251	4,493,853	257,911	5,498,123	315,164
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..		..	38,150	..	1,686	..	46,147	..	12,620	..	98,603
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	15,974	73,856	21,759	50,829	24,655	91,983	1,879	3,138	64,267	219,806
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	87	17,058	385	66,120	868	133,266	2	276	1,342	216,720
	Parts of	"	..	26,284	..	42,777	..	68,888	..	3,357	..	141,306
	Cement	brls.	111,422	58,224	4,867	2,555	5	3	18,036	9,257	134,330	70,039
	Cotton, Piece-goods	yds.	8,442,898	205,914	8,561	298	13,061,830	253,901	167,682	6,858	21,680,971	466,974
	Other manufactures	..	..	56,422	..	5,215	..	50,796	..	19,273	..	131,706
	Hardware	..	..	60,683	..	4,661	..	52,600	..	20,414	..	138,358
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..		22,539	..	7,450	..	36,363	..	4,953	..	71,305
	Metals—Iron, galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets	..	..	66,079	..	8,896	..	15,918	..	5,705	..	96,598
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	56,529	..	1,187	..	6,830	..	20,978	..	85,524
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	4,796,920	65,207	..	..	1,588,810	21,265	279,400	3,985	6,665,130	90,457
	Wool Manufactures	..	..	54,227	..	49	..	381	..	40,145	..	58,802

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1930. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	£		£ 1,734,178	£	£ 957,305		£ 1,934,542		£ 1,197,012		£ 5,823,037
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	202,847	62,081	..	..	..	..	60,533	18,667	263,380	80,748
	Butter ..	lbs.	33,484	2,520	174,282	13,520	11,454	890	343,792	26,242	563,012	43,172
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	249,066	8,977	..	..	..	..	57,805	1,491	406,871	10,468
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	76,348	1,529	5,133,800	103,752	13,528	263	8,206,444	167,753	13,430,120	273,297
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	10,545,320	112,553	7,500	113	389,500	3,349	10,942,320	116,015
	Grain—Flour ..	bags	649	777	271,011	321,376	48,555	58,023	7	14	320,222	380,190
	Meats. Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	1,024,700	26,146	2,400	66	28,120	737	..	..	1,055,220	26,949
	Ham ..	"	65,176	6,102	3,924	366	245,494	22,419	3,233	307	317,827	29,194
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	..	..	267,385	7,146	696,256	18,645	..	..	963,641	25,791
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,358,774	38,264	1,971,117	62,071	591,515	16,642	1,207,912	33,030	5,129,318	150,007
	Oils, Edible ..	galls.	286,502	51,547	66	27	731	278	24,665	4,221	311,964	56,073
	Sugar, Refined ..	lbs.	187,420	1,249	879,956	5,894	40,592	271	1,790	11	1,109,758	7,425
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	"	198,954	47,451	25	7	2,207	557	236	88	201,422	48,103
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal ..	tons.	26,812	42,644	..	..	59,291	90,996	..	..	86,103	133,640
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	763,060	5,502	18,772,859	156,392	120,842	959	19,656,761	162,853
	Hoops and Shooks		..	4,028	..	2,230	..	55,791	..	795	..	62,844
	Oils,—Illuminating ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	1,055,913	64,641	353,058	20,389	1,408,971	85,030
	Motor Spirit ..	"	51	5	..	..	936,106	50,706	3,535,365	191,500	4,471,522	242,211
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..		..	28,077	..	2,489	..	51,304	..	25,583	..	107,453
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	17,036	82,221	15,232	29,206	38,229	105,137	7,599	14,060	78,096	230,624
	Carriages—Motor cars	No.	78	16,981	293	47,416	719	108,113	1	61	1,091	172,571
	Parts of ..	"	..	10,728	..	32,296	..	52,489	..	2,767	..	98,280
	Cement ..	brls.	103,348	55,466	9,161	4,932	21	11	13,838	7,405	126,368	67,814
	Cotton, Piece-goods ..	yds.	7,398,065	194,950	5,933	310	13,265,925	231,754	235,298	7,735	20,905,221	434,749
	Other manufactures	..	..	64,605	..	2,997	..	47,348	..	19,074	..	134,024
	Hardware ..	..	..	79,763	..	10,585	..	65,011	..	19,927	..	175,286
	Medicines and Drugs	..	..	25,946	..	4,941	..	38,845	..	5,604	..	75,336
	Metals—Iron, galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets ..		..	37,717	..	4,314	..	16,836	..	7,904	..	66,771
	Silk Manufactures ..		..	43,761	..	2,195	..	11,978	..	21,661	..	82,595
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	5,615,908	72,725	..	..	1,130,065	14,578	447,044	6,684	7,193,917	92,997
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	53,899	..	86	..	232	..	5,471	..	59,688

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1931. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	£	..	£ 1,406,562	..	£ 830,325	..	£ 1,430,008	..	£ 1,067,506	..	£ 4,734,401
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	171,696	49,987	6	1	..	..	40,215	11,774	211,917	61,762
	Butter	lbs.	11,602	927	192,086	15,449	1,054	88	378,161	29,534	582,903	45,998
	Butter Substitutes	"	445,551	11,139	..	..	..	..	19,501	489	465,052	11,628
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	53,872	894	4,496,226	75,313	10,447	170	9,899,093	164,532	14,459,638	240,909
	Pickled	"	84	1	10,111,385	101,377	20	..	481,868	4,425	10,593,357	105,803
	Grain—Flour	bags	745	783	311,687	317,860	30,712	31,994	25	26	343,169	350,663
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	811,931	12,057	3,953	53	5,600	108	..	..	821,484	12,218
	Ham	"	61,410	5,159	13,766	1,052	239,262	15,336	3,487	272	317,925	21,819
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	..	..	223,426	6,819	662,014	14,397	400	9	985,840	21,225
	Milk, Condensed	"	2,245,787	51,734	1,671,437	46,678	1,048,276	21,700	1,022,850	26,346	5,988,350	146,458
	Oils, Edible	galls.	349,080	53,648	106	28	433	196	2,095	547	351,714	54,419
	Sugar, Refined	lbs.	5,922	46	82,453	673	3,500	30	..	..	91,875	749
	Tobacco, Cigarettes	"	127,259	31,931	..	..	1,500	489	70	18	128,829	32,438
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons.	38,092	62,944	..	..	42,751	60,976	..	..	80,843	123,920
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	305,583	2,288	18,362,599	141,734	371,761	2,814	19,039,943	146,836
	Hoops and Shooks	..	..	2,683	..	3,265	..	31,918	..	432	..	38,298
	Oils,—Illuminating	galls.	..	..	..	..	1,304,753	65,620	444,203	23,081	1,748,956	88,701
	Motor Spirit	"	27	8	2	2	981,258	40,363	4,253,304	174,463	5,234,591	214,836
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	20,310	..	1,602	..	37,925	..	18,710	..	75,547
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	12,392	51,587	2,826	5,181	25,948	36,384	9,103	21,837	51,269	164,989
	Carriages—Motor Cars	No.	89	16,520	294	41,455	352	52,631	2	207	737	110,813
	Parts of	"	..	9,726	..	28,840	..	38,792	..	3,966	..	81,324
	Cement	bris.	92,560	46,267	7,057	3,472	20	42	23,648	11,688	123,285	61,469
	Cotton, Piece-goods	yds.	6,742,768	126,135	15,719	238	12,322,981	148,993	299,807	7,203	19,381,275	282,569
	Other manufactures	"	..	45,770	..	577	..	18,853	..	15,027	..	80,227
	Hardware	..	..	47,616	..	6,039	..	36,504	..	15,923	..	106,082
	Medicines and Drugs	..	..	20,938	..	5,247	..	32,168	..	4,528	.	62,881
	Metals—Iron, galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets	..	..	31,817	..	2,202	..	5,229	..	6,039	..	45,287
	Silk Manufactures	..	..	28,438	..	4,986	..	29,975	..	51,545	..	114,944
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	5,901,193	72,316	1,794	23	719,735	8,823	174,973	2,160	6,797,695	83,322
	Wool Manufactures	..	..	39,994	..	205	..	263	..	1,856	..	42,318

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity.	1929. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post).		..	855,906	..	1,102,463	..	1,576,370	..	1,114,391	..	4,649,130
Cocoa, Raw	lbs.	607,682	10,483	3,021,160	52,154	2,191,667	37,818	902,623	15,566	6,723,132	116,021
Coffee, Raw	"	315,565	12,696	5,825,999	234,555	384,347	15,469	45,991	1,846	6,571,902	264,566
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	4,025,673	476,874	2,559,142	320,656	10,721,943	1,150,760	592,710	58,539	22,047,536	2,509,878
Grapefruit	No.	8,840,333	53,416	941,130	5,707	70,670	402	361,427	2,226	10,213,560	61,751
Coconuts	"	2,422,219	11,626	3,634,112	17,434	33,636,492	161,834	225,675	1,077	39,918,498	191,971
Logwood Extracts	pkgs.	4,773	51,503	..	..	309	3,731	2,756	31,016	7,838	86,253
Nuts for Expressing Oils:— Copra	lbs.	1,036,728	8,569	..	..	1,303,768	11,544	5,548,313	45,320	7,888,809	65,433
Spices: Ginger	"	1,208,870	33,931	174,680	4,892	622,520	17,481	122,516	3,440	2,128,576	59,744
Pimento Dry	"	197,898	7,630	243,688	9,383	2,061,681	79,272	6,534,076	251,841	9,037,343	348,126
Spirits: Rum	galls.	611,703	60,840	41,460	4,140	..	..	157,745	15,670	810,908	80,650
Sugar: Unrefined	tons	2,826	36,438	34,396	444,475	..	..	158	2,039	37,380	482,952
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	118	410	..	..	1,407	4,882	19,485	67,615	21,010	72,907

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity.	1930. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post).		..	£ 1,114,405	£ ..	£ 1,054,797	£ ..	£ 1,362,653	..	£ 543,618	..	£ 4,075,473
Cocoa, Raw	lbs.	458,075	5,496	2,330,644	29,145	2,990,474	35,865	1,006,760	10,817	6,785,953	81,323
Coffee, Raw	"	544,907	12,805	6,170,523	145,064	117,759	2,766	42,127	986	6,875,316	161,621
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	stems	7,399,146	730,737	3,183,172	315,230	12,213,803	1,087,912	1,800,464	175,862	24,596,585	2,309,741
Grapefruit	No.	6,659,596	40,456	2,174,924	12,248	90,680	594	159,621	1,113	9,084,821	54,411
Coconuts	"	1,423,925	5,411	2,808,525	11,067	26,747,045	102,114	210,610	415	31,190,105	119,007
Logwood Extracts	pkgs.	3,801	41,677	..	..	120	1,365	2,212	24,762	6,133	67,804
Nuts for Expressing Oils:— Copra	lbs.	3,264,058	24,652	..	..	981,157	6,355	5,936,760	41,077	10,181,975	72,084
Spices: Ginger	"	1,262,224	24,825	239,642	4,793	833,994	16,680	150,392	3,006	2,486,252	49,304
Pimento, Dry	"	178,288	3,600	238,924	4,826	2,249,699	45,494	6,855,913	138,582	9,522,824	192,502
Spirits: Rum	galls.	561,966	74,669	29,776	3,871	..	..	87,468	11,447	679,210	89,987
Sugar: Unrefined	tons	6,719	78,959	43,570	511,843	..	..	85	1,004	50,374	591,806
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	268	778	..	..	2,627	7,675	13,345	38,890	16,240	47,343

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity.	1931. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U.S.A. Quantity.	U.S.A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
			£	£	£	£	£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post).		..	1,140,295	..	860,054	..	1,046,916	..	352,627	..	3,399,892
Cocoa, Raw	lbs.	338,860	2,915	3,689,142	31,769	910,975	7,835	985,748	8,468	5,924,731	50,987
Coffee, Raw	"	684,536	12,732	7,299,028	136,056	786,077	14,620	407,749	7,585	9,177,390	170,993
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	8,456,194	803,359	3,331,412	306,968	9,955,289	814,529	572,710	58,539	22,335,605	1,983,395
Grapefruit	No.	5,149,560	24,921	4,481,883	22,613	79,560	380	220,033	1,144	9,931,036	49,058
Coconuts	"	1,155,898	3,950	3,018,100	10,321	30,937,350	106,627	604,235	2,072	35,715,583	122,970
Logwood Extracts	pkgs.	6,694	73,584	..	..	110	1,250	1,619	17,809	8,423	92,643
Nuts for Expressing Oils:—											
Copra	lbs.	1,896,865	9,172	..	..	1,544,184	7,084	4,449,115	22,382	7,890,164	38,638
Spices: .. Ginger	"	948,598	13,140	174,737	2,322	800,837	11,054	73,183	1,007	1,997,355	27,523
Pimento, Dry	"	236,865	2,108	201,251	1,791	2,815,908	25,062	8,960,562	79,707	12,214,586	108,668
Spirits: Rum	galls.	323,813	32,381	21,300	2,130	..	.	64,019	6,402	409,132	40,913
Sugar: Unrefined	tons	5,880	49,074	38,319	328,617	..	..	95	812	44,294	378,503
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	50	125	..	..	3,580	8,950	15,144	38,980	18,774	48,055

Imports.

	1913-4. (Average)	1929.	1930.	1931.
	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	38.0	26.3	29.8	29.7
U. S. A.	47.1	31.0	33.2	30.2
Canada	8.5	18.0	16.4	17.5
Other Countries ..	6.4	24.7	20.6	22.6
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Exports.

	1913-4. (Average)	1929.	1930.	1931.
	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	17.9	18.[illegible]	27.3	33.5
U. S. A.	59.3	33.9	33.4	30.8
Canada	5.6	23.7	25.9	25.3
Other Countries ..	17.2	24.0	13.4	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

130. The average rate of wages for a labourer in Government employ is 2/6 per day. Private employers pay men from 2/6 to 3/6 per day and women from 1/6 to 1/8 per day. Factory Workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each and Shop Assistants (men) receive a wage of from 60/- to 70/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 8 hours each. Women Shop Assistants receive 25/- per week.

131. The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway and a schedule of the wages paid in the Department is set out below:—

Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180	to	£335	per annum.
Train Despatchers ..	"	70/	"	125/	per week
Head Office Clerks ..	"	20/	"	110/	"
Traffic Clerks ..	"	30/	"	80/	"
Typists ..	"	35/	"	45/	"
Junior Clerks and Learners	"	10/	"	25/	"
Draughtsmen ..	"	90/	"	150/	"
Assistant Draughtsmen	"	20/	"	35/	"
Learner Draughtsmen ..	"	15/	"	25/	"
Station Masters ..	"	35/	"	110/	"
Guards ..	"	30/	"	60/	"
Brakesmen ..	"	21/	"	30/	"
Tranship Porters ..	"	21/	"	40/	"
Shop Foremen ..	"	95/	"		"
Track Foremen ..	"	30/	"	60/	"
Shed Foremen ..	"	90/	"	115/	"
Engine Drivers ..	"	60/	"	80/6	"
Firemen ..	"	37/	"	44/	"
Mechanics ..	"	32/	"	60/	"
Carpenters ..	"	30/	"	50/	"
Painters ..	"	28/	"	34/	"
Shedmen ..	"			4/	per day
ditto ..	"			5/-	per night
Apprentices ..	"	8/	to	24/	per week
Gangers ..	"	3/9	"	4/	per day
Labourers ..	"	2/6	"	3/6	"
Storemen ..	"	10/6	"	20/	per week

132. The following is a list, giving cost, of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	8 ozs. for 2 2-5d
Crackers	1½d. doz.
Peas and Beans	8d. per qt
Yams	2d. per lb.
Coconuts	1½d. each
Sweet Potatoes	1d. per lb.
Cocoas	1¼d. per lb.
Plantains	2d. each
Sugar, B. A.	2½d. per lb.
Flour	3d. per lb.

Rice	..	..	3d. per lb.
Meal	..	..	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	..	..	6d. per lb.
Herrings	..	..	3d. per lb.
Shads	..	..	4d. per lb.
Mackerels	..	..	4d. per lb.
Salt (fine)	..	..	1d. per lb
C. S. Oil	..	..	1/4d. per qt.
Coconut Oil	..	..	1/ per qt.
Beef	..	..	6d.–7½d. per lb.

133. During 1931, a 4 lb. loaf of bread cost 1/7 1-5d. and a labourer's pay therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 9 loaves in Government employ and from 9 to 13 loaves in private employ. In Jamaica, however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

134. The cost of living in Jamaica although it has decreased somewhat in recent years, is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100 as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914 the Index Figure for 1931 works out at an average of 157 made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—			
Local Products	..	174	
Imported Articles	..	128	151 (mean)
Clothing, etc.	..	..	159
Miscellaneous	..	..	162
			472
		Average	157

135. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

136. The total departmental expenditure on Education for the year 1930-31 was £200,826, an increase of £17,560 on the expenditure for 1929-30.

137. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owners' representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. There are 133 schools administered by School Boards, 74 of which are owned by the Government while 59 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance

is limited to 14 compulsory areas in which the average attendance is 59%. The number of children affected is 17,541 excluding infants. In the non-compulsory areas 106,075 children are enrolled with an average attendance of 53%.

138. The total enrolment for the whole island is 134,012 with an average attendance of 56%.

139. The total cost of Elementary Education exclusive of establishment charges for 1930-31 amounted to £158,252.

140. There are in all 655 grant-aided Elementary Schools. There is also a large number of elementary private schools in regard to which details are not available. Two new Government Schools were opened during 1930-31 and a sum of £5,000 was expended during the same period in building grants for denominational schools and teachers' quarters, but there are still many denominational school buildings in a very bad state of repair.

141. The Primary Schools employ about 1,650 teachers. There are four Training Colleges one for men and three for women teachers. During 1930-31, 40 teachers with college training entered the profession and approximately 40 assistant teachers were registered without college training.

142. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years are awarded annually to children from Primary Schools in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, nineteen in number, are under the control of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

143. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 19 centres. At the last examinations held (July and December, 1931) 500 candidates sat for the Junior Examination, 291 for the School Certificates and 15 entered for and 7 passed (46%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July. The results of the examination of Junior and School Certificate candidates in December, 1931 are not yet to hand.

144. Public assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls. An annual scholarship tenable at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, is also provided by the Government. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

145. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1931, 43 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 19 passed, including 2 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 4 candidates, 3 of whom passed and one was referred. One candidate sat for Intermediate Divinity and was referred. Three candidates sat for the Final Arts examination and 2 passed,

and one candidate sat for the Final examination in Arts with Honours and passed in the Second Division. One candidate sat for the final examination in Laws and passed.

146. There are three recognized Continuation Schools in the Island; one in Kingston maintained by the Government and two in the parish of St. Mary. Excepting these, the Farm School at Hope, the Trade Scholarships and the scholarships and free places in Secondary Schools, there is no avenue of continued education for the majority of children attending the Elementary Schools.

147. The Government Technical School, Kingston, provides continuation, commercial, domestic science and technical departments. As a result of a Report made by a Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Governor in 1929 on the working of this school, many of the disabilities under which the school was working in respect of accommodation and staff have been removed, and the curricula and supervision of all branches have been reorganized under a new Principal during 1931.

148. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School Boys who wish to be apprenticed to a trade or to enter the Government Farm School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years a part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

149. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curriculum is in Literary Subjects, needlework, housecraft and hygiene. These schools do excellent work especially from the point of view of character training. There is little doubt however, that their curricula should be of a less literary and more practical nature. But there are few local teachers able to teach domestic subjects and fewer still to teach commercially profitable handicrafts. There is no continuation school for boys outside Kingston.

150. Manual Training Departments are attached to nine Government Schools but three are in abeyance on account of shortage of qualified staff.

151. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been reorganized and are shewing much improvement in numbers and efficiency. There are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

152. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds. The remaining schools and orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order.

153. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Until recently children could not be detained in these schools after the age of 16, but they may now be detained until 18 in cases where it is shewn to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted institutions, but lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the class room or for trade instruction.

154. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys and Girls) is maintained by the Government, under the charge of the Inspector of Reformatories and Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor, which arranges monthly visits of inspection and holds fortnightly Board Meetings. The numbers on Roll for 1931 were 400 boys and 100 girls. The school is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply, the site is ideal for the purpose. The buildings, though very old, are spacious, well ventilated and cool. The old, badly lighted schoolroom of the Girls Section has been replaced by one of greatly improved design, and other improvements are being made which include a suitable playground for the girls. The curriculum is arranged so that each child devotes half of each day to the ordinary subjects of elementary school work, and the other half day to manual work. Drill, Games, Hobbies, Scouting and Evening Continuation Classes for senior boys, each take an important part in completing a form of institutional life which is a creditable pattern of an English Borstal Institution. The weak point of the whole system is lack of after-care, but this is now receiving the attention of a sub-committee of the Board of Visitors. A "House" system has been established and is proving a great success. The boys are taught carpentry, blacksmithing, tailoring, gardening, agriculture, masonry, baking and cooking and the girls laundry work, sewing and cooking. A good brass band is maintained. Every possible form of sport is encouraged, mainly by inter-House Competitions for Shields, Cups, etc. and the House spirit has developed to such an extent that a boy is just as keen to earn a few marks for the good of his House as he used to be to win an individual prize. The reverse of this is also felt to be beneficial in that offences *lose* marks for the House, and the culprit dreads offending the Public Opinion of his House as much as or more than any direct punishment he may receive from the authorities. There is a system of good conduct badges bearing a cash value. Portion of such earnings may be used, at the discretion of the Superintendent, for certain purposes during the period of detention, but the major portion stands to the credit of the inmate until he is discharged.

155. Prison records show that there is a marked decrease in recent years in the number of ex-Industrial School boys who become adult criminals, which is, perhaps, the surest sign that the school is achieving its object.

156. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident, nor for old age, outside the poor relief law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1930-31 of £694 to the Child Welfare Association, £100 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last named institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

157. The Bureau of Health Education under the Central Board of Health is the principal agency for Health Education in Jamaica. The bulletin "Jamaica Public Health" issued by the Bureau together with health posters have been of inestimable value to the Colony. Its work in connection with school Dental Clinics, the Child Welfare

Association, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the Malaria Commission and the Empire Health Week are directly educative.

158. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association there are at present 49 Groups actively at work. These groups comprise 39 Scout Troops, 13 Wolf Cub Packs and 8 Rover Crews, numbering 112 Scouters, 958 Scouts, 44 Sea Scouts, 289 Cubs, 126 Rover Scouts, 63 Rover Sea Scouts—a total of 1,592. This shews an increase of 487 over 1930 when the total was 1,205. His Excellency Sir R. E. Stubbs, G.C.M.G., is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

159. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 61 groups at work. These comprise 8 Ranger, 40 Guide and 13 Brownie Companies. The total enrolment for 1931 was 1,662. The Island Commissoner is Lady Stubbs, C.B.E.

160. The Institute of Jamaica, for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art—with its Library of 34,188 books (24,281 in the General Library and 9,907 in the West India Reference Library)—distributed 44,841 books amongst its members during 1931, in addition to which many members of the public, including Tourists from England, Canada and the United States, consulted the General Reference Library and the West India Reference Library. Amongst the students in the latter was a graduate doing post-graduate work on a West Indian subject. Twenty-seven Teachers Associations affiliated with the Institute, borrowed boxes of books from the Institution during the year. Many parties of school children visited the Natural History Museum and the History Gallery of the Institute. One Lecture on "Reforestation, Conservation and Utilization of Lumber" was given at a Members Meeting on the 30th of April.

161. During the year two Exhibitions of Paintings of oil and water-colours of Jamaica scenes, one by a resident in Jamaica, the other by an English visitor, were held at the Institute.

162. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music held its 24th Annual Examination of Candidates in Music, of whom 590 sat.

163. The Musical Society of Jamaica held the second of a series of Musical Festival Competitions inaugurated in 1929.

164. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony and these conjoined with the visits paid by teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian Teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play. Association Football is also keenly followed from October to February, inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number six and the game is now achieving great popularity throughout the Island. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round, and is fostered by various competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, England. As in the case of cricket, the visits of well-known players from abroad have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

165. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Interscholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

166. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years.

1927	entered	1,754	vessels of	3,001,232	tons.
1928	"	1,593	"	3,076,996	"
1929	"	1,651	"	3,337,919	"
1930	"	1,631	"	3,573,731	"
1931	"	1,438	"	3,244,558	"
1927	cleared	1,754	"	3,008,172	"
1928	"	1,562	"	3,042,893	"
1929	"	1,635	"	3,310,243	"
1930	"	1,625	"	3,541,633	"
1931	"	1,407	"	3,222,945	"

167. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:

British Register—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., The Canadian Transport Co., The Canadian National Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R.R. Steamship Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., The Webster Steamship Line (the last named company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders and Fyffes is a British registered Company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U. S. A.—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc , The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line, Munson Line.

Dutch—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

168. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

169. The Island possesses a good system of macadam roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,408 miles which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,228 miles of which 1,988 are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,240 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

170. During 1931, the main roads were maintained at an average cost of about £119 per mile including expenditure in repairing flood damage. With few exceptions these roads were originally constructed

of limestone without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use, without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic safely. Up to the end of the year under review, the mileage of asphalted sprayed roads amounted to 126 miles. The programme of Road Construction begun in 1927, with the object of opening up fertile areas, and providing feeders to the Government Railway, has been steadily pushed on, and it is hoped that the programme of these new roads, including widening and strengthening, amounting to approximately 281 miles and the construction of 69 bridges, will be completed about August, 1932.

171. The year was one of heavy rainfall, the mean for the Island being 91.53 inches or 15.07 inches above the 50-year average, and the mean number of rainy days was 138, the average being 122.

172. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

173. With the passing of Law 30 of 1929 (The Motor Omnibus Law), transportation by Motor Omnibuses was placed on a proper basis. There are 86 licensed Motor Omnibuses, 40 of which operate in Kingston and Lower Saint Andrew over routes totalling 47 miles, the other 46 operating between Kingston and the outlying areas not served by Railway communication. It would seem probable that transportation by Motor Omnibuses is likely to increase and the effects of such development on the Railway and other existing forms of transportation, such as tramways, is a matter that will need careful consideration.

174. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay —112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio 63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston) on the Port Antonio line to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

175. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

176. The revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1931 was £363,873, and the expenditure £287,170. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year

under review was 338,170 tons, as compared with 381,993 tons for the year 1930; the number of passengers carried in 1931 was 668,644 as compared with 754,288 in 1930.

177. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

178. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60 lb. rails with 80 lb. rails has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60 lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1931 the total mileage which has been changed from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails is 100 miles.

179. Banana traffic continues to increase year by year, and more bananas were exported from the Island during 1931 than during any previous year.

180. The Railway carries about 50% of the total number of stems exported, and the number of stems carried by rail during the past ten years has increased from 4,491,000 to 12,897,000.

181. The importance of the banana traffic to the Railway is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	Total Goods Revenue.	Banana Revenue.
	£	£
1926-27	255,997	166,319 or 64%
1927-28	287,279	194,799 or 67%
1928-29	230,518	148,221 or 64%
1929-30	292,165	208,565 or 71%
1930-31	307,953	237,385 or 77%

182. General Merchandise Traffic has decreased in spite of the efforts which have been made to divert it from road and sea to the Railway. Rates on many commodities have been reduced, a quicker service has been given and much has been done by canvassing and offering facilities to the Public, but this traffic continues to decrease year by year. The falling off can only be attributed to road motor competition and the general depression in trade.

183. Passenger Traffic during 1931 has fallen off considerably and here again the decrease is undoubtedly due to trade depression and road motor competition.

184. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1931, there were 1,727 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 telegraph and 118 telephone offices. One telegraph office was closed and ten telephone offices were opened during the year.

185. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

186. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 44 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within

the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

187. In 1930, 395,544 telegrams were despatched, and the revenue amounted to £22,709 17s. 2½d. In 1931, 327,339 and £18,090 5s. 4½d. respectively.

188. There are three wireless stations in the Island under Government license, two owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., and one by Pan American Airways, Inc.

Two are situated at Kingston, and the other at Stony Hill. Of the 2 owned by the D.W.I. Cable Co., one is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave length of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. The Pan-American Airways W/T Station is used for the control of their aeroplanes operating between North and South America and the Caribbean Islands—Short wave only is used. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Stations exist in the Island. No amateur transmitting licenses are issued.

189. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island. These two Cable Companies have been merged into the Imperial and International Communication Co., Ltd., but in Jamaica retain their old names.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measure.

190. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

191. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st December, 1931, was as follows:

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£101,906
The Bank of Nova Scotia	161,672
The Royal Bank of Canada	39,820
The Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	22,254

192. These Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston. Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

193. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 107 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1931, £646,753 4s. 11d.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other Securities in 1919, amounted to £335,734 and in 1931 to £655,168 16s. 11d.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919, was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1929 which was carried to the Reserve Fund, was £4,464 18s. 4d., and the net profit for 1931 to be carried to the Reserve Fund is £8,862 19s. 5d.

194. Under Law 11 of 1925, which replealed Law 7 of 1917, the Funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Local Government or other Colonial Government Securities, (2) in real securities in Jamaica, (3) on deposit in Banks, (4) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

195. There are 56 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies, Law (33 of 1902) of which 3 are moribund. The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the re-suscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in

1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for cultivation, the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

196. In 1930, Law 15 of 1930 was passed, giving the Board further and better powers, and extending their duties of supervision to all Agricultural Loan Societies.

197. To 31st December, 1931, £134,506 was lent to 37 Banks and £120,408 received in repayment. The sum of £59,641 was also lent to Banks to purchase 12 properties for the purpose of land settlement, of which £42,567 was repaid.

198. Interest paid since the inception of the operations of the Board amounted to £38,805 and 46 Banks from which returns were received collected share capital amounting to £44,523. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out, and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers.

199. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—Gold, silver and copper coins of the United Kingdom; local cupro nickel coins; local Government Notes and British Currency Notes; the U.S.A. gold eagle and its multiples and sub-multiples and the sub-divisions of the gold doubloon. U.S.A. silver and notes are not legal tender but are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks. Accounts are kept in sterling.

200. Local Currency Notes under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1804, were in circulation on the 31st December,1930, to the extent of £80,626 17s. 6d. in the following denominations:—

2/6 Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
121 17 6	34,288 10 0	46,216 10 0	80,626 17 6

The 2/6 notes are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

201. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica issue local notes. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

202. British Weights and Measures are used in Jamaica, and the standard weights and measures are the same as those used in England. It is interesting to note, however, that a "stone" (14 lbs.) is much more used as a unit of weight than it is in England, many commodities such as potatoes, onions, hay, etc., being sold by the stone.

203. In measurements, too, a "chain" (66 ft.) and a "link" (7 ins.) are common units of measurements. Work in the fields and on the roads

is always measured by the "chain" and in describing distances between two points less than a mile apart, the "chain" is nearly always used as the unit of description.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

204. In addition to the construction of new roads and bridges, an account of which appears under Chapter X, the principal activities of the year were:—

(a) The completion of the extensive scheme of improvements and additional wards at the Lunatic Asylum, which have been in progress during the last two years.

(b) The continuation of the enlargement scheme at the Public General Hospital, Kingston, and the completion of the New V. D. Ward.

(c) The building of two large Government Schools.

(d) New Police Station, Guy's Hill. New Public Mortuary, Kingston. New Post Office, Lacovia. New King's Warehouse—No. 1 Pier. The completion of the first stage of the extensive improvements to the Black River Hospital.

205. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor, upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all main roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877, and the construction, enlargement, improvement, repair, management and control of any other water works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorised by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889 and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds for which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief Adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specifications and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorised.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, The Telephone Law, The Tramways Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law—(24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a Member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

206. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

207. The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Appellate Court which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil jurisdiction) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

208. There are three Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges.

209. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

210. The civil work of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew is disposed of by the Judge of the Kingston Court who has the same jurisdiction as a Resident Magistrate in civil proceedings.

211. The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

212. There are fourteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and one Judge of the Kingston Court At present there are only thirteen Resident Magistrates as one is acting as Judge of the Kingston Court which post is now vacant due to the transfer of the holder of that office to another Colony.

213. The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

Police.

Jamaica Constabulary.

214. In 1866, it was considered necessary to abolish the old police force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. Under that Law the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as sub-Officers and Constables. The present authorised strength of the Force is 23 Officers and 1,082 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for membership unless he can produce a certificate of character from a magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory medical examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read, without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand. Every candidate is enrolled for five years (3 months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the office of Constables. There are separate Detective and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class of small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police.

Prisons.

215. A. *General Penitentiary, Kingston*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, and European prisoners.

There is separate cell accommodation for 645 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel, and 32 in hospital wards.

216. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding six months.

There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the Chapel for 306, and hospital wards for 40.

217. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21.

Maximum accommodation for 66.

218. *Females' Prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198, hospital wards for 15.

219. In the adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

220. At the Juvenile Adult Prison, special rules, and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the Adult Prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the Juvenile Adult Prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons.

221. In the Females' Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e., washing, (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

222. The necessary arrangements for an effective Island-wide Probation system have been in existence for three years, but with the exception of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew very little use seems to be made of it. It has proved very successful in Kingston and St. Andrew, and should be equally so in the country parishes.

Brief Statistics:

Average daily population—	
General Penitentiary	535
St. Catherine District Prison ..	480
Juvenile Adult Prison	49
Females' Prison	69
Total ..	1,133

Number in custody 31.12.31—	
General Penitentiary	605
St. Catherine District Prison ..	574
Total ..	1,179

Revenue	£13,080 19 6
Expenditure ..	£46,024 8 1
Cost of Prisons ..	£32,943 8 7

Value of Prison Manufactures used in Prisons—£3,890 13s. 5d.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

223. Thirty-five Laws were passed during the year 1931. A brief summary of those which may be considered of interest is given below:—

Law 1 *of* 1931.—"A Law further to amend the Tariff Law 1925, Law 4 of 1925 and all Laws amending the same." This Law varies some of the existing schedules to the present Tariff Laws by altering the rates of duty with regard to certain items and also exempts certain articles from duty.

Law 2 *of* 1931.—"A Law to amend Law 14 of 1923, The Rum Duty Amendment Law, 1923." The Law alters the duty on rum from ninepence per liquid gallon to eight shillings per proof gallon

Law 4 *of* 1931.—"A Law for the more effectual prevention and punishment of Bribery and Corruption of and by members, officers or servants of corporations, councils, parochial and other boards, commissions or other public bodies." This Law provides the necessary legislation to deal with corrupt practices and for the punishment of bribery and corruption of and by members, officers or servants of corporations, councils, parochial and other boards, commission and other public bodies. It also makes provision in the case of public servants. The Law is largely based on the Imperial Statute 52 and 53 Victoria, chapter 69.

Law 6 *of* 1931.—"A Law to repeal the Laws relating to entertainments." This Law repeals the Laws under which duties were imposed on entertainments.

Law 11 *of* 1931.—"A Law further to amend the Kingston Building Law (Law 5 of 1883)." The Law gives relief to owners of small properties who desire to erect buildings of smaller areas than those mentioned in existing Laws by reducing the scale of fees. It also gives the Building Authority discretionary power to approve of applications unaccompanied by the plans required by the Laws.

Law 12 *of* 1931.—"A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation." Under this Law the corporate area as constituted by the old Law is re-constituted into three districts, an urban, a suburban and a rural district. There shall be four members elected for the urban district and two each for the suburban and rural districts. In addition members of the Legislative Council for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew and two Aldermen to be elected by the Councillors from outside the Council.

The Law also provides for women who are entitled to be registered as voters being eligible for election as Councillors.

The term "voters" has been substituted for the term "burgesses."

All the Laws dealing with the Corporation and with the corporate area improvements have been consolidated and embodied in this Law.

Law 13 *of* 1931.—"The Sugar Aid Industry Law." The Bill affords further temporary assistance to the Sugar Industry of Jamaica. It provides for (a) compulsory retention in the Island for local consumption of 20% of the sugar manufactured (b) regulation of retail price by the Government (c) compulsory exportation of 80% of the sugar manufactured (d) grant of a subsidy or bonus of £2, per ton on each ton of sugar exported, and (e) prohibition of the importation of sugar except under license to be granted by the Board which is constituted under the Law. The Law is largely based on the lines of the Sugar Industry Aid Law, 1929.

Law 16 *of* 1931.—"A Law in relation to the erection and extension of the pier or jetty on the Leyland Wharf, Kingston." This Law is a private one and was introduced by an Elected Member on behalf of a Company known as the Leyland Wharves, Limited. The Law empowers the Company to extend into the harbour of Kingston by adding 150 feet to its length. The right to alter or add to the structure from time to time is reserved to the Company.

Law 17 *of* 1931.—"A Law to give effect to a certain Convention on the execution of Arbitral Awards." The Law was passed so as to create legislation which will enable the Convention on the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards, which was signed at Geneva on the 26th September, 1927, to become operative in Jamaica and its Dependencies and thus bring them into conformity with other countries which have adhered to the Convention.

Law 18 *of* 1931.—"A Law to give effect to a Protocol on Arbitration Clauses signed on behalf of His Majesty at a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations held on the 24th day of September, 1923." This Law was passed to create legislation which will give effect in Jamaica and its Dependencies to the Protocol on Arbitration Clauses signed on behalf of His Majesty's Government at a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations and thus bring Jamaica and its Dependencies into conformity with other countries which have acceded to the Protocol.

Law 20 *of* 1931.—"A Law to make provision for the improvement of the Kingston Race Course." "This Law makes provision for the improvement of the Kingston Race Course and to remove any doubts as to the powers and duties of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in relation thereto.

Law 22 *of* 1931.—"A Law in aid of the Jamaica Coconut Producers Association, Limited." The Law enables the Jamaica Coconut Producers Association, Limited, to carry out its scheme for the marketing of products from coconuts in all available markets.

Law 23 *of* 1931.—"A Law in aid of the Coconut Industry and to promote, aid and encourage the local manufacture of edible oils." Under this Law a Coconut Board is appointed by the Governor with powers and duties to be from time to time defined by him. The importation of edible oil is prohibited under the Law.

Power is vested in the Governor to fix maximum prices for edible oils and to increase the import duty on edible oils.

All manufacturers of edible oils are to be licensed and an excise duty of ninepence per gallon is imposed on all edible oils produced in the Island.

Law 25 *of* 1931.—"A Law to regulate the manufacture of rum in this Island." The Law prohibits during one year the manufacture by any person other than an approved manufacturer as defined by the Law, and restricts the production of rum by each approved manufacturer to one half of the average annual number of Imperial gallons of rum manufactured during the triennial period, defined, at the place or places set opposite his name in the First Schedule of the Bill. Liberty is reserved to the manufacturer to assign his right to any other approved manufacturer to make the quantity of rum which he would be entitled to make under the Law. Power is given to the Governor to fix maximum retail and wholesale prices on sales of rum in the Island.

Law 26 *of* 1931.—"A Law to amend the War Expenses (Jamaica Contribution) Law, 1921." The Imperial Treasury having consented to the suspension for one year of the payment authorised under Law 4 of 1921, this Law was passed to legalise such suspension and to provide for the subsequent payments.

Law 27 *of* 1931.—"A Law to amend the Customs Consolidation Law, 1877." The Law affords greater protection to Customs Officers from penalties and actions for damages at the instance of persons who have been unsuccessfully searched for smuggled goods.

Law 29 *of* 1931.—"A Law to amend the Bankruptcy Laws." This Law adds a definition of "debtor" whereby an absentee who carries on business in Jamaica through an agent or manager will for the purposes of bankruptcy proceedings be regarded as a debtor. It also declares the act of bankruptcy of the agent to be the act of bankruptcy of the absent principal and provides for certain books to be kept by every trader.

The Law also provides for the postponement of the husband's and wife's claim in bankruptcy to the claims of other creditors.

Law 32 *of* 1931.—"A Law relating to children and young persons." The Law provides for the protection of children and young persons. It confers on a Judge, Magistrate, or Justice, power to exclude the public from the Court during the testimony of a child or young person in cases which involve indecency or immorality. The presence of a child during any hearing, unless such child is charged or is a witness in the case, is prohibited under the Law.

"Child," in the Law, is defined as being a person under the age of 14 years and "young person" as a person above the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years.

Law 33 *of* 1931.—"A Law to consolidate the Laws relating to Main Roads." This Law consolidates ten different Laws relating to main roads. It also provides for greater precision for the lighting of carriages in use on main roads during the period

between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise.

Law 34 *of* 1931.—"A Law to consolidate the Laws relating to Parochial Roads." The Law consolidates fifteen different Laws relating to parochial roads. It provides for greater precision for the lighting of carriages in use on parochial roads during the period between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

224. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
£	£	£	£	£
2,147,042	2,275,094	2,212,851	2,292,869	2,197,572

Expenditure.

1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
£	£	£	£	£
2,046,205	1,980,888	2,317,433	2,310,502	2,322,613

225. The total Expenditure during the year ended the 31st March, 1931, was £125,041 more than the total Revenue.

226. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1931, under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
I. Customs	£791,431
II. Harbour and Light Dues	7,108
III. Licences, Excise, etc.—	
(a) Licences	28,889
(b) Excise, etc.	196,802
(c) Income Tax	41,615
(d Land and House Tax	68,509
(e) Entertainment Tax	747
(f) Fines, etc.	13,213
IV. Fees of Office, etc.—	
(a) Fees of Office	23,784
(b) Stamp Duties	53,327
(c) Reimbursements-in-aid—	
(1) Medical	4,659
(2) Prisons, etc.	11,481
(3) Debt Charges	154,478
(4) Miscellaneous	18,940
(d) Irrigation Receipts	12,353
V. Post Office ..	82,883
VI. Rents ..	2,714
VII Interest ..	2,803
VIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	26,548
IX. Land Sales ..	1,402
IX. Colonial Development Fund	5,936
Total	£1,549,622

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
Charges of Debt ..	£165,987
Pensions	47,557
Pensions—Widows and Orphans	13,411
Governor and Staff ..	61,165
Privy Council ..	47
Legislative Council ..	2,925
Colonial Secretariat ..	82,225
Lands Department ..	8,093
Audit Department ..	5,294
Public Treasury ..	5,404
Currency Commissioners ..	717
Government Savings Bank	6,644
Immigration Department ..	305
Collector General's Department	65,159
Post Office ..	77,342
Supreme Court ..	5,621
Law Officers	3,987
Kingston Court ..	1,594
Resident Magistrates' Courts	31,875
Administrator General's Office	6,372
Medical—General Administration	42,372
" Hospitals and Lepers' Home ..	56,430
" Lunatic Asylum ..	31,949
Constabulary	144,162
Prisons	29,631
Industrial	4,846
Education	152,603
Harbours and Pilotage ..	4,316
Marine Board	857
Imperial Forces Allowances	4,277
Local Forces ..	5,774
Registrar General and Island Record Office ..	6,147
Registration of Titles ..	2,371
Government Printing Office	11,479
Board of Supervision ..	521
Department of Science and Agriculture ..	33,180
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,233
Subventions	35,536
Miscellaneous ..	125,722
Railway ..	44,214
Public Works Department	46,806
" " Annually Recurrent	242,399
" " Extraordinary	41,447
Colonial Development Fund	5,059
Total	£1,536,055

227. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1931, were £1,253,951 and £1,081,595, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £172,356. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1931, are held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans to Agricultural Loan Societies Board	33,821	8	4
Loans from Parochial Water Supplies Fund	6,515	9	9
Land Settlement Advances ..	13,899	11	4
Advances on account of Loans to be raised	349,979	0	10
Advances to Parochial Boards ..	46,333	6	0¾
Stores Advances	110,655	18	11
General Advances	28,860	13	2¾
Investments on account of Redemption Funds Guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	153,680	9	10
Investments on account of Deposits for Investment	115,313	17	10
Investments on account of Trust Funds	29,694	7	11
Investments for Insurance Fund ..	218,642	12	3
Miscellaneous Investments ..	41,177	19	3
Imprests	51,473	15	10
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York ..	8,279	19	6
Emigration Agent, India ..	6,079	1	7
Collector General for Customs Revenue	641	4	0
Director, Jamaica Railway ..	4,133	8	6
Treasurer	34,768	14	5
	£1,253,950	19	4½

228. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £219,160 at the 31st March, 1931.

229. The amount of the Public Debt, chargeable on General Revenue, outstanding at the 31st March, 1931, was £5,117,444. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,325,906. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference £2,791,538, exceeds by only £572,927 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1931-32. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

230. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1931:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
Great Britain ..	45,000,000	7,582,899,661 Public Debt.	168.5
Jamaica ..	1,022,000	5,117,444	5

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1931, viz.: £2,325,906, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 14s. 7d.

TAXATION.

231. A description of the main heads of taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended the 31st March, 1931, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. CUSTOMS—			
Import Duties	1,087,927	0	0
Export Duties	27	11	1
ii. HARBOUR AND LIGHT DUES—			
Harbour Fees	4,635	16	7
Light Dues	5,996	8	2
iii. Licenses	44,037	8	10
Excise	260,006	15	8
Income Tax	96,826	18	9
Property Tax	81,652	8	4
Entertainment Tax	4,107	0	1
Fines in Petty Sessions	15,581	7	4
Surcharges	3,740	12	11
Stamp Duties	76,303	19	8½

232. *Customs Tariff.*—The general advalorem duty is 20%, and the preferential rate is 15%, with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the headings of Food, Drink and Tobacco.

233. There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

234. *Excise Duties.*—The principal Excise Duties are on Cigars from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per gallon.

235. *Stamp Duties.*—

(1) Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

(2) Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

(3) Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

(4) In addition to these there are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Leases, etc.

236. There is no Hut Tax or Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1932

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In 1932 the maximum air temperature registered at the Weather Bureau at Grand Turk was 90·5°, and the minimum was 64°. The average annual rainfall at Grand Turk during the last ten years was 32·13 inches. The rainfall during 1932 was exceptionally great, the amount registered at the Weather Bureau being 51·69 inches.

These Islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over these Islands in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these Islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1932 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931 owing to the lack of funds.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent. were "coloured" (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent. were "white," and that about 1,800 people live in Turks Islands and 3,500 in Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

Most of the people of the Turks Islands are employed in the salt industry, while the people of the Caicos Islands are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.
1928	183	91	33·1	16·4
1929	161	99	29·1	17·7
1930	177	75	31·5	13·4
1931	177	82	32·0	14·8
1932	201	76	36·4	13·7

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 22; equal to a death-rate of 109 per 1,000 births.

Forty-four marriages were registered during the year.

Sixty persons were receiving pauper relief from the Government at the end of the year.

As regards immigration and emigration, 286 persons entered the Dependency in 1932 and 255 departed.

IV.—HEALTH.

During the year 1932 the general health of the Dependency was good and there was no case of quarantinable disease.

The Government Medical Officer reported that in his practice he had had about the usual number of cases, most of which consisted of rheumatic affections, skin diseases, and diseases of the digestive tract. Pellagra was, as usual, in evidence, but there was no increase in the number of sufferers as compared with the preceding year. There was not much malaria in evidence. There was an epidemic of chicken-pox in the early months, but there were no cases of smallpox, whooping-cough, or measles during the year. Influenza of a mild form was encountered. There were no cases of enteric fever, and pulmonary tuberculosis was also absent. There was no case of primary syphilis, and gonorrhoea decreased as compared with the previous year. Hookworm symptoms were occasionally met with in his dispensary practice.

As regards preventive measures, only minor anti-mosquito measures were taken, such as clearing away bush and undergrowth and the filling up of pools. Major works could not be undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements and the Inspectors of Nuisances were responsible to those Boards and to the Medical Officers for seeing that all premises were kept in a proper sanitary state.

Hygiene is one of the subjects taught in all the schools.

There was regular dental inspection of the pupils in the schools by a dentist who receives a subsidy from the Government for his services to the school-children and certain others.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and the other at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and they visit the out-islands when necessary.

There is a nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a small public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the directions and supervision of the Medical Officer.

There was no public health legislation enacted during the year under review.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these Islands. 1,233 were inhabited and 181 uninhabited ; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these Islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Turks Islands' salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above.

The abnormal rainfall during the last two years greatly hindered the salt-industry and prevented the usual production with the result that the amount of salt exported during the year 1932 was only a little over one-third of the average quantity shipped annually. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground).

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1932 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	284,616	5,788
United States of America ...	155,833	2,530
Jamaica	125,925	1,590
Haiti	6,341	133
Dominican Republic	4,779	96
Total	577,494	£10,137

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	25,283	35,675	22,275	12,895	10,137
Sponges	2,193	2,135	2,269	2,016	2,417
Conchs	1,523	1,350	1,188	1,122	744
Turtle shell	164	343	220	257	341
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	1,183	331	17	—	—
Sisal	415	39	37	47	—

Nearly all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last five years :—

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Salt	bus.	1,401,218	1,712,270	1,163,152	754,019	577,494
Sponges	lb.	21,556	22,547	26,964	25,749	23,261
Conchs	no.	1,523,275	1,349,800	1,187,900	1,121,800	744,100
Turtle shell ...	lb.	194	376	103	257	343
Cotton (raw) ...	lb.	24,133	6,865	49	—	—
Cotton-seed ...	lb.	30,793	16,458	7,310	—	—
Sisal	lb.	37,945	6,489	3,776	8,492	—

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	41,766	42,827	34,165	24,291	21,942
Exports	31,755	40,679	26,403	16,589	14,018
Total	£73,521	83,506	60,568	40,880	35,960

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1928	4,431	4,012	33,323	41,766
1929	3,585	4,556	34,686	42,827
1930	2,867	2,339	28,959	34,165
1931	2,568	1,844	19,879	24,291
1932	5,511	3,982	12,449	21,942

The increase in 1932 of the imports from the United Kingdom and British Dominions was mainly due to the introduction during the year of a British Preferential Tariff, and also to the unfavourable rate of exchange with the United States of America.

The direction of the import trade in 1932 is shown in the following table :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		5,511
Jamaica	2,380	
Canada	633	
British India	502	
Bahamas	365	
Other British Dominions	102	
Total British Dominions ...		3,982
Total British imports		9,493
United States of America	10,516	
Dominican Republic	1,077	
Holland	309	
Haiti	287	
Germany	104	
Other foreign countries	156	
Total foreign imports		12,449
Total imports		£21,942

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	11,368
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	4
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	8,640
Miscellaneous and unclassified	1,930
	£21,942

The principal articles imported during 1932 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Cotton goods		—	1,697
Flour	barrels	1,985	1,507
Rice	lb.	178,148	931
Lards and substitutes	lb.	62,521	800
Oils (mineral)	gal.	14,409	731
Milk (condensed)	cases	714	661
Sugar	lb.	193,898	624
Spirits	gal.	2,490	622
Butter and substitutes	lb.	12,044	564
Groceries		—	455
Vegetables (fresh)		—	449
Haberdashery		—	434
Soap (laundry)	lb.	34,575	404
Fruits (fresh)		—	349
Wood and timber	ft.	53,528	349
Cigarettes	No.	574,700	317

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1928	1,433	16,828	13,484	31,755
1929	1,453	21,807	17,419	40,679
1930	412	14,421	11,570	26,403
1931	208	9,752	6,629	16,589
1932	1,313	8,155	4,550	14,018

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		1,313
Canada	5,913	
Jamaica	1,597	
Bahamas	645	
		8,155
United States	3,496	
Haiti	884	
Dominican Republic	98	
Other foreign countries	72	
		4,550
Total exports		£14,018

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1932 was £13,963, and the value of the re-exports was £55.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Common labourers employed in raking and carting salt earn from 2s. to 3s. a day of nine hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours. The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 3s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 6s. to 45s. a month with board and lodging.

The cost of living is comparatively high, especially in the case of officials and persons from abroad.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions :—bread, 4d. per lb. ; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb. ; salt meat, 10½d. per lb. ; salt fish, 9d. per lb. ; flour, 2½d. per lb. ; rice, 4d. per qrt. ; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt. ; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt. ; potatoes, 3d. per lb. ; lard, 9d. per lb. ; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz. ; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin ;

butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb.; cheese, 2s. per lb.; sugar, 2½d. per lb.; syrup, 9d. per qrt.; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb.; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.; cocoa, 1s. per lb.; common soap, 5d. per lb.; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the very poor nature of the soil, very little is grown.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools. There are ten such schools throughout the Dependency; one in each of the principal settlements.

The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 843, and the average attendance 551. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. There were 21 pupils on the roll in 1932, and the average attendance was 20. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a fair assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica, and one of them stops regularly every three weeks to land goods from England.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Dominicana and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe were despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 93,000 postal articles during the year 1932.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, to Barbados, and to Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are really only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year 1932 was as follows :—

		British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	...	18	45	63
Sailing vessels	...	120	51	171
		138	96	234

The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 8,158 and of the steamships to 97,821.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these Islands. At the end of 1932 there were 859 accounts open with £13,285 on deposit. The investments amounted to £10,649.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver, and bronze coins, and Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these Islands.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the lack of funds no major public works were undertaken during the year 1932.

The usual minor public works such as the upkeep of the public buildings, streets, and roads, etc., were carried on throughout the year but on a reduced scale.

In consequence of the failure of the salt industry, due to the excessive rains during the year, unemployment relief works, financed by a loan by the Government of Jamaica, were carried on at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. These measures consisted mainly of work on the roads and streets of those settlements and relieved somewhat the acute distress caused by the stoppage of the salt-raking operations.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge,

who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of five men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation, and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison and the senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison.

There were 166 crimes reported or known to the Police in 1932. Of these, 156 cases were brought before the Magistrate and 10 dropped for lack of sufficient evidence. 213 persons (146 males and 67 females) were proceeded against, 23 were apprehended and 190 summoned. 18 were discharged for want of prosecution and 18 discharged on the merits of the case. 177 were convicted summarily; 20 were imprisoned; 6 whipped; 111 fined; and 40 bound over or otherwise disposed of.

The convictions were classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	31
Praedial larceny	5
Malicious injuries to property	2
Other offences against property	27
Offences against revenue laws	1
Miscellaneous minor offences	111

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board in 1932. One amended the Customs Tariff and the other two were the usual Appropriation Ordinances.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, nor legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there any legislative provision for sickness or old age.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1928	14,853	12,787
1929	11,260	11,605
1930	9,427	11,728
1931	10,318	12,820
1932	9,027	9,141

In 1932 the ordinary revenue was £6,997 whilst the ordinary expenditure amounted to £9,005. The great decline in the ordinary revenue was mainly due to the serious injury to the salt industry (the Dependency's principal industry) by the excessive rains of the last two years. The rainfall in each of those two years was about twice the average amount in an ordinary or normal year. The heavy rains not only did much damage to the salt-ponds but also greatly hindered the making of salt with the result that only about one-third of the average annual quantity was produced and exported in 1932 and in consequence the receipts from royalty on salt exported were reduced accordingly. This unfortunate set-back to the salt business naturally created a large amount of unemployment among the labouring classes and caused hard times generally, and in consequence there was a considerable decline in the volume of imports which in turn caused a large decrease in the receipts from Customs import duties.

The year 1932 opened with a deficit of £1,431 and closed with a deficit of £1,545.

The Public Debt amounted to £1,900, representing advances received from the Government of Jamaica during the last two years for unemployment relief works. The Dependency has no other public debt.

The items of the revenue in 1932 were as follows :—

	£
Customs Import Duties	4,233
Royalty on salt	842
Port Dues	409
Internal Taxation	299
Payments for Specific Services, etc.	158
Post Office	586
Revenue from Government Property	73
Interest	85
Miscellaneous Receipts	307
Voluntary Contributions by Public Officers ...	482
Loan of October, 1932	400
Appreciation of Savings Bank Investments ...	1,146

The items of the expenditure in 1932 were as follows :—

	£
Pensions	1,026
Commissioner's Department	1,767
Treasury and Customs	912
Judicial Department	288
Police and Prisons	822
Medical Department	1,391
Paupers and Lunatics	305
Education	960
Miscellaneous	325
Post Office	295
Lighthouses	270
Public Works Department	400
Public Works Recurrent	239
Unemployment Relief Works	135

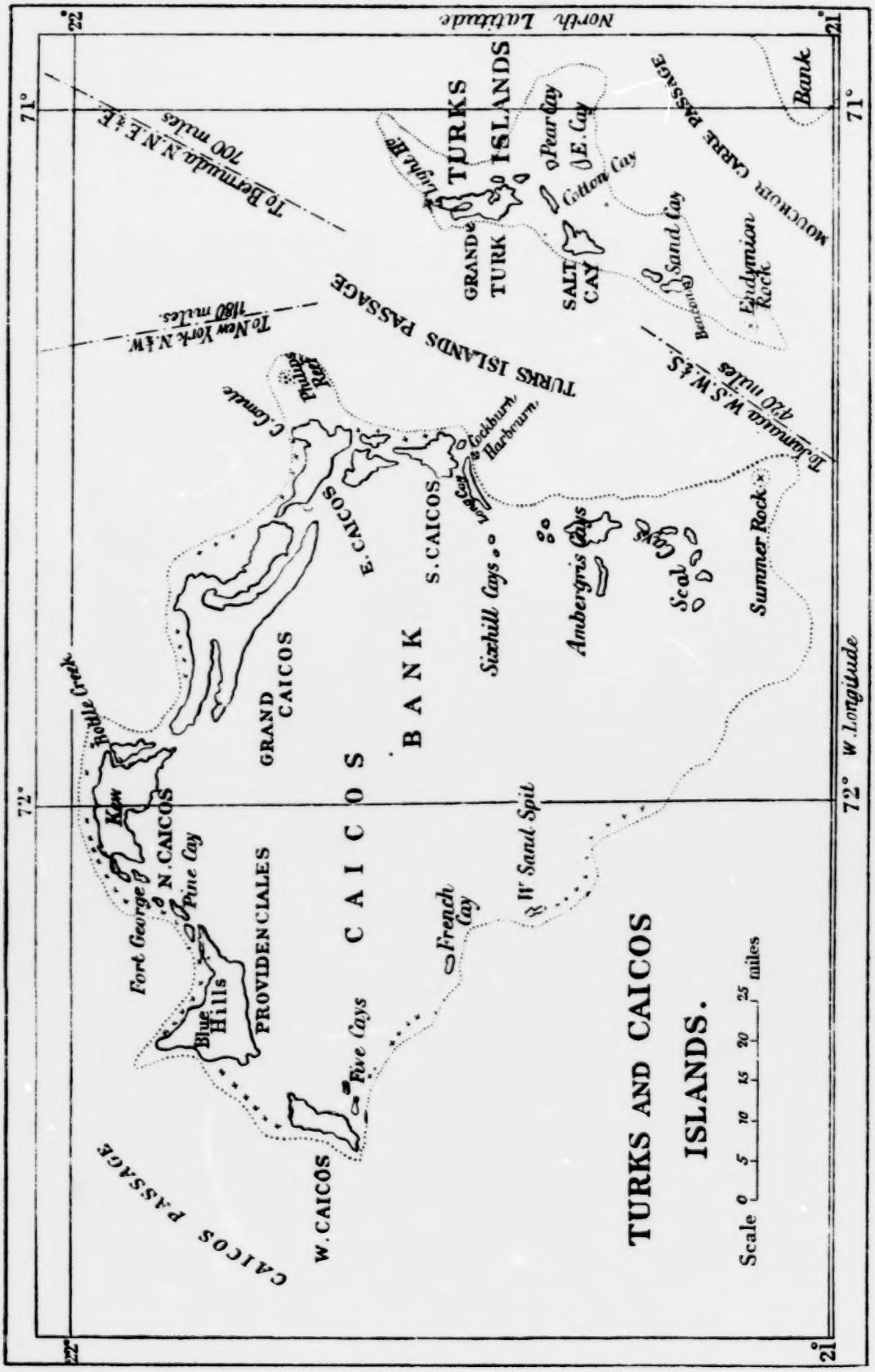
Every effort was made during the year to keep down the ordinary expenditure to the lowest possible point.

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income-tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals, or vehicles ; no poll tax, and no excise, or stamp duties.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the Free List pay duty as follows :

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. *ad valorem*.
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem*.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1932.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.		*Middlesex.*		*Cornwall.*	
	Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government

as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial

Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew are ex-officio members of the Council. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston including (Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1932 was 9,467, being at the rate of 9.2 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/7 per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

20. There was a noticeable decrease in Emigration and Immigration during 1932. The departures in 1930 were 1,980, in 1931, 1,842 and in 1932, 840. The arrivals in 1930 were 6,761, in 1931, 11,565 and in 1932, 5,779.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1932 was 1,073,493, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1931, and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1932.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1932 was 3,966 the rate being 3.7 per 1,000 of population as compared with 3.4 for 1931. During the same period 34,243 births were registered of which 17,258 were boys and 16,985 were girls. The birth rate works out to 32.2 per 1,000 as against 34.8 during 1931.

23. The number of deaths registered were 18,265 of which 9,108 were males and 9,157 were females, the death rate being 17.2 per 1,000. The rate for 1931 was 18.6. During 1932, 6,075 or 33.2 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age, and of these 4,828 or 26.4 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1931 were 35.9 and 28.7 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 14.0 per cent. as compared with 15.3 in 1931.

24. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Tuberculosis, 9.65; Pneumonia, 9.65; Heart Disease, 7.59; Congenital Debility, 7.37; Old Age, 6.32; Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 4.76; Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 3.88; Syphilis, 3.43; Typhoid Fever, 3.38; Cerebral Haemorrhage (Apoplexy), 2.77; Fever (not otherwise defined), 2.66; Cancer and other Malignant Tumours, 2.21.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

25. There was no special prevalence of disease or epidemic of importance during the year. Following an abnormally heavy rainfall throughout the Island, in 1931 there was a high incidence of Malaria. During 1932, however, this disease did not occur in epidemic form in any area.

26. The economic situation called for the continuance of the most careful expenditure and the extension scheme of the Kingston Hospital, the construction of Maternity Wards to certain Public Hospitals, of Nurses' quarters where these do not exist, and other much required improvements had again to be deferred.

27. Sanitary services carried out by Parochial Boards were, with a few exceptions, well maintained throughout the year.

Vital Statistics.

28. The death rate fell from 18.65 per 1,000 in 1931 to 17.21 in 1932. The decline in the general death rate has therefore continued and the ratio arrived at is but little higher than that for the year 1930 which is the lowest yet recorded.

29. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the infant mortality rate (the number of infants who died under the age of one year for every thousand births) was the lowest hitherto registered. During the past

ten years a steady decrease in this ratio has taken place from 177 in 1922 to 140 in 1932.

30. The birth rate for the year under review was 32 per thousand. The natural increase of population was therefore 15 per thousand.

Principal Disease Groups.

31. *Enteric Fevers.*—926 cases were notified in 1932 compared with 900 in 1931 and 928 in 1930. Two localised epidemics, one in St. Thomas and the other in Westmoreland provided 105 of the 926 notifications. Apart from these two epidemics the general Island incidence continues to fall steadily. This fall has been most striking in the city of Kingston. Since 1930 the number of cases notified have been 168, 156 and 124 in 1930, 1931 and 1932 respectively. 181 cases were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital and 510 in the District Hospitals.

32. *Malaria.*—230 cases with 3 deaths were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital. In the District Hospitals 7,539 cases were treated with 106 deaths.

Small outbreaks occurred, as was expected, in the districts which had had a high rate in 1931, with some involvement of adjacent areas which had not been affected in that year. Adequate arrangements however had been made to meet these outbreaks, and it is worthy of note that with one exception none of these occurred within the areas under the control of the Malaria Commission.

The Parochial Health Departments of Portland, Trelawny, St. James, Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth are making contributions towards the work of control along the lines recommended by the Malaria Commission.

33. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—A total of 1,307 cases were notified compared with 1,327 in 1931. 30 per cent. of the 1,932 notifications were from the city of Kingston. 62 cases were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital and 408 cases in District Hospitals.

The interest in this disease continues to increase as a result of the well maintained efforts of the Tuberculosis Commission, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, and Parochial Health Departments. Of special value has been the operation of the Mobile Unit which functioned in Falmouth, Montego Bay, Port Antonio and Manchioneal during the year. Its activities produced an apparent increase of the disease in those areas by providing free specialist diagnosis, but the Unit has created Island-wide interest in Tuberculosis and is indicating modern methods of dealing with the problem presented in Jamaica.

34. *Venereal Diseases.*—528 cases of Syphilis and 183 cases of Gonococcal Infections were treated at the Kingston Public Hospital. In the District Hospitals the numbers of In-patients were 705 for Syphilis and 661 for Gonococcal Infections while the Out-patients numbered 4,560 and 2,328 respectively. District Medical Officers, in their reports, again refer to the lack of knowledge regarding these diseases, delay in submission to, and failure to continue treatment.

35. *Yaws.*—33,338 cases were treated during the year.

In order that this disease might be studied in some detail, a Yaws Commission undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation in co-operation with the Central Board of Health was instituted early in the year. There is reason to believe that yaws is not limited to a few areas in the Island, but that it is moderately widespread. The problem of control therefore, is one of considerable magnitude. There is no evidence that the number of new infections is decreasing, and the Yaws Commission will direct particular attention to the elimination, as far as

possible, of the sources of infection in given areas in an endeavour to prevent the occurrence of new cases, by careful survey, treatment of infectious cases and follow-up work. Based upon investigations made during the year, the Medical Officers of the Yaws Commission urge that neo-arsphenamine be used in treatment, and that this drug be made freely available therefor.

36. *Small-pox.*—There were no cases of this disease. 28,623 vaccinations were performed throughout the year.

Hospitals.

37. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	30
Public Lunatic Asylum, Kingston	1,850
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay	30
" " " Hordley	40
" " " Port Antonio	55
" " " Buff Bay	50
" " " Annotto Bay	60
" " " Port Maria	65
" " " St. Ann's Bay	40
" " " Cave Valley	12
" " " Falmouth	25
" " " Ulster Spring	6
" " " St. James	70
" " " Lucea	30
" " " Sav.-la-Mar	66
" " " Black River	70
" " " Mandeville	35
" " " Chapelton	33
" " " Lionel Town	50
" " " Spanish Town	70
" " " Linstead	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

38. The work of the Public General Hospitals continued to increase. This was most manifest in the case of the Kingston Hospital. In the District Hospitals 16,358 patients were treated in the Wards, with 942 deaths, while the attendances at the Out-patient Departments numbered 49,216. The surgical work consisted of 1,545 major and 4,985 minor operations.

39. *Kingston Hospital.*—The Out-patient Department could no longer satisfactorily accommodate the cases attending this Institution which numbered 154,999 in 1932. The building which was formerly the Island Medical Office was adapted for temporary use until such time as a new Out-patient Department is constructed. 6,544 In-patients were treated with 661 deaths. 2,892 operations were performed on In-patients. The number of minor operations in the Out-patient Department was 3,253.

40. In the X-Ray Department, 1,950 patients attended, compared with 1,352 in 1931.

41. The establishment of five dispensaries which are visited daily by the District Medical Officers, and of eleven outstations, where District Medical Officers attend at regular intervals, has proved of great value in extending medical aid to poor persons, not on the Pauper Roll, who live at some distance from a Hospital, which they would attend as out-patients. It is the policy of the Department, gradually to increase these facilities in locations where they are required.

Prevention of Disease.

42. Modern Public Health programmes for the control of major causes of sickness and death were started in 1919 with the Hookworm Commission. Following on the success of this Commission, new programmes have been gradually introduced since then, and in 1932, the following Units were operating: The Hookworm Commission, School Hygiene and Dental Clinics, Bureau of Health Education, the School for Sanitary Inspectors, Malaria Commission, Tuberculosis Commission, Yaws Commission and Parochial Health Departments.

43. *Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.*—The work of the Hookworm Commission shewed that in 1920, when new areas were taken under control, only 4% of the homes in rural areas had a latrine of any kind. In 1932 this figure has risen to 23%. It has also been shewn that from 20% to 95% of the people in untouched rural areas are infected with Hookworm Disease. The opportunities for the spread of intestinal diseases—Typhoid Fever and Hookworm Disease being the most important—are thus seen to exist to considerable extent, though improvement is continually being effected.

44. Each year since 1919 has seen an extension of latrine construction, and in 1932, the Hookworm Commission had 3,921 new ones completed for a population of about 19,000, while the Local Boards of Health obtained 10,705 new structures. The responsibility of inspection and maintenance is on the Local Board of Health.

45. The two Treatment Units of the Hookworm Commission operated in the parishes of Manchester, St. James and St. Thomas. A total of 30,341 persons were examined, 17,910 were found infected, and 44,832 treatments were administered. 16,186 cases were cured.

46. Improvements to water supplies are receiving as much attention as is financially possible. In the city of Kingston, the continued marked decrease of Typhoid Fever in 1931 and 1932, is associated with the installation of complete chlorination of the city supply in 1931. There has also been a significant reduction in the infant mortality rate of Kingston, during the same period. The almost complete disappearance of Typhoid Fever in the large rural area supplied by the Dornoch Water Supply since it came into operation in 1927, is most convincing.

47. *School Hygiene and Dental Clinics.*—School Dental Clinics were conducted in the following eight parishes—Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Mary, Clarendon, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover and Portland. A total of 148 schools were visited and 39,359 treatments were given to 14,988 children.

48. *School for Sanitary Inspectors.*—The fifth session of this school opened in November. There are 27 students of whom 15 are from the staffs of the Central Board of Health and Parochial Boards.

49. *Bureau of Health Education.*—During 1932, Volume 7 of the Bulletin "Jamaica Public Health" was issued, the monthly circulation being 20,000. The special Empire Health Week Number, as usual,

provided programmes for Health Week, including a Health Play which was staged by the majority of elementary schools. Requests have been received from foreign countries for permission to translate selections into Spanish, Greek and Chinese.

50. During 1932 special leaflets were issued regarding Hookworm Disease, Malaria, Yaws, Tuberculosis and Typhoid Fever. The total number of pieces of health literature distributed was nearly 500,000.

51. The Division of Pre-natal work mailed 6,867 letters to 763 prospective mothers.

52. In addition to the activities mentioned above,the Bureau continued to exercise an advisory supervision over the Hookworm Commission, Malaria Commission, the Tuberculosis Commission, the Yaws Commission, the Co-operative Parochial Health Units and the School Hygiene Units.

53. *The Malaria Commission.*—The rainfall for 1932 was above the average, though much less than the excessive amount in 1931. Malaria did not occur in epidemic form in any area. In general all the areas under control by the Commission continued to show a reduction in anophelines and Malaria. The exception to this occurred in the Annotto Bay area where an experimental attempt at economy resulted in a temporary rise of Malaria. Control was undertaken in 1931 in the following areas—Golden Grove, Caymanas, Vere, Black River, Montego Bay, Oracabessa, Annotto Bay and Falmouth. In 1932 two areas, Sav.-la-Mar and Little London were added and it was necessary to exercise the greatest economy so as to allow of their addition.

54. The greater portion of the control work is by the use of Paris Green, this having been proved the cheapest method for general purposes. In certain areas, however, drainage, ditching and tidal canals are undertaken where these measures can be carried out at moderate cost.

55. Falmouth area showed a great decrease in cases of Malaria, in spite of many mosquitoes caught at night-catches. The control of the main swamp near the town is still incomplete, owing to inaccessibility. Plans have already been made to open another canal to connect the swamp with the ocean. This should make the water more brackish and assist in the prevention of breeding of *A. albimanus* mosquitoes.

56. In the Montego Bay area, in November, only 3 out of 151 school children showed blood infection. The Sav.-la-Mar area was placed under control in July, 1932. At the beginning of the work, 300 anophelines were taken at a night catch in the centre of the area. This was reduced to 3 by the end of the year. The Little London area is an example of permanent control work. There were 52 artificial ponds within a mile of the centre of the area, all of which were breeding anopheles albimanus. Drainage is now being undertaken, 10 are already dry, and fully two-thirds of these water collections should be drained by February, 1933. A steady decrease of fever has followed and the co-operation of the inhabitants is excellent.

57. Control of malaria in other than the large endemic areas is being carried out by Parochial Boards with increasing effectiveness.

58. *Tuberculosis Commission.*—In addition to the Dispensary in Kingston, there is a Mobile Unit with a specialist, portable X-Ray outfit, a technician and a nurse. The aims of the tuberculosis work in progress in Jamaica are:—

(1) to collect information concerning the character of the disease and the incidence of its various manifestations under varying conditions throughout the Island;

(2) to determine how the disease spreads in a tropical country such as Jamaica and to learn what are the conditions that modify its transmission;

(3) while collecting this information to institute all available procedures that with present knowledge give promise of combating the disease so that the survey may be of current benefit to the health service of the Island, and

(4) upon the basis of newly acquired information to devise new preventive measures adapted to local conditions.

59. *Kingston Dispensary.*—During 1932 a total of 1,854 new and 3,917 old cases visited the Dispensary. 3,542 sputum examinations were made and the nurses paid 6,539 visits to the homes of patients.

60. The Dispensary also continued the spcial survey of selected poor overcrowded sections of Kingston and began a survey on a section of better type for comparison. The survey aims at tuberculin tests and X-Ray examination of every individual in the selected area. A total of 2,009 persons were thus examined.

61. During the year, 4,798 X-Ray examinations were made, including 502 cases referred by private physicians, and the X-Ray Laboratory developed an additional 2,000 films for the work of the Mobile Unit.

62. *The Mobile Unit.*—The purpose of this unit is to broaden the work of the Commission, and to gain a wider view of the tuberculosis situation. During the year the Unit operated in Falmouth, Montego Bay and Port Antonio. In addition to the routine work of a dispensary, special survey work was carried out by the use of methods somewhat different from those undertaken in Kingston.

63. A total of 1,089 persons were given the tuberculin test, including groups of school children and estate labourers. Transportation was provided for 612 of the 639 reactors, so that they could be given X-Ray examination. 37 of these showed lesions.

64. *Jamaica Anti-Tuberculosis League.*—The League paid the salaries and travel of two nurses, part of the salary of another nurse, helped to supply food for indigent cases, and maintained 12 children of tuberculous families in the Rio Cobre Home.

65. *Chest Clinics.*—Whole-time Health Officers in the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporate Area and in eight parishes now hold regular chest finding clinics.

66. At the time of the organization of the Kingston Dispensary there was not a single hospital bed in the Island for the care of tubercular cases and no Parochial Board gave special care to indigent patients During the past four years, Tuberculosis Hospitals have been built for indigent cases at the Poor Houses by the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Mary, St. James, St. Ann, Manchester and Portland. In most other parishes special wards have been set aside for patients suffering from tuberculosis.

67. *Yaws Commission.*—The most recent unit of co-operative public health work to be undertaken is the Yaws Commission, organized to study a disease which has been common in Jamaica almost from its discovery. The aim of the Yaws Commission is to establish control measures based on treatment, and if possible, on prevention. Before this could be achieved it was necessary to conduct preliminary clinical and epidemiological studies, together with an investigation of the relative merits of certain drugs. The work of 1932 was spent in making these studies.

68. As the central feature of a survey of the problem is a study of yaws patients in their natural environment, an area about Bath in St. Thomas, with a population of about 2,500 was selected. A method of survey was devised by which every home was visited and all infected cases were located. At the field office a clinic was established which afforded facilities for the examination of patients, dark-field examinations, collection of blood for serological study, and other minor laboratory procedures.

69. Investigations along the lines indicated above brought out a number of interesting facts. The incidence of infection was found to be high, being 65% of the unselected cases examined; while nearly 80% of persons over 20 years of age, have had yaws. Infection occurred in 76% of patients before the age of 10 years; and 91 % of the patients contracted the disease before adolescence. These facts would seem to indicate that the disease is practically never venereal in character; and this is in keeping with the fact that few cases of syphilis are present in the area. The disease is less common among the better class of people, though a family free from yaws may live in close proximity to an infected family.

70. During the year, 1,500 patients were examined, of whom 917 were found to have yaws. Treatment was given to 490 patients, the other positive ones being old cases which were no longer infectious or in need of drugs. The Wasserman test and the Eagle flocculation test were used routinely, more than 8,000 of each being done during the year.

Examnination of the spinal fluid was made in 305 patients.

71. The work of the Yaws Commission during 1932, brought out definite facts regarding the clinical course of the disease, the nature and extent of the infectious lesions, and the value and limitations of certain drugs. Also, there was developed a method of survey, based on case histories and serological tests, which can be used to locate infectious cases in districts where control work is conducted. During 1933, it is planned to apply these methods of survey and treatment to other areas where yaws is prevalent.

72. *Parochial Health Departments.*—The policy of establishing whole-time Parochial Health Departments was continued during 1932. The health service of the parish of Portland was re-organized during the year with a trained whole-time Health Officer, and whole-time Sanitary Inspectors. Ten out of the fourteen parishes now have whole-time Health Officers paid by the Central Government.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

73. The character of the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population remains essentially as described in the corresponding Chapter of the Report for 1931. The main defects are insufficient ventilation and overcrowding, especially at night, also inadequate water supplies.

74. Despite the economic conditions of the great majority of the inhabitants, however, it can be stated that, in rural areas particularly, the types of houses show gradual improvement in materials with which constructed, design, accommodation and in latrine buildings. The Hookworm Campaign, the follow-up work supervening thereon,

the influence of Sanitary and Health Officers, the Tuberculosis Commission and continued Public Health Education, have been instrumental in effecting this advancement.

75. The unhealthy areas in Kingston demand attention. Improvement schemes are under consideration by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation to allow of the abolition of these slums.

76. The various Health Organizations have emphasized the necessity for general cleanliness of premises, and measures to prevent mosquito breeding, also directed the attention of the public to the relationship between overcrowding and disease.

77. Progress in respect to water supplies was continued in several of the larger and certain smaller towns. Futher improvements to the Kingston supply were under construction, following the scheme of Mr. Magoon of the Rockefeller Foundation. At Linstead the new Water Works were completed, and piped water systems were installed for Stewart Town and Ulster Spring. Village water supplies were protected from infection or pollution.

78. The relevant sections of Public Health Law 18 of 1925, and of the Regulations thereunder, were applied to an extent commensurate with economic conditions, the general standard of education of the poorer classes, and attainable results.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

79. The rainfall in the year 1932 was not so heavy as in the previous year although there was a precipitation of 75.97 inches (2.33 inches above the 60 year average). Unfortunately this rainfall was not well distributed in most districts and a sharp drought in St. Mary, Clarendon and an even more protracted dry spell in the west end of the Island had an effect upon the banana cultivation and the quality of the fruit produced.

80. The outstanding feature of the year was of course, the hurricane which made a semi-circle round the Island in November and while most districts only received the force of the outer part of the cyclone yet damage to crops was severe. The full effect of this will not be felt, in regard to production, until 1933. While all parts of the Island suffered to some extent, the maximum damage took place in the west end, centre and north of the Island. In other areas the damage was patchy while some portions of the southern parishes were scarcely affected at all.

81. The effects of the storm have once more brought home to the Jamaica planter the unwisdom of not having a second string to his bow, for while bananas were almost universally damaged throughout the Island, in some cases damaged to the extent that no further crop can be expected for 12 months, other crops such as citrus, coconuts and sugar cane received only small damage in comparison. This factor has helped to foster the growing interest in citrus as an important secondary crop in the Colony.

82. With a few exceptions, market prices for Jamaica products improved slightly in 1932, several items of export having shown increased values. With the aid of the Co-operative organisations the Jamaica planter is weathering the storm of depression and will be in a strong

position to take immediate advantage of improving markets when the world trade crisis is over. It has to be acknowledged that but for the co-operative organisations established during the last 6 years the agricultural community of Jamaica would have been in serious difficulties and would not now be in the relatively strong position which it holds in spite of world-wide depression and universal agricultural stagnation.

83. *Bananas:*—The storm of November 9th had a disastrous effect upon the export of bananas, which up to that time had been in excess of the previous year and gave promise of reaching 23,000,000. The storm struck the western end of the Island with hurricane force, continued along the north coast, levelling the banana fields almost completely, except in small well protected districts. The irrigated areas in the south of the Island escaped serious damage and the losses in Saint Andrew and Saint Thomas were patchy. Apart from these districts the damage was severe not only to the mature trees but also to the young following suckers. At the time of the storm however, there was a shortage of this fruit in the World's markets thus intensifying the loss of the planters, especially in the western parishes, where a very fine crop of heavy fruit was hanging which would otherwise have sold at good prices. The exports were immediately affected but for some weeks considerable quantities of fruit were obtainable from trees only partially blown down. By the end of the year however, there was very little fruit obtainable and the weekly exports dropped to a small fraction of the normal. The damage from hurricane was intensified by a sharp drought which lasted throughout the winter, delaying recovery in the plantations.

84. Timely action by Government by introducing a Bill at an emergency meeting of the Legislature to assist banana planters with loans relieved the situation considerably and prevented distress among the small settlers and those planters who had not covered their crops by insurance.

85. The total exports for the year 1932 amounted to 20,360,613 stems or 13,764,020 count bunches valued at £1,869,111, as compared with 22,335,605 stems exported in 1931. In addition to the fruit exported it is estimated that the bananas consumed locally on account of heavy rejections would account for a total production approaching 25,000,000 stems.

86. The world-wide depression had its effect upon the markets for bananas and this was most marked in the United States and the markets on the Continent of Europe. In Canada, too, the price and the demand was poor but a temporary arrangement was made between all the Fruit Companies by which the shipments to Canada were pooled and excessive competition eliminated. The effect of the preferential tariff concession given by Great Britain to Empire bananas in the 1932-33 Budget, was immediate and resulted in practically all the Jamaican fruit being diverted to this market. In consequence of this and the rates of exchange with America, the planters have received a reasonable though not a high price for their fruit.

87. Panama Disease has continued to devastate the banana fields in all parishes but it is pleasing to note that the percentage increase in the number of diseased plants over the previous year (26%) was smaller than that of 1931 (31%) and a marked decrease in the peak percentage of 1929 and 1930 when 115% and 100% were recorded. Diseased plants were recorded representing together with the healthy bananas destroyed in the quarantine system of treatment of the disease a loss of some 1,700 acres of good banana land during the year.

88. The steady progress of the Panama Disease is giving concern generally to the Banana Industry as it is anticipated that at the present rate of increase the disease will begin to have an effect upon the exports within 5 or 6 years, an effect which will be very noticeable by 1940. This reduction in production can only be very partially offset by the planting of new lands and in consequence the need for a banana of marketable quality yet immune to the disease becomes more imperative each year. This fact is well recognised by the Legislature and as a result an initial Vote was granted to the Department of Agriculture in December for the purposes of initiating a scheme for developing the immune bananas already bred so that they might be subjected to normal commercial tests both in the field and in cold storage. This scheme also involves the production from central nurseries of high class budded citrus plants for the purpose of reclaiming lands lost from Panama Disease.

89. The approved mineral oils mentioned in the Report for 1931 continued to be used with great success for killing banana plants *in situ* in connection with the quarantine system of disease treatment and with a considerable reduction in the expense involved.

90. The work of breeding an immune banana to replace the Gros Michel has been continued by the Supervising Inspector of Plant Diseases but the work has suffered some interruption by the damage of the experimental plantations by the hurricane. The newly appointed Geneticist whose laboratory has been equipped by a free grant from the Colonial Development Fund, arrived toward the end of the year and it is hoped that cytological investigations of the hybrid and parent bananas will ultimately result in scientific direction of the breeding work to effect a more rapid production of hybrids with desirable characteristics.

91. *Sugar.*—There has been general regret that the prices in the World's markets for sugar have shown no marked improvement during 1932. Our exports have been mostly to Canada where the exchange has been in our favour, but even in this market the results have not been satisfactory. The export market for rum has also continued in a state of semi-stagnation.

92. The total crop was somewhat larger than in 1931, there being 58,500 tons produced as compared with 50,155 tons in 1931. This increase in tonnage is attributable largely to a greater effort on the part of the planters to increase their yield of cane per acre by higher cultivation and utilising the heavy yielding varieties which have been distributed by the Department of Agriculture in recent years. For similar reasons and increased planting the crop in 1933 is likely to be even larger than in 1932.

93. In spite of the present low prices several estates are gradually extending their cultivations in order that the factories may work more nearly to their full capacity and so reduce the overhead expense on each ton of sugar manufactured.

94. On the whole there is a more optimistic tone in the local industry, since, in spite of low prices abroad, estates are now able to show a small profit. This is the result of the tariff concessions given by the Secretary of State in the 1932-1933 Budget in the form of 1/- per cwt. additional preference on Colonial sugar and the granting of the Extra Special Imperial Preference Certificates, coupled with the advantage gained from the action of the Legislature in obtaining for the local factories the benefits of an assured and profitable market within the Island for at least 20% of the crop. The securing of this profit necessitated the

revision of the price of sugar for local consumption during 1932 to offset the depression in export prices.

Jamaica received Extra Special Imperial Preference Certificates to the extent of 19,400 tons of the 1931-32 crop. These Certificates being transferrable and the Jamaica export market lying chiefly in Canada, advantage was taken to sell these Certificates to Mauritius for cash. This money will be distributed to the planters in proportion to their average production over two seasons and will work out approximately at 8/- per ton of sugar exported or 6/- per ton produced.

95. The additional preference of 1/- per cwt. granted to Colonial sugar in the 1932-33 Budget has not affected Jamaica directly as the bulk of her exports are to Canada but it has had the indirect effect of maintaining the Canadian market at the standard of that of London in order that supplies might not be diverted. The Industry, has, therefore, had the full indirect benefit of this preference.

96. The formation of the Rum pool in 1932 has restricted production and the price of rum for local consumption, thus preventing the price-cutting which would have resulted from over production. Exports have also been regulated and each estate has been able to obtain its fair share of the small market which is now open to the product.

97. The exports in 1932 amounted to 181,469 gallons valued at £21,519 this being a considerable falling off from the 490,000 gallons exported in 1931.

98. In view of the preceding remarks it appears that the Sugar Industry in Jamaica is in as strong a position as is possible under the present state of the World's supplies of sugar and rum, and each estate is participating in the benefits accruing from local assistance and Imperial preferences. It is expected with the continuation of these aids to the industry and the co-operative measures adopted by planters that a small profit will be shown in the operations of 1933.

99. The cultivation of the recently imported P.O.J. seedlings has extended and it is interesting to note that the 'wonder cane' of Java P.O.J. 2878 has in one instance given a crop of 106 tons to the acre. This cane however, has not yet shown itself to be adaptable to all classes of Jamaica soils.

100. *Coconuts.*—The exports of the fresh nuts in 1932 increased by nearly 3,000,000 to 39,238,811, but this increase was partially offset by a reduction in the export of copra from 3,522 tons in 1931 to 2,883 tons in 1932. This quantity of copra represents about 14,500,000 nuts. Apart from exports it is estimated that more than 100,000,000 nuts were consumed in the Island by the peasantry and others for the manufacture of cooking oil. The total estimated production for the year 1932 is therefore about 160,000,000 nuts. Values generally were much lower than normal but nevertheless the Jamaican products were saleable without great difficulty in spite of a world over-production of vegetable and similar oils.

101. The Co-operative organization completed the first portion of its factory and started operations during the year. With the assistance of a tariff and a "Control Board" to regulate supplies and prices this factory is turning out edible oils of very high quality which have received a ready market in the Island and the general approval of the consuming public. As a result of this development a considerable quantity of copra will be retained for local consumption while only the classes of nuts which are in demand in the foreign markets will be exported. The local soap industry has continued to progress and several brands of soap of good quality are now on the market. The

coconut meal bye-product of the oil and soap industries has found a ready local market for cattle feed especially during the winter and spring months and occasional supplies have been exported at fairly good prices.

102. There was a widespread leaf disease of coconuts apparent in the parish of St. Mary and adjoining districts in the earlier part of the year. An investigation was made by members of the Department of Agriculture and it was shown to be a non-infectious trouble caused by the accumulated effect of adverse weather conditions over a series of years. With the advent of more normal seasons the disease is steadily disappearing.

103. *Logwood and Other Dyewoods.*—The trade in these commodities has remained in a state of semi-stagnation. The price of wood improved slightly but the demand did not increase appreciably. The total exports of Logwood amounted to 19,258 tons valued at £55,230 F.O.B.

104. The manufactured extract showed a very marked decrease from 8,423 to 5,316 packages, the latter valued at £57,938. The exports of Fustic amounted to 1,465 tons valued £5,120.

105. *Coffee.*—Prices improved slightly for the better grades of Jamaica Coffee. The production remained about the same as in the previous year, the exports amounting to 8,877,455 lbs. valued at £224,057. Allowing for the local consumption, this would represent a total production of slightly more than 9,000,000 lbs. It is pleasing to note the steady improvement in the curing of the "ordinary" grades of this product which has helped to maintain the sales for the Jamaican article.

106. *Cocoa.*—The popularity of this crop among planters continues to diminish in Jamaica with the steady weakening of prices during recent years. In spite of a small improvement in values over the previous year, the exports were small and amounted to 43,757 cwts. valued at £48,102 against a total export of 52,899 cwts. in 1931. The local consumption of the native product is small amounting to approximately 20 cwts. of beans per annum. This, added to the exports, gives a total production of 43,777 cwts. in 1932. No considerable improvement in the production of the commodity can be expected unless there is a clear indication of a stronger and steady market and in the meantime interest has waned in this crop and plantations are being neglected as the ruling prices do not cover the cost of production.

107. *Ginger.*—There was a further drop in the production of Ginger in 1932 the exports falling from 17,833 cwts. to 14,834 cwts. Values improved considerably however, that of the exports amounting to £35,678. This is partly due to a stronger market and partly to an improvement in the preparation and grading of the product. Practically the whole of this crop is grown in a few limited areas by small settlers as the labour involved in its preparation does not permit of its extensive planting on large estates. The local consumption of this product is quite small.

108. *Citrus Fruit.*—The improvement in the production and exports of these fruits, especially oranges, has been the outstanding feature of the year. The protection to both oranges and grapefruit in the Canadian market has assisted in the revival and steady development of trade with the Dominion. The Jamaica Citrus Producers' Association have extended their activities during the year and have been responsible for a large proportion of the increase in exports. The difficulties encountered with Stem End Rot in the previous season have been largely overcome as a result of the scientific investigation

by the officers of the Department of Agriculture and consequently although prices have not ruled very high there has been a steady demand for the Jamaican products at a fair price. Interest in the U. K. market has increased and all-the-year-round preferential tariff on Empire grapefruit has been appreciated and has resulted in increased shipments at fairly remunerative prices to the markets in Great Britain. The seasonal preference given to Empire oranges unfortunately does not coincide with the season of maximum production in Jamaica and thus has not resulted in any considerable diversion of supplies of this fruit to the London markets.

109. The revived interest in citrus growing is becoming very apparent in Jamaica and its value is being appreciated as a secondary crop to bananas, especially in those areas seriously affected by Panama Disease of bananas. At the close of the year a small preliminary Vote was given by the Legislative Council for the establishment of large nurseries for the production of budded plants of standard varieties. It is anticipated that the distribution of some thousands of high class plants over a period of 3 or 4 years will be of material assistance in establishing Jamaica citrus in the better class markets and in giving the banana planter a "second string to his bow." There are very few districts in the Island which are not capable of producing citrus fruits of good quality and, with a few exceptions, the banana lands lost from the inroads of Panama Disease appear to be largely adaptable to the crop.

110. The exports of oranges in 1932 reached 92,736 boxes valued at £45,171 as compared with only 35,545 boxes in 1931. Grapefruit showed almost as good an improvement with 141,221 boxes valued at £70,848 as compared with 100,153 boxes in 1931. There was a slight improvement in the quantities of lime juice exported—36,240 gallons as compared with 32,318 gallons in 1931, while 4,580 barrels of limes were exported as compared with 3,359 barrels in the previous year. The export of orange oil dropped from 9,313 gallons in 1931 to 8,552 gallons in 1932. This however can be accounted for in the increases in the exports of the fresh fruit. It is difficult to estimate the quantity of citrus fruit consumed in the Island as this varies from year to year in relation to the demand for fruit for export. It is safe to assume however, that at least 30,000 boxes of oranges and 5,000 boxes of grapefruit were consumed in the year apart from the fruit used for the extraction of essential oils. Allowing for this consumption and the 436,000 boxes of oranges, bitter and sweet, used for oil extraction, the total production of citrus fruits in 1932 was approximately 550,000 boxes of oranges and 105,000 boxes of grapefruit.

111. *Honey.*—The exports showed a slight increase to 2,049,169 lbs. or about 145,407 gallons valued at £13,803. Prices on the whole showed an improvement, partially, no doubt, on account of better handling, grading and packing of the product. The abundance of available nectar and the good flavour in general of the Jamaican honey, especially that derived from logwood, should, when markets become more stabilised, result in a considerable increase in the production of both honey and wax. The subvention to assist the Bee Industry by demonstration and by the distribution of good queens has been continued and was appreciated by those concerned.

112. *Pimento.*—The low prices prevailing and the abundant supplies still in the markets resulted in only a portion of the crop being gathered. As a result only 73,909 cwts. were exported as compared with 109,059 cwts. in the previous year. That for the year 1932 had the very low

valuation of £61,687. Consequent upon the weakness of the market for this product the recently formed Co-operative Marketing Association has not yet been able to get into its full stride. The local consumption of this product is not large.

113. *Tobacco.*—There was a further slight drop in the exports of cigars to 47,525 lbs. valued at £29,421. These exports however, represent tobacco from previous crops. The total production of leaf in the year 1932 is estimated at 300,000 lbs. Local manufacturers of cigarettes from imported Virginia leaf, in some cases blended with locally grown cigar leaf, has increased. The utilisation of the local leaf for this purpose is very limited on account of the general taste in cigarettes.

The manufacture of "Jackass-Rope" for a cheap pipe smoking tobacco has continued to flourish and is a source of fair revenue to the settlers of St. Elizabeth who peddle their product throughout the Island.

114. *Fibres.*—The small local industry in Sisal production has continued to supply the needs of the local market with good quality ropes at a moderate price. As a result, the exports have been negligible as most of the crop has been utilised within the Island, the industry being aided by the imposition of a tariff on imported ropes.

115. *Timbers and Wood.*—The exports of these products have, as usual, been quite small. Such cabinet and hardwoods as are produced are mainly utilised within the Colony. Small quantities of Ebony, Lignum Vitae and Satinwood were exported, amounting to some 500 tons in all. Bitterwood (quassia) exports fell off as compared with the previous year to 718 tons valued at £1,257. An enterprising local firm which makes bitterwood chips has continued to find a fairly good market for its product. (Dyewoods are dealt with elsewhere.)

116. *Livestock.*—Animal diseases of a serious or epidemic nature have been almost unknown during 1932 although occasional severe cases of tick fever have occurred. When taken in time these have responded to treatment with Trypan Blue.

117. It is unfortunate that the investigation into the possibilities of exporting beef cattle to Trinidad did not materialise into any definite or practical scheme. The difficulties and expense incidental to such a trade have however proved for the present, to be too great. This was a great disappointment to the penkeepers as there is now a surplus of high class beef cattle in the Island.

118. Efforts are being made by a group of St. Ann penkeepers to improve their returns by co-operative marketing of beef direct to the consumer. Cold storage facilities have recently increased in the city of Kingston and a certain quantity of cold stored local beef is now sold both to ships and to those local consumers who prefer meat which has been "hung" to the very fresh beef which is the usual rule.

119. The extension of the local dairy industry has continued and with the aid of regulations is steadily reaching a much higher standard. In some areas milch cows are regularly tested for tuberculosis.

120. The Government Stock Farm at Hope and the Government Stud Farm at Grove Place have had successful years and the improvement of the cattle of the Island as the result of the sires distributed from these centres becomes more apparent each year. No better proof of the public's appreciation of these two institutions can be required than the long waiting lists for bull calves at Hope and the number of animals sent to Grove Place for service each year. The addition of small stock at Grove Place has been immediately appreciated and the stud animals are in great demand.

121. The export of goat skins showed a slight drop to 173,220 while hides of cattle dropped from 17,025 to 10,140.

122. *Agricultural Education.*—The first full year of the re-organised system of education at the Farm School proved very successful although on account of the depression the number of students was considerably below the full capacity. The new branch in association with the Grove Place Stud Farm, has proved a valuable asset and the students have been able to increase their knowledge of practical agriculture in assosciation with the new experimental station at this Farm. The extension of the school's activities in this direction should result in a far better trained "graduate" than was possible under the old system when the possibilities for training in budding and the cultivation of crops was decidedly more limited.

123. *Co-operative Marketing.*—The co-operative movement has continued to progress during 1932. The Banana Association acquired an additional fast ship during the year and this steamer has proved its value by reducing operating costs and expediting deliveries as well as making possible more frequent services to Great Britain and the Continent of Europe. The Standard Fruit Company has also placed a new steamer in their service and so added efficiency to the whole project.

124. The membership of the Association has increased and but for the hurricane and the weak state of the American markets the year would have shown a very considerable increase in the Association's previous records. Nevertheless, in spite of low prices the members received from the pool a price per count bunch which left a fair profit after the deduction of cost and production.

125. This enterprise of the Jamaica Banana Growers has been one of the world's outstanding successes of co-operative agricultural marketing.

126. Outstanding progress in the marketing of Citrus has been made by the Jamaica Citrus Producers Association during 1932 and the large increase in the exports of citrus fruits are mostly due to this organisation. The membership has increased and the Packing House has been extended but even so during the peak periods of the season its capacity has been strained to the utmost. The difficulties encountered during the previous season from losses by Stem End Rot were successfully overcome by the installation of the system recommended as a result of the investigations by the scientific officers of the Department of Agriculture and no serious losses from this disease resulted in 1932.

127. The Jamaica Coconut Producers Association started full activities with the new factory during 1932 and have produced a high class edible oil (vide Coconuts). The manufacture of soap at this factory is now under consideration.

128. The Pimento Organisation has not yet been able to get into its full stride on account of the financial conditions in the consuming countries, but it is hoped that with a return to more normal conditions this Association will meet with the same success which has been attendant upon the efforts of the other branches of the co-operative movement.

129. A further Co-operative Association for the marketing of vegetable and small fruits was organised during 1932.

130. The success of the co-operative movements in the Colony has made a great impression on its own planters as well as on those abroad. In fact, Jamaica is steadily becoming "co-operative minded" and the latest result of this is the joint marketing of beef direct to the consumers by some of the penkeepers of St. Ann.

LAND SETTLEMENTS.

131. *Spring Garden Estate*, in the parish of St. Thomas, purchased for £5,000 and containing 746 acres was acquired in 1923 for Land Settlement. It has been sub-divided into 236 lots and sold on terms of payment spread over a period of five years. This property has now been sold off.

132. *Kellets—Clarendon*, a property of 5,065 acres having about 650 tenants, was acquired on 1st July, 1929, for a Land Settlement at a price of £10,294. About 1,100 acres are considered unsuitable for settlement and it is proposed to reserve this area as forest. Two rivers and several streams pass through the property and the margins of these are to be reserved for water conservation and to prevent pollution. The ruins of the old hospital and sugar works which have a certain amount of historic value are also being reserved.

At a point where the main roads radiate in four directions, about 50 acres have been laid out into a small township, special portions being reserved for public purposes. About 10 miles of bridle roads were constructed through the property preparatory to its being cut up into lots.

At the end of 1932, 2,518 acres had been cut into 525 holdings and sold, and sales are continuing.

133. *Tobolski—St. Ann.*—During the year 1930, this property containing 2,050 acres was acquired for Land Settlement at a cost of £8,666. At the end of 1932, 996 acres had been sold to 60 small settlers, and sales are continuing. The Parochial Board, Brown's Town, have been asked to take over two of the roads constructed on this property since the commencement of the scheme, which roads adjoin the parochial road leading from Brown's Town to the property, and two other roads running in opposite directions. Provision has also been made on this property for the construction of a main road which will run from Brown's Town through about the centre of the property to Somerton, a district hard by.

134. *Monklands—St. Thomas*, containing 1,500 acres, was also acquired for Land Settlement during 1930 at a cost of £4,033. This property is being sold off. At 31.12.32, 498 acres had been sold to 59 purchasers.

135. *Glenbrook in Westmoreland*, a property of 600 acres acquired in 1931 for £2,034 has been divided into 115 lots. At the end of 1932, 544 acres had been sold to 100 purchasers. A parochial road runs through the property from Grange District to Blauwearie District, and provision has been made for a main road which will also be constructed from Grange through the property to Flower Hill.

136. *Burnt Savannah* which was also bought in 1931 for £2,537 is a property in *Westmoreland* of 585 acres. At the end of 1932, 262 acres had been sold to 36 settlers and sales are continuing.

137. *Lewisburgh—St. Mary* was acquired in the latter part of 1931 for £4,534. It consists of 600 acres. Application has been made for over half this area already. The property is well watered and bids fair to be a very good Settlement Scheme.

138. *Hopewell and Lundie—Westmoreland*, acquired late in 1932 for £1,025 consists of 376 acres and so far nearly the whole of this acreage has been applied for.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

139. In 1932 the value of the Exports and Imports of the Colony showed a decrease compared with the figures for the preceding year.

140. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £4,572,520 as compared with £4,734,401 in 1931. A comparative statement showing the quantities and values of the principal articles from the principal countries, is given in Table A.

141. The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcels Post, amounted to £928,179, a decrease of £73,857. Parcels Post duties amounted to £30,182, a decrease of £5,367.

142. The Export Trade, exclusive of Parcels Post exports for 1932, decreased. The value was £3,399,892 in 1931, and £3,254,666 in 1932. A comparative table (Table B) of the quantities and values of the principal products exported and the quantities and values of each exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Other Countries, is also given.

143. The following table shows a comparison of the values of Exports and Imports for the years 1913 and 1929 to 1932:—

	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports (F.O.B.)	2,430,208	4,669,173	4,091,573	3,420,750	3,271,357
Value of Imports (C.I.F.)	2,837,447	7,027,013	6,101,513	4,945,539	4,754,152

144. Prices of imported goods generally showed a decline as compared with previous years, due chiefly to over-production and the abandonment of the gold standard in several countries. There was a further increase in trade with the British Empire, as the following percentages show:—

	1930.	1931.	1932.
Imports.			
British Empire ..	58.0%	60.5%	69.4%
Other Countries ..	42.0%	39.5%	30.6%
Exports.			
British Empire ..	54.1%	60.0%	76.5%
Other Countries ..	45.9%	40.0%	23.5%

The following table shows the direction of Trade with the principal countries, in 1913-14 and during the past three years:—

	1913-14.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Imports.				
United Kingdom ..	38.0%	29.8%	29.7%	41.4%
U.S.A.	47.1%	33.2%	30.2%	17.9%
Canada	8.5%	16.4%	17.5%	15.0%
Other Countries ..	6.4%	20.6%	22.6%	25.7%
Exports.				
United Kingdom ..	17.9%	27.3%	33.5%	49.1%
U.S.A.	59.3%	33.4%	30.8%	18.0%
Canada	5.6%	25.9%	25.3%	25.5%
Other Countries ..	17.2%	13.4%	10.4%	7.4%

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1930 United Kingdom. Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	..		£ 1,734,178	
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	202,847	62,081	
	Butter	lbs.	33,484	2,520	174,282
	Butter Substitutes	"	249,066	8,977	
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	76,348	1,529	5,133,800
	Pickled	"			10,545,320
	Grain—Flour	bags.	649	777	271,011
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	1,024,700	26,146	2,400
	Ham	"	65,176	6,102	3,924
	Pork, Wet Salted	"			267,385
	Milk, Condensed	"	1,358,774	38,264	1,971,117
	Oils, Edible	galls.	286,502	51,547	66
	Sugar, Refined	lbs.	187,420	1,249	879,956
	Tobacco, Cigarettes	"	198,954	47,451	25
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	tons	26,812	42,644	
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.			763,060
	Hoops and Shooks			4,028	
	Oils—Illuminating	gals.			
	Motor Spirit	"	51	5	
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)			28,077	
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	17,036	82,221	15,232
	Carriages—Motor Cars	No.	78	16,981	293
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)			10,728	
	Cement	Brls.	103,348	55,466	9,161
	Cotton—Piece-goods	yds.	7,398,065	194,950	5,933
	Other Manufactures			64,605	
	Hardware			79,736	
	Medicines and Drugs			25,946	
	Metals:—Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets			37,717	
	Silk Manufactures			43,761	
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	5,615,908	72,725	
	Wool Manufactures			53,899	

TABLE "A'

1930.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value. (C.I.F)
£ 957,305		£ 1,934,542		£ 1,197,012		£ 5,823,037
			60,533	18,667	263,380	80,748
13,520	11,454	890	343,792	26,242	563,012	43,172
			57,805	1,491	406,871	10,468
103,752	13,528	265	8,206,444	167,753	13,430,120	273,297
112,553	7,500	113	389,500	3,349	10,942,320	116,015
321,376	48,555	58,023	7	14	320,222	380,190
66	28,120	737			1,055,220	26,949
366	245,494	22,419	3,233	307	317,827	29,194
7,146	696,256	18,645			963,641	25,791
62,071	591,515	16,642	1,207,912	33,030	5,129,318	150,007
27	731	278	24,665	4,221	311,964	56,073
5,894	40,592	271	1,790	11	1,109,758	7,425
7	2,207	557	236	88	201,422	48,103
	59,291	90,996			86,103	133,640
5,502	18,772,859	156,392	120,842	959	19,656,761	162,853
2,230		55,791		795		62,844
	1,055,913	64,641	353,058	20,389	1,408,971	85,030
	936,106	50,706	3,535,365	191,500	4,471,522	242,211
2,489		51,304		25,583		107,453
29,206	38,229	105,137	7,599	14,060	78,096	230,624
47,416	719	108,113	1	61	1,091	172,571
32,296		52,489		2,767		98,280
4,932	21	11	13,838	7,405	126,368	67,814
310	13,265,925	231,754	235,298	7,735	20,905,221	434,749
2,997		47,348		19,074		134,024
10,585		65,011		19,927		175,286
4,941		38,845		5,604		75,336
4,314		16,386		7,904		66,771
2,195		11,978		24,661		82,595
	1,130,065	14,578	447,044	6,684	7,193,917	92,997
86		232		5,471		59,688

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1931 United Kingdom Quantity.	1931 United Kingdom Value (C.I.F.)	1931 Canada Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	£ 1,406,562	
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	171,696	49,987	6
	Butter	lbs.	11,602	927	192,086
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	445,551	11,139	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	53,872	894	4,496,226
	Pickled	"	84	1	10,111,385
	Grain—Flour	bags	745	783	311,687
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	811,931	12,057	3,953
	Ham	"	61,410	5,159	13,766
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	..	..	323,426
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	2,245,787	51,734	1,671,437
	Oils, Edible	galls.	349,080	53,648	106
	Sugar, Refined	lbs.	5,922	46	82,453
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	"	131,708	32,796	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	tons	38,092	62,944	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	305,583
	Hoops and Shooks		..	2,683	..
	Oills—Illuminating ..	galls.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	27	8	2
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)		..	20,310	..
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	12,392	51,587	2,826
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	89	16,520	294
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)		..	9,726	..
	Cement	brls.	92,560	46,267	7,057
	Cotton—Piece-goods ..	yds.	6,742,768	126,135	15,719
	Other Manufactures		..	45,770	..
	Hardware		..	47,616	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..		..	20,938	..
	Metals:—Iron galvanized, steel) bars and sheets, nails and rivets		..	31,817	..
	Silk Manufactures ..		..	28,438	..
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	5,901,193	72,316	1,794
	Wool Manufactures ..		..	39,994	..

TABLE "A"

1931.

	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C. I. F.)	Quantity.	Value (C. I. F.)	Quantity.	Value (C. I. F.)	Quantity.	Value (C. I. F.)
£		£		£		£
830,325	..	1,430,008	..	1,067,506	..	4,734,401
1	..	..	40,215	11,774	211,917	61,762
15,449	1,054	88	378,161	29,534	582,903	45,998
..	..	..	19,501	489	465,052	11,628
75,313	10,447	170	9,899,093	164,532	14,459,638	240,909
101,377	20	..	481,868	4,425	10,593,357	105,803
317,860	30,712	31,994	25	26	343,169	350,663
53	5,600	108	..	..	821,484	12,218
1,052	239,262	15,336	3,487	272	317,925	21,819
6,819	662,014	14,397	400	9	985,840	21,225
46,678	1,048,276	21,700	1,022,850	26,346	5,988,350	146,458
28	433	196	2,095	547	351,714	54,419
673	3,500	30	..	..	91,875	749
..	1,500	489	70	18	133,278	33,303
..	42,751	60,976	..	..	80,843	123,920
2,288	18,362,599	141,734	371,761	2,814	19,039,943	146,836
3,265	..	31,918	..	432	..	38,298
..	1,304,753	65,620	444,203	23,081	1,748,956	88,701
2	981,258	40,363	4,253,304	174,463	5,234,591	214,836
1,602	..	37,925	..	18,710	..	75,547
5,181	25,948	86,384	9,103	21,837	51,269	164,989
41,455	352	52,631	2	207	737	110,813
28,840	..	38,792	..	3,966	..	81,324
3,472	20	42	23,648	11,688	123,285	61,469
238	12,322,981	148,993	299,807	7,203	19,381,275	282,569
577	..	18,853	..	15,027	..	80,227
6,039	..	36,504	..	15,923	..	106,082
5,247	..	32,168	..	4,528	..	62,881
2,202	..	5,229	..	6,039	..	45,287
4,986	..	29,975	..	51,545	..	114,944
23	719,735	8,823	174,973	2,160	6,797,695	83,322
205	..	263	..	1,856	..	42,318

TABLE "A'

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1932. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1932. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1932. Canada. Quantity.
				£	
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	1,890,526	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	164,807	40,843	3,891
	Butter	lbs.	112,873	6,035	50,733
	Butter Substitutes	"	441,176	10,930	..
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	35,915	445	6,101,964
	Pickled	"	..	..	8,856,990
	Grain—Flour	bags	73,775	61,745	285,966
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	1,228,102	20,696	3,900
	Ham	"	116,670	5,440	133,602
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	..	..	298,554
	Milk, Condensed	"	2,258,007	48,090	749,807
	Oils, Edible	galls.	37,907	7,223	24
	Sugar, Refined	lbs.	3,332	31	8,300
	Tobacco, Cigarettes	"	61,848	18,598	2
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	tons	141,689	236,359	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	97,260
	Hoops and Shooks		..	4,860	..
	Oils—Illuminating	galls.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit	"	12	4	1
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not especially classified)		..	28,471	..
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	35,265	126,046	1,061
	Carriages—Motor Cars	No.	191	27,377	235
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)		..	28,180	..
	Cement	brls.	63,897	33,022	..
	Cotton—Piece-goods	yds.	14,177,902	247,867	2,273
	Other Manufactures		..	58,736	..
	Hardware		..	59,404	..
	Medicines and Drugs		..	25,225	..
	Metals:—Iron, galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets		..	34,057	..
	Silk Manufactures		..	33,508	..
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	5,036,001	63,900	1,051
	Wool Manufactures		..	40,525	..

TABLE "A"

1932.

	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	(Value C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
687,147	..	817,211	..	1,177,636	..	4,572,520
1,070	1	..	18,305	4,028	187,004	45,941
3,323	5	..	507,132	27,825	670,743	37,183
..	100	2	7,338	153	448,614	11,085
75,890	13,296	637	8,907,754	121,793	15,058,929	198,765
73,699	..	..	317,510	2,186	9,174,500	75,885
259,267	7,373	9,072	..	..	367,114	339,084
70	3,185	54	..	..	1,235,187	20,820
6,794	89,560	4,834	9,520	571	349,352	17,639
5,977	775,938	15,314	595	12	1,075,087	21,303
19,015	846,954	15,207	1,386,756	27,696	5,241,524	110,008
6	1,748	275	1,209	327	40,888	7,831
58	..	..	..	..	11,632	89
2	1,845	543	5	3	63,700	19,146
..	3,824	6,875	..	..	145,513	243,234
875	12,090,120	74,940	2,730,571	20,741	14,917,951	96,556
11,312	..	20,687	..	1,880	..	38,739
..	928,263	61,884	445,911	28,122	1,374,174	90,006
2	1,041,488	37,507	4,485,296	160,088	5,526,797	197,601
2,770	..	22,350	..	27,006	..	80,607
1,349	3,412	9,632	71,974	72,413	111,712	209,440
32,987	173	24,215	5	335	604	84,914
21,109	..	29,327	..	4,354	..	82,970
..	14	25	18,711	9,131	82,604	42,178
67	4,919,507	62,664	814,687	14,564	19,914,369	325,162
1,277	..	13,326	..	16,486	..	89,825
7,428	..	21,036	..	11,970	..	99,838
7,013	..	25,771	..	4,640	..	62,649
1,332	..	1,958	..	9,168	..	46,515
7,470	..	7,588	..	130,099	..	178,665
12	391,917	5,395	248,954	4,140	5,677,923	73,447
12	..	100	..	1,761	..	42,398

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quanty.	1930. United Kingdom.		Canada		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Total Exports; (not including Parcels Post).			(F.O.B.) £ 1,114,405		(F.O.B.) £ 1,054,797		(F.O.B.) £ 1,362,652		(F.O.B.) £ 543,618		(F.O.B.) £ 4,075,473
Cocoa, Raw	lbs.	458,075	5,496	2,330,644	29,145	2,990,474	35,865	1,006,760	10,817	6,785,953	81,323
Coffee, Raw	"	544,907	12,805	6,170,523	145,064	117,759	2,766	42,127	986	6,875,316	161,621
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	7,399,146	739,737	3,183,172	315,230	12,213,803	1,087,912	1,800,464	175,862	24,596,585	2,309,741
Grapefruit	No.	6,659,596	40,456	2,174,924	12,248	90,680	594	159,621	1,113	9,084,821	54,411
Coconuts	"	1,423,925	5,411	2,808,525	11,067	26,747,045	102,114	210,610	415	31,190,105	119,007
Logwood Extracts	cwts.	11,403	41,677	..	..	360	1,365	6,636	24,762	18,399	67,804
Nuts for Expressing Oil: Copra	lbs.	3,264,058	24,652	..	..	981,157	6,355	5,936,760	41,077	10,181,975	72,084
Spices: Ginger	"	1,262,224	24,825	239,642	4,793	833,994	16,680	150,392	3,006	2,486,252	49,304
Pimento Dry	"	178,288	3,600	238,924	4,826	2,249,699	45,494	6,855,913	138,582	9,522,824	192,502
Spirits: Rum	Gall.	561,966	74,669	29,776	3,871			87,468	11,447	679,210	89,987
Sugar: Unrefined	Tons	6,719	78,959	43,570	511,843			85	1,004	50,374	591,806
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	268	778	..	..	2,627	7,675	13,345	38,890	16,240	47,343

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quanty.	1931. United Kingdom.		Canada.		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post)			(F.O.B.) £ 1,140,295		(F.O. B.) £ 860,05[illegible]		(F.O.B.) £ 1,046,916		(F.O.B.) £ 352,627		(F.O.B.) £ 3,399 892
Cocoa, Raw	lbs.	338,866	2,915	3,689,142	31,769	910,975	7,835	985,748	8,468	5,924,731	50,987
Coffee, Raw	"	684,536	12,732	7,299,028	136,056	786,077	14,620	407,749	7,585	9,177,390	170,993
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	8,456,194	803,359	3,331,412	306,968	9,955,289	814,529	572,710	58,539	22,335,605	1,983,395
Grapefruit	No.	5,149,560	24,921	4,481,883	22,613	79,560	380	220,033	1,144	9,931,036	49,058
Coconuts	"	1,155,898	3,950	3,018,100	10,321	30,937,350	106,627	604,235	2,072	35,715,583	122,970
Logwood Extracts	cwts.	21,364	73,584	..	..	338	1,250	4,557	17,809	26,259	92,643
Nuts for Expressing Oil:											
Copra	lbs.	1,896,863	9,172	..	..	1,544,184	7,084	4,449,115	22,382	7,890,164	38,638
Spices: Ginger	"	948,598	13,140	174,737	2,322	800,837	11,054	73,183	1,007	1,997,355	27,523
Pimento Dry	"	236,865	2,108	201,251	1,791	2,815,908	25,062	8,960,562	79,707	12,214,586	108,668
Spirits: Rum	Galls.	323,813	32,381	21,300	2,130	..	..	64,019	6,402	409,132	40,913
Sugar: Unrefined	Tons.	5,880	49,074	38,319	328,617	..	..	95	812	44,294	378,503
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	50	125	..	..	3,580	8,950	15,144	38,980	18,774	48,055

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quanty.	1932. United Kingdom.		Canada.		U.S.A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post)		..	(F.O.B.) £ 1,597,494	..	(F.O.B.) £ 830,262	..	(F.O.B.) £ 586,385	..	(F.O.B.) £ 240,525	..	(F.O.B.) £ 3,254,666
Cocoa. Raw ..	lbs.	77,491	766	4,216,367	41,872	305,994	2,818	300,936	2,646	4,900,788	48,102
Coffee, Raw ..	"	307,925	7,898	7,767,350	196,532	411,742	10,167	390,438	9,460	8,877,455	224,057
Fruits and Nuts:—Bananas	Stems	13,258,522	1,265,942	2,645,219	235,822	4,380,415	359,442	76,457	7,905	20,360,613	1,869,111
Grapefruit	No.	10,178,159	52,736	3,447,489	17,240	..	..	163,722	872	13,789,370	70,848
Coconuts	"	2,552,096	7,686	6,661,450	21,938	29,107,725	98,732	917,540	3,170	39,238,811	131,526
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	13,629	46,696	..	..	414	1,694	2,649	9,548	16,692	57,938
Nuts for Expressing Oil:											
Copra	lbs.	5,843,670	30,876	..	..	613,830	2,832	..	..	6,457,500	33,708
Spices: Ginger	"	754,591	15,923	236,069	5,303	576,757	12,596	93,998	1,856	1,661,415	35,678
Pimento Dry	"	352,955	2,771	228,227	1,639	2,321,077	16,799	5,375,549	40,478	8,277,808	61,687
Spirits: Rum	Galls.	102,097	12,212	11,172	1,389	166	18	68,034	7,890	181,469	21,519
Sugar: Unrefined	Tons.	8,966	79,339	29,408	262,543	..	..	114	1,027	38,488	342,909
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	743	2,074	..	..	6,139	17,509	12,376	35,647	19,258	55,230

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

145. The average rate of wages for a labourer in Government employ is 2/6 per day. Private employers pay men from 2/6 to 3/6 per day, and women from 1/6 to 1/8 per day. Factory workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each and shop assistants receive a wage of from 46/6 to 70/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 8 hours each.

146. The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway and a schedule of the wages paid in the Departments is set out below:—

Head Offices—					
Clerks	From 20/- to £5 10/- per week according to Grade.				
Learner Clerks	From 10/- to 20/- per week				
Way and Works Branch—					
Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180	to	£335	per annum
Draughtsmen ..	"	70/-	"	150/-	per week
Learner Draughtsmen	"	15/-	"	25/-	"
Foremen	"	45/-	"	60/-	"
Junior Foremen ..	"	30/-	"	45/-	"
Learner Foremen ..	"	20/-	"	29/-	"
Carpenters ..	"	6/-			per day
Labourers ..	"	2/6	to	3/6	per day
Gangers	"	3/9	"	4/4	"
Gatemen	"	9/-	"	10/-	per week
Locomotive Branch—					
Foremen	"	95/-	"	115/-	"
Chargemen ..	"	60/-	"	70/-	"
Machinists, Fitters, Blacksmiths, Moulders, Boilermakers and Coppersmiths, etc. ..	"	32/-	"	64/-	"
Engine Drivers ..	"	60/-	"	80/6	"
Firemen	"	37/-	"	44/-	"
Carpenters, including Saw Mill Machinists, Truck Fitters, Asst. Truck Fitters and Pattern Makers ..	"	30/-	"	54/-	"
Painters	"	28/-	"	34/-	"
Labourers (unskilled)	"			18/-	"
Labourers (skilled) ..				21/-	"
Greasers	"	30/-	"	36/-	"
Watchmen ..	"	25/-	"	33/-	"
Shedmen ..				4/-	per day
				5/-	per night
Apprentices ..	"	8/-	to	24/-	per week
Traffic Branch—					
Trains Controllers ..	"	90/-	"	125/-	"
Station Masters ..	"	60/-	"	110/-	"
Station Clerks ..	"	20/-	"	35/-	"

Invoices and Booking Clerks	from	37/6 to	90/4	per week
Porters, Kingston ..			3/-	per day
Porters, Outstations ..	"	1/6 to	2/9	per day
Shunters	"	20/- to	35/-	per week
Guards	"	30/- "	60/-	"
Brakesmen ..	"	21/- "	30/-	"
Tranship Porters ..	"	21/- "	40/-	"
Wharfinger ..			105/-	"
Assistant Wharfinger ..			37/6	"
Storemen ..	"	2/6 to 3/4	per day	
Female Typists ..	"	35/- " 45/-	per week.	

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays and time and a half for Sunday work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

Station Masters are paid overtime for Sundays and Public Holidays, and so are the Assistant and Junior Trains Controllers. Parcels Office Clerks and Booking Clerk, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sunday work. Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

147. The following is a list, giving costs, of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	8 ozs. for 2 2-5d.
Crackers	1d. per dozen
Peas and Beans	5½d. per quart
Yams	2d. per lb.
Cocoanuts	1d. each
Sweet Potatoes	1d. per lb.
Cocoes	1¼d. per lb.
Plantains	1½d. each
Sugar, B. A.	3d. per lb.
Flour	3d. per lb.
Rice	2½d. per lb.
Meal	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	6d. per lb.
Herrings	3d. per lb.
Shads	4d. per lb.
Mackerels	4d. per lb.
Salmon	6d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Beef, w/s	7d. per lb.
Pork, w/s	9d. per lb.
Cotton Seed Oil	1/6 per quart
Cocoanut Oil	10d. to 1/- per quart
Milk, Full Cream ..	5½d. to 7d. per tin
Beef, Fresh	4½d. to 7½d. per lb.
Salt, Fine	1d. per lb.

148. During 1932, a 4 lb. loaf of bread cost 1/7 1-5d. and a labourer's pay therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 9 loaves in Government employ and from 9 to 13 loaves in private employ. In Jamaica, however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

149. The cost of living in Jamaica although it has decreased somewhat in recent years, is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100

as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the Index Figure for 1931 works out at an average of 147, made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—			
Local Products ..	156		
Imported Articles ..	128	142	(mean)
Clothing, etc. ..	..	144	
Miscellaneous ..		155	
		441	
Average ..		147	

150. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

151. The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1931-32 was £203,160, an increase of £2,334 on the expenditure for 1930-31.

152. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owners' representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. There are 138 schools administered by School Boards, 77 of which are owned by the Government while 61 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas in which the average attendance is 61%. The number of children affected is 16,157, excluding infants. In the non-compulsory areas 111,435 children are enrolled with an average attendance of 54%.

153. The total enrolment for the whole Island is 136,148 with an average attendance of 53%.

154. The total cost of Elementary Education exclusive of establishment charges for 1931-32 amounted to £166,199.

155. There are in all 653 grant-aided Elementary Schools. There are also a large number of elementary private schools in regard to which details are not available. Three new Government Schools were opened during 1931-32 and a sum of £1,500 was expended during the same period in building grants for denominational schools and teachers' quarters, but there are still many denominational School Buildings in a very bad state of repair.

156. The Primary Schools employ about 1,650 teachers. There are four Training Colleges one for men and three for women teachers.

157. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years are awarded annually to children from Primary Schools in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, nineteen in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

158. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 19 Centres. At the last Examinations held (July and December, 1932) 551 Candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 290 passed (53%), 290 for the School Certificate of whom 141 passed (48%) and 13 entered for and 8 passed (61%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

159. Public Assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

160. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1932, 28 Candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 17 passed, including 4 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 7 Candidates, 3 of whom passed and one was referred. One Candidate sat for Intermediate Divinity and passed. One Candidate sat for the Intermediate Examination in Science and passed. One Candidate sat for the Final Examination in Laws and failed, and one Candidate sat for the Final Examination in Arts with Honours and failed.

161. There are three recognised Continuation Schools in the Island; one in Kingston maintained by the Government and two in the parish of Saint Mary. Excepting these, the Farm School at Hope, the Trade Scholarships and the Scholarships and free places in Secondary Schools there is no avenue of continued education for the majority of children attending the Elementary Schools.

162. The Government Technical School, Kingston, provides continuation, commercial, domestic science and technical departments. As a result of a Report made by a Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Governor in 1929 on the working of this school, many of the disabilities under which the school was working in respect of accommodation and staff have been removed, and the curricula and supervision of all branches have been re-organized under a new Principal during 1931.

163. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School boys who wish to be apprenticed to a trade or to enter the Government Farm School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years, part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

164. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curricula is in literary subjects, needlework, housecraft and hygiene. These schools do

excellent work especially from the point of view of character training. There is little doubt, however, that their curricula should be of a less literary and more practical nature. But there are few local teachers able to teach domestic subjects and fewer still to teach commercially profitable handicrafts. There is no Continuation School for boys outside Kingston.

165. Manual Training Departments are attached to nine Government Schools but three are in abeyance on account of shortage of qualified staff.

166. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been re-organized and are shewing much improvement in number and efficiency. There are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

167. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools and Orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial Schools in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Until recently children could not be detained in these schools after the age of 16, but they may now be detained until 18 in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the classroom or for trade instruction.

168. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys and Girls) is maintained by the Government, under the charge of the Inspector of Reformatories and Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor,which arranges monthly visits of inspection and holds bi-monthly Board Meetings. The numbers on Roll on 31st December, 1932 were 354 Boys and 52 Girls.

169. The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply the site is ideal for the purpose. The buildings though very old, are spacious, well ventilated and cool. The old, badly-lighted schoolroom of the Girls Section has been replaced by one of greatly improved design, and other improvements are being made which include a suitable playground for the girls, which is now nearly completed.

170. The curriculum is arranged so that each child devotes half of each day to the ordinary subjects of elementary school work, and the other half day to manual work. Drill, Games, Hobbies, Scouting and Evening Continuation Classes for senior boys, each take an important part in completing a form of institutional life which is a creditable pattern of an English Borstal Institution.

171. The weak point of the whole system is lack of after-care. An arrangement has been made for apprenticing a small number of trade boys each year, but this by no means meets the needs of after-care.

172. The "House" system is proving a great success.

173. The principal industries are carpentry, blacksmithing, tailoring, gardening, agriculture, masonry, baking and cooking for the boys and laundry work, sewing and cooking for the girls.

174. A good brass band is maintained.

175. Every possible form of sport is encouraged, mainly by inter House Competitions for Shields, Cups, etc. and the House spirit ha developed to such an extent that a boy is just as keen to earn a few marks for the good of his House as he used to be to win an individua prize. The reverse of this is also felt to be beneficial in that offence *lose* marks for the House, and the culprit dreads offending the publi opinion of his House as much as or more than any direct punishmen he may receive from the Authorities.

176 There is a system of good conduct badges bearing a cash value Portion of such earnings may be used, at the discretion of the Super intendent, for certain purposes during the period of detention, but th major portion stands to the credit of the inmate until he is discharged

177. Prison records show that there is a marked decrease in recen years in the number of ex-Industrial School boys who become adul criminals, which is, perhaps, the surest sign that the School is achievin its object

178. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for main tenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside th Poor Relief Law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grant were made in 1932-33 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £7 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army Scho for the Blind. With the exception of the last named Institution ther is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defectiv or mentally retarded children.

179. The Bureau of Health Education under the Central Board o Health is the principal agency for Health Education in Jamaica. Th bulletin "Jamaica Public Health" issued by the Bureau together wit health posters have been of inestimable value to the Colony. It work in connection with school Dental Clinics, the Child Welfar Association, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the Malaria Commissio and the Empire Health Week are directly educative.

180. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association, there are at presen 66 groups actively at work. These groups comprise 63 Scout Troops 24 Wolf Cub Packs and 21 Rover Crews, numbering 163 Scouters 1,247 Scouts, 70 Sea Scouts, 334 Cubs, 187 Rover Scouts, 76 Rove Sea Scouts—a total of 2,077. This shews an increase of 485 over 193 when the total was 1,592.

181. His Excellency Sir Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., is Chief Scou of Jamaica.

182. Under the Girl Guides Local Association, there are now 7 groups at work. They comprise 11 Ranger, 48 Guide and 18 Browni Companies. The total enrolment for 1932 was 1,780. The Presiden is Lady Slater and Mrs. D. O. Kelly-Lawson is Island Commissione

183. The Institute of Jamaica, for the encouragement of Literature Science and Art—(with its Library of 35,176 books, 25,070 in th General Library and 10,106 in the West India Reference Library)— distributed 44,847 books amongst its members during 1932, in additio to which, many members of the public, including tourists from England Canada and the United States, consulted the General Reference Librar and the West India Reference Library.

184. Amongst the students in the latter were two graduates doin post-graduate work on West Indian Subjects, and five visitors to th Island doing research work.

185. Members of thirty-nine Literary Associations, affiliated with the Institute borrowed books. Twenty-five Teachers Associations, affiliated with the Institute, borrowed boxes of books from the Institution during the year.

186. Many parties of school children visited the Natural History Museum and the History Gallery of the Institute.

187. During the year three Exhibitions, two of Paintings and one of Photography, were held by the Institute at the Rooms of the Jamaica Mutual Assurance Society. One was sent out by the Royal British Colonial Society of Artists.

188. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music held its 25th Annual Examination of Candidates in Music, of whom 620 sat.

189. The Musical Society of Jamaica held meetings during the year.

190. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal Clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian Teams to England and Australia, have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

191. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February, inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number six and the game is now achieving great popularity throughout the Island.

192. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

193. As in the case of cricket, the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

194. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Interscholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

195. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years.

1928	entered	1,593	vessels of	3,076,996 tons
1929	"	1,651	"	3,337,919 "
1930	"	1,631	"	3,573,731 "
1931	"	1,438	"	3,244,558 "
1932	"	1,355	"	3,508,696 "
1928	cleared	1,562	"	3,042,893 "
1929	"	1,635	"	3,310,243 "
1930	"	1,625	"	3,541,633 "
1931	"	1,407	"	3,222,945 "
1932	"	1,291	"	3,440,374 "

196. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd. The Canadian National Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The James Nourse Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., The Webster Steamship Line (the last named Company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders and Fyffes is a British registered Company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U. S. A..—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

197. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

198. The Island possesses a good system of macadam roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,432 miles which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,228 miles of which 1,988 are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,240 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

199. During 1932 the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of about £97 per mile. Several of these roads were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use, without special permission of motor vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen, has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic safely. Up to the end of the year under review, the mileage of Asphalted Sprayed Roads amounted to 137 miles. The Programme of Road Construction begun in 1927 with the object of opening up fertile areas, and providing feeders to the Government Railway has been steadily pushed on, and it is hoped that the Programme of these new roads, including widening and strengthening, amounting to approximately 281 miles and the construction of 69 bridges, will be completed about June, 1933.

200. During the first week in November, 1932, a tropical disturbance passed near the south and west of the Island. The heavy seas, rain and wind caused much damage to the roads, seawalls, buildings and telegraph lines, particularly in the western parishes.

201. The mean rainfall for the Island was 75.98 inches or 2.34 inches above the 60-year average, and the mean number of rainy days was 123, the average being 122.

202. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

203. The Motor Omnibus Amendment Law (Law 6 of 1932) was passed in the Spring Session of the Legislative Council. The passing of this Law has brought within the control of the Board of Transport a large number of vehicles, with the result that the number of licensed omnibuses has increased. There are now 48 omnibuses plying for hire in Kingston and Lower Saint Andrew and 62 operating between Kingston and the outlying country districts.

204. The Motor Omnibus service in Kingston and Saint Andrew is proving a very useful factor in the development of the Sub-Urban districts.

205. The omnibuses which ply between Kingston and the country districts form an essential service in the economic life of the peasant classes, as transportation facilities are now afforded to and from districts which hitherto had been cut off from all forms of public transport.

206. The rapid growth of road transport has to some extent affected the Tramways and Railways, and this aspect of the matter is being carefully watched.

207. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio 63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

208. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast, Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

209. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1932, was £349,106 and the expenditure £255,169. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for Renewals, Depreciation and Betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 321,064 tons, as compared with 338,171 tons for the year 1931; the number of passengers carried in 1932 was 610,556 as compared with 668,644 in 1931.

210. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

211. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60lb. rails with 80lb. rails has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927 the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1932 the total mileage which has been changed from 60lb. to 80lb. rails is 101 miles.

212. *Passenger Traffic.*—There are 8 main line passenger trains run daily, and 10 passenger and mixed trains run daily on the Branch lines—first and second class only. The passenger traffic has fallen off considerably during 1932 on account of road motor competition and the general depression in trade.

213. *General Merchandise Traffic.*—This traffic again shows a decrease in spite of the efforts made to capture traffic by reduced rates, quicker service, etc.

214. *Banana Traffic.*—This important traffic was seriously affected by a storm which occurred on November 9th as the result of a hurricane which passed near to Jamaica. Several million banana plants were blown down, and the quantity of fruit exported fell off very considerably during the last few weeks of the year. This set-back seriously affected the revenue of the Railway.

215. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1932, there were 1,739 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 telegraph and 121 telephone offices. Three telephone offices were opened during the year.

216. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

217. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 44 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

218. In 1931, 327,339 telegrams were despatched, and the revenue amounted to £18,090 5s. 4½d. In 1932, 305,102 and £18,344 5s. 11d., respectively.

219. There are three wireless tations in the Island under Government license, two owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., and one by Pan-American Airways, Inc.

Two are situated at Kingston, and the other at Stony Hill. Of the two owned by the D.W.I. Cable Co., one is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. The Pan-American Airways W/T Station is used for the control of their aeroplanes operating between North and South America and the Caribbean Islands—Short wave only is used. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Stations exist in the Island. Fourteen amateur transmitting licenses were issued during the year.

220. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz., the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S. at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct

West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office. The West Indian and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island. These two Cable Companies have been merged into the Imperial and International Communication Co., Ltd., but in Jamaica retain their old names.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

221. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclay's Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

222. The value of the local notes of each Bank, outstanding at 31st December, 1932, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£91,673
Bank of Nova Scotia	151,365
Royal Bank of Canada	44,878
Canadian Bank of Commerce	17,497

223. These Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Candian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

224. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the Commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the Commercial Banks, namely, 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 114 branches throughout the Island, as compared with 19 prior to the re-organisation, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1932, £653,200 0s. 6d.

(b) Investments held in British, Colonial and Local Securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734 and in 1932 to £616,515 9s. 11d.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964. £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1931 carried to the Reserve Fund was £8,862 19s. 5d. There will be no profit for 1932 consequent on extensive defalcations by the late Cashier.

225. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the Funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Local Government or other Colonial Government Securities, (2) in real securities in Jamaica, (3) on deposit in Banks, (4) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

226. There are 56 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). Eight of these are moribund, and one had itself removed from the category of Agricultural Loan Banks. The greater number of these were started early in 1913 in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes in 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, &c., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for cultivation, the purchase of land, stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

227. In 1930, Law 15 of 1930 was passed, giving the Board further and better powers, and extending their duties of supervision to all Agricultural Loan Societies.

228. To 31st December, 1932, £134,931 had been lent to 38 Banks, and £123,055 6s. 9d. received in repayment. The sum of £59,641 was also lent to Banks to purchase 12 properties for the purpose of land settlement, of which £43,445 had been repaid.

229. Interest paid since the inception of the operations of the Board amounted to £39,393 and 46 Banks from which returns were received collected share capital amounting to £44,523. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are proving of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. It is the policy of the Board to encourage landed proprietors, professional men, and others to take an active and sympathetic interest in these Banks.

230. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purpose of purchasing properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. One property has been taken over by the Surveyor General, as in addition to certain unfortunate conditions which obtained, the local management found itself unable to carry the scheme to completion. Another scheme is in a similar condition. In contradistinction, four other schemes have succeeded admirably.

231. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—British gold and silver coins, local nickel coins, local Currency Notes, U. S. A. gold eagle and its sub-multiples. Gold doubloons and the sub-divisions of the gold doubloon, U. S. A. silver and notes are not legal tender but are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks. Accounts are kept in sterling.

232. Local Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1932, to the extent of £76,550 15s. 0d. in the following denominations:—

2/6d. Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/- Notes.	Total.
£120 5s. 0d.	£34,770 10s. 0d.	£41,660 0s. 0d.	£76,550 15s. 0d.

The 2/6d. notes are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

233. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica issue local notes. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

234. British weights and measures are used in Jamaica, and the standard weights and measures are the same as those used in England. It is interesting to note, however, that a "stone" (14 lbs.) is much more used as a unit of weight than it is in England, many commodities such as potatoes, onions, hay, &c., being sold by the stone.

235. In measurements, too, a "chain" (66 feet) and a "link" (7 inches) are common units of measurements. Work in the field and on the roads is always measured by the "chain" and in describing distances between two points less than a mile apart, the "chain" is nearly always used as the unit of description.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

236. In addition to the construction of New Roads and Bridges, an account of which appears under Chapter X, the principal activities of the year were:—

(a) The conversion of the old Island Medical Office into an Out-patients' Department in connection with the Public General Hospital.

(b) The building of one large Government School.

237. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor, upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all Main Roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction, enlargement, improvement, repair, management and control of any other water works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorised by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889, and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds for which are provided by General Revenue or by loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specifications and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorised.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, the Telephone Law, the Tramways Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

238. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

239. The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Appellate Court which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil jurisdiction) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

240. There are three Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges.

241. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

242. The civil work of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew is disposed of by the Judge of the Kingston Court who has the same jurisdiction as a Resident Magistrate in civil proceedings.

243. The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

244. There are fourteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and one Judge of the Kingston Court. At present there are only thirteen Resident Magistrates as one is acting as Judge of the Kingston Court which post is now vacant due to the transfer of the holder of that office to another Colony.

245. The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

Police.

246. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. Under that Law the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers; and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as Sub-Officers and Constables. The present authorised strength of the Force is 23 Officers and 1,082 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for membership unless he can produce a certificate of character from a Magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory medical examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand. Every candidate is enrolled for five years (3 months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the office of Constables. There are separate Detectives and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the regular Police Force.

Prisons.

247. *General Penitentiary, Kingston.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, and European prisoners.

There is separate cell accommodation for 645 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel, and 32 in hospital wards.

248. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding six months.

There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the Chapel for 306, and hospital wards for 40.

249. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21.

Maximum accommodation for 66.

250. *Females' Prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198, hospital wards for 15.

251. In the adult prisons, first offenders are located and worked apart from the more hardened criminals.

252. At the Juvenile Adult Prison, special rules, and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of an Adult Prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the Juvenile Adult Prison are located and worked apart from adults in the ordinary prisons.

253. In the Females' Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour—i.e., washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

254. The necessary arrangements for an effective Island-wide Probation System have been in existence for four years, but with the exception of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew very little use seems to be made of it. It has proved very successful in Kingston and St. Andrew, and should be equally so in the country parishes.

255. In November, much damage was done by high winds to the banana cultivations, which caused a loss to revenue and increased expenditure for dietary.

256. On the other hand a large order for high class mahogany furniture for the Military Officers' Quarters at Camp has been completed during the year. It is gratifying to be able to report that every article of furniture gave great satisfaction and that the value of the order was nearly £300.

257. The Department exhibited specimens of products of Prison Industries at the Jamaica Trade Exhibition and Fair in September last and was awarded a Certificate of Merit.

258. Temper lime produced by the Department is becoming increasingly popular with the sugar and rum manufacturers, reports stating that this equals the best that can be imported.

259. *Brief Statistics.*—

Average daily population—		
General Penitentiary	..	574
St. Catherine District Prison	..	506
Juvenile Adult Prison	..	46
Female Prison ..	..	75
Total	..	1,201
Number in custody 31.12.32.—		
General Penitentiary	..	704
St. Catherine District Prison	..	603
Total	..	1,307
Expenditure ..	..	£46,548 0 2
Revenue ..	..	13,158 2 2
Cost of Prisons	..	£33,389 18 0

Value of prison manufactures and products used in Prisons—£2,177 13s. 0d.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

260. Eighteen Laws were passed during the year 1932. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest.

Law 2 *of* 1932.—"A Law to make further Provision for Pensions of Inspectors of Schools." This Law enables an Inspector or Assistant Inspector of Schools, who has served as a teacher prior to his appointment as an Inspector or Assistant Inspector, to count for pension under Law 24 of 1904 half the period of his service as a teacher, in lieu of the pension he would receive in respect of his teaching service.

Law 3 *of* 1932.—"A Law to impose a tax on packages." This Law is the same as Law 9 of 1919 except that all taxes collected under the 1932 Law are to be credited to General Revenue and no portion is to be allocated to Parochial Funds.

Law 5 *of* 1932.—"A Law relating to the Employment of young Persons." The Law gives effect to the Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference held at Washington on the 28th November, 1919, and the 9th July, 1920, concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry and the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea.

Law 6 *of* 1932.—"A Law to amend the Motor Omnibus Law 1929." The Law amends the definition of "Motor Omnibus" as defined by Law 30 of 1929. It also empowers the Governor in Privy Council to prescribe Regulations providing for two classes of motor omnibuses and for the payment of fees and licences.

Law 8 *of* 1932.—"A Law to extend the period for redemption of certain Debentures issued under the Jamaica Banana Producers Association Limited Debenture Law 1928." The Law postpones the redemption of the debentures specified in the schedule thereto for a period of five years subject to the option for redemption at such earlier date as may be notified.

Law 9 *of* 1932.—"A Law to provide for the establishment of a Court of Appeal in this Island." The Law establishes a Court of Civil and Criminal Appeal for the Colony. It is divided into nine parts:—

Part I deals with interpretation of expressions used in the Law.

Part II deals with the establishment of the Court of Appeal.

Part III relates to the Appellate Civil Jurisdiction.

Part IV relates to appeals from convictions by Resident Magistrates and from convictions by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (other than convictions on indictment in that Court) in all criminal proceedings.

Part V confers on any person convicted in the Supreme Court of Jamaica, or by a Jury in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands and in the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands the right of appeal to the Court of Appeal established under this Law.

Part VI contains general provisions relating to criminal appeals.

Part VII vests the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Law 25 of 1872 and the Turks and Caicos Islands Appeal Law 1908 in the Appeal Court established under this Law. Restricts

appeals, other than appeals authorised by the Law, and saves the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under the Appeal Regulation Act (21 Vic. c. 22). It also amends the Judicature Law 1879 and the Resident Magistrates Law 1927.

Part VIII relates to appeals in Contempt Proceedings.

Part IX deals with necessary savings, repeals and postpones the operation of the Law.

Law 10 *of* 1932.—"A Law to consolidate and amend the Local Inscribed Stock Laws." This Law allows of the formation of one sinking fund for the redemption of all stock issued under any Law although that stock is issued in two or more instalments. It repeals all Local Inscribed Stock Laws and saves the rights of holders of stock under the repealed Laws.

Law 11 *of* 1932.—"A Law to amend the Cattle Contagious Diseases Law 1890 (Law 24 of 1890)." Under this Law power is given to the Governor in Privy Council to permit horses, intended for racing, to be imported from countries other than the United Kingdom and the United States of America, upon such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations.

Law 13 *of* 1932.—"A Law to control the Retail Prices of Sugar in Jamaica." The Law gives the Governor power to fix the maximum retail prices of sugar during the continuance of the Law, namely, until the 31st December, 1933.

Law 14 *of* 1932.—"A Law further to amend the Tariff Law 1925 (Law 4 of 1925)." The Law carries into effect the terms of an agreement in regard to the preferences arrived at between the Representatives of the United Kingdom and those of India and His Majesty's Dominions at the Imperial Economic Conference held at Ottawa.

Law 15 *of* 1932.—"A Law for affording Temporary Assistance to the Banana Industry of the Island and to enable loans in aid thereof." The Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan not exceeding £100,000, in order to afford aid to owners and tenants of banana lands damaged by the recent hurricane.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

261. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
£	£	£	£	£
2,275,094	2,212,851	2,292,869	2,197,572	2,085,793

Expenditure.

1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
£	£	£	£	£
1,980,888	2,317,433	2,310,502	2,322,613	2,135,736

The total Expenditure during the year ended the 31st March, 1932, was £49,943 more than the total Revenue.

262. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1932 under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs ..	780,744
II. Harbour and Light Dues ..	6,344
III. Licenses, Excise, etc.—	
(a) Licenses	30,376
(b) Excise, etc.	193,504
(c) Income Tax	38,616
(d) Land and House Tax	68,373
(e) Entertainment Tax	17
(f) Fines, etc.	13,479
IV. Fees of Office, etc.—	
(a) Fees of Office	23,380
(b) Stamp Duties	75,955
(c) Reimbursements-in-aid	
(1) Medical	4,304
(2) Prisons, etc.	11,879
(3) Debt Charges	158,465
(4) Miscellaneous	19,372
(d) Irrigation Receipts	14,436
V. Post Office ..	77,764
VI. Rents .	2,590
VII. Interest ..	11,941
VIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	19,869
IX. Land Sales	2,359
X. Colonial Development Fund ..	50,000
Total	£1,603,767

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Charges of Debt	187,918
Pensions	48,697
Pensions—Widows and Orphans	13,078
The Governor and Staff ..	6,193
Privy Council	46
Legislative Council ..	2,361
Colonial Secretariat ..	7,792
Lands Department ..	8,226
Audit Department ..	5,198
Public Treasury ..	5,419
Currency Commissioners ..	726
Government Savings Bank ..	6,841
Immigration Department ..	300
Collector General's Department	64,780
Post Office	75,636
Supreme Court	5,229
Law Officers	4,008
Kingston Court	1,652
Resident Magistrates' Courts	31,509
Administrator General's Office	6,577
Medical—General Administration	43,811
Medical—Hospitals and Lepers' Home	58,743
Medical—Lunatic Asylum ..	31,467
Constabulary	140,514
Prisons	30,729
Industrial	5,199
Education	152,993
Harbours and Pilotage ..	4,553
Marine Board	881
Imperial Forces Allowances ..	5,092
Local Forces	5,253
Registrar General and Island Record Office	5,958
Registration of Titles ..	2,622
Government Printing Office	12,908
Board of Supervision ..	512
Department of Science and Agriculture	32,558
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,136
Subventions	35,960
Miscellaneous	64,827
Railway	39,742
Public Works Department	42,384
Public Works Annually Recurrent	194,302
Public Works Extraordinary ..	13,195
Colonial Development Fund ..	50,774
Total	£1,458,299

263. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1932, were £1,289,102 and £1,166,689, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £122,413. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1932, were held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans to Agricultural Loan Societies Board ..	30,616	12	1
Loans from Parochial Water Supplies Fund ..	11,369	5	0
Lands Settlement Advances	21,226	12	0
Advances on account of Loans to be raised ..	349,495	9	10
Advances to Parochial Boards	44,364	3	0¾
Stores Advances	104,388	6	3
General Advances	52,978	15	10
Investments on account of Redemption Funds guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	179,308	12	10
Investments on account of Deposits for Investment	121,512	14	8
Investments on account for Trust Funds ..	30,506	4	4
Investments for Insurance Fund	228,373	9	8
Miscellaneous Investments	42,658	13	4
Imprests	49,207	16	11
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York	10,843	13	1
Emigration Agent, India	1,199	18	7½
Collector General for Customs Revenue ..	411	2	9
Director Jamaica Railway	10,592	19	9
Crown Agents for Sundry Invested Funds ..	34	2	4
Remittances in Transit	13	13	10
	£1,289,102	6	2¼

264. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £230,666 at the 31st March, 1932.

265. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1932 was £5,305,770. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,473,331. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference, £2,832,439, exceeds by only £842,728 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1932-33. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

266. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1932:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
Great Britain	45,000,000	7,647,950,026	169.9
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica ..	1,050,000	5,305,770	5.05

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1932, viz.: £2,473,331, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 13s. 11d.

TAXATION.

266. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended the 31st March, 1932, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. Customs—			
Import Duties	1,021,743	4	8
Export Duties	342	8	0
ii. Harbour and Light Dues—			
Harbour Fees	4,312	4	6
Light Dues	5,941	6	5
iii. Licences	42,790	9	1
Excise	258,533	2	6
Income Tax	103,109	14	1
Property Tax	81,205	2	1
Entertainment Tax	746	19	1
Fines in Petty Sessions ..	13,098	16	8
Surcharges	4,009	10	5
Stamp Duties	70,206	7	6½

Customs Tariff.—The general advalorem duty is 20% and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on the articles falling chiefly under the headings of Food, Drink and Tobacco.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilizers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

Excise Duties.—The principal Excise Duties are on Cigars from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per gallon.

Stamp Duties—

Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

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In addition to these there are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Leases, etc.

268. There is no Hut Tax or Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and

rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. There is no marked range of difference in temperature. The maximum air temperature registered at the meteorological station at Grand Turk in 1933 was 92·5° on the 27th June, while the minimum was 62·0° on the last day of the year. The averages of means of maximum and minimum for the year were 86·1° and 74·8° respectively. The rainfall for the year, as registered at the meteorological station, was 34·22 inches, slightly above the average of 32·13 inches in the previous ten years, three of which were periods of abnormal precipitation occasioned by hurricane visitations.

These Islands have suffered periodically from the effects of devastating hurricanes. In the years 1866, 1888, 1908 and 1926 there were major casualties, that of September, 1926, being the most disastrous. In 1933 one severe hurricane passed over the islands and another passed near occasioning several deaths and the destruction of many homes of the peasantry. The attendant heavy rainfall put an end, for the year, to all operations in salt production, and was the cause of great economic loss.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these Islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1932 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931 owing to the lack of funds.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent. were " coloured " (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent. were " white," and that about 1,800 people live in Turks Islands and 3,500 in Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

Most of the people of the Turks Islands are employed in the salt industry, while the people of the Caicos Islands are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.
1929	161	99	29·1	17·7
1930	177	75	31·5	13·4
1931	177	82	32·0	14·8
1932	201	76	36·4	13·7
1933	205	120	37·2	21·8

The above rates are based on a population by census 1921. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 32; equal to a death rate of 156 per 1,000 births. Forty-two marriages were registered during the year. Seventy persons were receiving pauper relief at the end of the year.

There were 293 immigrants registered and 316 emigrants.

IV.—HEALTH.

During the year 1933, the health of the Dependency may be described as being as satisfactory as conditions of unemployment, and a consequent lack of full nutrition, would allow. For the third year in succession unseasonable rains have hampered, and then definitely terminated, operations in salt production, and unemployment supervened. Pellagra increased on the figures of the previous year, especially in the salt-producing settlements, the Caicos Islands being practically free from disease. There were no infectious diseases, such as whooping-cough, measles, chickenpox or small pox; no cases of enteric fever; and only occasional cases of malaria. There were no cases of primary syphilis; and a few cases only of gonorrhoea. There are several cases of leprosy in the Caicos Islands, which are isolated and receiving treatment.

As regards preventive measures, only minor anti-mosquito measures were taken, such as clearing away bush and undergrowth and the filling up of pools. Major works could not be undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements and the Inspectors of Nuisances were responsible to those Boards and to the Medical Officers for seeing that all premises were kept in a proper sanitary state.

Hygiene is one of the subjects taught in all the schools.

There was regular dental inspection of the pupils in the schools by a dentist who receives a subsidy from the Government for his services to the school-children and certain others.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and the other at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and they visit the out-islands when necessary.

There is a nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a small public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the directions and supervision of the Medical Officer.

There was no public health legislation enacted during the year under review.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these Islands. 1,233 were inhabited and 181 uninhabited; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these Islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Turks Islands' salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above.

The abnormally heavy rainfalls of the last three years have greatly hampered the salt industry, and prevented the usual production. There was a small overcarry to 1933 from the gatherings of the previous year and practically the entire crop of the year was disposed of, leaving no supplies to meet the spring demand of 1934, but withal the shipments were approximately but one half the average.

Three grades are now exported: *coarse*, the natural product of the salinas, one half of which went to the United States of America; *fishery*, a mill processing to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish, of which seven-eighths went to Canada, and *industrial*, a fine ground suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk; the industrial is bagged.

The following table shows the destination, quantities, and value of the shipments in 1933, a total of 687,841 bushels, as compared with an average of about a million and a quarter bushels.

Destination.	*Quantity in Bushels.*			*Value.*
	Coarse.	*Fishery.*	*Industrial.*	£
Canada	24,398	383,209	71,000	9,970
Jamaica	47,676	—	—	655
Bahamas	—	460	—	10
Haiti	12,426	—	—	211
San Domingo	—	—	75	2
United States of America	99,701	48,896	—	2,641
Total ...	184,201	432,565	71,075	£13,489

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	35,675	22,275	12,895	10,137	13,489
Sponges	2,135	2,269	2,016	2,417	2,031
Conchs	1,350	1,188	1,122	744	1,197
Turtle shell	343	220	257	341	150
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	331	17	—	—	—
Sisal	39	37	47	—	50

Nearly all the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last five years :—

		1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Salt	bus.	1,712,270	1,163,152	754,019	577,494	687,841
Sponges	lb.	22,547	26,964	25,749	23,261	27,961
Conchs	no.	1,349,800	1,187,900	1,121,800	744,100	1,196,600
Turtle shell ...	lb.	376	103	257	343	150
Cotton (raw) ...	lb.	6,865	49	—	—	—
Cotton-seed ...	lb.	16,458	7,310	—	—	—
Sisal	lb.	6,489	3,776	8,492	—	7,471

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	42,827	34,165	24,291	21,942	21,900
Exports	40,679	26,403	16,589	14,018	17,351
Total	£83,506	60,568	40,880	35,960	39,251

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1929	3,585	4,556	34,686	42,827
1930	2,867	2,339	28,959	34,165
1931	2,568	1,844	19,879	24,291
1932	5,511	3,982	12,449	21,942
1933	4,862	3,600	13,438	21,900

The Countries of Origin of the import trade in 1933 are shown in the following table :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		4,862
Bahamas	241	
Barbados	74	
Bermuda	23	
British Guiana	346	
British India	505	
Canada	1,766	
Jamaica	634	
Trinidad	11	
Total British Dominions ...		3,600
Total British imports		8,462
Belgium	86	
Curacao	10	
Denmark	78	
Finland...	22	
France	45	
Germany	19	
Haiti	722	
Holland	66	
Japan	60	
San Domingo	457	
United States of America	11,873	
Total foreign imports		13,438
Total imports		£21,900

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	11,409
Raw materials	1,143
Manufactured articles	6,964
Miscellaneous	2,384
	£21,900

The principal articles imported in 1933 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Flour	barrels	2,039	1,812
Cotton goods		—	1,583
Rice	lb.	208,522	992
Lard and substitutes	lb.	58,472	819
Sugar	lb.	236,002	809
Meats (salted)	lb.	47,759	788
Milk (condensed)	cases	848	721
Oil (mineral)	gal.	14,106	667
Haberdashery		—	637
Butter and substitutes	lb.	10,935	438
Spirits	gal.	1,067	334
Cigarettes	No.	556,000	327
Vegetables (fresh)		—	315
Soap (laundry)	lb.	28,667	298
Fruit (fresh)		—	211
Wood and timber	ft.	21,626	142

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the exports in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Dominions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1929	1,453	21,807	17,419	40,679
1930	412	14,421	11,570	26,403
1931	208	9,752	6,629	16,589
1932	1,313	8,155	4,550	14,018
1933	1,199	11,049	5,103	17,351

The destination of the exports was as follows :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		1,199
Bahamas	377	
Canada	10,017	
Jamaica	655	
		11,049
Haiti	1,447	
San Domingo	22	
United States of America	3,634	
		5,103
Total exports		£17,351

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1933 was £17,259, and the value of the re-exports was £92.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Common labourers employed in raking and carting salt earn from 2s. to 3s. a day of nine hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day

and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours. The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 3s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 6s. to 45s. a month with board and lodging.

The cost of living is comparatively high, especially in the case of officials and persons from abroad.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions :—bread, 4d. per lb. ; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb. ; salt meat, 10½d. per lb. ; salt fish, 9d. per lb. ; flour, 2½d. per lb. ; rice, 4d. per qrt. ; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt. ; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt. ; potatoes, 3d. per lb. ; lard, 9d. per lb. ; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz. ; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin ; butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb. ; cheese, 2s. per lb. ; sugar, 2½d. per lb. ; syrup, 9d. per qrt. ; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb. ; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb. ; cocoa, 1s. per lb. ; common soap, 5d. per lb. ; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the very poor nature of the soil, very little is grown.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools. There are eleven such schools throughout the Dependency ; one in each of the principal settlements.

The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 800, and the average attendance 519. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. There were 23 pupils on the roll in 1933, and the average attendance was 22. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established

at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a fair assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica, and one of them stops regularly every three weeks to land goods from England.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Dominica and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe were despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 89,000 postal articles during the year 1933.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, to Barbados, and to Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are really only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports of the Dependency in the year 1933 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total No.*	*Net Tonnage.*
Steamships ...	21	46	67	107,704
Sailing ships	163	7	170	9,695
Totals ...	184	53	237	117,399

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in the Islands. At the end of 1933 there were 846 accounts open with £13,364 on deposit. The business of the year amounted to £3,078 in deposits and £3,328 in withdrawals. The investments amounted to £10,844.

The ordinary means of remittance to correspondents abroad is by Post Office money orders (£5,523 in 1933) and the exchange drafts of merchants against shipments of salt.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver, and bronze coins, and Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these Islands.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the lack of funds no major public works were undertaken during the year 1933.

The usual minor public works such as the upkeep of the public buildings, streets, and roads, etc., were carried on throughout the year but on a reduced scale.

In consequence of the failure of the salt industry, due to the excessive rains during the year, unemployment relief works, financed by a loan by the Government of Jamaica, were carried on at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. These measures consisted mainly of work on the roads and streets of those settlements and relieved somewhat the acute distress caused by the stoppage of the salt-raking operations.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of five men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation, and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison and the senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison.

There were 160 crimes reported to or known to the Police in 1933. Of these 158 were brought before the Magistrate and 2 dropped for lack of sufficient evidence. Process was taken against 260 persons (119 males and 87 females), 10 being arrested and 196 summoned. Convictions were recorded against 166, of whom

90 were punished by fine, 28 by imprisonment, 2 juveniles were whipped, and 44 persons were bound over or otherwise dealt with, under the following classifications of wrong-doing: offences against the person 21; praedial larceny 25; malicious injury to property 2; other offences against property 25; and miscellaneous offences 93.

There were no persons tried in the Supreme Court.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Five ordinances were enacted by the Legislative Board in the year under review. These were the Appropriation for 1933, the Appropriation for 1934, and the Supplementary Appropriation for 1932, a Customs Tariff Ordinance fixing preferential rates of duty on goods imported from within the British Empire, and a re-enactment of certain repealed sections of the law governing the Magistrate's Court.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1929	11,260	11,605
1930	9,427	11,728
1931	10,318	12,820
1932	9,027	9,141
1933	9,774	10,518
Average of 5 years, 1929–33	9,961	11,162
,, 10 ,, 1924–33	10,607	12,058
,, 15 ,, 1919–33	10,828	11,603
,, 20 ,, 1914–33	10,321	10,877

In 1933 the ordinary revenue amounted to £9,208, and the ordinary expenditure to £9,943. For the third year in succession unseasonable and excessive rains have caused great damage and loss in the salt industry, the Dependency's main, and almost sole, industry—the manufacture of salt by the solar evaporation of sea-water. The total of imports and exports fell to half that of a normal year, and this loss of trade was strongly reflected in lowered receipts under all important heads of revenue. There was much distress in the Caicos Islands occasioned by the destruction of food crops by passing hurricanes, and in the salt-producing settlements relief works were carried on to help the unemployed.

The year opened with a deficit of £3,445 12s. 11d., and closed with a deficit of £4,190 7s. 3d. This deficit includes a balance of £1,499 0s. 7d. due to the Jamaica Treasury on several loans amounting to £1,900, largely expended in relief works in the rainy and unproductive years 1931–2–3.

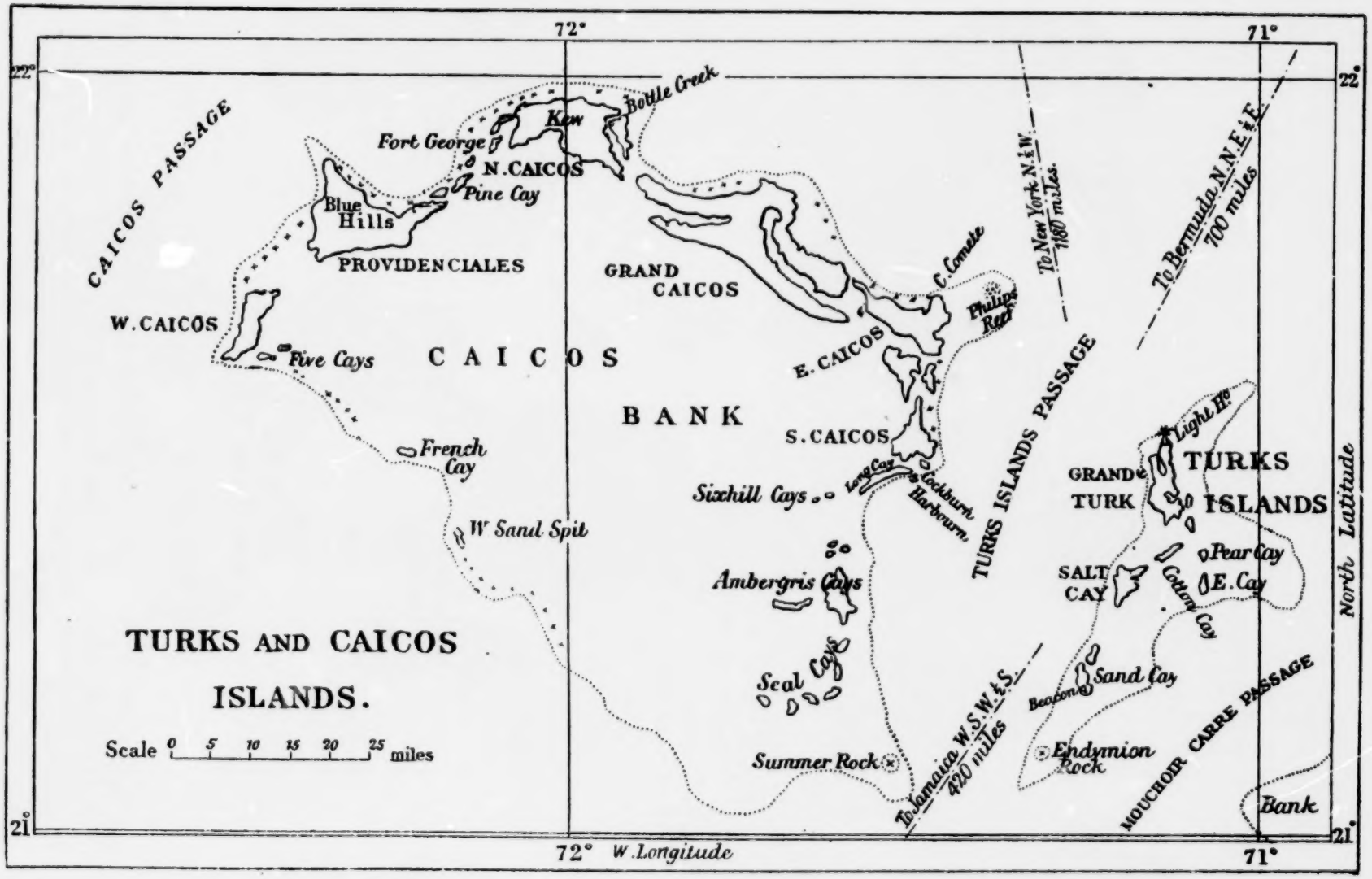
The several heads of Revenue in 1933 were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs Duties	4,260	12	3
Royalty on salt	1,003	3	6
Port Dues	749	14	4
Internal Revenue	1,966	6	5
Payments for Specific Services	162	1	7
Post Office	531	4	1
Revenue from Government Property ...	96	8	4
Interest	1	4	2
Miscellaneous	437	0	5
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	9,207	15	1
Voluntary Contributions by Public Officers	370	2	11
Appreciation of Savings Bank Investments	195	13	3
Total Revenue	9,773	11	3

The heads of Expenditure are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Interest on Public Debt	65	13	11
Pensions	1,759	10	5
Commissioner's Department...	1,779	19	8
Treasury and Customs	923	19	8
Judicial Department...	135	3	1
Police and Prisons Department	801	17	7
Medical Department...	1,454	8	1
Paupers and Lunatics...	299	12	2
Education	960	0	0
Miscellaneous	516	3	4
Post Office Department	354	3	7
Lighthouse Department	279	17	2
Public Works Department	400	0	0
Public Works Recurrent	212	13	4
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	9,943	2	0
Unemployment Relief Works	509	3	6
Public Works Extraordinary	66	0	1
Total Expenditure	10,518	5	7

Every effort continues to be made to keep down expenditure to the lowest possible limit. His Excellency Sir A. R. Slater, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., Governor of Jamaica, visited the Dependency in October, 1933, and after a discussion of retrenchment and any possible increase of revenue with the Legislative Board, instituted measures leading to an equation of expenditure with revenue which are to come into effect in 1934.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, 1933.

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1933.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858, 118 or 189 per square mile. The island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal, their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government

as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her

Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water and Sewerage Board appointed under Law 33 of 1933 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and Saint Andrew. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston including (Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1933 was 9,864, being at the rate of 9.4 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/8 per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

20. There was a noticeable decrease in Emigration and Immigration during 1933. The departures in 1931 were 1,842, in 1932, 840 and in 1933, 636. The arrivals in 1931 were 11,565, in 1932, 5,779 and in 1933, 2,638.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1933, was 1,090,269, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1932, and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1933.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1933 was 3,567, the rate being 3.3 per 1,000 of population as compared with 3.7 in 1932. During the same period 35,668 births were registered of which 18,173 were boys and 17,495 were girls. The birth rate works out to 32.9 per 1,000 as against 32.2 during 1932.

23. The number of deaths registered were 20,969 of which 10,560 were males, and 10,409 were females, the death rate being 19.3 per 1000. The rate for 1932 was 17.2. During 1933, 6,735 or 32.0 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,342 or 25.4 were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1932, were 33.2 and 26.4 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 14.9 as compared with 14.0 in 1932.

24. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Pneumonia 10.50, Heart Disease 8.47, Tuberculosis 7.87, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 7.55, Congenital Debility 6.81, Old Age 6.26, Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 4.00, Typhoid Fever 3.27, Syphilis 3.13, General Paralysis of the Insane 2.76 and Cancer 2.71.

CHAPTER IV.

Health 1933.

25. Following on two years of abnormal rainfall with a Malaria incidence above normal, the record rainstorms of 1933 distributed continuously over the latter half of the year resulted in a very great increase of Malaria in coastal areas both in intensity and geographical distribution far beyond the ordinary endemic areas. Damage to houses and food supplies, together with Influenza of a mild type, also contributed in these areas to intensify ill health due to Malaria. The mortality from this disease was however low.

26. An epidemic of Typhoid Fever occurred in the town of Port Antonio in the summer with 46 cases but no deaths.

Vital Statistics.

27. The Report of the Registrar General states that the estimated population on 31.12.33 was 1,090,269, and that the Death rate had risen from 17.21 in 1932 to 19.38 in 1933.

28. The Death Rates under 1 year and under 5 years were respectively 149.7 and 214.7 as compared with 140.9 and 202.2 in 1932.

29. The Birth Rate was 32.96 per 1,000 population.

30. The rise in the Death Rate is largely accounted for by increases in deaths from Undefined Fevers and Acute Respiratory Diseases, and the mortality among the persons over 65 years is observed to be markedly increased.

Principal Disease Groups.

31. *Enteric Fevers.*—1,092 cases of Typhoid Fever were notified in 1933 as compared with 1929 in 1932 and 900 in 1931. The slight increase was largely accounted for by the Port Antonio epidemic, some increase of notifications in Kingston, and a marked increase in Upper Trelawny; on the other hand 223 deaths were recorded as compared with 297 in 1932. Marked increase of Malaria caused difficulties of diagnosis and bearing this in mind it is reasonable to state that Typhoid continues to shew a downward trend. 298 cases were treated in the Kingston Hospital and 406 in country Hospitals.

32. *Malaria.*—507 deaths were recorded as compared with 536 in 1932 in spite of the great general increase of the disease during the latter half of the year, though the severe drought of the first half largely balanced the result.

33. 427 cases with 11 deaths were treated in the Kingston Hospital as compared with 230 cases and 3 deaths in 1932. In country Hospitals there were 4,536 in-patients and 10,083 out-patients in 1933 as compared with 2,043 in-patients and 5,496 out-patients in 1932. The sharp increase in the Corporate Area was mainly confined to western Kingston and to a less degree to eastern Kingston. The parishes of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, St. Thomas and parts of Manchester were the most seriously affected, and the Health Officers distributed free treatment to 3,997 cases.

34. Trelawny, Portland, St. James, Manchester, St. Elizabeth undertook some mosquito control work by either providing funds for materials or by utilising their Sanitary Staffs.

35. *Undefined Fevers.*—Outside of the chief Towns, the majority of the deaths are not medically certified, and the most important uncertified cause of death is "Fever." Under this Heading 2,824 deaths were recorded in 1933 as compared with 2,317 in 1932.

36. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—1,246 cases were notified as compared with 1,307 in 1932, and 1,263 deaths were recorded as compared with 1,456 in 1932, although there has been steady improvement in recording of both cases and deaths in recent years due to the activities of Central and Local Health Authorities and the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the deaths recorded each year continue to decline.

The problem is most serious in Kingston and other larger towns and is clearly associated with overcrowding and low economic status.

37. *Venereal Disease.*—In the Kingston Hospital 465 cases of Syphilis were treated as in-patients and 6,156 individuals received 14,050 Salvarsan treatments in the V. D. Clinic. 195 cases of Gonococcal infections were admitted. In the Country Hospitals 700 cases of Syphilis were admitted and 5,892 cases were treated as out-patients, and for Gonococcal infections there were 824 in-patients and 2,566 out-patients.

38. *Yaws.*—Following on the investigations of the Yaws Commission a new plan of Control was instituted during the latter half of the year which involved the co-ordination of all the Medical and Sanitary Services. Although excessive rains interfered with the inauguration of the plan, treatments were recorded as follows:—

District Medical Officers	37,240
Medical Officers of Health	10,781
Yaws Commission	9,550
Total treatments ..	57,571

In 1932 approximately 33,338 treatments were given.

Hospitals.

39. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	30
Public Lunatic Asylum, Kingston	1,864
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay	30
" " " Hordley	40
" " " Port Antonio	55
" " " Buff Bay	50
" " " Annotto Bay	60
" " " Port Maria	65
" " " St. Ann's Bay	40
" " " Cave Valley	12
" " " Falmouth	25
" " " Ulster Spring	6
" " " St. James	70
" " " Lucea	30
" " " Sav.-la-Mar	66
" " " Black River	70
" " " Mandeville	35
" " " Chapelton	33
" " " Lionel Town	50
" " " Spanish Town	70
" " " Linstead	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

40. The work of the Hospitals was considerably increased as compared with 1932, the main cause of the increase being Malaria. The number of admissions for this disease was 4,963 or nearly twice the number admitted in 1932.

41. At the Kingston Hospital there were 7,833 admissions, 819 deaths and 162,734 attendances at the Out-patients Department. 1,692 major and 1,667 minor operations were performed. In the X-Ray Department 2,293 patients attended with 6,500 exposures as compared with 1,950 patients in 1932.

42. In the Country Hospitals there were 19,149 admissions with 1,156 deaths and 63,892 attendances at the Out-patients Department. 1,591 major and 7,762 minor operations were performed.

43. In accordance with the policy for improving medical facilities to people at distances from Hospitals the number of dispensaries and out-stations was increased from 12 to 26.

Prevention of Disease.

44. The special Commissions organised by the Central Board of Health with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation dealing with the control of Hookworm disease, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Yaws continued their activities during the year.

45. Ten of the fourteen parishes now have full-time Health Officers and the permanent staffs of all parishes are making progress in adopting the methods of disease control worked out by the Commissions as far as funds permit.

46. All parishes, except one, made progress in latrine construction and maintenance in spite of adverse financial conditions among householders, and the control of gastro-intestinal diseases by latrine maintenance is now an established activity of the permanent staffs of Local Boards of Health.

47. Satisfactory work was done by the majority of Local Boards on Yaws control along the lines devised by the Yaws Commission and their work in this respect is rapidly assuming uniformity and permanence. Mobile Treatment Units will be necessary for dealing with areas of high infection until this is reduced within limits which can be dealt with by permanent staffs.

48. The studies of the Tuberculosis Commission during the past six years have culminated in the formulation of a definite plan for Tuberculosis control which is being developed, as funds permit, and established on a permanent basis.

49. While progress is being made by Local Boards in assuming responsibility for Malaria control as an ordinary duty of their permanent staffs, most of this work is still carried out by the Malaria Commission.

50. Two additional parishes organised School Dental Clinics making a total of 10 parishes.

51. As Local Boards of Health assume responsibility and endeavour to develop permanent activities for dealing with their Health problems in the manner recommended by the Central Board of Health, the need for increased Parochial expenditure on Health matters becomes more evident.

52. *Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.*—The Hookworm Commission and Parochial Health Departments completed a total of 12,298 new latrines and treated 34,005 persons for Hookworm disease. The Treatment Units of the Hookworm Commission operated in the parishes of Trelawny and St. James and 74% out of 38,698 persons were found infected.

53. The water supply of Kingston was seriously damaged by the rainstorms of August but with no unfavourable results to the Public Health and the bacteriological standard is being maintained. Minor improvements in rural water supplies were carried out.

54. *School Hygiene and Dental Clinics.*—School Dental Clinics were conducted in the following parishes—Kingston, St. Andrew, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Clarendon and St. Catherine, and 41,703 treatments were given to 19,678 children.

55. *Bureau of Health Education.*—Volume 8 of the Bulletin "Jamaica Public Health" was issued with a circulation of 20,000 copies monthly. Particular attention was paid to Tuberculosis and Yaws and special numbers dealt with safe water supplies, milk and Empire Health Week.

56. The Division of Pre-natal work mailed 9,702 letters to 1,078 expectant mothers.

57. The Bureau also provides leaflets, posters and placards for distribution.

58. *Malaria Commission.*—The mean rainfall for the Island for 60 years is 73.64 inches and in 1933 it was 116.53 as compared with 91.53 in 1931 and 75.97 in 1932. The total rainfall from January to May was only 14.84 inches. The result of the excessive rains in the second half of the year was a very great increase of Malaria to epidemic proportions in the western half of the Island and to a less degree in the eastern half.

59. The usual annual aestivo-autumnal increase of Malaria was postponed due to the very low rainfall during the spring, and it is to be noted that the autumnal outbreaks of 1933 shew a relative increase

in simple tertian infections especially at Golden Grove and Montego Bay as compared with the usual predominance of malignant tertians. Control work was maintained in defined areas at Golden Grove, Caymanas, Vere, Black River, Montego Bay, Oracabessa, Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Sav.-la-Mar and Little London.

60. In spite of the great general increase of Malaria throughout the Island the control areas of Falmouth and Annotto Bay shewed improvement over 1932, Oracabessa, Caymanas, Vere and Little London shewed no increase, but Black River, Montego Bay and Sav.-la-Mar rose in November and December, while Golden Grove rose in August, September and October but rapidly declined in November and December as a result of increased control measures.

61. The use of ditching was increased and gave satisfactory results particularly at Little London, Sav.-la-Mar and Golden Grove in view of the difficulties attendant on the use of Paris Green during periods of heavy continuous rain. The freshening and extension of enclosed coastal swamps near Towns such as Montego Bay call for construction of tidal canals as being the cheapest method of controlling mosquito breeding in them.

62. *Tuberculosis Commission.*—The work undertaken during the year consisted of (1) Maintenance of the Kingston Dispensary for the usual dispensary activities of diagnosis, selection of cases for beds, field nursing service and treatment. (2) Continuation of Tuberculosis survey in three selected areas of Kingston, one representing the poorest and most overcrowded sections, the other two being of higher types as regards housing, density of population and social status. (3) Pathological studies on Post mortem material. (4) Continuation of investigations on vaccination with emulsions of heat killed bacilli as a method of immunisation. (5) Maintenance of the Mobile Dispensary for epidemiological studies in rural areas and for assisting Parochial Health Departments in establishing dispensary service.

63. 1,329 new patients were examined at the Kingston Dispensary, 2,755 specimens of sputum were examined, 1,835 tuberculin tests were performed, 7,150 visits were made by nurses and 3,496 X-Ray exams. were made. The Dispensary also notified 333 cases out of a total of 1,246 notified for the Island.

64. Surgical treatment was undertaken on selected cases with useful results but the lack of beds prevents more extensive work of this kind.

65. The incidence of Tuberculosis in the Survey area is as follows:

Area.	Population Censused.	No. given Tuberculin Test.	No. Reactors.	Reactors X-Rayed.	No. Reactors manifest T.B.	No. latent T.B.
1. Smith Village ..	2,439	1,942	1,660	1,983	37	150
2. Franklin Town ..	1,661	1,504	1,215	1,155	14	92
*3. Brentford Road ..	971	552	434	323	2	19

*3. Not yet finished. 1. The poorest section, 2 and 3 better than 1, and 3 better than 2.

66. Pathological studies were made of 152 sets of lungs.

67. Immunisation studies were continued at the Mental Hospital. During the year 364 patients on admission had a Tuberculin test and 333 gave a positive reaction. 262 patients were X-Rayed, 13 advanced and 13 early cases were discovered in these studies.

68. The Mobile Unit operated in the parishes of Portland, St. James and St. Catherine during the year, located at Port Antonio, Manchioneal Hope Bay, Montego Bay, Adelphi and Spanish Town with the following results:—

Place.	New Patients examined	Manifest cases of T.B.	Latent T.B.	Tuberculin Tests.	Tuberculin Positive	Reactors X-Rayed.
Portland ..	1,089	40	7	1,989	1,218	913
St. James ..	151	20	8	831	460	395
St. Catherine	614	23	14	*611	*359	272

* Children pre school and school.

69. In addition to the information on the epidemiology of Tuberculosis being obtained by this Unit, the service has been of the greatest, value in assisting Medical Officers of Health to organise their own dispensaries and field service. Prior to 1928 there was no Tuberculosis dispensary service in the Island, but at present this is provided by the Health Officers in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Mary, Portland, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover and Manchester; and during that period wards in Poor Houses for indigent cases have been provided by Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (42 beds), Portland (12), St. Mary (16), St. Ann (12), St. James (16), Hanover (6), Manchester (8), and Trelawny (6).

70. The Medical Officers in charge have been gaining experience in surgical treatment and the need for beds for this purpose in conjunction with the dispensary service is urgent.

71. *Anti-Tuberculosis League.*—The League was founded in 1927, and branches are now established in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. James, Trelawny, St. Mary, Portland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester.

72. The parent body maintains two full-time nurses for the Kingston dispensary, who paid 3,737 visits to cases in Kingston and St. Andrew, and contributed to the salaries of a nurse doing Tuberculosis and Infant Welfare work in Spanish Town, while the St. James branch contributed to the salary of a nurse in Montego Bay for tuberculosis work.

73. The League maintained 12 healthy children from tuberculosis families in the Rio Cobre Home, and provided food relief for a large number of indigent cases.

74. *Yaws Commission.*—This consists of a central office and Laboratory in Kingston with three separate field Units, each Unit consisting of a Medical Officer, a Clerk, a Treatment Assistant and 4 Sanitary Inspectors; and the routine of a Treatment Unit is now well established. Two Sanitary Inspectors survey areas in advance by house to house census, covering, 2,000—3,000 persons in a rural area in 6 weeks. The Treatment Centre is then located in the area, spends one week examining the cases and 6 or 7 weeks giving treatment. This makes a minimum of 8 weeks required to complete an area including time for removal. The two other Sanitary Inspectors bring in the cases while the first two are censusing a new area.

75. Blood specimens are collected for all patients and complete records for physical and serological examinations are kept.

76. A Treatment Unit averages about 75 intravenous injections per day and very many more if intra-muscular injections are given, and treatment is given to both cases with lesions and also cases without lesions who give a Yaws history of less than 4 years' duration.

77. About 4 months after the completion of an area, the Unit re-visits the area and spends 2 weeks resurveying and treating relapsed cases or new cases and it is planned to make a third visit after 8 to 10 months interval.

78. Two of the Units are devoted to treatment only but one undertakes research as well as treatment.

79. The following Table shews treatment work done:—

Parish.	Population Censused.	No. of patients treated.	No. of Treatments.
St. Thomas ..	3,084	602	1,881
St. Mary.. ..	17,089	2,212	7,669
Total ..	20,173	2,814	9,550

80. The Units operate only in districts of heavy infection with a view to reducing the rate rapidly to a point where the limited permanent staff of the Medical and Health Services will be able to handle it.

81. In other parts of the Island a plan of control has been put into operation based on the methods of survey and treatment found satisfactory in the Yaws Commission.

82. In the Laboratory over 15,000 blood specimens were examined by Wassermann Reaction and Eagle Flocculation Test.

83. The Rockefeller Foundation provided a Medical Entomologist and investigations were carried out on Laboratory animals and in the field on transmission by direct contact and insect vectors.

84. Studies were made on Involvement of the CardioVascular, Bone and Neurological systems in Yaws.

School for Sanitary Inspectors.

85. The Fifth Session of the School for Sanitary Inspectors opened on 15th November, 1932 and ended on 3rd March, 1933. Of 27 students, 14 were from the staffs of the Central and Local Boards of Health. 19 students sat for the Examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute with 1 failure. 1 of the 27 failed to obtain the Local Government Certificate as a Sanitary Inspector.

86. During the five Sessions of the School since 1927 110 men have, received training and 66 of them have obtained the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Parochial Health Departments.

87. The work of these Departments is reported under the following Heads—I. Administration, II. Health Education, III. Communicable Disease Control, IV. Child Hygiene, V. Sanitation, VI. Legal.

88. *Health Education.*—399 lectures are recorded from all parishes with an estimated attendance of 33,678, the majority of them being given by Sanitary Inspectors in Schools.

89. *Communicable Disease Control.*—Health Officers in all parishes except Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Ann, Hanover, Westmoreland and Clarendon reported holding regular Chest Clinics at which there was a total attendance of 3,132, and the Sanitary Inspectors and

Nurses made 2,818 home visits to cases. Only two Nurses are however now employed for this work, one in Spanish Town and one in Montego Bay.

90. Health Officers notified 26% of the total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified and 8% of the total Typhoid cases.

91. Routine Laboratory examinations of sputum for Tuberculosis were undertaken at the Clinics in St. Catherine, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny, St. James and Manchester and all Medical Officers of Health except in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Ann, Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Elizabeth undertake examinations of faecal specimens for ova of worms and blood smears for Malarial parasites.

92. A total of 5,902 specimens were examined in these Parochial Health Departments in 1933 although prior to 1928 before the establishment of full-time Medical Officers of Health only one parish recorded Laboratory work. The demands of trained Medical Officers of Health for increased laboratory facilities are beyond the present capacity of the Government Laboratory, one important item being water samples.

93. A satisfactory start on the new plan of Yaws Control was made in the parishes of Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny and St. Catherine, a total of 23,839 cases in 302,107 population being found in these parishes up to the end of 1933. The disease appears to be of minor importance in St. Ann. Useful work was done in St. James, St. Thomas and Clarendon although the Sanitary Staffs have not yet established the census work on a satisfactory basis. In Hanover, Westmoreland and Manchester very little progress has yet been recorded but the Boards are now giving the matter more serious consideration.

94. Medical Officers of Health gave considerable assistance in the actual treatment although the primary duty of their Departments is to find the cases and present them to the District Medical Officers for a full course of treatment. Medical Officers of Health gave 10,781 treatments, 5,936 of those having been given by M.O.H. St. Elizabeth to 1,252 cases.

95. Medical Officers of Health gave 32,216 anti-typhoid inoculations. Portland, Trelawny and Manchester shewing 3,929, 8,894 and 8,680 respectively.

96. The Central Board of Health provided quinine for free distribution by Parochial Staffs in Malaria affected areas and treatment was provided for 4,065 persons which was of great value in controlling the mortality rate from the disease.

97. *Child Hygiene.*—Apart from the School Dental Clinics the only activity is an Infant Clinic by the M.O.H. St. Catherine and his nurse made 1,544 visits to Infants in Spanish Town.

98. *Sanitation.*—Under this Heading is included disposal of excreta, wastes and refuse; protection of water, milk and foods; anti-mosquito measures; complaints and nuisances.

99. Parochial Departments completed 9,321 new latrines and repaired 9,563 old ones.

100. Registration of dairies is recorded from all parishes except St. Thomas, St. Mary, Hanover, St. Elizabeth and Manchester; and progress in dairy sanitation was made in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Trelawny.

101. The control of slaughtering of animals throughout the Island still leaves much to be desired. Effective Slaughter House Regulations up to the present have only been adopted for the towns of Kingston and Falmouth but other parishes are giving the matter attention and the parish of St. Catherine is conducting good supervision in Spanish Town though under inadequate Regulations.

102. 55,144 examinations of foodhandlers were made. The Sanitary Staffs made 368,488 sanitary inspections, dealt with 2,229 complaints and abated 9,178 nuisances. They also issued 28,631 written notices and prosecuted 865 persons for breach of the Health Law.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

103. In the Corporate area, and particularly in the better class residential areas, there was continued activity in new construction, 2,253 building applications being submitted to the Medical Officers of Health for approval. Private enterprise has initiated the development of suburban residential townships which are of a good sanitary standard, but this activity is at present unco-ordinated and it would be of advantage for a comprehensive Town Planning scheme to be adopted for the whole of the Corporate area.

104. The surveys of the Tuberculosis Commission in sections of Kingston and rural districts will give, when complete, valuable information on housing in relation to Tuberculosis, but it is already evident that the problem is closely related to overcrowding in the slum areas of the towns, and the need for slum clearance schemes, especially in Kingston, is urgent.

105. Building regulations were adopted for the towns of Black River and Morant Bay during the year.

106. The work of the Hookworm Commission in rural areas shows that on the average the Housing density is 5 persons per home, but no data are yet available as to room density. Many of the rural homes still consist of one room only with inadequate ventilation, but private enterprise here also is effecting steady improvement in the type and size of the working people's homes, and in view of the success obtained by the Parochial Health Departments in enforcing a good standard of latrine construction on an Island wide basis, the possibility of adopting model housing regulations outside of towns seems worthy of consideration by Local Boards.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

107. The year 1933 was marked by abnormal weather conditions. The storm of November, 1932 was followed by a dry period which continued until May, 1933. The Island rainfall for the months of January to May, 1933 was 13.84 inches, 41% less than the average of 23.77 inches for 60 years. The latter half of the year was characterised by exceptionally heavy rainfall amounting to 102.69 inches which was 106% above the 60 year average. Two weather disturbances during this period occasioned considerable damage to life, property and crops. On August 15th a weather disturbance of slight to moderate intensity developed SSE. of the Island and moved WNW. Great flood rains causing loss of life and serious damage to roads and property fell in the Eastern and Central parishes during the night of August 15—16.

On October 28th a weather disturbance developed S.E. of the Island and moved WNW. increasing to hurricane force during the night of the 28th. It passed over the western parishes on the 29th causing considerable destruction of property and cultivation. The rainfall in October amounted to 28.43 inches which was highest mean monthly fall during the past 63 years. The records indicate that the Eastern half of the Island received proportionately more rain than the western during the year.

108. These exceptional weather conditions focussed the attention of agriculturists generally on three important matters—the susceptibility of the Gros Michel banana to damage by winds of moderate intensity; the desirability of exploring underground sources of water for irrigation purposes; and the serious effects of soil erosion during periods of heavy rainfall on denuded areas. Apart from direct damage by wind and floods to bananas, the increased incidence of Panama Disease in banana cultivations on lands subject to flooding was apparent during the year and interest in the production and testing of immune varieties of banana as well as in types which would stand wind damage better than the Gros Michel was evidenced to a greater extent.

109. The development of the use of underground water for irrigation purposes received an impetus during the dry months of 1933 which has resulted in a considerable increase of the number of wells from which water is drawn for irrigation purposes in the Plains of St. Catherine and St. Andrew. This phase of irrigation work is by no means new as there has been considerable activity in the boring of tube wells during the past five years. It is stated that in Vere and Mid-Clarendon alone there are between 250 and 300 wells, old and new. In the Plains of St. Catherine there appears to be room for still further development of underground water for irrigation purposes to supplement the Rio Cobre Canal. Of several wells installed during 1933, the largest delivers 1,200—1,300 cubic yards per hour. More than twenty tube wells have been sunk in the Liguanea Plains, most of them having capacities of about 80 cubic yards per hour.

110. Various factors have contributed to the serious forest destruction and denudation of the higher lands of the Island, which in their turn contributed to the very heavy soil erosion which became so noticeable during the latter half of the year 1933. Considerable interest is being displayed by the agricultural population in reafforestation and the checking of erosion on steep hillside cultivations opened up during recent years by small settlers. The Department of Agriculture and the Jamaica Agricultural Society have played an active part in encouraging the planting of useful trees while considerable interest is being displayed by planters in various parts of the Island. The destruction of useful growth by uncontrolled fires started by persons with the object of preparing their lands for cultivation was very marked during the early part of 1933 and again directed public attention to the necessity for strict control of scrub fires.

111. The unusual weather conditions of the year exercised their most marked effect on the production of bananas which had already suffered severely as a result of the storm of November, 1932. The re-establishment of plantations was hindered by the dry weather of the early part of the year, and plantations which were coming into bearing again suffered by the storms of August and October, while occasional Northers, particularly one in September, caused serious losses in certain parishes. The exports of bananas were approximately one half of those for the year 1932, the actual figures being:

1932.....20,360,613 stems (13,764,020 counts)
1933.....10,557,369 stems (6,001,861 counts)

112. There was a slight fall in the production of Annatto, Cocoa, Honey and a few other products while Coffee, Sarsaparilla, Dry Ginger, Hides and Skins, Logwood Extracts, Pimento, Rum, Wood and Timber showed increases over the corresponding figures for the year 1932. Omitting bananas from the export values for the years 1932 and 1933, one finds that the export value of all other products was actually £350,-776 greater in 1933 than in 1932, the actual total value of exports of all products, excluding bananas, for 1933 being £1,753,022 as compared with £1,402,246 in 1932. The total value of all exports for 1933 was £2,771,498 compared with £3,271,357 for 1932. These figures give a clear indication of the susceptibility of bananas to damage by storms and point to the stabilizing effect on the Colony's prosperity of its permanent crops and of such industries as the production of Ginger, Sugar and Rum as well as of the Stock Industries.

113. In the absence of any machinery for the collection of agricultural statistics, it is not possible to give more than a rough approximation of the actual total production of commodities, some of which are almost wholly exported, others partly exported and partly consumed locally and others entirely consumed within the Colony. The population of the Colony is in round figures 1,100,000 and the people subsist very largely on local agricultural produce such as ground vegetables, pulses, coconut oil and fruit, products which, with the exception of the last, do not figure in export statistics. Bananas, though practically entirely produced for export are consumed in considerable quantities locally, fruit rejected for export finding its way into the local market. Plantains are grown to a limited extent for home consumption. A true index of Citrus production is not given by the export figures as there is a considerable local trade in this class of fruit, development during 1933 being the sale of culls by barrow-men in Kingston. The expression of juice from culled fruit for local sale was commenced in 1933 with success. Potatoes are largely grown for local sale and provide agriculturists in certain districts with a remunerative crop raised entirely from imported seed. Potatoes, like other crops produced for local consumption such as maize and red peas, lack a proper marketing organization which would enable the heavy stocks available at certain periods to be held for a short time and released for sale and consumption in accordance with the capacity of the local market to absorb them. The effect of this would be to stimulate local production by securing better average prices and to reduce the imports of these commodities which could and should be almost entirely produced within the Island. The necessity for suitable arrangements to store the immediate surplus crops of potatoes, peas and corn, is recognised.

114. A wide range of fruits and vegetables is grown and the possibility of developing an export trade in certain minor products which grow easily in the Island is under notice. During 1933 small scale export trials were made with mangoes, avocado pears and tomatoes. Tobacco continues to be grown in some quantity for local consumption and for supply to the local Tobacco Factory where it is used for cigar filling. As a general rule the leaf is air-cured in a rather primitive way. The question of producing bright Virginia type leaf in the Colony has again been revived and a commercial scale trial was commenced late in the year, the plants being raised in a nursery and distributed to growers, mostly East Indians, who were guaranteed a price for the raw product. The results of this trial are awaited with interest.

115. *Sugar.*—There was a slight fall in the total production of sugar in 1933. The dry weather during the first five months of the year provided an ideal reaping season and the cane crop was harvested in record time. Some difficulty was experienced in replanting owing to the unusual weather conditions and the shortage of planting material. The storm of October 28th and 29th caused damage to sugar cane crops but despite that the estimated crop for the 1934 season is 66,000 tons, a considerable advance on the past few years. Of the cane varieties planted B.H. 10 (12) is still considered generally the best variety and P.O.J. strains 2878, 2727 and 2725 are quickly replacing the Uba where Mosaic disease is prevalent. Of other varieties planted E.K. 28 is used only on alluvial soils in the Vere district where it yields heavily. Apparently when tried on heavy soils it gave poor results and planters seem to have come too early to the conclusion that it is unsuitable under such conditions. It appears worthy of more extensive trials under various soil and climatic conditions.

116. Manurial experiments were continued by the Department of Agriculture with the co-operation of cane planters who appear on the whole to be evincing greater interest in the cultivation of their fields than formerly. There are now two "Gyro-tillers" in the Island which are doing first class work. They have demonstrated their efficiency and cheapness in the cultivation of cane lands. Some extension of cane planting took place in St. Catherine on lands which were under this crop in former years. The area under sugar cane has also been increased in Vere.

117. Mosaic disease is steadily decreasing due to the extent of planting of the improved Java varieties which are commercially immune. A root disease has appeared to a serious extent on some estates and is being combated by liming, improved drainage and the planting of resistant varieties. The disease is encouraged by continuous ratooning and the planting of old ratoon material which is diseased. Formerly cane planting was almost entirely confined to areas owned by the larger planters of the Island but of late increased interest has been displayed in the crop by small settlers who are conveniently situated for the supply of cane to a mill. The rapid encroachment of Panama Disease in banana lands has necessitated attention being given to the production of other crops. In the districts affected, sugar cane offers the best alternative to bananas, provided there is a sure avenue of disposal for the crop. This question is of importance in connection with Jamaica's export quota of sugar.

118. *Rum.*—The Rum Pool established in 1932 continued to operate with success. Though actual production was negligible, the exports were 385,872 gallons, valued at £48,273, compared with 181,469 gallons valued at £21,519 in 1932. The stocks of rum held in the Island on 31st December totalled 1,785,841 gallons.

119. *Coconuts and Copra.*—The exports of Copra during 1933 amounted to 2,288 tons valued at £21,959. The export was less than in 1932 owing to the favourable market for whole nuts in the United States and to the local expression of coconut oil both for edible and soap making purposes, while there was some loss occasioned by unusual weather conditions. The export of Coconuts amounted to 37½ million as compared with 39¼ million in 1932. It is estimated that the local expression of oil accounted for a consumption of approximately 3,600 tons of Copra equivalent to some 20 million coconuts. There is in addition a very considerable local consumption of coconuts, the milk

of young nuts being used for drinking on a large scale while quantities of mature nuts are used for the manufacture of crude coconut oil.

120. *Coffee.*—The export of Raw Coffee increased by approximately 1,000,000 lbs. the total for 1933 being 9,824,230 lbs. This crop is increasingly favoured by small settlers who find that it provides them with a remunerative subsidiary crop which can be handled at small expense by themselves and their families.

121. *Wood and Timber.*—A remarkable feature of the Colony's exports during the year under review was the increase in Wood and Timber. 2,821 tons of Bitterwood (*Picraena excelsa*) were exported in 1933—an increase of 293% over the figure for 1932. 2,253 tons of Fustic, 53% more than in 1932 were exported, while Logwood with 25,104 tons showed an increase of 30% over the 1932 figure.

122. *Logwood Extracts.*—The exports increased by 79% from 16,692 cwt. in 1932 to 30,045 cwt. in 1933.

123. *Ginger.*—Ginger increased in quantity from 1,661,415 lbs. in 1932 to 1,665,928 lbs. in 1933, but declined in value.

124. *Pimento.*—Pimento exports exceeded those of 1932 by 10%, the 1933 output being 9,101,329 lbs. valued at £69,811.

125. *Cocoa.*—Cocoa showed a further decline from 43,757 cwt. (1932) to 33,430 cwt. (1933), the primary cause being continued low prices which have led to neglect of plantations.

126. *Citrus.*—The exports of citrus fruit during the year showed a slight decline, particularly in Grapefruit which decreased to the extent of nearly 2,000,000 fruits, equivalent to approximately 14%. The figures for the calendar year do not give a true indication of production for the crop year. The commencement of the export season was affected by adverse weather conditions which were general throughout the citrus growing districts during the later months of the year.

127. The Government scheme for fostering the citrus industry with the objects of assisting and encouraging the production of standard varieties in districts where commercial scale citrus growing is already carried on, and of establishing citrus as a permanent crop in districts where the inroad of Panama Disease is serious and where soil and other conditions are suitable, made considerable progress during the year. Two large nurseries for the production of budded plants were established by the Department of Agriculture, and towards the end of the year an officer of that Department visited Spanish Honduras and Florida with the objects of observing the conditions under which the citrus industry is conducted in those places and of introducing supplies of budwood from tested trees of standard varieties. This mission was successful and resulted in the introduction of some 9,000 buds from Florida which were put on to established sour orange stocks in the departmental nurseries. A satisfactorily high percentage of the buddings was successful and the plants are now being raised with the dual object of providing further supplies of budwood for local use and raising citrus plants of standard varieties for distribution. Interest is being displayed generally throughout the Colony in the project and the keen comment and criticism freely offered by many persons who realise the importance of the citrus industry evinces a healthy attitude of mind towards this development. Enquiries were pursued during 1933 in regard to the possibility of marketing citrus fruit in New Zealand where supplies from Empire sources are not available during the period when this class of fruit is in greatest demand in that Dominion. The preliminary enquiries were successfull and by the end of the year arrangements had been made for supplies to be sent forward. It is not at present possible

to state what quantity the new market will be able to absorb but it seems probable that a total of 40,000 cases for the season, principally of oranges, can be disposed of profitably in New Zealand, while as the fruit becomes known, the business in grapefruit may be expected to expand.

128. The work of the Produce Inspection Division was particularly important in connection with citrus exports during the year and the efficient manner in which officers discharged their duties exercised a beneficial effect on the quality of exports as well as indicating to growers and shippers the necessity for conducting all operations connected with production and marketing so as to ensure a high standard of quality of Jamaica fruit in export markets.

129. The Jamaica Citrus Producers' Association continued to operate during the year though their returns were affected by lower market prices and by the effect of the dollar exchange. The equipment in the packing house was extended and improved during the year, an interesting feature being the installation of the "Brogdex" plant for wax coating processed fruit. The Department of Agriculture continued to work in close association with those engaged in the citrus industry in order further to study the various problems of production and marketing.

Co-operative Marketing in 1933.

130. The Citrus Association continued to increase its membership while the volume of its shipments showed a falling off during the first part of the 1933-34 season for the reasons already outlined. The Association was responsible for establishing touch with fruit importers in New Zealand and by the end of the year had concluded arrangements for initial shipments to be made to that new market.

131. The Jamaica Coconut Producer's Association experienced difficulties during the year which necessitated re-organisation. It handled a large quantity of nuts both for shipment to overseas market and for the manufacture of Copra and edible oil at the Kingston factory.

132. The Jamaica Pimento Producers' Association did not operate during the year.

133. The new Jamaica Producers' Vegetable and Small Fruit Association Limited commenced operation on a small scale and made shipments of tomatoes to Eastern and Western Canada and of mangoes in small quantity to the United Kingdom. The tomatoes were well received and resulted in a demand for greater quantities than could be supplied. The export of mangoes is still in the experimental stage and further enquiries are necessary before regular shipments to the limited seasonal market in the United Kingdom can be made successfully.

Fruit and Vegetable Conference.

134. A successful Inter-Colonial Fruit and Vegetable Conference at which all British Colonies of the West Indian area, with the exception of Barbados, were represented, was held in Jamaica during October. The British Trade Commissioner in the West Indies, the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Jamaica and representatives of Canadian mercantile and shipping interests attended as Observers. The Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State visited Jamaica specially to attend the Conference, the proceedings of which were conducted under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Sir William Morrison, Kt. The recommendations and proceedings of the Conference afford a valuable outline of the policy which should be pursued in regard to the development of fruit and vegetable production in the West Indies and indicate the necessity for co-operative effort amongst the Colonies as well as

within the individual Colonies in regard to a wide range of matters connected therewith.

135. The former Advisory Committee on the Banana Industry was extended during the year both in membership and in terms of reference. Three meetings of the Banana Advisory Committee were held and one meeting of the new Committee on the Banana and Citrus Industries. A high proportion of the routine business of the Committee was carried on by circulated papers, 58 of which were issued during the year. The Committee advised, *inter alia*, on the working of the Citrus Nursery scheme, the Banana Variety scheme, the proposed enquiries on the biological control of the Banana Borer, and the conduct of the campaign for the treatment of Panama Disease.

136. *Livestock.*—Considering the extremely hard weather conditions of 1933 the animal health of the Island has been fairly good. The hurricane of November, 1932 was followed by a six to eight months drought over most of the Island which made the maintenance of livestock difficult and reduced their vitality and stamina. This period was followed by six months of phenomenal rainfall which made fodder plentiful but other living conditions very distressing, especially to animals of recent birth and the working animals on the estates.

137. Of the diseases notifiable by Law, anthrax is the only one which during the year occurred to any large extent. Six properties were declared Infected Places, one a Suspected Place and four were held under surveillance for a short time by Provisional Quarantine Orders until the presence of anthrax infection was definitely eliminated. Prompt disposal of infected carcasses, quarantine restrictions in all cases and vaccination prevented extension of infection from the initial foci.

138. There have been no cases of Foot and Mouth Disease since early August, 1926. Occasionally conditions simulating this malady have been reported (three such in the past year), but all these upon investigation proved to be false alarms.

139. Of the non-notifiable diseases:—*Blackleg* of cattle still causes some losses, but as preventive seasonal vaccination becomes more generally practised the mortality from this disease is being and will be reduced.

(ii) *Bovine tuberculosis.*—No general survey of the incidence of this disease has as yet been possible. The few preliminary tuberculin tests conducted by the Department of Agriculture and the information obtained from slaughtering establishments and other sources indicate that this disease is more common in the cattle (especially pen cattle and working herds) than was conjectured.

(iii) *Tick Fever.*—Sporadic outbreaks of very limited percentage incidence have occurred during the year. At present preventative measures other than regular "dipping" for tick suppression are not possible. Early treatment of acute cases with Trypan Blue is curative.

(iv) *Parasitic diseases*—Of these the parasitic worms of the alimentary canal and lungs of young stock, especially calves, lambs, kids and pigs, are a constant source of loss and discouragement to breeders. Many of these affections are controllable by systematic medication and pasture rotation, but in practice it is difficult to get remedial measures carried out because of their irksomeness and the need for personal attention and regularity of application.

140. *Meat and Dairy Trades.*—In spite of the unfavourable weather conditions of the past year (1933) the supply of stock of all kinds for

slaughtering has been ample, really in excess of consumption. For this reason butcher's stock has fallen decidedly in price. While a similar state of affairs is also found in dairy pursuits it is significant that the decline in the price of milk in particular has not been relatively as great. The dairy industry during the droughty months of the year had a difficult time, but in the latter half of the year fodder was abundant and milk consequently plentiful and generally at a reduced price. Further progress has been made during the year in the commercial cold storage of meats and the operators are increasing their sales as the public who formerly demanded freshly-killed meat are gradually being converted to the merits of the properly chilled product.

141. In spite of the local excess of butchers' stock the importation of fresh meat including poultry, especially from the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, exceeded the amount of such products in 1932. In 1932, 28,845 lbs. (valued £1,652) was imported; in 1933, 87,443 lbs. (valued £3,448), an increase of 58,598 lbs. of £1,796 value. In 1932, 611 dozens of fresh eggs (valued £51) were imported; in 1933, 10,395 dozens (valued £512)—an increase of 9,784 dozens of £461 value. The trade in baby chicks has also expanded for in 1932, 1,375 were imported and in 1933, 2,883, whilst during the first six weeks of this year 3,335 arrived. These figures would seem to indicate that quality for quality the price of our local meat products, poultry and eggs is higher than in the countries of our foreign supply.

142. On the other hand Hides exported in 1933, namely, 16,305 in number (valued f.o.b. £7,124) exceeded the 1932 output, namely 10,684 (valued f.o.b. £4,166) by 5,621 in number valued at £2,958. Similarly, the export of goat skins, 172,209 in 1932 (valued £12,017) increased to 191,094—valued £14,030 in 1933.

143. Honey exported in 1933, namely 1,519,361 lbs. in weight (valued £11,643) was less than the 1932 output by 529,808 lbs. of £2,160 value. The drought in the first half of the year and the subsequent continuous rainy weather in the latter half largely accounts for this adverse showing.

144. During 1932 and 1933 a fair trade has developed in the export of mules for plantation purposes in Central America and the Republic of Panama. Figures obtained from the chief exporters are 100 in 1931, 50 in 1932 and 100 in 1933 and 150 in the first ten weeks of the present year. Total 400 in less than 4 years. If these prospects are maintained and other markets also found, as in British Guiana, the foreign demand as well as the requirements locally on our estates and in the Public Works Department for replacements, etc. shoud lead to a definite revival of this once lucrative industry.

Agricultural Education.

145. The Farm School completed the year with a larger number of students enrolled than in 1932, 45 as compared with 37. The number of applications for admission to the School showed an increase over last year and the educational qualifications of the Students entering were higher. With the improvement in the standard of the students entering it was possible to accomplish more work during the year. The Third Year Students spent half of each term at the Government Stud Farm at Grove Place. This made it possible to give instruction to the Third Year students in various phases of agricultural work which could not be given at Hope. The time spent by the Third Years at Grove Place provides a well balanced course in Agriculture and proved to be an excellent means of giving the students proper instruction in

their final year. The School took an active part in Education week which was held in June, and an "Open Day" was held, at which the work of the students was exhibited. A large number of visitors attended, and showed a keen interest in the work of the students.

Land Settlements.

146. *Kellets—Clarendon:*—During the year under review sales amounted to 2,585 acres divided in 533 allotments. In the area which was specially reserved for Township purposes, a total of 55 lots are recorded as being sold. The Parochial Board of Clarendon purchased two such lots for purposes of a market which is a great necessity, and the construction of this market will soon be put in hand.

147. Panama Disease has made its appearance on this property resulting in the reduction of banana production. The following crops among others are being cultivated: tobacco, cane and catch crops.

148. During the year, Coley, a section of this property—(the area of which totals 5,065 acres) has been opened up, and many applications have been received for the purchase of lots thereon.

149. Allotments in process of sale number 71, covering an area of approximately 500 acres.

150. Due to the damage caused by recent weather disturbances, certain repairs to roads have had to be effected.

151. *Tobolski—St. Ann:*—During the year, sales on this property continued. A total of 68 allotments amounting to 1,091 acres are recorded. Nearly 200 acres have been allotted to 15 applicants and other applications are still being received. This property was principally a grazing property and is admirably suited for the rearing of cattle. There is not much scope for the production of staple crops such as bananas and cane, but such crops as peas, corn and potatoes flourish.

152. *Monklands—St. Thomas:*—The sales on this property have not been up to expectations. The total area sold to date is 573 acres, divided into 68 lots. There are 22 further applications for land, totalling 112 acres.

153. *Glenbrook—Westmoreland:*—This property which was divided into 115 lots at the outset has now been completely sold off, and is well served with roads which had to be repaired in sections as a result of recent weather disturbances.

This scheme has proved a success as a Land Settlement.

154. *Burnt Savannah—Westmoreland:*—This property has now been completely sold off. The number of holdings sold amount to 53, covering an area of over 400 acres. It is proposed to reserve about 127 acres as a Forest Reserve, since this area is not well suited for cultivation. Repairs to roads damaged during the recent bad weather have been effected. This property has also proved a successful scheme.

155. *Lewisburgh—St. Mary:*—During the year, considerable progress was made in the distribution of allotments and effecting final sales. The number of allotments finally sold amounted to 53, covering a total of 285 acres. Other allotments in process of sale amount to 27, covering an area of 180 acres.

156. Much of the property is suited to the cultivation of nearly all the staple crops such as bananas, canes and coconuts, and is well watered. Other applications for sale are being received. The price per acre in the case of this Land Settlement is higher than the others, having regard to the value of the property and the fact that the parish is specially known as a banana parish.

157. *Hopewell and Lundie—Westmoreland:*—During the year, distribution of allotments commenced, and, so far, 56 allotments have been made, covering an area of 315 acres.

158. It is expected that the land remaining to be sold—about 60 acres—will be gradually disposed of.

159. *Malvern Chase—St. Elizabeth:*—A small property of 185 acres was purchased in and almost completely sold off during the year.

This has been a successful scheme. The number of allotments, amounting to 26, cover an area of 183 acres.

160. Two properties previously operated by Loan Banks—*Great Valley in Hanover* and *Catalina in Portland*—were taken over by the Government. About 520 acres have still to be sold and a few applications have been received for allotments. In the case of Catalina, the situation is even more acute since the inroads of Panama Disease have been extensive. There has been no development since the Government took possession.

161. *General.*—Sales have been tardy on all the properties as a result of the reduced purchasing power of would-be settlers, due principally to bad weather conditions.

162. Quite a few purchasers were assisted by means of loans from the Banana Industry Aid Board when it was established that their banana cultivations were damaged, with a view to the resuscitation of such cultivations.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

163. In 1933 the value of the Exports and Imports of the Colony showed a decrease compared with the figures for the preceding year.

164. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £4,218,755 as compared with £4,572,520 in 1932. A comparative statement showing the quantities and values of the principal articles from the principal countries, is given in Table A.

165. The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcels Post, amounted to £920,513, a decrease of £7,666. Parcels Post duties amounted to £26,239, a decrease of £3,943.

166. The Export Trade, exclusive of Parcels Post exports for 1933 decreased. The value was £3,254,666 in 1932 and £2,730,507 in 1933. The value of Re-exports however, was much greater than in 1932 due to the abnormal Re-export of Gold Specie. The value of Re-exports in 1932 was £134,246 as against £348,731 in 1933 and in 1932, £965 of Gold Coin were exported compared with £242,440 in 1933. A comparative table of the quantities and values of the twelve principal products exported and the quantities and values of each exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Other Countries, is also given in Table B.

167. The values of Exports and Imports for the years 1913 and 1930 to 1933 are shown below:—

	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports (F.O.B.)	2,430,208	4,091,573	3,420,750	3,271,357	2,745,300
Value of Imports (CI.F.)	2,837,447	6,101,513	4,945,539	4,754,152	4,367,843

168. Bananas are the principal product exported. The value is about 50% of the total value of the Island's exports. In 1933, due to recent storms, the value of Bananas decreased by nearly 50%. This is the chief reason for the fall in the value of total exports in 1933 compared with 1932. The value of the import trade with the British Empire remained stationary and the export trade increased as the following percentages show:—

Imports.

	1931.	1932.	1933.
British Empire ..	60.5%	69.4%	70.0%
Other Countries ..	39.5%	30.6%	30.0%

Exports.

British Empire ..	60.0%	76.5%	85.0%
Other Countries ..	40.0%	23.5%	15.0%

169. The following table shows the change in direction of Trade with the principal countries in 1913-14 and during the past three years:

(*Average*) *Imports.*

	1913-14.	1931.	1932.	1933.
United Kingdom	38.0%	29.7%	41.4%	40.2%
U. S. A. ..	47.1%	30.2%	17.9%	16.3%
Canada	8.5%	17.5%	15.0%	16.0%
Other Countries	6.4%	22.6%	25.7%	27.5%

(*Average*) *Exports.*

United Kingdom	17.9%	33.5%	49.1%	56.3%
U. S. A.	59.3%	30.8%	18.0%	9.4%
Canada	5.6%	25.3%	25.5%	27.8%
Other Countries ..	17.2%	10.4%	7.4%	6.5%

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1931. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1931. United Kingdom. Value (C.I F)	1931. Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post). ..	..	..	£ 1,406,562	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	171,696	49,987	6
	Butter	lbs.	11,602	927	192,086
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	445,551	11,139	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	53,872	894	4,496,226
	Pickled ..	"	84	1	10,111,385
	Grain—Flour ..	bags	745	783	311,687
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	811,931	12,057	3,953
	Ham ..	"	61,410	5,159	13,766
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	..	..	323,426
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	2,245,787	51,734	1,671,437
	Oils, Edible ..	gals	349,080	53,648	106
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	131,708	32,796	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	38,092	62,944	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	305,583
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	..	..	20,310	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	12,392	51,587	2,826
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	89	16,520	294
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	9,726	..
	Cement ..	brls.	92,560	46,267	7,057
	Cotton—Piece goods	yds.	6,742,768	126,135	15,719
	Other Manufactures	..	..	45,770	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	47,616	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	20,938	..
	Metals: Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	31,817	..
	Oils:—Illuminating ..	gals.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	27	8	2
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	28,438	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	5,901,193	72,316	1,794
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	39,994	..

TABLE "A"

1931.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value. (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£ 830,325	..	£ 1,430,008	..	£ 1,067,506	..	£ 4,734,401
1	..	..	40,215	11,774	211,917	61,762
15,449	1,054	88	378,161	29,534	582,903	45,998
..	..	..	19,501	489	465,052	11,628
75,313	10,447	170	9,899,093	164,532	14,459,638	240,909
101,377	20	..	481,868	4,425	10,593,357	105,803
317,860	30,712	31,994	25	2	343,169	350,663
53	5,600	108	..	..	821,484	12,218
1,052	239,262	15,336	3,487	272	317,925	21,819
6,819	662,014	14,397	400	9	985,840	21,225
46,678	1,048,276	21,700	1,022,850	26,346	5,988,350	146,458
28	433	196	2,095	547	351,714	54,419
..	1,500	489	70	18	133,278	33,303
..	42,751	60,976	..	..	80,843	123,920
2,288	18,362,599	141,734	371,761	2,814	19,039,943	146,836
1,602	..	37,925	..	18,710	..	75,547
5,181	25,948	86,384	9,103	21,837	51,269	164,989
41,455	352	52,631	2	207	737	110,813
28,840	..	38,792	..	3,966	..	81,324
3,472	20	42	23,648	11,688	123,285	61,469
238	12,322,981	148,993	299,807	7,203	19,381,275	282,569
577	..	18,853	..	15,027	..	80,227
6,039	..	36,504	..	15,923	..	106,082
5,247	..	32,168	..	4,528	..	62,881
2,202	..	5,229	..	6,039	..	45,287
..	1,304,753	65,620	444,203	23,081	1,748,956	88,701
2	981,258	40,363	4,253,304	174,463	5,234,591	214,836
4,986	..	29,975	..	51,545	..	114,944
23	719,735	8,823	174,973	2,160	6,797,695	83,322
205	..	263	..	1,856	..	42,318

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1932. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1932. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1932. Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	£ 1,890,526	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout & and Porter	galls.	164,807	40,843	3,891
	Butter	lbs.	112,873	6,035	50,733
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	441,176	10,930	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	35,915	445	6,101,964
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,856,990
	Grain—Flour ..	bags	73,775	61,745	285,966
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	1,228,102	20,696	3,900
	Ham ..	"	116,670	5,440	133,602
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	..	..	298,554
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	2,258,007	48,090	749,807
	Oils, Edible ..	gals.	37,907	7,223	24
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	61,848	18,598	2
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	141,689	236,359	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	97,260
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	..	..	28,471	..
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	35,265	126,046	1,061
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	191	27,377	235
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	28,180	..
	Cement ..	brls.	63,879	33,022	..
	Cotton—Piece goods ..	yds.	14,177,902	247,867	2,273
	Other Manufactures	..	..	58,736	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	59,404	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	25,225	..
	Metals:—Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	34,057	..
	Oils—Illuminating ..	gals.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	12	4	1
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	33,508	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	5,036,001	63,900	1,051
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	40,525	..

TABLE "A"

1932.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
687,147	..	817,211	..	1,177,636	..	4,572,520
1,070	1	..	18,305	4,028	187,604	45,941
3,323	5	..	507,132	27,825	670,743	37,183
..	100	2	7,338	153	448,614	11,085
75,890	13,296	637	8,907,754	121,793	15,058,929	198,765
73,699	..	..	317,510	2,186	9,174,500	75,885
259,267	7,373	9,072	..	..	367,114	330,084
70	3,185	54	..	..	1,235,187	20,820
6,794	89,560	4,834	9,520	571	349,352	17,639
5,977	775,938	15,314	595	12	1,075,087	21,303
19,015	846,954	15,207	1,386,756	27,696	5,241,524	110,008
6	1,748	275	1,209	327	40,888	7,831
2	1,845	543	5	3	63,700	19,146
..	3,824	6,875	..	..	145,513	243,234
875	12,090,120	74,940	2,730,571	20,741	14,917,951	96,556
2,770	..	22,350	..	27,006	..	80,607
1,349	3,412	9,632	71,974	72,413	111,712	209,440
32,987	173	24,215	5	335	604	84,914
21,109	..	29,327	..	4,354	..	82,970
..	14	25	18,711	9,131	82,604	42,178
67	4,919,507	62,664	814,687	14,564	19,914,369	325,162
1,277	..	13,326	..	16,486	..	89,825
7,428	..	21,036	..	11,970	..	99,838
7,013	..	25,771	..	4,640	..	62,649
1,332	..	1,958	..	9,168	..	46,515
..	928,263	61,884	445,911	28,122	1,374,174	90,006
2	1,041,488	37,507	4,485,296	160,088	5,526,797	197,601
7,470	..	7,588	..	130,099	..	178,665
12	391,917	5,395	248,954	4,140	5,677,923	73,447
12	..	100	..	1,761	..	42,398

TABLE "A"

Principal Articles Imported.		Unit of Quantity.	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1933. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1933. Canada. Quantity.
Total Imports (not including Parcels Post).		..	..	£ 1,697,475	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	gals.	134,915	32,716	2,107
	Butter ..	lbs.	25,475	1,050	22,194
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	584,296	13,570	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	11,895	273	5,235,683
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,366,275
	Grain—Flour ..	bags	120,856	102,135	324,167
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	931,349	15,111	1,600
	Ham ..	"	79,264	5,677	70,069
	Pork, Wet Salted	"	200	2	115,622
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,597,562	32,867	721,419
	Oils, Edible ..	gals.	924	650	1
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	36,521	12,463	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	113,585	172,132	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	1,548,260
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	..	..	30,493	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	22,636	78,189	282
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	279	37,221	247
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	21,882	..
	Cement ..	brls.	83,636	38,328	..
	Cotton—Piece Goods ..	yds.	8,446,070	152,914	3,570
	Other Manufactures	..	..	50,531	..
	Hardware	..	..	72,960	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	28,551	..
	Metals:—Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	32,221	..
	Oils:—Illuminating ..	gals.	234	13	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	36	12	5
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	18,472	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	4,475,339	56,907	525
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	24,801	..

TABLE "A"

1933.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£ 675,297	..	£ 687,937	..	£ 1,068,046	..	£ 4,218,755
601	2,484	611	14,521	3,062	154,027	36,990
1,601	202	12	744,289	30,349	792,160	33,012
..	..	..	7,032	152	591,328	13,722
53,606	11,741	649	..	..	14,298,060	152,306
55,841	..	..	133,000	1,361	8,499,275	57,202
273,916	1,613	2,399	..	..	446,636	378,450
30	13,915	189	7,100	91	953,964	15,421
3,429	190,636	7,340	7,300	468	347,269	16,914
4,057	945,917	16,021	..	..	1,161,739	20,080
15,840	1,352,751	23,295	2,131,886	30,716	5,803,618	102,718
..	53	21	997	347	1,975	1,018
..	1,724	417	3	3	38,248	12,882
..	7,085	10,672	65	62	120,735	182,866
7,534	12,718,260	80,786	2,883,449	22,068	17,149,969	110,388
2,268	..	17,661	..	29,437	..	79,859
381	1,362	2,200	27,250	42,944	51,533	123,714
34,269	153	18,958	11	1,360	690	91,808
20,787	..	18,087	..	473	..	61,229
..	14	18	19,418	9,507	103,168	47,853
108	2,037,099	23,187	6,764,767	75,664	17,251,506	251,873
722	..	3,999	..	13,517	..	68,769
9,480	..	18,274	..	18,552	..	119,266
7,299	..	25,431	..	4,991	..	66,272
4,474	..	1,028	..	4,911	..	42,634
..	738,582	49,951	707,220	37,938	1,446,036	87,902
3	488,969	18,034	4,682,692	142,144	5,171,702	160,193
7,915	..	2,362	..	94,197	..	122,946
9	153,360	1,646	2,850	31	4,632,074	58,593
128	..	143	..	1,058	..	26,130

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1931. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
Total Exports; (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	(F.O.B.) £ 1,140,295	..	(F.O.B.) £ 860,054	..	(F.O.B.) £ 1,046,916	..	(F.O.B.) £ 352,627	..	(F.O.B.) £ 3,399,892
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	338,866	2,915	3,689,142	31,769	910,975	7,835	985,748	8,468	5,924,731	50,987
Coffee, Raw ..	"	684,536	12,732	7,299,028	136,056	786,077	14,620	407,749	7,585	9,177,390	170,993
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	8,456,194	803,359	3,331,412	306,968	9,955,289	814,529	572,710	58,539	22,335,605	1,983,395
Grapefruit	No.	5,149,560	24,921	4,481,883	22,613	79,560	380	220,033	1,144	9,931,036	49,058
Coconuts	"	1,155,898	3,950	3,018,100	10,321	30,937,350	106,627	604,235	2,072	35,715,583	122,970
Logwood Extracts	cwts.	21,364	73,584	..	..	338	1,250	4,557	17,809	26,259	92,643
Nuts for Expressing Oil: Copra ..	lbs.	1,896,863	9,172	..	..	1,544,184	7,084	4,449,115	22,382	7,890,164	38,638
Spices: Ginger	"	948,598	13,140	174,737	2,322	800,837	11,054	73,183	1,007	1,997,355	27,523
Pimento dry	"	236,865	2,108	201,251	1,791	2,815,908	25,062	8,960,562	79,707	12,214,586	108,668
Spirits: Rum	gals.	323,813	32,381	21,300	2,130	..	..	64,019	6,402	409,132	40,913
Sugar: Unrefined	tons.	5,880	49,074	38,319	328,617	..	..	95	812	44,294	378,503
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	50	125	..	..	3,580	8,950	15,144	38,980	18,774	48,055

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1932. United Kingdom.		Canada.		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Total Exports; (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	(F.O.B.) £ 1,597,494	..	(F.O.B.) £ 830,262	..	(F.O.B.) £ 586,385	..	(F.O.B.) £ 240,525	..	(F.O.B.) £ 3,254,666
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	77,491	766	4,216,367	41,872	305,994	2,818	300,936	2,646	4,900,788	48,102
Coffee, Raw ..	"	307,925	7,898	7,767,350	196,532	411,742	10,167	390,438	9,460	8,877,455	224,057
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	13,258,522	1,265,942	2,645,219	235,822	4,380,415	359,442	76,457	7,905	20,360,613	1,869,111
Grapefruit	No.	10,178,159	52,736	3,447,489	17,240	..	..	163,722	872	13,789,370	70,848
Coconuts	"	2,552,096	7,686	6,661,450	21,938	29,107,725	98,732	917,540	3,170	39,238,811	131,526
Logwood Extracts	cwts.	13,629	46,696	..	..	414	1,694	2,649	9,548	16,692	57,938
Nuts for Expressing Oil:	"										
Copra ..	lbs.	5,843,670	30,876	..	..	613,830	2,832	..	..	6,456,500	33,708
Spices: Ginger ..	"	754,591	15,923	236,069	5,303	576,757	12,596	93,998	1,856	1,661,415	35,678
Pimento dry	"	352,955	2,771	228,227	1,639	2,321,077	16,799	5,375,549	40,478	8,277,808	61,687
Spirits: Rum	gals.	102,097	12,212	11,172	1,389	166	18	68,034	7,890	181,469	21,519
Sugar: Unrefined	tons.	8,966	79,339	29,408	262,543	..	..	114	1,027	38,488	342,909
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	743	2,074	..	..	6,139	17,509	12,376	35,647	19,258	55,230

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value.	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value.	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value.	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value.	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value.
Total Exports; (not including Parcels Post).	..	..	(F.O.B.) £ 1,603,971	..	(F.O.B.) £ 668,048	..	(F.O.B.) £ 257,944	..	(F.O.B.) £ 200,544	..	(F.O.B.) £ 2,730,507
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	61,261	534	3,599,669	31,166	56,867	504	26,449	231	3,744,246	32,435
Coffee, Raw ..	"	263,579	5,930	9,466,023	210,257	17,404	398	77,224	1,728	9,824,230	218,313
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	Stems	8,387,582	805,586	1,832,295	179,373	337,319	33,497	173	20	10,557,369	1,018,476
Grapefruit	No.	9,775,576	50,730	1,888,927	8,945	..	..	201,756	970	11,866,259	60,645
Coconuts	"	1,651,150	4,828	6,693,099	21,647	28,641,111	89,078	452,199	1,425	37,437,559	117,578
Logwood Extracts	cwts.	26,384	87,592	..	..	602	2,309	3,059	11,627	30,045	101,528
Nuts for Expressing Oil:											
Copra ..	lbs.	4,549,590	19,335	180	1	576,164	2,623	..	..	5,125,934	21,959
Spices: Ginger ..	"	783,539	14,604	143,485	2,664	692,260	12,921	46,642	857	1,665,926	31,046
Pimento dry	"	602,381	4,827	231,265	1,803	2,151,110	16,626	6,116,573	46,555	9,101,329	69,811
Spirits: Rum	gals.	290,820	35,835	12,151	1,584	12,255	1,838	70,646	9,016	385,872	48,273
Sugar: Unrefined	tons.	28,013	260,369	17,142	162,854	..	..	115	1,072	45,270	424,295
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	1,152	3,219	..	..	10,268	27,093	13,684	38,362	25,104	68,674

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

170. The average rate of wages for a labourer in Government employ is 2/6 per day. Private employers pay men from 2/6 to 3/6 per day, and women from 1/6 to 1/8 per day. Factory workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each and shop assistants receive a wage of from 46/6 to 70/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 8 hours each.

171. The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway and a schedule of the wages paid in the Departments is set out below:—

Head Offices—

Clerks	From 20/- to £5 10/- per week according to Grade.
Learner Clerks	From 10/- to 20/- per week

Way and Works Branch—

Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180	to	£335	per annum
Draughtsmen ..	"	50/-	"	150/-	per week
Learner Draughtsmen	"	15/-	"	25/-	"
Foremen ..	"	45/-	"	60/-	"
Junior Foremen ..	"	30/-	"	45/-	"
Learner Formen	"	20/-	"	29/-	"
Carpenters	"	6/-			per day
Labourers	"	2/6 to 3/6 per day			
Gangers	"	3/9 to 4/4 per day			
Gatemen	"	9/- to 10/- per week			

Locomotive Branch—

Foremen	"	95/-	"	115/-	"
Chargemen ..	"	60/-	"	70/-	"
Machinists, Fitters, Blacksmiths, Moulders, Boilermakers and Coppersmiths, etc. ..	"	32/-	"	64/-	"
Engine Drivers ..	"	60/-	"	80/6	"
Firemen	"	37/-	"	44/-	"
Carpenters, including Saw Mill Machinists, Truck Fitters, Asst. Truck Fitters and Pattern Makers ..	"	30/-	"	54/-	"
Painters ..	"	28/-	"	34/-	"
Labourers (unskilled)	"			18/-	"
Labourers (skilled)	"			21/-	"
Greasers	"	30/-	"	36/-	"
Watchmen ..	"	25/-	"	33/-	"
Shedmen ..				4/- per day 5/- per night	
Apprentices ..	"	8/- to 24/- per week			

Traffic Branch—				
Trains Controllers ..	"	90/- "	125/-	per week
Station Masters ..	"	60/- "	110/-	"
Station Clerks ..	"	20/- "	35/-	"
Invoices and Booking Clerks	"	37/6 "	90/4	"
Porters, Kingston ..	"		3/-	per day
Porters, Outstations ..	"	1/6- "	2/9	per day
Shunters ..	"	20/- "	35/-	per week
Guards	"	30/- "	60/-	"
Brakesmen ..	"	21/- "	30/-	"
Tranship Porters ..	"	21/- "	40/-	"
Wharfinger ..	"		105/-	"
Assistant Wharfinger	"		37/6	"
Storemen ..	"	2/6 to 3/4 per day		
Female Typists ..	"	35/- to 45/- per week		

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays and time and a half for Sunday work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

Station Masters are paid overtime for Sundays and Public Holidays, and so are the Assistant and Junior Trains Controllers. Parcels Office Clerks and Booking Clerk, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sunday work. Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

172. The following is a list, giving costs, of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	8 ozs. for 2 2-5d.
Crackers	1d. for twenty
Peas and Beans ..	7½d. per quart
Yams	3d. per lb.
Cocoanuts	1d. each
Sweet Potatoes ..	1½d. per lb.
Cocoes	1½d. per lb.
Plantains	2d. each
Sugar, B. A.	3d. per lb.
Flour	2½d per lb.
Rice	2d. per lb.
Meal	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	5d. per lb.
Herrings	3d. per lb.
Shads	3d. per lb.
Mackerels	3d. per lb.
Salmon	6d. per lb.
Onions	3½d. per lb.
Beef, w/s.	7½d. per lb.
Pork, w/s	9d. per lb.
Cotton Seed Oil ..	1/6 per quart
Cocoanut Oil ..	10d. to 1/- per quart
Milk, Full Cream ..	5½d. to 7d. per tin
Beef, Fresh	4½d. to 7½d. per lb.
Salt, Fine	1d. per lb.

173. During 1933 a 4lb. loaf of bread cost 1/7 1-5d. and a labourer's pay therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 9 loaves in Government employ and from 9 to 13 loaves in private employ. In Jamaica however, a labourer does not normally consume

as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

174. The cost of living in Jamaica although it has decreased somewhat in recent years, is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100 as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the Index Figure for 1933 works out at an average of 143, made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—		
Local Products	162.5	
Imported Articles	117	140 (mean)
Clothing, etc.	..	133.5
Miscellaneous	..	155
		428.5
Average ..		143

175. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

176. The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1932-33 was £204,169, an increase of £1,009 on the expenditure for 1931-32.

177. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owners' representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools. (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. There are 139 schools administered by School Boards, 77 of which are owned by the Government, while 62 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas in which the average attendances is 60%. The number of children affected is 17,440 excluding infants. In the non-compulsory areas 115,772 children are enrolled with an average attendance of 53%.

178. The total enrolment for the whole island is 141,735 with an average attendance of 54%.

179. The total cost of Elementary Education exclusive of establishment charges for 1932-33 amounted to £165,941.

180. There are in all 653 grant-aided Elementary Schools There are also a large number of elementary private schools in regard to which details are not available. One new Government School was opened during 1933. A sum of £1,000 was expended during the same period in building grants for denominational schools and teachers'

quarters, but there are still many denominational School Buildings in a very bad state of repair.

181. The Primary Schools employ about 1,750 teachers. There are four Training Colleges; one for men and three for women teachers. There is also a small Training Centre for Infant School Teachers.

182. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years are awarded annually to children from Primary Schools in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, twenty in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

183. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 20 Centres. At the last Examinations held (July and December 1933) 569 Candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 320 passed (56%), 334 for the School Certificate of whom 198 passed (59%) and 20 entered for and 12 passed (60%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

184. Public Assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls, and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

185. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1933, 30 Candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 11 passed, including 4 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 7 Candidates, 2 of whom passed. One Candidate sat for Intermediate Laws and failed. Two Candidates sat for the Intermediate Examination in Science and one passed. One Candidate sat for the Final Examination in Arts and failed, and one Candidate sat for the Final Examination in Divinity and passed.

186. There are three recognized Continuation Schools in the Island; one in Kingston maintained by the Government and two in the parish of St. Mary. Excepting these, the Farm School at Hope, the Trade Scholarships and the Scholarships and free places in Secondary Schools there is no avenue of continued education for the majority of children attending the Elementary Schools.

187. The Kingston Technical School is a Government institution which provides for the training of boys and girls in Continuation, Commercial, Domestic Science and Technical Subjects. The installation of electrical appliances, a battery of forges and other up-to-date equipment has considerably enhanced the scope of the work whilst the adoption of the requirements of recognised external examining bodies like the Royal Society of Arts and the City and Guilds of London Institute has raised the standard of the school. The large enrolment in the Evening Classes is evidence that these classes are becoming better known and appreciated. Special Courses for Training College Students and public elementary school teachers are also included in the prospectus.

188. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School Boys who wish to be apprenticed to a trade or to enter the Government Farm School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years, part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

189. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curriculum includes Literary Subjects, Needlework, Housecraft and Hygiene. These schools do excellent work especially from the point of view of character training. There is little doubt, however, that their work should be of a less literary and more practical nature. But there are few local teachers able to teach domestic subjects and fewer still to teach commercially profitable handicrafts. There is no Continuation School for Boys outside Kingston.

190. Manual Training Departments are attached to eleven Government Schools but two are in abeyance on account of shortage of qualified staff.

191. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been re-organized and are shewing much improvement in numbers and efficiency. They are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

192. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools and orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Until recently children could not be detained in these schools after the age of 16, but they may now be detained until 18 in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the classroom or for trade instruction.

193. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys and Girls) is maintained by the Government, under the charge of the Inspector of Government Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor, which arranges monthly visits of inspection and holds bi-monthly Board Meetings. The numbers on Roll on 31st December, 1933, were 370 Boys and 51 Girls.

194. The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply the site is ideal for the purpose. The buildings though very old are spacious, well ventilated and cool. Improvements are being made which include a suitable playground for the girls.

195. The curriculum is arranged so that each child devotes half of each day to the ordinary subjects of elementary school work, and the other half day to manual work. Drill, Games, Hobbies, Scouting and Woodwork Continuation Classes for senior boys, each takes an important part in completing a form of institutional life which is a creditable pattern of an English Borstal Institution.

196. The weak point of the whole system is a lack of after-care.

197. The "House" system is proving a great success.

198. The principal industries are carpentry, blacksmithing, tailoring, gardening, agriculture, apiculture, masonry, baking and cooking for the boys, and laundry work, sewing and cooking for the girls.

199. A good brass band is maintained, and an efficient Boys' Choir, both of which won cups at the recent Jamaica Musical Competition Festival.

200. Every possible form of Sport is encouraged mainly by inter-House Competitions for Shields, Cups, etc. and the House Spirit is encouraged.

201. There is a system of good conduct badges bearing a cash value. Such earning stand to the credit of the inmate until he is discharged and one-half of the sum earned by him is paid over on his discharge, and at the end of twelve months the other half is paid to him on his satisfying the Superintendent that he is living an honest and respectable life.

202. Prison records show that there is a marked decrease in recent years in the number of ex-Industrial School Boys who become adult criminals, which is, perhaps, the surest sign that the School is achieving ts object.

203. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside the poor relief law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1932-33 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

204. The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands from teachers, sanitary inspectors, and citizens for information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease.

205. The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing *Jamaica Public Health;* Volume 8 of which was issued during 1933, an edition of 20,000 copies being sent out each month. Particular attention was paid in this volume to Tuberculosis and Yaws and special numbers were devoted to Safe Water Supplies, Milk and to programmes for Empire Health Week. The bulletin is used in more than 250 schools of the island as a text in hygiene and would be adopted in other schools if more copies of the publication could be supplied.

206. Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being dealt with by the health departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lanterns and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards, designed for use in schools, at markets, and other public places, to give information about the more common diseases, are distributed. During 1933 the Bureau of Health Education sent out 39 different publications; the total number of pieces of public health literature distributed being 400,000.

207. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association there are at present 97 groups actively at work. These groups comprise 91 Scout Troops, 34 Wolf Cub Packs and 35 Rover Crews, numbering 240 Scouters, 1,620 Scouts, 76 Sea Scouts, 454 Cubs, 281 Rover Scouts, 99 Rover

Sea-Scouts—a total of 2,770. This shows an increase of 693 over 1932 when the total was 2,077.

208. His Excellency Sir Ransford Slater, G.C.M.G., is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

209. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 98 Companies at work. These comprise 14 Ranger, 57 Guide and 29 Brownie Companies. The total enrolment for 1933 was 2,013. The President is Lady Slater and Mrs. D. O. Kelly Lawson is Island Commissioner.

210. The Institute of Jamaica for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art—(with its Library of 35,795 books and 1,621 Manuscripts, 25,555 in the General Library and 10,240 in the West India Reference Library)—distributed 48,123 books amongst its members during 1933, in addition to which many members of the public including visitors and Tourists from England, Canada and the United States consulted the General Library and the West India Reference Library.

211. Amongst the students in the latter were one graduate doing post-graduate work on West Indian Subjects and six visitors to the island doing research work.

212. Members of forty-four Literary Associations affiliated with the Institute, borrowed books. Twenty-seven Teachers Associations affiliated with the Institute, borrowed boxes of books during the year.

213. Many parties of school children visited the Natural History Museum and the History Gallery of the Institute.

214. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its 26th Annual Examination of Candidates in Music. There were 1,001 Entries for the Practical and Theoretical, for which 681 candidates sat.

215. The Musical Society of Jamaica held meetings during the year.

216. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of elementary schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian Teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

217. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary School boys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

218. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

219. As in the case of cricket the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

220. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and interscholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Comunications and Transport.

221. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1929	entered	1,651	vessels of	3,337,919	tons
1930	"	1,631	"	3,573,731	"
1931	"	1,438	"	3,244,558	"
1932	"	1,355	"	3,508,696	"
1933	"	1,304	"	3,698,330	"
1929	cleared	1,635	"	3,310,243	"
1930	"	1,625	"	3,541,633	"
1931	"	1,407	"	3,222,945	"
1932	"	1,291	"	3,440,374	"
1933	"	1,291	"	3,718,880	"

222. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register—The Royal Mail Lines, Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line Ltd., The Canadian National Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The James Nourse Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., Shaw Saville Albion, The Webster Steamship Line, (the last named company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders and Fyffes is a British registered Company the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit and Shipping Co., The Colombian Steamship Co. Inc., The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

223. The Island possesses a good system of macadam roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,430 miles which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,402 miles of which 2,036 are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,366 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

224. During 1933, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of about £94 per mile. Several of these roads were orginally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of modern motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use, without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such Motor Traffic safely. Up to the end of the year under review, the mileage of Asphalted Sprayed roads amounted to 151 miles 65 chains. The programme of road construction begun in 1927 with the object of opening fertile areas, and providing feeders to the Government Railway has been

concluded, and part of another road construction programme authorised by Law 17 of 1933 has been undertaken. Surveys, Plans and Estimates have been prepared and all these road works are now in progress. During the period 28th to 29th October, 1933, a Hurricane of some severity passed over the western section of the Island. The heavy seas and wind caused some damage to Roads, Sea Walls, &c.

225. Owing also to abnormal Flood Rains prevailing from 1st June, 1933 up to the present time, the roads of the Colony have been frequently damaged to a considerable extent. The work of road improvement which has been so marked a feature in this Colony within the past few years has been delayed and the damaged road works are being restored gradually to their former condition. These eight series of Flood Rains, were of a recurring nature and followed each other with regular frequency. Their destructive effect on road surfaces, &c., brings forcibly to light the necessity for Asphalting the main arterial roads on which there is heavy traffic. Much of the damage to road surfaces would have been avoided if a greater amount of asphalting had been done as it was especially noticeable how well the asphalted sections withstood the effects of the abnormal flood rains. Due to lack of funds the policy of increasing asphalt surfaces could not be pursued to any extent.

226. The mean rainfall for the Island was 116.53 inches or 42.87 inches above the 60 year average—a truly remarkable increase. This is the highest recorded rainfall for the past 63 years, the previous highest being 106.22 inches in 1916. The mean number of rainy days was 138 the average being 122.

Canals.

227. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

228. The Motor Omnibus Law 30 of 1929 as amended by Law 6 of 1932 was amended in the Autumn Session of the Legislative Council. The amending of this Law has brought under the control of the Board of Transport a very much increased number of vehicles carrying passengers for reward. The provisions of this amendment have not yet been brought into effect, with the result that there has been no marked increase in the number of omnibuses plying for hire. During the year 1933, 57 omnibuses were licensed to ply for hire in Kingston and Lower St. Andrew, and 77 operating between Kingston and the outlying country districts.

229. The Motor Omnibus Service in Kingston and St. Andrew is continuing to prove a very useful factor in the development of the suburban areas.

230. The rapid growth of road transport continues to affect the Railways and Tramways, and with a view to seeing what methods can be adopted for the better co-ordination of road and rail transport, Government have appointed a Commission to enquire into and report on this subject.

231. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay 112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio 63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction 32½ miles from Kingston to Frankfield —23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

232. The main lines run across high mountains which form the back bone of the island, to the north coast Port Antonio being north-east; and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the island. The guage is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

233. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1933 was £224,923 8s. 1½d. and the expenditure £244,416 6s. 0d. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for Renewals, Depreciation and Betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 212,590 tons, as compared with 321,064 tons for the year 1932; the number of passengers carried in 1933 was 500,081 as compared with 610,556 in 1932.

234. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

235. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60 lb. rails with 80 lb. rails has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60 lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927 the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1933, the total mileage which has been changed from 60lb. to 80 lb. rails is 102 miles.

236. *Passenger Traffic:*—There are 8 main line passenger trains run daily, and 10 passenger and mixed trains run daily on the branch lines—first and second class only. The passenger traffic has fallen off considerably during 1933 on account of road motor competition and the general depression in trade.

237. *General Merchandise Traffic:*—This traffic again shows a decrease in spite of the efforts made to capture traffic by reduced rates, quicker service, etc.

238. *Banana Traffic:*—This important traffic was seriously affected by abnormal weather conditions. Several million banana plants were blown down as the result of a hurricane in October and the quantity of fruit exported fell off very considerably. This set-back seriously affected the revenue of the railway.

239. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1933, there were 1,739 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 telegraph and 130 telephone offices. Nine telephone offices were opened during the year.

240. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

241. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 44 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

242. In 1932, 305,102 telegrams were despatched, and the revenue amounted to £18,344 5s. 11d. In 1933, 304,126 and £15,283 15s. 5½d., respectively.

243. There are three wireless stations in the Island under Government license, two owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., and one by Pan-American Airways, Inc.

Two are situated at Kingston, and the other at Stony Hill. Of the two owned by the D.W.I. Cable Co., one is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill station which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commercial traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. The Pan-American Airways W/T Station is used for the control of their aeroplanes operating between North and South America and the Caribbean Islands—Short wave only is used. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Stations exist in the Island. 1,410 Broadcast Receiving licenses have been issued up to date and 15 Experimental Transmitting licenses are in existence.

244. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz., the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N. S. at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office. The West Indian and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with foreign countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a net work of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island. These two Cable Companies have been merged into the Imperial and International Communication Co., Ltd., but in Jamaica retain their old names.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measure.

245. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

246. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1933, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£85,860
Bank of Nova Scotia ..	£137,634
Royal Bank of Canada ..	£39,697
Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	£15,169

247. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

248. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of 2½% per annum. When, however, the Commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the Commercial Banks, namely, 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 114 branches throughout the Island, as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Amount at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1933, £744,925 1s. 0d.

(b) Investments held in British, Colonial and Local Securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1933, £731,144 1s. 8d.

(c) The profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The profit for 1931 carried to the Reserve Fund was £8,862 19s. 5d. The profit for 1932 was £7,735 9s. 7d., which has been carried to the Reserve Fund. The profit for 1933 was £9,641 12s. 11d.

249. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Local Government or other Colonial Government Securities, (2) in real securities in Jamaica, (3) on deposit in Banks, (4) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

250. There are 47 co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (Law 33 of 1902). Three of these banks are moribund. The greater number of these was started early in 1913 in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and

1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies", such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc. for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for cultivation, the purchase of land, stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

251. In 1930, Law 15 of 1930 was passed, giving the Board further and better powers, and extending their duties of supervision to all Agricultural Loan Societies.

252. In 1933, Law 11 of 1933 was passed. This provides for the cancellation of the registry of a Loan Bank, for certain specific reasons set out in the Law, and for a new form of Annual Return.

253. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent out for the purpose of purchasing properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers.

254. £59,641 was lent to Banks to purchase 12 properties. Two of these have been taken over by the Surveyor General, as in addition to certain unfortunate conditions which obtained, the local Management found themselves unable to carry the schemes to completion. The Board found it necessary to appoint a Receiver in another case, and the property was sold, with a loss to Government. In contradistinction, five other Schemes have succeeded admirably. The sum of £6,223 18s. 11d. was outstanding under this head at 31st December, 1933. Land Settlement Schemes are now operated by the Surveyor General.

255. It is the policy of the Board to encourage landed proprietors, professional men and others qualified by business experience to take an active and sympathetic interest in these Banks.

256. To 31st December, 1933, £139,672 8s. 0d. was lent to 40 Banks, and £124,167 11s. 9d. received in payment.

257. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—British Gold and Silver coins, local nickel coins, local currency notes, the U.S.A. gold eagle and its sub-multiples. Gold doubloons and the sub-divisions of the dubloons, U.S.A. silver and notes are not legal tender but are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks. Accounts are kept in sterling.

258. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1933, to the extent of £79,743 17s. 6d. in the following denominations:—

2/6 Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/- Notes.	Total.
£114 7s. 6d.	£38,429 0s. 0d.	£41,200 10s. 0d.	£79,743 17s. 6d.

The 2/6d. notes are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

259. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica issue local notes. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d., denominations.

260. British Weights and Measures are used in Jamaica, and the standard weights and measures are the same as those used in England. It is interesting to note, however, that a "stone" (14 lbs.) is much more used as a unit of weight than it is in England, many commodities such as potatoes, onions, hay, &c., being sold by the stone.

261. In measurements, too, a "chain" (66 ft.) and a "link" (7 inches) are common units of measurements. Work in the field and on the roads is always measured by the "chain" and in describing distances between two points less than a mile apart, the "chain" is nearly always used as the unit of description.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

262. The principal items of Public Works completed during the year in addition to New Roads and Bridges dealt with in Chapter X, consist of 3 new Elementary Schools. In addition to the foregoing which were finished during the year an extensive programme of New Buildings authorised by Law 17 of 1933 is in hand and well advanced.

263. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor, upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all Main Roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction, enlargement, improvement repair, management and control of any other water works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorised by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889 and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds for which are provided by General Revenue or by loans and the designs and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by loans or grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies; designs, specifications and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorised.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, the Telephone Law, the Tramways Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Bath (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

264. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—
1. The Suprem e Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

265. The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indicatble offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Appellate Court which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil jurisdiction) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

266. There are three Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges.

267. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

268. The civil work of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew is disposed of by the Judge of the Kingston Court who has the same jurisdiction as a Resident Magistrate in civil proceedings.

269. The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

270. There are fourteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and one Judge of the Kingston Court.

271. The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

Police.

272. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. Under that Law the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers; and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as Sub-Officers and Constables.

The present authorised strength of the Force is 23 Officers and 1,083 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No Person is eligible for Membership unless he can produce a Certificate of character from a Magistrate or other gentlemen of position and can pass a satisfactory Medical Examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand.

Every Candidate is enrolled for five years (three months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the Office of Constables. There are separate Detectives and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The Members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police Force.

PRISONS.

273. *General Penitentiary, Kingston.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, and European prisoners. There is separate cell accommodation for 645 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel, and 32 in Hospital wards.

274. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding six months.

There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms, including the Chapel, for 306, and hospital wards for 40.

275. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accommodation for 66.

276. *Females' prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners.—Separate cell accommodation for 198, hospital wards for 15.

277. In the adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

278. At the Juvenile Adult prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the Adult Prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the Juvenile Adult Prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons.

279. In the Females' Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e. washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is peculiarly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

280. The necessary arrangements for an effective Island-wide Probation system have been in existence for four years, but with the exeption of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew very little use seems to be made of it. It has proved very successful in Kingston and St. Andrew and should be equally so in the country parishes.

Brief Statistics.

281. Average daily population—

General Penitentiary	638
St. Catherine District Prison ..	546
Juvenile Adult Prison ..	48
Females' Prison	69
Total ..	1,301

Number in Custody 31.12.33—		
General Penitentiary ..	..	692
St. Catherine District Prison	..	686
Total		1,378
Revenue ..	..	£10,834 13 7
Expenditure	..	44,640 11 9
Cost of Prisons	.	£33,505 18 2

Value of prison manufactures used in prisons—£2,082 17s. 7d.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

282. Thirty-six Laws were passed during the year 1933. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest:—

Law 4 *of* 1933.—"A Law to impose a tax on packages." This Law re-enacts the provisions of Law 3 of 1932. The Law was to endure until the 31st March, 1934.

Law 8 *of* 1933.—"A Law relating to unlawful possession of goods." The Law enables the Police to act effectively against persons who are found conveying, or in possession, or who have the control of, goods reasonably suspected to have been stolen.

Law 9 *of* 1933.—"A Law to enable Orders in Privy Council to be made for the purpose of giving effect to any Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Motor Vehicles." The Law empowers the Governor, by Order in Privy Council, to give effect to any Convention for facilitating the International Circulation of Motor Vehicles, by providing for the grant and authentication of travelling passes, certificates or authorities which may be of use to residents in Jamaica when temporarily taking their vehicles abroad, and providing for modifications of the Jamaica Law with regard to the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of drivers in the case of foreign residents temporarily importing vehicles and of drivers entering Jamaica to drive such vehicles.

Law 12 *of* 1933.—"A Law to prohibit the employment of children under twelve years of age." The Law gives effect to the Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference at its meeting held at Washington on the 28th of November, 1919, fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment. The Law prohibits the employment of any child under the age of twelve years and defines employment to include employment in any industrial undertaking as defined. Manual labour in a Reformatory, Industrial or other School and in an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed are excepted from the operation of the Law.

Law 25 *of* 1933.—"A Law for affording Temporary Assistance to the Banana Industry of the Island and to enable Loans in aid thereof.' The Law was enacted for the purpose of affording aid to owners and tenants of land damaged by the recent hurricane.

Law 27 *of* 1933.—"A Law to provide for the regulation of Wireless Telegraphy on ships." The Law empowers the grant of licenses in respect of ships registered in the Colony and prohibits the

operation on a Merchant Ship of wireless telegraphy while that ship is in the territorial waters of the Colony otherwise than in accordance with regulations under the Law.

Law 31 *of* 1933.—"A Law to control the Sugar Industry"

The Law—

1. Repeals Laws 13 of 1931 and 13 of 1932.
2. It regularises the position—

(a) by controlling and fixing the percentage of sugar manufactured in the Island by vacuum pan process during any crop year to be exported or sold for export and also the percentage to be retained for local consumption;

(b) by continuing the prohibition of the import of sugar into the the Island except by license;

(c) by continuing the Governor's power to fix maximum retail prices of all grades of sugar for local consumption;

(d) by continuing the restriction of the parties to the Common Agreement from making available for local consumption any vacuum pan or refined sugar during the continuance and existence of the said Agreement except through the Sugar Manufacturers Board;

(e) imposes an excise tax on granulated sugar to compensate for the loss of revenue to the Government caused by the prohibition of imports of refined sugar.

Law 32 *of* 1933.—"A Law to regulate the admission into and deportation from Jamaica of Aliens."—This Law was passed to give effect, subject to certain modifications, to the recommendations of the Committee appointed to enquire into and to report upon the question of the immigration of aliens into Jamaica.

Law 33 *of* 1933.—"A Law to make provision for the establishment of a Water and Sewerage Board for the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew."—The Law transfers and vests in a Board, to be appointed under the Law, the control of the Water and Sewerage systems which were controlled by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. The Board is to be a corporate body and to be composed of not less than seven persons all of whom are to be appointed by the Governor.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

283. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
£	£	£	£	£
2,212,851	2,292,869	2,197,572	2,085,793	2,169,307

Expenditure.

1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
£	£	£	£	£
2,317,433	2,310,502	2,322,613	2,135,736	2,081,635

The total Expenditure duing the year ended the 31st March, 1933 was £87,672 less than the total Revenue.

284. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1933, under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs	761,268
II. Harbour and Light Dues ..	6,391
III. Licenses, Excise, etc.	
(a) Licenses	29,115
(b) Excise, etc.	174,956
(c) Income Tax	49,537
(d) Land and House Tax	61,932
(e) Entertainment Tax	..
(f) Fines, etc.	11,255
IV. Fees of Office, etc.	
(a) Fees of Office	20,806
(b) Stamp Duties	56,224
(c) Reimbursements-in-aid	
(1) Medical	5,389
(2) Prisons, etc.	10,152
(3) Debt Charges	155,210
(4) Miscellaneous	18,137
(d) Irrigation Receipts	12,055
V. Post Office	71,792
VI. Rents ..	2,153
VII. Interest ..	4,630
VIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	14,198
IX. Land Sales	1,429
X. Colonial Development Fund	549
Total	£1,467,178

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Charges of Debt	203,048
Pensions ..	51,604
Pensions—Widows and Orphans ..	13,190
The Governor and Staff	6,232
Privy Council ..	46
Legislative Council	3,210
Colonial Secretariat	7,557
Lands Department	8,164
Audit Department	5,630
Public Treasury ..	5,441
Currency Commissioners	726
Government Savings Bank	7,287
Immigration Department	297
Collector General's Department	65,536
Post Office ..	76,103
Supreme Court ..	5,751
Law Officers ..	4,024
Kingston Court ..	2,058
Resident Magistrate's Courts	32,024
Administrator General's Office	6,584
Medical—General Administration	42,829
" Hospitals and Leper's Home	60,328
" Lunatic Asylum	29,721
Constabulary ..	147,273
Prisons ..	30,309
Industrial ..	5,089
Education ..	157,128
Harbours and Pilotage	3,742
Marine Board ..	694
Imperial Forces Allowances	4,411
Local Forces ..	5,413
Registrar General and Island Record Office ..	6,248
Registration of Titles	2,546
Government Printing Office	13,510
Board of Supervision	569
Department of Science and Agriculture ..	33,206
Agricultural Loan Societies Board ..	1,174
Subventions ..	35,817
Miscellaneous ..	54,356
Railway ..	133,230
Public Works Department	44,025
Public Works Annually Recurrent ..	188,268
Public Works Extraordinary	6,402
Colonial Development Fund	1,013
Total	£1,511,811

285. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1933, were £1,094,692 and £884,607, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £210,085. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1933, were held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans to Agricultural Loan Societies Board ..	27,953	3	8
Loans from Parochial Water Supplies Fund ..	11,899	17	6
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15 of 1932, Advance	17,000	0	0
Lands Settlement Advances	20,681	1	6
Advances on account of Loans to be raised ..	51,599	15	3
Advances to Parochial Boards	7,320	14	9
Stores Advances	91,963	18	0
General Advances	19,843	15	0
Investments on account of Redemption Funds guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	149,387	15	8
Investments on account of Deposits for Investment	147,785	7	8
Investments on account of Trust Funds ..	33,555	3	6
Investments for Insurance Fund	225,276	15	3
Miscellaneous Investments	30,360	15	2
Imprests	51,164	12	0
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York	1,280	11	3
Emigration Agent, India	1,155	17	2
Collector General for Customs Revenue ..	184	12	6
Director Jamaica Railway	7,430	13	6
Crown Agents for Sundry Invested Funds ..	0	1	9
Remittances in Transit	25	15	0
Loans to Crown Agents	69,000	0	0
Deferred War Contribution for 1932-33 ..	60,000	0	0
Treasurer	69,821	11	7½
	£1,094,691	16	11½

286. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £227,516 at the 31st March, 1933.

287. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1933, was £5,725,099. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Debt amounted to £2,671,554. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference, £3,053,545 exceeds by £1,043,897 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1933-34. As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

288. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1933:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
Great Britain	45,000,000	£7,859,725,020	174.66
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica ..	1,090,000	£5,725,099	5.25

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1933, viz.: £2,671,554, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 16s. 0d.

TAXATION.

289. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended the 31st March, 1933, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. Customs—			
Import Duties	973,249	17	8
Export Duties	75	5	0
Package Tax	71,290	13	10
ii. Harbour and Light Dues—			
Harbour Fees	3,336	4	0
Light Dues	5,914	1	11
iii. Licences	44,242	0	11
Excise	252,062	5	4
Income Tax	79,007	17	6
Property Tax	81,017	1	8
Entertainment Tax	17	5	8
Fines in Petty Sessions	13,250	6	5
Surchages	3,898	3	7
Stamp Duties	92,766	18	10

Customs Tariff—The general advalorem duty is 20% and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variation in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the headings of Food, Drink and Tobacco.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

Excise Duties—The principal Excise duties were on Cigars from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per gallon.

Stamp Duties—

Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

In addition to these there are various Stamp Duties, on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Leases, etc.

290. There is no Hut Tax or Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Laws, Rules, Regulations

1. Revised Statutes, 12 Vols. Laws from 1681 to Law 40 of 1888, 6/ each.
2. Laws of Jamaica—Yearly Volumes, 1889-1932 (several out of print) 3/ each.
   Laws, separately, 2 pp., 6d. each, over 2 pp. 1/ each.
3. Index to Acts and Laws of Jamaica, by W. Brandford Griffiths, 1892, 5/.
4. Index to the Acts and Laws of Jamaica, to 1910 (3rd Edition) by C. H. Yorke-Slader, 5/.
5. Supreme Court Decisions of Jamaica and Privy Council Decisions from 1774-1923 by J. E. R. Stephens, £2 the set of 2 vols. 2,314 pp.
6. Rules and Orders of the Supreme Court, 4/.
7. Schedule of Fees payable in the Supreme and other Courts of the Island and to Notaries Public, 3d.
8. Privy Council Regulations, Orders, etc.,—1925, 1926 and 1931, 3/ each.
9. Rules and Forms of the Resident Magistrate's Courts, 1900, 6/.
10. The Tariff Law, No. 4 of 1925, 1/-.
11. The Tariff Amendment Law, No. 11 of 1927, 1/.
12. Reprint of Tariff Laws, (corrected to 31.10.33), 1/6.
13. Certificate of Origin of Goods under Law No. 4 of 1925, 4/ per 100.
14. Statutes (Imperial and Jamaican) and Regulation relating to British Nationality, Naturalization of Aliens and the Loss of British Nationality, compiled by Hector Josephs, K.C., 1/.
15. Rules under Real Property Representative Law, 1903, 1/-.
16. Trade Marks Rules, 1/.
17. Rules under Section 8 of the Cinematograph Law, 1913, 3d.
18. Regulations as to the Construction of Buildings in Reinforced Concrete, 3d.
19. Regulations for the Importation, Landing, Transportation, Storage and Sale of Petroleum and Oil Fuel under Section 17 of Law 22 of 1925, 6d.
20. Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Law (No. 12 of 1931) Principal Law, 1/.
21. R. M. Court—New Tariff of Fees, 3d.
22. Regulations for carrying out the purposes of Section 2 of the Tariff Law, 1925, as amended by Law 14 of 1932, 3d. each.

Agricultural.

23. Agricultural Produce (Consolidating) Law (No. 19 of 1926), 1/.
24. Regulations under the Agricultural Produce Law, 1926, (a) Citrus Fruit, (b) Cocoa and Coffee, (c) Honey and Wax, (d) Bananas, 1d. each.
25. Banana Books, 5/ each.
26. Catalogue of Jamaican Insects, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., Government Entomologist, 1926, Parts 1 and 2, 140 pp., 2/; Part 3, 48 pp. 1/-.
27. The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, 2/.

28. Irrigation Reports, 1927, Five Reports by C. F. Stewart Baker, M.I.C.E. Illustrated by 5 diagramatic maps in colours, in Gazette Supplement form, 6d.
29. Proceedings of Ninth West Indian Agricultural Conference, 1924, 238 pp., 2/6.
30. Produce Dealers Account Books, small 2/3d.; large 4/6.
31. Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the working and administration of the affairs of the Department of Agriculture, with the Evidence and Appendices I., VI., XXIII, and A., 1914, 1/.
32. Address by F. L. McDougall, C.M.G., on "Agricultural Organisation," 1/.
33. Extracts from Reports of the Imperial Economic Committee on Marketing and Preparing for Market of Foodstuffs produced in the Overseas Parts of the Empire. Third Report—Fruit, 1926, 34 pp., 1/.
34. List of properties of 50 acres and upwards, 1930, 2/6.
35. The Rainfall of Jamaica from about 1870 to end of 1909, with maps, 2/6.
36. The Rainfall of Jamaica from about 1870 to end of 1919, with maps, 2/6.
37. Report upon the Forests of Jamaica, 1886, by E. D. M. Hooper, Indian Forest Department, 1886, 1/.
38. West Indian Conference, 1926, Publications.—Proceedings, 75 pp., 2/6.
39. Address by Sir William Furse, K.C.B., D.S.O., "The Work of the Imperial Institute," 1/.

39—1. Statistics of the Sugar Industry of Jamaica. Prepared for the use of the Sugar Commission, 1929. 102 pp., f'cap folio, 2/.

Medical and Health.

40. Sale of Drugs and Poisons, Law 20 of 1926, 1/.
41. Report of Commission on Re-organising the Medical Service, 1921, 1/.
42. Public Health Law (No. 18 of 1925), 1/
43. Address by Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., "Why Hygiene Pays," 1/.
44. Handbook of the Public Health Law (1925), of Jamaica, showing the Law as it affects medical and sanitary practice, being a Guide for Medical Officers, Sanitary Inspectors and others, by G. C. Strathairn, S.S.M.O., 1926, 68 pp., 1/6.
45. Jamaica Health Stories and Plays, by B. E. Washburn, M.A., M.D., Demy 8vo, 110 pp., 1929. Stiff paper cover 4d. each or 3s. a dozen.

45—1. Malaria Survey of Jamaica, by Mark F. Boyd and F. W. Aris, f'cap. folio, 64 pp., with 13 illustrations, 1929, 1/.

General.

46. Blue Book of Jamaica (Annual), 10/.
47. Departmental Reports, Annual Volume, 5/; separate Departments, 1/ each.
48. Census of Jamaica and its Dependencies, 1911, 1/6.
49. The Jamaica Gazette (Weekly), including Supplements, 12/ per annum, in advance, in Jamaica, 18/ abroad. Separate copies of Gazette, 4½d., Extraordinary Gazette, 4½d.

50. Supplements to the Jamaica Gazette, containing Bills as introduced into Legislative Council sold with Gazettes.
51. Jamaica Weather Report (Monthly). Free.
52. Handbook of Jamaica, comprising Historical, Statistical and General Information concerning the Island (Annual). Cloth, gilt, 8/.
53. Report on Parochial Boards, 1899, by S. L. Thornton and L. J. Bertram, 1/.
54. A Report on the Storms and Hurricanes of November, 1912, by Maxwell Hall, 1/.
55. Report on Hurricane in Jamaica, August 15th and 16th, 1916, by Maxwell Hall, 3d.
56. Report on Hurricane in Jamaica, September 23rd. 1917, 3d.
57. Lists of Voters for all Parishes, separately, 1/.
58. Notes on the Geology of Jamaica (with Maps) 1913, by Maxwell Hall, M.A., F.R.A.S., F.R. Met. Soc., 1/.
59. Report on the Finances of Jamaica, 1899, by Sir D. Barbour, K.C.S.I., 1/.
60. Report on the Finances of Jamaica, by H. E. Dale, C.B., 5/ net.
61. Report on the Toronto Exhibition, August, 1913, by Wm. Cradwick, 3d.
62. Report on Transport Problems in Jamaica, 1923, by Lt.-Col. F. D. Hammond, C.B.E., D.S.O., with Map, 5/; without Map, 4/.
63. Jamaica Civil List and Records of Public Officers (annual), 2/6.
64. Road Map of Jamaica in colours, 2 sheet, 6 ft. x 2ft., 2s.; mounted on linen, 1 sheet 7/6 do. with rollers, 9/.
65. Map of Jamaica, in colours, 13 ins. x 26 ins., 6d.
66. Map of Jamaica, in black and grey 6 ft. x 2 ft., 2/7 unmounted, 9/3 mounted on canvas, 10/9 with rollers.
67. Report of the First West Indies Conference, Jan.-Feb., 1929, 144 pp., f'cap folio, 2/6.
68. Education Code, 1929, 1/.
69. Report of the Commission on Government Savings Bank, 1/.

The prices include postage to places within the Island of Jamaica. FOREIGN POSTAGE is extra to above prices. Remittances must be made by Postal Orders or Post Office Money Orders, payable to the "Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica."

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).

Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).

Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).

Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).

East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

MAURITIUS.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Dependency of the Cayman Islands consists of three small islands situate between longitude W. 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ in latitude N. 19° 15′ and 19° 45′. The westernmost is the island of Grand Cayman, which is approximately 20 miles from east to west and has a maximum breadth north to south of some 8 miles. The other two islands, known respectively as Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, lie about 60 miles to the north-east of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is about 10 miles long by 2 miles wide at its maximum and Cayman Brac is a little larger.

No survey of the land area has yet been made but the total of the group is estimated by various authorities at from 140 square miles to as little as 92.

The islands are low-lying and Grand Cayman is in many parts little more than mangrove swamp. The maximum height is 130 feet above sea level at the easternmost end of Cayman Brac, a culminating point to a high plateau that rises gradually from the west. This plateau has precipitous flanks both on the north and south sides, these cliffs being separated from the sea by a narrow stretch of beach and coral formation.

Geologically the islands consist of decayed coral limestone with deposits of phosphate and a loamy soil. They are covered with dense bush containing, in addition to mangroves, much logwood, mahogany, thatch-palm (*Thrinax argentea*) and other trees of no particular economic worth.

Pasture land of considerable value for raising cattle is found on each of the islands, but agricultural land is not so abundant owing to the too frequent outcrop of decaying coral limestone and to the presence of swamps.

Climate.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the most part of the year excellent. The temperature from November until the middle of April varies from 79° to 82°, and the winds are usually gentle to fresh from the N.E. to N.W.

The summer months are hot, and, as a rule, rainfall is comparatively heavy. The hurricane season lasts from August to November, as elsewhere in the West Indies. The following is a list of the principal hurricanes during the past two centuries.

September, 1735	October 10th, 1846
August, 1751	October 10th, 1876
October, 1812	August 11th, 1903
June, 1836	August, 1915
August, 1836	September, 1917
September 24th, 1838	November 7th–9th, 1932
October 28th, 1838	July 1st, 1933

The hurricane of 1932 was of outstanding violence and the destruction of statistics and other returns rendered the preparation of the Annual Report for that year impracticable. This hurricane resulted in the loss of 109 lives and the almost total demolition of the houses on Cayman Brac. It began at 6 a.m. on Monday, 7th November, and lasted for fifty-two hours. The velocity of the wind was estimated at 150-200 miles per hour, but a worse feature was the heavy sea that accompanied it.

The houses on Cayman Brac were mostly on a ridge close to the sea. Behind them was a shallow valley leading to the precipitous cliffs which stretch throughout the length of the island. This valley soon filled with sea-water, and itself became a stretch of raging water. Thus the people were cut off from their sole chance of safety. That night, the tempestuous sea and the terrific wind made escape almost impossible, and it is difficult to imagine the terror of that time.

Even when daylight came and the hurricane had abated the sufferings of the people were not lessened. There was no means of communication by which relief could be called for; the injured and dead remained unattended; roads and pathways had disappeared beneath the piled up mass of broken coral, rendering the whole a chaos of wreckage and coral boulders, most difficult to traverse.

Eventually, after three days, relief came; H.M.S. *Dragon*, the S.S. *Loch Katrine*, and the S.S. *Husvik*, the M.S. *Nunoca* and the M.S. *Cimboco* arrived with medical assistance and stores, and what was even more urgently required, fresh water, for the sea had broken every cistern and tank and fouled the springs and wells. At the end of 1933 Cayman Brac was still only just recovering from the effects of this visitation. Little Cayman fortunately suffered less from the seas, but practically every house was destroyed.

The hurricane of 1st July, 1933, was felt at Grand Cayman, but owing to its short duration was not so dire in its results; moreover, its chief point of attack was at Prospect, which had been almost destroyed entirely in the November, 1932, hurricane, so that comparatively little more damage was possible.

History.

It is said that the islands were sighted first by Columbus on his third voyage in 1503, and were named by him "las Tortugas" owing to the number of turtle. But there appears to be no further historical reference until one finds in Esquemeling's History of the Buccaneers :—

> "The chief of these islands are the three islands called Caymanes, situated in the latitude of twenty degrees and fifteen minutes North, being at the distance of five-and-forty leagues from the Isle of Cuba.
>
> "It is a thing much deserving consideration how the tortoises can find out these islands. For the greatest part of them come from the Gulf of Honduras, distant thence the whole space of one hundred and fifty leagues. Certain it is, that many times the ships, having lost their latitude through the darkness of the weather, have steered their course only by the noise of the tortoise swimming that way, and have arrived at those isles. When their season of hatching is past, they retire towards the island of Cuba, where are many good places that afford them food. But while they are at the islands of Caymanes, they eat very little or nothing."

The islands held this reputation of good turtling grounds for many years and it is probably because of this that they became a dependency of Jamaica, for at the time of the capture of that island from the Spaniards in 1655 the British ships proceeded frequently to the Caymans to bring turtle for the troops in Jamaica, and at the signing of the treaty by which Spain renounced her claim to Jamaica the Cayman Islands were also surrendered. No trace however remains of any Spanish occupation. From time to time finds are made of Spanish coins, which might indicate some form of occupation by that country, but it is commonly believed rather to be evidence of residence by pirates and buccaneers, than of Spanish settlers.

It is known that the former frequented Grand Cayman, and there exists much traditional lore of piratical hoards at Little Cayman.

More serious settlement took place about 1750, and from that time the islands have been in permanent occupation.

The name " Cayman " has been a subject of a certain amount of discussion. It has been thought that it was the Carib word for alligator although there has been little evidence of that reptile frequenting the group to any large extent. Again it has been thought that the final syllables " man " or " manas " or " manes " or " manos " were derived from the Spanish for " hand ". Supporters of this explanation seem to have stretched their imagination considerably, for they assert that the name " hand island " was given because Grand Cayman resembled a hand. Others aver that the original name of the islands was Las Tortugas owing to the number of turtles seen in the group. So far as can be learned the earliest mention of the islands is on the Wolfenbuttel map of 1527 whereon they were called " Caymanos ". In a manuscript map of the world by Diego Ravero dated 1529 the islands are known as " Tortugas " and in Alonzo de Santa Cruz' map of 1542 the designation Grand Cayman is given.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

During the eighteenth century public affairs in the Dependency were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica under the direction of one of them locally elected as " Governor ". The principle of representative government was accepted in 1832, when elected members were received into the administrative body, and the term " custos rotulorum " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 & 27 Vict. Chap. 31) recognizing the existence of acts and resolutions passed by this local body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed, but at the same time provision was made for the continuance of the legislative powers of the Justices and Vestry. These powers were more closely defined in the Imperial Act of 1863 referred to above :—

> " Respecting their own constitution and procedure ;
>
> Respecting the powers and duties of public officers ;
>
> And especially respecting the powers, functions and procedure of Justices of the Peace, and officers acting under their authority ;
>
> And respecting appeals from the decisions of such Justices to the Supreme Court of Jamaica ;

Respecting the establishment, maintenance, discipline, and powers of the Police;

Respecting the management, occupation, and disposal of the public property, or common land;

Respecting the abatement of nuisances, the construction of works of public utility, the making of roads, the cleansing of streets and houses, and other matters affecting the health or convenience of the community;

Respecting the custody of offenders and accused persons;

Respecting the imposition and collection of rates and taxes; and respecting the custody and expenditure thereof."

Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica and in 1933 numbered twenty-three. There were twenty-eight Vestrymen who represented the various electoral areas as follows:—Georgetown, five; Prospect, five; Boddentown, five; East End, three; Northside, three; West Bay, three; Lesser Islands, four.

The election of Vestrymen is conducted biennially, the last being in 1932. The procedure at these elections is regulated by an Act of 1832 which has remained, except for minor details, unaltered. This Act which must be one of the shortest in existence that deals with popular representation, reads as follows:—

"Upon requisition of the Custos, or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the District shall call the people together, and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years: Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, Prospect, and Boddentown, four for the Lesser Cayman Islands, three each for East End, and West Bay, and two for Northside. Five Magistrates and eight Vestrymen shall be considered a sufficient number to proceed with and transact any business which shall at any time be brought forward respecting the affairs of these Islands.

"For the due notification of a meeting of the Justices and Vestry, the constable shall henceforth be required to show the notice at each Justice's and Vestryman's house prior to putting it up at the usual place.

"It shall be considered a rule that whenever there be sufficient members present, all written excuses from absent members shall be admitted through courtesy; but should there be an insufficient number present, then every absent member. not absolutely hindered, shall pay a fine of 20s. to be levied in default by warrant from the succeeding Grand Court."

The power of the Custos is now vested in the office of Commissioner, who is at the same time Judge of the Grand Court. The duties of the Commissioner are regulated by Law 34 of 1898, (section 2).

III.—POPULATION.

The last Census was taken in 1921 and the following figures were then returned :—

	White.		Coloured.		Black.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Georgetown	188	262	95	136	164	225	1,070
West Bay	204	314	254	355	6	6	1,139
Prospect	85	146	57	79	6	24	397
Boddentown	42	62	94	156	84	124	562
East End	5	2	152	241	22	67	489
North Side	27	40	91	90	20	20	288
Cayman Brac. ...	262	286	280	325	36	24	1,213
Little Cayman ...	29	40	13	13	—	—	95
Totals	842	1,152	1,036	1,395	338	490	5,253

The statistics of Births and Deaths for the last five years are as follows :—

	No. of births.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Infantile mortality.*	*No. of deaths.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*
1929 ...	155	29	58	53	10
1930 ...	185	35	54	48	9
1931 ...	178	33	67	67	12
1932 ...	(not available)				
1933 ...	162	30	154	156	29

Immigration and emigration figures are not kept with any degree of accuracy, but the passenger returns outward and inward are as follows :—

Year.	*Outward.*	*Inward.*
1928	1,541	1,291
1929	808	585
1930	526	291
1931	757	641
1932	445	545
1933	352	442

From these figures the discrepancy between males and females apparent in the Census Returns is explained, for the majority of young men leave the Dependency to work abroad. Usually their families are left in the islands and are only visited from time to time.

The marriage returns are as follows :—

Year	*No. of marriages.*	*Rate per thousand.*
1928	29	6
1929	44	8
1930	40	8
1931	40	7
1932	37	7
1933	32	6

IV.—HEALTH.

The year 1933 was an exceptional one, and the very healthy condition of the Dependency was considerably altered for the worse. The figures shown in the previous chapter are witness to this unfortunate fact.

No reason for the deterioration can be offered other than the hurricane of November, 1932. The Medical Officer reported an outbreak in the early part of the year of gastro-intestinal disorders which may be attributed almost entirely to the after effects of that storm. These disorders greatly exceeded those of the previous year, as the storm in its ravages dislocated every mode of normal living. Food and water supplies were at their minimum, both in quantity and quality. The Medical Officer visited the Lesser Islands in May, 1933, and was informed by the Government dispenser stationed on Cayman Brac that up to that period there has been some 400-500 cases compared with the usual 30 to 40 cases of previous years. During his stay he treated 102 cases, and, of that number, 72 showed chronic intestinal ailments, while the remainder were cases presenting functional disturbances caused by exposure to wet and cold. At Grand Cayman there was also a marked increase in the incidence of intestinal ailments after the hurricane, and although that island did not experience the force of the storm such as was felt at Cayman Brac, the community in certain sections was reduced to such extremes that it would have been difficult not to have been predisposed to illness. In Grand Cayman there were no less than eight hundred cases of intestinal catarrh, ranging in clinical significance from a mild gastro-enteritis to a severe colitis. Many of the cases though of short duration presented alarming symptoms from the onset, with manifestations more pronounced in the very aged and the young.

Typhoid fever.—Forty cases of this fever were reported and treated for the year at Grand Cayman. In 1932 there were six, and in 1931 there were fourteen cases. Although the report from the Lesser Islands mentioned an increase in the number of cases for the year, it was not possible to obtain figures of a definite nature for statistical purposes. Throughout the Dependency during the early part of the year, owing to the destructive changes caused by the storm, hygienic conditions were very bad, food was scarce and of poor quality, and there was pollution and paucity of water. The enforcement of sanitation was impossible, and hordes of flies made their appearance everywhere. Fortunately, however, the mortality was not of an alarming nature, as only six deaths were attributed to this malady at Grand Cayman, and three in the Lesser Islands.

Malarial fever.—Statistics are not available regarding the incidence of this disease. Only a few cases came under observation during the year.

Tuberculosis.—The incidence of tuberculosis remains low and for the year under review two cases were reported, one of a pulmonary nature and the other peritoneal.

The death-rate for the year was considerably higher than in previous years, a fact directly attributable to the hurricane effects. An analysis of the data shows a mortality rate of 29 as against an average rate of 10 over the past ten years.

This rate includes 25 infants (males 16, females 9) and a surprising number of aged folk, i.e., over 75 years of age—of whom 17 males and 29 females died during the year.

The Government Medical Officer concluded his report by stating that there is, however, no cause for alarm, as health conditions were at the close of 1933 again normal, and should improve as the mental balance of those who experienced the assaults of the hurricane becomes restored. It is to be noted, however, that even at the end of 1933 the people of Cayman Brac were still suffering from a severe " hurricane-complex ".

There is no hospital in this Dependency. Provision for medical attention is provided by the services of a Government Medical Officer, stationed in Grand Cayman, and of a dispenser resident in Cayman Brac.

The former enjoys private practice and is entitled to fees regulated by rules drawn up under Law 3 of 1901, which provided for the appointment.

There are no certificated midwives, such services being rendered by volunteers who receive small remuneration.

Statistics reveal that infant mortality and deaths of mothers at childbirth are very low. The figures since 1929 are :—

Year.	*No. of births.*	*Infant. deaths.*	*Infantile mortality rate.*	*Mothers in child-birth, death of.*
1929	155	9	58	—
1930	185	10	54	—
1931	178	12	67	1
1932	(not available.)			
1933	162	25	154	—

During the year the Dependency received a legacy from the late Miss Helen Lambert for the purposes of assisting towards the foundation of a hospital. The full proceeds of the legacy had not been received before the year under review closed. It has been decided that the amount should be administered by a committee consisting of two Magistrates and three Vestrymen under the chairmanship of the Commissioner.

V.—HOUSING.

No statistics are available as to the housing conditions obtaining in the Dependency, but these is no doubt that since the census of 1921 a very great improvement has taken place. At that time there

were 1,060 houses scattered over the islands, all of the detached variety and more or less in their own grounds of an extent varying from plots of some fifty feet square to as much as several acres. These plots were often left to the bush and very little attempt was ever made to clean them or to make gardens. Fruit-trees, such as mango, sapodilla, avocado-pear, bread-fruit and various citrus were allowed to grow haphazard, no effort being made to prune them or to restrict their number. In certain areas, however, notably at West Bay, a movement to keep the immediate surroundings of the houses clear and to cultivate small flower gardens has been most successful. In the same way cottages close to the sea are by that very fact maintained free from encroaching bush. But Georgetown is remarkable in so far that even the fisher-folk live in houses completely surrounded and even hidden by thick jungle.

Nowhere is the type of house large, there being only eleven in all the Dependency with more than eight rooms at the time of the census.

The flooring of the houses was, in 1921, almost exclusively wooden, pine-wood and deal being the usual material, but to-day there is, without doubt, a much greater use being made of cement and similar compounds.

Thatch roofs have almost disappeared save for out-buildings such as kitchens. The roofs were made of *Thrinax argentea*, and were real objects of art, and it is to be hoped that this craftsmanship will be preserved. Outwardly the appearance is not striking, but from the inside the intricate and regular weaving of the leaves present a view of good and beautiful workmanship. It is worth recording in connexion with the thatching of roofs that this work was performed not for remuneration but as a communal work for which the reward was a fiesta, even the principal artisans receiving no payment.

Since 1921 bungalows of the American style of architecture have been introduced and there were in 1933 many of this type, presenting a view of wealthier conditions and a higher standard of living.

A few examples remain of a type of house which is claimed to be peculiar to the Cayman Islands. These were often two-storeyed with shingle roofs to which there was no overhang and of which the slope was not very acute. The walls were made of puddled coral and sand, the coral having first been reduced to powder by burning. Sections are set up at a time between hardwood uprights and interlacing of small beams. Windows were cut and having no glass were merely shuttered, either with jalousies or boards.

Practically every house is owned by the family resident therein, only a few being rented. Rental varies considerably from £2 a month upwards.

Lodging for working-class people is not expensive. Often young unmarried men come from the outlying areas to the larger centres for casual work. Their board and lodging costs from 6s. a week upwards, but usually arrangements can be made to lodge with relatives.

The sanitary laws require modernization, dating as they do from 1899. An amending law passed in 1912 for the Georgetown area called for the erection of surface earth closets, but provision was made for its extension to other areas. Advantage has not yet been taken of this provision.

In a few of the more modern houses indoor closets have been constructed and these are controlled by cesspools. But the majority of the people are too poor to afford this improvement. Even Government House has only an outside surface closet.

There are no building societies in the Dependency; but a strong family or communal feeling exists whereby persons of the poorer class desirous of erecting a new house can obtain labour and assistance free of charge.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

For a short period (from 1884-1890) the islands were exploited for phosphates, deposits being worked commercially in each of the three islands. But the grade of the phosphates was low and the area of the deposits not of any extent. Since the closing down of these works there has been no mineral production and the Dependency relies entirely on the harvest of the sea and of the field.

Agriculture.

Agriculturally the islands are of a very promising character and are capable of producing practically every crop that grows within the tropic zone. The soil consists of a marl and this, enriched by vegetable decay as well as the mild phosphatic deposits, should have made the islands of considerable agricultural value. The Cayman Islanders, however, are essentially fisher-folk and seamen, and the result is that the fields are not cultivated to the full extent of their possibilities, nor are they cared for to the amount required. It is the same with the fruit trees which are not cultivated but merely planted. A conspicuous feature of agricultural conditions is the complete indifference of the women-folk who in other parts take their full share of the labour. Even among the negro population the women do not display any real interest in the fields.

The principal field products are:—corn, guinea corn, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, cassava, pumpkins, melons and plantains, and the principal fruit trees are mango, bananas, sapodilla, avocado-pear, paw-paw, sweet and sour sops and the various citrus. It is to be noted that although sisal and Spanish sabre grow almost everywhere in the islands, pineapples are conspicuous by their absence.

It is possible that this is due to superstition as the people frequently relate that they believe children were fatally poisoned some years ago through eating pineapples imported from Central America.

Most of the agricultural production is by individual workers who, as a rule, own the land they farm. There are, however, quite a few plantation owners who employ labour.

Statistics are not available as to the quantity or value of the crops which are wholly consumed locally. The islands, however, are not self-supporting, but import a certain amount of fresh fruits and vegetables annually.

Live Stock.

At one time the islands maintained a considerable number of pigs, but these have disappeared as herds, only a few single ones being maintained in sties close to the houses. On the other hand cattle thrive especially in the areas covered by guinea grass. Some years ago considerable loss was caused by ticks introduced from Cuba. This was successfully combated by compulsory dipping and to-day the islands seem to be comparatively free of this pest. The number of cattle is estimated at about 1,500, most of which are of good stock, including Frisian, Jersey, Indian-Hungary, and a small polled breed. These cattle are generally owned in very small herds, only a few farmers having as many as a dozen.

The pasture lands on Cayman Brac are remarkably fine. They are situated at the top of the scarp where the herds are watered through a system of cisterns and tanks, but some owners, unable to afford this luxury, have to drive their cattle down to water.

There used to be an export trade of cattle to Cuba, but this seems to have disappeared for the time being. Indeed, cattle are imported from Swan Island, which, although not under the British flag, is inhabited almost entirely by Caymanians. The price of cattle is on an average £5 to £6 a head for bulls, £6 for bullocks, and £5 to £7 for milch cows. During the year 1933 the number of cattle killed in Georgetown market where statistics alone are available was 104, and the price charged was 6d. per pound, which includes all parts of the beast and makes no distinction as to the choice of joint.

A few goats are kept, and these are generally tethered near the houses. Sheep are entirely unknown to-day, although at one time they were a feature of the island.

Poultry are kept by practically every householder and allowed to run indiscriminately about to find their own food with the inevitable result that they tend to become small and scraggy. Only a few turkeys and ducks but no geese are kept. The price of a fowl varies from 1s. upwards, and the cost of eggs is 1s. per dozen.

An attempt has been made to cultivate bees but so far with no striking result.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry is divided into off-shore and high-seas fishing. Practically every male indulges in the first and disposes of his surplus fish without difficulty. The value of this industry is impossible to determine. The high-seas fishing consists chiefly of turtling and sharking. There are two types of turtling, one for hawksbill turtle and the other for green turtle. The former is mainly for the shell, which during the year fluctuated in price from 8s. to 15s. per pound. The latter is for local consumption and for the American and European markets. The figures of this industry are as follows :—

	Green Turtle.		*Hawksbill.*	
Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
1929	1,834	3,670	4,590	5,962
1930	2,214	4,428	3,000	1,975
1931	2,298	4,552	4,150	2,160
1932	1,004	1,049*	619	306*
1933	966	966	1,990	1,115

The turtle are taken on the banks, shoals, and cays that lie off the Honduranean and Nicaraguan coasts. The seasons for their catching are from January to March, and July to September. It is interesting to note that the people of Cayman Brac devote their energies to the taking of hawksbill whilst the people of Grand Cayman are content with the taking of green. No explanation for this predilection can be offered.

The turtling industry is conducted on a basis that can be compared with co-operation as understood in the practice of modern co-operative societies.

During the months of January and July the turtling fleet consisting of about 15 sailing schooners, sets out for the turtling grounds. With favourable winds the passage across from Grand Cayman takes from 3 to 4 days. They enter at one of the ports in Nicaragua and having obtained the necessary permission to fish continue on to the cays.

A schooner usually carries ten men as a crew, including three officers. When the work of catching the turtle begins, they divide into three "gangs", an officer being in charge, or pilot, of each boat. Nets are used for taking the turtle. These are made in lengths of from 10 to 13 fathoms and for the trip about 20 are required.

A net is kept afloat by buoys fastened to the rope on which the meshes are attached. Each mesh is 10 inches square. The rope is made locally from *Thrinax argentea* which because of its light weight is most suitable. Weights fastened on either end keep the net upright, one end being kept stationary, the other allowed to swing about with the current or tide.

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* Grand Cayman only.

The men proceed in the evening to the shoals where the turtle sleep, set the nets and return to the ship. A turtle does not usually sleep in the same place each night so that the setting of the nets requires considerable knowledge of the habits and movements of the turtle. During the night turtles have to rise to the surface to breathe and it is then that they are caught in the nets, which are so constructed that breathing is possible and there is very little loss by drowning. Sharks, however, are often a real nuisance at this time and attack the enmeshed turtle.

A usual catch is 25 head, but as many as 40 to 50 may be caught in a single night in this manner.

During one season a schooner may catch from 150 to 200 turtle. In order to keep the turtle alive and healthy, kraals are constructed in the shallow waters of the cays, where they are fed with a seaweed, commonly known as turtle grass.

The men are paid no wages, but they receive a share in the proceeds of the sale of the turtle. The price paid in the American markets during 1933, chiefly at Key West, Florida, was from 7 to 9 cents per pound, the weight of a fully developed turtle varying from 100-200 lb. In addition to the actual price for the turtle buyers paid a flat rate of 2 cents per lb. as freight, but it is only the larger schooners which make the trip across to the United States.

During the year under review this trade with Key West was reduced considerably. Attention was turned more to the European market where the price ranged from £2 to £4 per head, but this market requires small quantities only and there is considerable loss in the turtle owing to the length of the voyage.

The initial expenses including cost of nets, gear, buoys, &c., are borne by the owners of the vessels. The crew work voluntarily in making the ship ready for sea and in knitting the nets, the owners supplying food during this time. From the gross proceeds of the sale of a catch the Customs duties at Nicaragua of 50 cents a head are deducted. The balance is divided equally, one half to the crew and the other to the owner. From the crew's portion is again deducted the cost of the stores carried which averages from £15 to £20 per trip. The remainder is then divided into equal shares. The officers, however, receive out of the ship's or owners' portion what is known as " extras ", that is three-quarters share to the Captain, one-half to 1st mate and one-quarter to the 2nd mate. So that on the termination of a good trip an ordinary sailor may realize for his labours from £25 to £40, and an officer from £40 to £55. The port expenses of the ship are paid by the owners.

Sharking is a comparatively new industry and is carried on chiefly by the people of West Bay who proceed on somewhat similar lines to the turtlers. The sharks are caught off the same cays but there are not yet sufficient data available or sufficient knowledge of the movements of the fish to record any statistics of value.

To-day there are practically no local industries except that of thatch rope making and a certain amount of hat weaving. Formerly a canning industry existed at Georgetown but this has long since disappeared. There are no statistics as to conditions in the rope making trade or that of hat weaving. Both are home industries carried out by the men and women-folk in their own homes and in their own time and at their own inclination. It is therefore impossible to give figures as to hours or payment, but the importance of the industry to the islanders can be gauged from the quantity of rope exported; the exports of hats being negligible. The accompanying table shows the fluctuations of the thatch-rope industry.

	Fathoms in 1,000's.	*Value.*	*Average cost per 1,000 fathoms.*
		£	s.
1914	835	626	15
1915	463	347	15
1916	624	468	15
1917	764	690	18
1918	1,251	1,710	27
1919	1,196	1,886	32
1920	1,660	1,185	14
1921	1,812	2,849	31
1922	1,107	1,360	24
1923	991	1,409	28
1924	640	640	20
1925	1,002	1,754	35
1926	1,140	1,710	30
1927	1,274	1,972	30
1928	1,098	1,647	30
1929	1,158	1,450	25
1930	1,610	2,014	25
1931	1,626	1,626	20
1932	1,525	1,534	20
1933	1,412	1,163	18

Thatch rope is made from the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*. It is not cultivated but is to be found growing wild everywhere in the islands. The manufacture of the rope is carried on by the poorer classes, principally in the districts of West Bay and East End. It is chiefly the women-folk who turn their hands to this industry for their livelihood.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports in 1933 were valued at £31,750, being £3,390 less than in 1931. The decrease was due rather to lower prices than to reduction in quantity. Exports were valued at £8,548, showing a decrease of £1,687, as compared with 1931. Re-exports are included being valued at £3,421, as compared with £272 in 1931. Comparison is made with the year 1931 inasmuch as no particulars are available for Cayman Brac, all statistics having been lost in the hurricane of 1932.

Trade is maintained principally with the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and the United States of America, and the percentages for the past five years are as follows:—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Imports.					
United Kingdom	7·02	10·57	8·01	—	15·85
Jamaica	35·18	27·80	23·07	—	41·11
United States	49·45	47·64	52·28	—	34·74
Exports.					
United Kingdom	4·86	4·55	2·00	—	3·78
Jamaica	65·13	51·87	45·34	—	73·33
United States	29·50	35·37	40·35	—	21·53

Imports from Empire sources for the year 1933 amounted to 57·66 per cent. of the total imports, being an increase of 25·69 per cent. over the figures for the year 1931. Trade with the United States decreased considerably compared with previous years.

Exports amounted to £8,548 in 1933, being £1,687 less than in 1931.

The following tables show the direction of the import trade and distribution of the exports during the years 1929 to 1933. The export of green turtles to the United States, turtle shell to the United Kingdom, and thatch rope to Jamaica, which form the mainstay of the Dependency, practically ceased, thereby throwing a large number of the fishermen and labouring class out of work.

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Imports.	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	3,002	4,418	2,816	—	5,035
Other British possessions	15,617	11,858	8,419	—	13,274
United States	21,126	19,896	18,373	—	11,030
Other Countries	2,965	5,590	5,532	—	2,411
	42,710	41,762	35,140	—	31,750
Exports (Domestic).	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	600	522	200	—	194
Other British Possessions	8,027	5,940	4,724	—	3,761
United States	3,646	4,050	4,021	—	1,104
Other Countries	51	938	1,018	—	68
	12,324	11,450	9,963	—	5,127
Re-Exports.	£	£	£	£	£
Jamaica	65	250	12	—	1,211
Other Countries	—	349	260	—	386
United States	—	—	—	—	1,824
	65	599	272	—	3,421

Prices of imports and exports have not fallen to any considerable extent in spite of the general lowering of values elsewhere.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There is comparatively little employment for unskilled labour either by government or other employers. The principal work is that of cleaning roads for which the usual daily rate is 3s. Agricultural labour is employed by some of the larger land owners but is of a temporary nature, permanent labour being practically unknown. Such labour is paid at the rate of 3s. a day. Boys are employed to herd the cattle and receive from 6s. to 8s. a month, together with food. Other casual labour is employed on the water-front and receives 6d. per hour.

There are no regulations as to the number of hours, but in Government employ these are limited to eight.

Skilled labour works as a rule by contract. Shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheel-wrights, etc., command a wage from 8s. to 12s. a day.

The staple food is wheaten flour and corn meal, both imported. It is difficult to estimate the value of the wages earned in terms of bread loaves as the people are their own bakers and the loaves are of irregular size and weight. There is a bakery at Georgetown, but this only supplies the more well-to-do classes.

One of the most interesting features of wage-earning in the Dependency is that in vogue on the turtling vessels referred to in a previous chapter.

The cost of living for officials does not vary much whether the officer lives at Georgetown or elsewhere. In either case the cost is low compared with elsewhere in the West Indies. The majority of Government officials belong to local families and therefore have access without cost to the produce of the orchards and fields. A stranger would probably require at least £60 per annum and a married man about £100.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education throughout the Dependency is free and compulsory. The school age is from 7 to 14 for both sexes and is confined to elementary subjects. There are no secondary or technical schools or institutions for higher education. Control of Education is vested in a Board appointed annually. This Board functions under Law 5 of 1920 by which there was placed at its disposal annually a sum of £1,500, details of expenditure being left entirely in the hands of the Board, and surplus balances, if any, remain at its disposal.

Since 1929 expenditure has been annually as follows :—

Year.	*Expenditure.* £	*No. of Children.*
1929	1,629 17 8	902
1930	1,682 7 7	909
1931	1,492 19 11	916
1932	1,429 9 10	887
1933	1,308 16 4	870

It had been determined by the Local Legislative Assembly to find the amount of this annual grant of £1,500 by an increase in the *ad valorem* duties of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. That was in 1920, but this $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. increase has during the past few years not reached the £1,500 annually allocated.

The number of children on the roll during the year was 870, whose education was provided in fourteen schools, four of which were at Cayman Brac. There is no school at Little Cayman, where only two children of school age are to be found. At the same time there are five private schools with an attendance of 50 pupils. There are twenty-three teachers, a number that includes five pupil teachers. Teachers are appointed by the Board and are generally in possession of some teaching certificate. Public opinion has for some years expressed itself as being dissatisfied with the whole system as it is claimed that the results have not yet reached the expectations of 1920, so that the whole matter of education will have to come under review at no distant date.

To encourage education the Board has awarded scholarships to enable young men to learn the profession of teaching at Mico College, Kingston, Jamaica, and elsewhere, and during the year under review two such youths have returned. It is doubtful whether the experiment will be successful as the employment of local men as teachers must inevitably tend to an increase in parochialism and insularity.

The standard of teaching is based on the pupil teachers' examination of Jamaica, of which there are three grades. In 1933, 34 sat for the examination. Of these seven passed the first grade, four the second, and four the third; but it is obviously not a high standard.

No provision is made for the maintenance of orphanages or for any sick and aged people. The Justices and Vestry grant a small sum towards the maintenance of paupers, which is distributed on the advice of the local Justices to deserving cases for the provision of small luxuries such as sugar, coffee, flour, and tobacco. During the year there were 51 people on this pauper list.

The need for a welfare institution to provide for and look after the poor certainly exists. At the end of 1933 conditions of general poverty obtained throughout the Dependency. The aged people who depended on remittances from their sons abroad were left without that aid. Young mothers with families likewise dependent on money from abroad were equally stranded. At the same time the fall in value of thatch rope affected directly the poorer classes, who have found themselves more and more involved in what is locally misnamed the "truck system," but actually amounts merely to payment in kind in exchange for produce that is not readily marketable.

The smallness of the community and the close relationship of most people with one another tends naturally to the encouragement of mutual recreation. Concerts are frequently arranged for various

charitable purposes and are well patronised. At the same time there is in Georgetown a tennis club and there are cricket clubs in West Bay and Georgetown.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In Grand Cayman a motorable road runs from North West point to Boddentown, a distance of about 20 miles. At Georgetown this road bifurcates, one branch continuing inland as far as Red Bay and the other one following the coast line closely to the same point. In the settlements of West Bay and Georgetown there are a few streets that follow no considered plan. There are also short sections of road connecting the main artery with the North Sound both at Georgetown and West Bay. Bridle paths connect the other districts one with the other. In Cayman Brac during the year 1933 there was completed the road from West End to Creek in place of the old road that had been completely covered with the debris of coral thrown up by the hurricane. In Little Cayman there are no roads, only paths, as there is no need for any public communication other than connexions between houses of members of the same family.

Communications cannot be said to be good. The roads are narrow and follow no direct line. Indeed in the past the authorities have met considerable opposition in getting permission to construct even the merest track. Even to-day Cayman Islanders lack this elementary sense of civic duty.

The cost of maintenance and construction of these roads is inordinately high. A new road in Cayman Brac begun and almost completed in 1933 cost £1,780, which works out at £162 per mile. Maintenance costs in Grand Cayman have been during the past five years as follows :—

Year.	*Miles open.*	*Cost.*	*Average per mile.*
		£	£
1929	30	446	15
1930	30	296	10
1931	30	653	22
1932	30	158	5
1933	33	473	14

The first motor-car introduced into these islands was in 1914. The following are the returns of motor vehicles for the past three years :—

Year.	*No. of motor-cars.*	*No. of lorries.*	*No. of motor-cycles.*
1931	56	4	2
1932	51	4	2
1933	43	7	—

Motor-cars pay an annual tax of £4; motor-trucks, £6; motor-cycles with side-car, £1 10s.; without side-car, £1. The following table shows the licence receipts for the past three years :—

Year.	*Cars.*	*Lorries.*	*Motor-cycles.*
	£	£	£
1931	224	24	3
1932	204	24	3
1933	172	42	—

A considerable amount of intercommunication is by the sea in cat-boats and other small craft. No particulars are available.

There still survive a few pack horses, mules, and donkeys. These are taxed and the following table indicates the number of these animals :—

Year.	*Horses.*	*Mules.*	*Donkeys.*	*Cycles.*
1929	230	20	100	110
1930	230	20	100	120
1931	230	20	100	130
1932	230	25	100	140
1933	200	25	75	160

There is no telegraph service, but a small telephonic system is operated by Government between Georgetown, Boddentown, and West Bay, with its central exchange at Georgetown. Instruments are not provided privately to the public, but the latter has access to those in the public buildings. A small charge is made, viz., 6d. per message and 3d. to 1s. 6d. for delivery, according to distance.

The postal service has been maintained since the year 1890. There are post offices in every district, with daily deliveries in Georgetown, and a service three times per week elsewhere.

External services are maintained by mail subsidy with Jamaica once in every 17 days in either direction and with Cuba and the United States about nine times a year. Use is made of schooners whenever possible. Communication between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman depends on the Jamaican service.

The volume of postal business carried is estimated annually as follows :—

Inward.

Year.	*Letters and postcards.*	*Newspapers.*	*Books, circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
1929	20,575	4,450	8,000	2,500	35,525
1930	20,600	4,450	8,500	2,610	36,160
1931	21,625	4,400	8,500	2,200	36,725
1932	26,400	4,400	8,000	2,000	40,800
1933	23,300	3,200	9,200	1,500	37,200

Outward.

Year.	*Letters and postcards.*	*Newspapers.*	*Books, circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
1929	21,200	100	—	125	21,425
1930	21,325	100	—	190	21,615
1931	23,100	100	—	300	23,500
1932	20,500	100	—	400	21,000
1933	22,100	100	—	200	22,400

The contract for a subsidized mail service was renewed in February, 1932, for five years and is to the amount of £600, of which the Dependency pays half.

A comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the Postal Department during the past five years is as follows :—

Year.	*Expenditure.*	*Revenue.*
	£	£
1929	800	846
1930	760	956
1931	798	722
1932	1,182	3,529
1933	791	2,238

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The currency and weights and measures are the same as those that obtain in Great Britain. Popular practice and the close connexion with the United States of America allows use to be made of the smaller denominations of United States currency, but these are not accepted in Government offices.

The total amount of currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £3,000, but it is difficult to arrive at any approach to accuracy.

There are no banks in the Dependency, but a Post Office Savings Bank was established in 1908. Interest is paid at 2½ per cent. and depositors are allowed to deposit up to a maximum of £400, and not more than £200, in any one year.
Statistics of this Bank are as follows :—

Year.	*No. of Depositors.*	*Amount of deposit at beginning of year.*	*Amount of deposit during the year.*	*Amount of withdrawal during the year.*
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1929	56	1,241 11 3	1,364 3 4	895 1 7
1930	60	1,740 2 7	1,183 3 10	874 9 11
1931	67	2,092 10 9	1,124 1 3	1,485 14 11
1932	64	1,772 9 8	1,238 17 6	1,003 12 9
1933	68	2,055 7 2	1,226 15 5	1,344 1 10

Against the deposit of £1,993, the balance due to depositors at the end of the year, the Savings Bank had invested, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in recognized funds, £1,000.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review except for the repairs to the roads in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac from the damage done by the hurricane no works were undertaken by the Department, whose activities were confined to maintenance and ordinary repairs.

The department consists of a Foreman of Works in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. The only labour is casual.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Law in force in the Dependency is the common law of England as it existed at the time of the enactment of the Imperial Act of the Government of the Cayman Islands dated 22nd June, 1863. Since then the various acts have been passed under the Constitution referred to in Chapter II.

The principal court is the Grand Court constituted by the Jamaica Legislature, Chap. 18 of 1894. This Court is a part of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica and is presided over by a Judge, who is also the Commissioner. It sits twice a year, in June and December. There are Petty Courts, over which the Justices preside in the various districts whenever occasion arises.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Dependency during the year :—

Persons charged by police or otherwise	102	
	---	102
Convicted summarily	72	
Acquitted summarily	20	
Committed to Grand Court	10	
	---	102
Convicted by Grand Court	2	
Acquitted	1	
Nolle prosequi	7	10

Justices of the Peace are appointed in a General Commission of the Peace and give their services voluntarily.

The Police Force consists of one Inspector and six police constables stationed in the various districts. In each district there is a lock-up and at Georgetown a general prison for offenders to serve sentences. It has been the practice to send to Jamaica convicts sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment. The prison in Georgetown is an old building and provides accommodation in three cells. There is no special provision for juvenile offenders, but Magistrates have always exercised their discretionary powers in their case. In a similar way time is usually allowed for the payment of fines and use is made of the probation system.

The health of prisoners was uniformly good throughout the year.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

No legislation exists in regard to factories nor is there any provision for compensation for sickness, old age, etc. During 1933 the only legislation passed by the Vestry was that of supply.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure in tabulated form is as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.* £ s. d.	*Expenditure.* £ s. d.
1929	6,962 18 9	7,022 10 5
1930	6,466 4 9	6,228 4 7
1931	6,209 19 11	7,290 1 5
1932	8,141 1 4	6,547 14 9
1933	7,298 11 3	6,538 13 2
Average	7,015 15 2	6,722 9 3

The revenue for 1932 and 1933 owes its increase to a special issue of postage stamps in connexion with the centenary of the Legislative Assembly.

There is no public debt, but provision has been made for a loan of £3,660 at 3½ per cent. from the Jamaica Government in connexion with financing the repairs to roads and buildings damaged in the hurricane of 1932. In November, 1933, the Jamaica Legislature had agreed to waive interest for five years. The loan had not actually been taken up at the close of the year under review.

The Dependency has no assets, the only investments being those of the Post Office Savings Bank.

Taxation.

Customs duties are on an *ad valorem* basis, with specific duties on ale and beer, spirits, wines, bay rum, and tobacco. The *ad valorem* rate is 12½ per cent.

Taxes, personal and on property, are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
On each animal-drawn vehicle used on a public road ...	0	6	0
On each dog	0	1	0
On each head of neat cattle, horse-kind, mules and asses, regardless of age	0	1	0
On each vessel owned wholly or in part by persons resident in the Dependency for each and every ton as registered	0	0	2
On each boat or canoe in use not belonging to or on board a registered vessel	0	1	0
On each bicycle	0	6	0
On each motor-cycle	1	0	0
On each motor-cycle with sidecar	1	10	0
On each motor-car	4	0	0
On each firearm, 2s., revolvers 10s.			
Personal tax	0	8	0

Liquor licences, fines of court, and car drivers' licences comprise other heads of internal revenue.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond.

Small fees, including cemetery fees, fees of court, and fees of markets and pounds are collectable under the head "Payments for Specific Services."

The following table shows the yield each year during the last five years :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Customs, Import duties ...	5,052	4,472	4,288	3,704	4,348
Taxes, personal, etc.	673	735	585	515	342
Liquor licences	28	28	28	28	28
Fines of courts	22	28	24	18	15
Car Drivers' licences	29	27	28	28	23
Warehouse rents	162	232	222	201	219
Payments for specific services	40	39	45	31	35

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Frequent mention has been made of the hurricane of 1932, which had as one of its effects the non-publication of the Annual Report on the social and economic progress of the people of the Cayman Islands for 1932.

His Excellency Sir Ransford Slater, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., visited the Dependency in October, 1933. He was accompanied by Lady Slater and his two daughters. Visits were made to Georgetown, West Bay, Boddentown, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. He reached Georgetown on the 10th of October at 8 a.m. and left Cayman Brac on the 11th at 6 p.m. in H.M.S. *Danae*.

Col. E. A. Weston, C.M.G., administered the Dependency until October, 1933, when Dr. G. N. Overton, Government Medical Officer, assumed duty under a Dormant Commission. Col. Weston was retired on medical grounds and his successor had not yet been appointed at the end of the year.

The Collector at Cayman Brac, Mr. A. S. Rutty, was awarded the M.B.E. for his work during and after the hurricane of 1932, and Inspector Watler was granted the King's Police Medal for conspicuous bravery during the same hurricane in Grand Cayman.

APPENDIX.

Bibliography.

A. Official or semi-official publications:—

Name.	Author.	Publisher.	Date.	Price. s.	Price. d.
The Caymanian ...	—	In Jamaica	1/4/1908		2
Handbook of the Cayman Islands.	G. S. S. Hirst	Gleaner Co., Jamaica.	1908–9	1	6
Cayman Islands Gazette.	—	—	Occasional 1910–1913 only.		2
Blue Book of the Cayman Islands.	—	—	—	—	

B.—Descriptive publications :—

Brief and Perfect Journal of the late proceedings and success of the English Army in the W.I.	I.S. ...	London ...	1665 ...		
The Buccaneers of America.	John Esquemeling.	Amsterdam	1678 ...		
History of the Pirates	C. Johnson ...	London ...	1724 ...		
History of Jamaica*	Long ...	London ...	1774 ...		
History of the Cayman Islands.	G. S. S. Hirst	Benjamin Mfg. Co. Jamaica.	1910 ...	6	0
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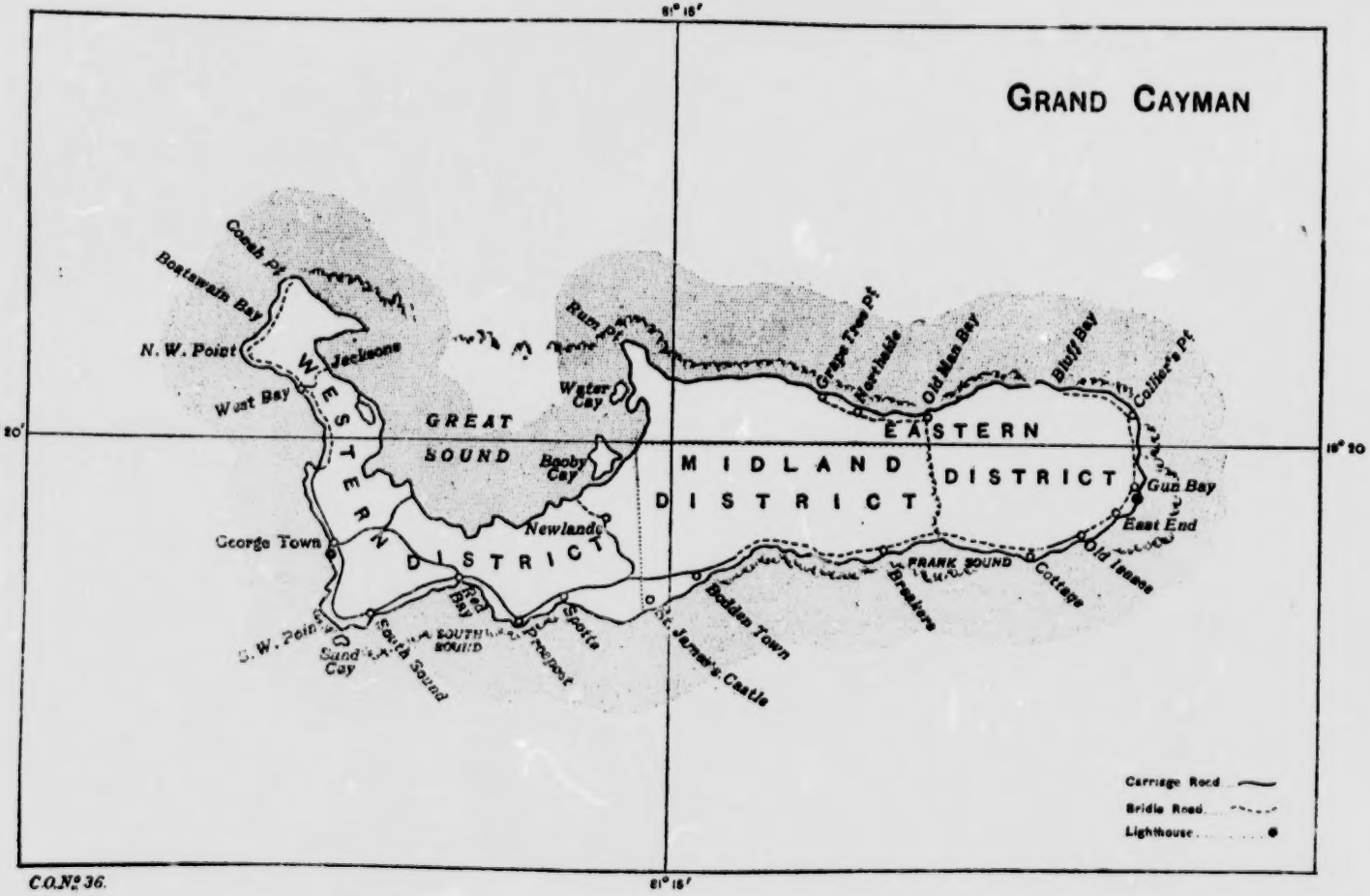
Natural History of Grand Cayman	T. M. S. English	Handbook of Jamaica, 1912.	1912 ...	—	
Life and Adventure in the West Indies.	"Vaquero"†	Bale & Danielson, London.	1914 ...	7	6
Cayman Islands ...	F. J. Melville ...	S. Gibbons ...	1914 ...		6
Geology of Cayman Islands.	G. A. Matley ...	Reprint from Qtr. journal of Geological Society.	1926 ...	—	

* 3 Vols. Book 1, Chapter XII give a detailed account of the Cayman Islands.
† "Vaquero" is identified as one of the first G.M.O. stationed in the Dependency.



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Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

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Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

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Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, 1934

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1934.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago,after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May,1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid . The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse . This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th Century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with Maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received

£5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August ,1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen, 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water and Sewerage Board appointed under Law 33 of 1933 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and Saint Andrew. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1933 was 9,864, being at the rate of 9.4 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/8 per head of population .

CHAPTER III.

Population.

20. There was an increase in Emigration and a decrease in Immigration during 1934 compared with the year 1933. The departures in 1932 were 840, in 1933, 636 and in 1934, 662. The arrivals in 1932 were 5,779, in 1933, 2,638 and in 1934, 1,789.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1934 was 1,104,775, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1933, and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1934.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1934 was 4,294, the rate being 3.9 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.3 in 1933. During the same period 34,247 births were registered of which 17,291 were boys and 16,956 were girls. The birth rate works out to 31.2 per 1000 as against 32.9 during 1933.

23. The number of deaths registered were 18,731, of which 9,512 were males and 9,219 were females, the death rate being 17.0 per 1000. The rate for 1933 was 19.3. During 1934 5,522 or 29.4 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these 4,507 or 24.0 were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1933 were 32.0 and 25.4 per cent.

24. The infantile death rate under one year was 13.1 as compared with 14.9 in 1933.

25. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—Tuberculosis 9.79, Heart Disease 8.97, Congenital Debility 7.12, Pneumonia 6.90, Old age 5.22, Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 4.51, Typhoid Fever 4.40, Diarrhoea and Enteritis 3.80, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy 3.59, Cancer 3.37, Syphilis 3.04, Malaria 2.77.

CHAPTER IV.

Health—1934.

26. The general health of the Island was much better in 1934 than in 1933, the death rate having fallen from 19.3 to 17.06.

The mean Island rainfall recorded fo reach of the 4 years up to and including 1934 was respectively, 91.53, 75.97, 116.53 and 79.82 inches as compared with an average for the 60 year period ended 1934 of 73.87 inches. Although the 1934 rainfall was nearly normal, the first quarter of the year, usually dry, was marked by a continuation of rains following the rainstorms of late 1933 with the result that the extensive collections of water were maintained far into 1934 and the first half of the year shewed a wider distribution of Malaria than had been seen in recent years.

The provisions for treatment and control were adequate, however, to prevent any general increase in mortality from the disease.

27. There was an outbreak of Malaria in the island district of Porus in Manchester, involving a few hundred persons, due to lake formation of rainwater complicated by shortage of food supplies destroyed by these

lakes. The district being ordinarily free of Malaira this outbreak was unusually severe with several deaths.

28. Smaller sharp outbreaks were recorded in a few other Parishes.

29. An Epidemic of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Parish of St. Ann in the latter part of the year with 125 cases, but very few deaths.

30. Small Epidemics of Amoebic Dysentery occurred in the General Penitentiary with 40 cases and in the Lunatic Asylum with 41 cases due to fly-borne infection.

31. A widespread Epidemic of Influenza, of mild type, appeared at the end of the year.

32. Further investigations confirm the information as to distribution of Yaws indicated by the survey map submitted in Reports for 1933; the disease being rare in dry lowland areas and high in the wet uplands of the interior.

VITAL STATISTICS.

33. The Report of the Registrar General for 1934 shews that the estimated population on 31st December, 1934, was 1,104,775 and that the death rate had fallen from 19.38 per 1,000 population in 1933 to 17.06 in 1934.

34. The death rates under 1 year and under 5 years were 131.6 per 1,000 births and 181.9 per 1,000 births respectively as compared with 149.7 and 214.7 in 1933.

35. The birth rate was 31.19 per 1,000 population as compared with 32.96 in 1933.

36. The Parishes showing the most marked reduction in death rate over 1933 were Kingston, St. Andrew, Trelawny, St. James and St. Elizabeth.

37. There were 700 deaths ascribed to Malaria as compared with 513 in 1933 and increases were recorded for Typhoid Fever and Cancer. Deaths from Pneumonia fell from 725 in 1933 to 472 in 1934.

PRINCIPAL DISEASE GROUPS.

Gastro Intestinal Diseases.

38. (a) *Enteric Fevers.*—1,361 cases were notified in 1934 as compared with 929 in 1932 and 1,092 in 1933. The increase is due to the Epidemic in St. Ann and some increase in St. James, Kingston and St. Catherine. 296 deaths from Typhoid were recorded as compared with 223 in 1933. 372 cases were treated in the Kington Public Hospital with 72 deaths and 596 in the District Hospitals with 145 deaths.

(b) *Dysenteries.*—During the year 333 cases of Dysenteries were notified as compared with 249 in 1933. Amoebic Dysentery was the diagnosis in 211 cases and Bacillary in 45 cases and the remainder were unclassified. Apart from the Epidemics of Amoebic Dysentery recognised in the Institution referred to above, this disease is receiving greater recognition and attention, especially in Kingston.

(c) *Hookworm Disease.*—The great majority of the untreated rural population are infected with Hookworm Disease, the infection rate being over 90% in many areas of good rainfall, but the proportion of persons showing severe symptoms is low. A re-survey of an area previously examined and treated showed that in a group of nearly 1,000 people, the original infection rate of 80% which had been reduced to 9% by group treatment rose to 20% at the end of two years after treatment.

39. *Malaria.*—The following Table shows a comparison of data as to cases and deaths for three years including 1934:—

	1932.	1933.	1934.
Total deaths recorded ..	536	513	700
No. of in-patients Kingston Public Hospital	230	427	88
No. of deaths Kingston Public Hospital	3	11	3
No. of in-patients District Hospitals	2,043	4,536	4,08
No. of out-patients District Hospitals	5,496	10,083	14,36
No. of deaths District Hospitals ..	166	146	12

The Parishes which were mainly involved in the increase were Kingston, St. Andrew, Manchester and Trelawny, and to a less degree, St. Catherine, St. Mary and Portland. The majority of the districts where the disease shewed most severity were, as to be expected, further inland than usual, such as Porus in Manchester, Lluidas Vale in St. Catherine, Kinloss and Haddington in Trelawny, Hampstead and Islington in St. Mary, where the incidence of Malaria in average weather conditions is small.

40. *Undefined Fevers.*—Under this title as a cause of death, Registrars recorded an assortment of fatal conditions in persons who were not attended by physicians during their terminal illness, and it is to be noted that the greatest number of deaths ascribed to any one cause falls in this group. 2,467 deaths were recorded in 1934 as compared with 2,824 in 1933.

41. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—1,402 cases and 1,113 deaths were recorded as compared with 1,241 cases and 1,191 deaths in 1933. Almost every year since 1925 has shewn a slight decline in the number of deaths recorded.

Kingston recorded 414 or 30% of the total cases, and the studies of the Tuberculosis Commission have clearly shown the relationship to bad housing and low economic conditions.

A large proportion of the primary cases found in rural districts acquire the disease in Kingston or other larger towns, return to their former homes in the rural districts when no longer able to work and form foci, but these foci tend to die out. Studies among the Chinese, who hold a monopoly on the grocery trade, indicate that they have a fairly high rate of infection of a mild chronic type, in contrast with the acute type usually found among native Jamaicans.

Careful studies carried out at the Lunatic Asylum where Tuberculosis has always been a serious problem shew the disease to be even more serious than has hitherto been appreciated.

42. *Venereal Disease.*—In the Kingston Public Hospital 480 cases of Syphilis were treated as in-patients with 41 deaths and 8,105 individuals were given 9,239 Salvarsan injections in the V.D. Clinic. 246 cases of Gonococcal Infection were admitted.

In the District Hospitals 1,013 cases of Syphilis were treated as in-patients and 7,545 as out-patients; and for Gonococcal Infection there were 1,188 in-patients and 4,007 out-patients.

43. *Yaws.*—The Yaws Commission completed a survey of the Island during 1932, the findings of which have been submitted in a map in the 1933 Annual Report of the Medical Department, and subsequent detailed census work undertaken by the Mobile Treatment Units of the

Commission and by the Sanitary Staffs of Local Boards of Health have shewn that the survey findings were substantially correct.

During 1934 the Mobile Units of the Yaws Commission working only in heavily infected districts of St. Mary, Portland and St. Catherine found that the infection in over 20,000 population was about 50%.

Medical Officers of Health found an infection rate of approximately 10% in less heavily infected areas with a total population of about 200,000, the rate varying from 1% to 25% in these areas.

44. *Leprosy.*—The number of inmates of the Lepers' Asylum has remained at about 120 to 125 for some years. Dur[illegible] 1934 there were 34 admissions and 22 discharges, of which 9 were d[illegible] deaths, 7 to arrest of the disease and 6 to absconding.

29 cases were notified during the year and there is evidence that a few endemic foci exist in certain parts of the Island.

45. *Diseases of School Children.*—A lady Doctor was appointed as School Medical Officer by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation during the year and she has found that 74% out of 2,475 children so far physically examined shew defects. Eye defects alone provide about 60% of the total defects and by far the most important eye defect is optic neuritis.

In rural areas, Yaws and worms are also important causes of ill health.

HOSPITALS.

46. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	30
Public Lunatic Asylum, Kingston ...	1,885
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay	30
" " " Hordley	40
" " " Port Antonio	55
" " " Buff Bay	50
" " " Annotto Bay	60
" " " Port Maria	65
" " " St. Ann's Bay	40
" " " Cave Valley	12
" " " Falmouth	25
" " " Ulster Spring	6
" " " St. James	70
" " " Lucea	30
" " " Sav.-la-Mar	66
" " " Black River	70
" " " Mandeville	35
" " " Chapelton	33
" " " Lionel Town	50
" " " Spanish Town	70
" " " Linstead	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

47. The work of Hospitals continued to increase as shewn below:—

	Kingston Public Hospital.		District Hospitals.	
	1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.
In-patients (admitted during the year) ..	6,962	7,818	16,578	16,738
Out-patients ..	162,257	171,318	63,892	94,960
Deaths ..	821	742	1,156	1,110

48. During 1934 14,173 major and minor operations were performed in the Hospitals.

49. In the X-Ray Department of the Kingston Public Hospital 2,765 patients were examined as compared with 1,950 in 1933 and 1,352 in 1932.

50. Some of the Hospitals had difficulty in accommodating cases. Temporary beds were provided where possible but if the demand continues to increase consideration will have to be given to providing increased accommodation.

51. It was decided to enlarge the Jubilee Hospital from 36 beds to 100 with the provision of an Out-patients' Department and progress in construction was well advanced at the end of the year.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

52. To further widen the scope of the general plan for protection of the Public Health the following arrangements have been put into operation within the past year:—

(i) Increased Laboratory facilities and a temporary Assistant Bacteriologist have been provided.

(ii) Free Laboratory service is now provided for practising physicians for the following examinations:—
Stool and urine cultures for Typhoid, Widal test, Examinations for Venereal Disease, Sputum Examinations for Tuberculosis and specimens for Diphtheria.

(iii) Medical Officers of Health with their Staffs promptly undertake free treatment in the field for Malaria whenever the incidence rises above normal.

53. *Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.*—Local Boards of Health obtained the construction of 9,941 new latrines and 13,137 were repaired many of which had been damaged by rainstorms of 1933.

The Treatment Units of the Hookworm Commission working in the Parishes of St. James and Trelawny found 71% infected out of 21,239 persons and treated 13,944.

The towns of Kingston, Spanish Town, Port Antonio and Linstead have water supplies which are provided with means for purification. Slow, but useful progress, was made during 1934 in minor construction works for protecting public water supplies from pollution especially in the Parishes of Portland, St. Mary, St. Thomas and Manchester.

Health Officers administered 26,952 anti-typhoid inoculations.

The Government Laboratory examined 2,526 blood specimens for Typhoid Fever, 869 stool specimens for Dysentery and 893 for worms.

54. *Malaria.*—Good progress was made by Local Boards of Health with the assistance of the Malaria Commission in extending control measures. The management of two of the ten control areas which have been undertaken by the Malaria Commission for some years, namely, Oracabessa and Falmouth, was handed over to the Local Boards concerned. The existing control areas were extended, especially Golden Grove in St. Thomas, Montego Bay, and Annotto Bay, and an important new area covering the swamp lands to the west of Kingston was undertaken by co-operation between the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, the Public Works Department and the Water Board.

Special mention must be made of the assistance given by Estate owners in St. Thomas where an area of approximately 50 square miles is now under regular control, almost the entire cost of labour and materials being paid by the owners of the Estates with very satisfactory results.

The use of ditching either for drainage purposes or for permitting tidal movement of sea water in and out of coastal swamps was increased during the year, while the use of Paris Green as a larvicide was reduced in favour of oil spraying, where possible, with better results at no greater cost.

Medical Officers of Health distributed quinine to 7,010 persons in districts where the disease rose above normal incidence.

55. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—A programme for control of Tuberculosis based on the work of the Tuberculosis Commission was laid down in 1933 and the following features of that programme have been established during the year:—

1. Tuberculosis Officer and Assistant Tuberculosis Officer appointed.
2. Tuberculosis Dispensary in Kingston taken over by the Government.
3. Forty bed ward of Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Poor House taken over temporarily by Government which also treats other Tuberculosis pauper patients at the Poor House.
4. Some Doctors have been given training at the Tuberculosis Dispensary in latest methods of treatment.
5. A few beds have been set aside in several District Hospitals for cases of Tuberculosis for active treatment, pending the provision of special Tuberculosis wards in Districts as suggested in the scheme.
6. A Travelling X-Ray Motor Unit has been taken over from the Anti-Tuberculosis League and is now used to start active methods of treatment of Tuberculosis in the various parishes. District Medical Officers thus receive some training in their own Hospitals without coming to Kingston.

The Tuberculosis Officers have increased the use of surgical methods in the wards now taken over in Kingston and have visited nearly all Hospitals outside of Kingston to assist District Medical Officers in developing modern treatment methods.

The Tuberculosis Commission with the co-operation of the Rockefeller Foundation continued investigations along epidemiological, clinical and pathological lines, in rural areas by means of a Mobile Unit, and among the staffs and inmates of various Government Institutions. The action and use of vaccines are also being studied.

At the Kingston Dispensary 2,953 new patients were examined; of these 1,188 received X-Ray as well as physical examination . The diag-

nosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was made on 370 cases. The attendance of old cases numbered 9,419. Treatment by Artificial Pneumothorax was maintained on 153 ambulatory cases who attended as out-patients, in all 2,516 refills were given. The Phrenic nerve was avulsed on 107 cases. 635 persons were given Tuberculin tests and 2,198 sputum examinations were made. Visiting nurses paid an aggregate of 5,946 visits to patients in their homes. 237 deaths of Dispensary patients were reported.

56. *Anti-Tuberculosis League.*—The parishes of Hanover and St. Thomas established branches of the League during the year so that all parishes except Clarendon and St. Ann now have branches. The parishes of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James and Trelawny have further joined forces as the County of Cornwall Branch. The League donated a Ford Motor Van equipped as a travelling X-Ray Unit with its own generator, to the Government from funds presented by Lady Stubbs. This began travelling in December with a specialist and will fulfil an essential requirement for diagnosis and treatment. Three full time and one part time nurses are provided and medical comforts are supplied to needy cases. Parochial Branches continue to develop an interesting variety of activities, an important one being the Rockcliffe Sanatorium in St. Elizabeth for eight cases.

57. *Yaws Commission.*—The Commission began operations in January, 1932 and during 1934 three Field Units were at work, two being engaged in intensive treatment and re-treatment of heavily infected areas, and the other being engaged mainly in survey and research work.

The two Treatment Units covered new districts with a population of 22,539, where 18,403 treatments were given to 4,133 persons, and in the follow-up work on previously treated areas with a population of 12,500, the Units gave 3,340 treatments to 1,351 persons.

Based on the work of the Yaws Commission a new plan of control was established in the latter part of 1933, co-ordinating the Medical and Sanitary Staffs of Central and Local Government, and very good progress was made during 1934 in developing this plan. The permanent Sanitary Staffs working in areas generally less heavily infected than those in which the Mobile Treatment Units of the Commission worked, found 18,685 cases and the District Medical Officers gave 92,195 treatments. Medical Officers of Health also gave 2,716 treatments.

A total of 116,654 treatments were thus given in 1934 by all agencies to approximately 27,005 cases, in comparison with 33,338 treatments recorded in 1932 and 57,571 in 1933 and there is already evidence that, where the plan has been adequately followed, Yaws has been markedly reduced.

58. *Child Welfare.*—The attendances at the Clinics of the Child Welfare Association shewed increases for the year ended 31st March, 1935. There were 22,517 attendances at sick Clinics as compared with 21,758 in the previous year and 3,753 attendances at the ante-natal Clinics as compared with the previous 3,349.

The Medical Officers of Health for St. James and St. Catherine examined 624 children and 1,514 visits were paid by Nurses.

59. *Bureau of Health Education*—Volume 9 of the Bulletin "Jamaica Public Health" was published during the year, an edition of 20,000 copies being sent out each month. Particular attention was paid to Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Cancer, Typhoid Fever, Infant and Child Hygiene, Malaria and the care of the teeth.

The usual special Health Play Number was issued for use in Health Week.

The Bureau also distributed pamphlets, leaflets and posters making a total of about 400,000 pieces of Health literature; and continued the Branch of Pre-natal Education which sends letters to expectant mothers.

60. *School Dental Clinics.*—Clinics were operated in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny, Hanover, St. James, Clarendon and St. Catherine, in which 21,120 new children were examined. There were 15,782 extractions and 14,477 fillings recorded.

61. *Sanitary Engineering.*—The Rockefeller Foundation continued to provide the services of a Consulting Sanitary Engineer, who assisted Local Boards of Health on water supplies and Malaria Control, the Public Works Department on drainage schemes, and the Water and Sewerage Board on purification of the Kingston water supply.

PAROCHIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

62. *Health Education.*—1,187 lectures by Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors are recorded with an estimated attendance of 83,000 which is a great increase over 1933.

63. *Communicable Disease Control.*—Enquiries with a view to discovering new cases of disease, especially Tuberculosis, Typhoid, Yaws and Malaria, were considerably increased through Dispensary service and field surveys. Full-time Medical Officers of Health notified 21% of the total number of cases of Tuberculosis recorded in their parishes.

All but three parishes made satisfactory progress in establishing the new Yaws Control programme, though in some heavily infected districts the existing number of Sanitary Inspectors is inadequate to meet requirements.

The majority of Health Officers reported laboratory work on specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis, blood for Malaria and faeces for worms, 3,706 specimens having been examined for the year.

64. *Child Hygiene.*—Only 2 parishes, St. James and St. Catherine reported Infant Clinics, a Nurse being provided in each of these parishes by voluntary organisations with the assistance of the Local Board of Health.

Medical inspection of school children was undertaken by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation only.

School Dental Clinics have been referred to above.

65. *Sanitation.*—Latrine construction and maintenance has already been referred to. The Central Board of Health provided the services of two experienced Sanitary Inspectors to assist the Local Boards of St. James and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in improving latrines, many of which had been damaged or destroyed during 1933.

Progress in dairy sanitation was recorded in several parishes, and meat and food inspection formed a considerable part of the work done. 58,095 examinations of food handlers were carried out by Medical Officers of Health.

A new Slaughter House was completed at Montego Bay.

186,823 Sanitary Inspections were recorded as compared with 368,488 in 1933 and the Sanitary Staffs abated 14,868 nuisances as compared with 9,178 in 1933.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

66. Investigations in the city of Kingston into the occurrence of Communicable Diseases, particularly Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever and Infantile Complaints, shew quite clearly that slum areas provide the highest incidence of these diseases, and there is no doubt that overcrowding in the poorly constructed houses in these insanitary areas is a prime factor in the spread of Communicable Diseases.

67. With increased transportation facilities, the better classes are rapidly spreading to suburban areas and are acquiring their own homes. Although the devlopment of these suburban areas has not been adequately controlled, it has not been unsatisfactory, but the lack of adequate Housing, Town Planning and Regional Planning Acts, occasionally leads to difficulties.

The same remarks apply in the case of other towns such as Montego Bay and the smaller developing towns such as Claremont, Highgate, Oracabessa and Port Maria, some of which have inadequate building regulations.

68. In rural areas the only health requirement in connection with housing which is enforced is the provision of a latrine, with the result that a rural dweller frequently builds a latrine which is a better structure than his house, and the provision of minimum standards for new construction in rural areas is most desirable, especially in developing villages.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

69. Weather conditions generally in 1934 were favourable to agricultural production. The rainfall more nearly approached normal, the mean total for the Island being 79.82 inches, or 5.95 inches in excess of the average for 60 years. During the first half of the year the rainfall was 16% above the average, and in the second half 2% above the average. No floods or serious storms occurred during the year, but local northers did some damage to banana cultivations in Eastern Portland and St. Thomas. In some districts, particularly Central Portland and St. Thomas, local droughts were experienced. As a result of the generally favourable weather conditions coconuts showed a marked recovery, and banana producton increased by 51% over the previous year.

70. Interest continued to be displayed in the use of underground water for irrigation purposes, particularly in the Plains of Lower St. Andrew where several more wells were sunk and brought into operation during the year. The protection and extension of forest resources and matters relating to the conservation of existing timber supplies and the planting of useful forest trees, continued to receive attention. The importance of devising and putting into effect a forest policy in relation to agriculture in the Island, was recognised by the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Development Fund, and a grant of £600 was authorised to meet the expenses of a survey and report by an experienced Colonial Forestry Officer. It is hoped that this important work may be completed during 1935.

71. The research and field work undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and the field instruction services of the Jamaica Agricultural Society were extended during the year. Additional provision for research on banana problems and in particular the development of commercial variety immune to Panama Disease, enabled new facilities to be provided for the Geneticist, so that at the end of the year a new Greenhouse 40ft. by 9ft. was nearing completion and additional experimental areas had been planted with a wide range of banana varieties for use in the work on breeding. Six plots in banana growing districts, where conditions differ widely, totalling 7 acres, were planted with the Cavendish banana in order to enable more detailed storage and shipping trials to be conducted in 1935. Three small trial shipments of the Cavendish banana were made during early 1934, with the co-operation of the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association. The results indicated that with careful attention to details of cutting, handling and transport in Jamaica, this variety could be landed in satisfactory condition in England. The market price, however, in relation to that of the Gros Michel, is not attractive, but as the Cavendish is immune in Jamaica to Panama Disease it still remains a possibility as an alternative to the Gros Michel to a limited extent. Of the seedlings developed prior to the arrival of the Geneticist, two showed very promising fruit, and small trial shipments of one known as S. 19 were very well received in England. The fruit carried well and ripened to a bright colour, while the finger length and texture of the flesh closely resembled the Gros Michel.

72. Manurial experiments were continued by the Agricultural Chemist with bananas and sugar cane. No significant results have yet been secured with the former and it appears unlikely that any visible return commensurate with the cost of manuring will be secured to the grower unless the fruit is sold by weight. It had been hoped that manuring would lead to an increase in the grade of fruit, that is, in the proportion of bunches of nine-hands or more. Though there is some indication that this can be realised in practice, it is necessary to continue experiments and to make comparative weighings before a definite conclusion can be recorded. Trials of this description are conducted under the combined supervision of the Agricultural Department and the planter, the latter taking the fruit. Under commercial conditions it is not possible to give that detailed examinaton to individual bunches of fruit which is necessary to enable results of scientific and practical value to be obtained. It has therefore been found desirable to modify the manner of conducting such experiments.

73. The Sugar Industry continues to progress and the two Laws passed during the year, the one to control the ether content of rum manufactured in Jamaica, and the other to control and regulate the manufacture of rum in the Island, will tend still further to improve the position of the industry. Estate practice has advanced considerably during recent years and the production of cane per acre is increasing as a result of better cultural methods and careful selection of planting material. The average weight of cane produced per acre, including plants and ratoons, on the 34 estates in the Island was 27.3 tons during the season 1933-34.

74. There is a general tendency to improve the equipment of sugar factories and to increase their efficiency. Work on the erection of a new sugar factory at Caymanas Estate, St. Catherine, was commenced

during the latter part of the year. It is expected that this factory will commence production in 1935 and thus replace the existing old and inefficient mill.

75. A survey of the incidence of damage of the sugar cane Moth Borer (*Diatrea Saccharalis*) conducted during the year by the Entomologist, indicated that this is not a pest of economic importance in Jamaica.

76. The Advisory Committee on the Sugar Industry appointed in January, 1934, linked the Department of Agriculture with the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and the Sugar and Rum Industries generally in Jamaica more closely than had hitherto been possible. Important developments during the year were the establishment of a departmental sugar production statistics branch of the Department of Agriculture, the cost of which is being met by an annual grant of £300 from the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Jamaica, and the offer of financial support of the Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station, Barbados, by the same organisation, which has agreed to meet Jamaica's share of the expenses of the Station from the 1st October, 1936.

77. Relations between the Department of Agriculture and the Jamaica Agricultural Society continued to be of the most cordial nature during the year. The Society, recognising the value of the advice accorded by the Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, to the effect that more careful planning of instructional work was desirable, appointed a Planning Committee with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman. The results of the work of this Committee are already becoming apparent in the more concentrated and thus more effective work of the Agricultural Instructors. The Society received a considerable accretion of membership during the year and is showing healthy signs of expansion in various directions. The acquisition of a building and premises adjoining the existing office, by the Government, for the use of the Society, will enable the services rendered in connection with seed supply and disposal of members' produce to be improved and extended.

78. Steps were taken to implement some of the recommendations made by the West India Fruit and Vegetable Conference, 1933, in particular those relating to citrus, vegetable trials, and the appointment of a Western Group Fruit and Vegetable Council.

79. Panama Disease continued to be a serious menace to the Banana Industry and measures for the control of its spread continued to be rigidly enforced. Following the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on the Banana and Citrus Industries a modification of the former method of treatment was authorised for a period of one year as a trial in the parish of St. Mary, whereby the diseased root only is destroyed as compared with the normal method whereby the diseased root and all plants within a 16 ft. radius are cut down and destroyed. As was expected, the incidence of disease became more serious in districts which were flooded during the heavy rains of 1933. Despite the continued heavy toll taken by Panama Disease, it is noteworthy that banana production shows a marked tendency to increase, the estimated output for 1935 being 24-25 million stems.

80. The development programme for the Citrus Industry was pursued with vigour and plants from the two large nurseries established in 1933 were ready for distribution from early September, 1934. Ten thousand Marsh seedless plants had been distributed and planted by the end of the year. The system adopted ensures that the land is ready to receive the plants beofre they are issued from the nursery, and persons taking

them are required to give an assurance that they will permit authorised officers to inspect and advise on their after-care.

PRODUCTION OF MAIN CROPS IN 1934.

81. *Bananas.*—Plantations comtletely recovered from the damage inflicted by the storms of 1932 and 1933. The exports amounted to 15,974,906 stems as against 10,557,369 stems in 1933, an increase of 51%. In spite of the spread of Panama Disease it is anticipated that, given normal weather conditions, the production of bananas during 1935 will show a further increase and that the exports for the year will reach a record figure.

82. *Sugar.*—The crop during the past season produced 72,430 tons or 6,650 tons more than the estimate. The estimate for the coming crop is 76,157 tons, a further increase of 4,000 tons attributable to an extension of areas under cultivation, improved cultural methods and the more general use of better varieties of seedling canes.

83. *Coconuts.*—The recent hurricanes were responsible for a shortage in this crop. The exports fell from 37,400,000 nuts valued at £117,578 to 37,100,000 valued at £96,746. The short crop, the good prices obtainable for nuts abroad during a portion of the year, and the local demand by oil and soap factories combined to reduce the exports of Copra to practically nil, only 147 lbs. having been exported during the year.

84. *Pimento.*—While the exports increased to 12,150,678 lbs. (an increase of 3,000,000 lbs.) the price of this commodity fell further so that the total value was only £96,348. There is at present no sign of improvement in market prospects owing to the depressed condition of the foreign (German) market.

85. *Citrus.*—The crop for the season 1934-35 was short as a result of rain damage. The exports of Oranges fell from 92,501 boxes valued at £42,835 in 1933 to 78,555 boxes valued at £32,572 in 1934 in spite of the fact that the New Zealand market became available for increased shipments from Jamaica. On the other hand the exports of Grapefruit showed an increase in quantity from 11,860,000 to 16,730,000 (an increase of 41%) and in value from £60,645 to £78,370. The price of Grapefruit in the London market remained consistently low during the season while fair prices were realised for oranges. The prospects for the season 1935-36 are that good crops will be obtained if favourable weather conditions prevail.

86. *Cocoa.*—There was an increase in the exports from 3,700,000 lbs. valued at £32,435 in 1933, to 4,400,000 lbs. valued at £42,708 in 1934. This increase was no doubt due to commercial causes and is no indication of increased agricultural interest in this industry.

87. *Coffee.*—The Coffee Industry remained in a depressed condition and the exports further declined from 9,820,000 lbs. valued at £218,313 in 1933 to 7,130,000 lbs. valued at £168,091 in 1934—a decrease of over 27% in quantity and 23% in value. There is at present no indication of any improvement in the world's coffee market.

88. *Tobacco.*—The exports of cigars decreased from 39,862 lbs., valued at £23,145 in 1933 to 34,728 lbs. valued at £18,315 in 1934.

89. *Ginger.*—There was a remarkable increase in the exports of Ginger and in the value of this product. The exports in 1934 totalled 2,394,699 lbs. as against 1,665,926 lbs. in 1933 an increase of 43%. The corresponding values were £64,579 in 1934 and £31,046 in 1933, an increase of 108%. It is anticipated that a very good crop will be obtained in 1935.

90. *Logwood.*—The exports of Logwood declined by over 50% from 25,104 tons valued at £68,674 in 1933 to 12,028 tons valued at £32,137 in 1934.

Logwood Extracts also declined from 30,045 cwt. valued at £101,528 in 1933 to 23,516 cwt. valued at £78,256 in 1934.

91. *Rum.*—The exports increased from 385,872 gals. valued at £48,278 in 1933 to 459,798 gals. valued at £135,803 in 1934 an increase of 19% in quantity and 181% in value. The Rum Pool continued to operate successfully during the year and is now governed by a Law (Law 22 of 1934) which provides for the continuation of the existing agrements amongst sugar and rum manufacturers so long as not less than 75% are in agreement.

92. *Livestock.*—Weather and feed conditions were favourable for livestock and their general health has been good throughout the year. No outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease and Anthrax occurred, though Bovine Tuberculosis continued to be in evidence. This disease is being studied in relation to the development of dairying and the maintenance of the Beef Industry.

The Animal Industries of the Island continued to be largely unorganised and depressed. Prices in the local beef market, combined with the availability of cheap butter from New Zealand, have directed public attention to the desirability of overhauling the stock industries in order to enable animal products to be marketed within the Island. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council submitted its report on the subject during the Spring Session. The report, however, was not adopted but an undertaking was given that the Government would further explore the matter. As a result two Government Committees were appointed, but owing to the extensive and diverse nature of the enquiries necessary had not been able to report by the end of the year.

Prospects for the profitable export of beef are not good, the only likely market in Trinidad being already supplied by Venezuela at prices at which Jamaica could not possibly compete.

There appears to be the possibility of developing an export trade in mules for supply to the Republic of Panama, Spanish Honduras, British Guiana and Trinidad.

The Stud Farm at Manchester received increased support during the year and continues to provide services which are popular with animal breeders. The need for increasing the numbers of good type bulls available for public service was again brought to attention, and during the year two stud pens were established in connection with the Hope Stock Farm. This new venture was well supported during the latter few months of the year when it was in operation, but a full year's working will be necessary before judging its value.

Exports of animal products during the year were as follows:—

93. *Hides.*—19,826 valued at £9,158, as compared with 16,305 valued at £7,124 in 1933.

Goatskins.—180,152 valued at £13,121 as compared with 191,094 valued at £14,030 in 1933.

Agricultural Education.

94. The Government Farm School completed the year with an average attendance of 44 students. The number of applicants for admission was up to the average for the last two years, and it is gratifying to note that more interest is being shown in the activities of the Institution. At the

Annual Graduation in July, eleven students were graduated, of which ten received Diplomas in Practical Agriculture, and one a Certificate in Practical Agriculture. The question of employment of graduates of the Farm School is still giving some difficulty, but it is expected that as financial conditions in agriculture improve, this will gradually be overcome. The Third Year students, as in the past, spent half of each term at Grove Place where they receive practical instruction in the phases of agriculture which cannot be given at Hope. The system of having the Third Year students spend such time at Grove Place is working well.

95. The Farm School now has its own Experiment Station, which consists of four acres on the grounds adjoining the school where ample space for demonstration work in both major and minor crops can now be given. During the year the Third Year students visited a number of holdings, estates and other places of interest, at which the various agricultural activities were explained to them. Such instruction provides an excellent means of showing the students the different methods used in connection with agriculture.

96. The agricultural extension work of the Island is undertaken almost entirely by the Jamaica Agricultural Society which maintains a staff of Instructors stationed throughout the Island. The steps taken during the year with the object of improving instructional services, show great promise while the increased activity displayed in connection with juvenile work is yielding encouraging results. Inspectors of Plant Diseases under the Agricultural Department whose services had formerly been confined entirely to control measures for various plant diseases, particularly Panama Disease, were encouraged to take an active interest in field instruction work. The response both by the staff and the public was good.

Co-operative Marketing in 1934.

97. *The Jamaica Banana Producers' Association.*—The membership of this Body and the quantities contracted increased during the year, but some difficulties were experienced and considerable criticism was directed against the Association.

98. The reorganisation of the Jamaica Coconut Producers' Association effected in 1933, resulted in a marked improvement in the position of that body during the year. The Association issued debentures on the authority of the Government to the extent of £10,000 out of an authorised amount of £12,000. £3,000 was immediately paid to the Government in discharge of indebtedness, leaving £7,000 available to the Association. The financial position was greatly strengthened during the year and an improved working policy introduced. The amount of debentures outstanding at the end of 1934 was £28,000, compared with £22,500 at the end of 1933.

99. During the early part of 1934 the Administration determined upon a policy of operating the factory as near to capacity as possible. This programme was seriously interrupted by the unfortunate occurrence of a fire which placed the Association's oil factory totally out of commission for the months of June, July and August. As a result of this it was not possible to manufacture the volume of oil which had been hoped for so that manufacturing costs were not reduced to the expected point and there is little doubt that had there been no fire returns to members would have been better than is now the case in respect of

1934. The Association was put to much additional expense in making oil at other locations, and under great difficulties in a partially rebuilt factory.

100. The oil factory, however, has now been almost completely rebuilt and in the course of rebuilding it has been possible to effect many improvements which will produce considerable savings in future operations and consequently a higher return to members during subsequent years. No new members were admitted during 1934.

101. The Jamaica Citrus Producers' Association experienced a very difficult year, the position being such that the Government decided to appoint a small Investigation Committee. The report of this Committee indicated a number of directions in which the organisation and working of the Association could be improved with benefit to members who were not receiving satisfactory returns for their fruit owing to a combination of circumstances, among which the more important were heavy overhead expenses and weak organisation in the country districts.

102. The Jamaica Pimento Producers' Association continues to remain dormant, while the Vegetable and Small Fruit Association has not yet emerged from the embryo stage, though a small group identified with it made successful shipments of tomatoes, egg plants and peppers to the Canadian market.

103. The enthusiasm which marked the early stages of operation of the various units in the co-operative marketing movement has given place in some instances to criticism and breaches of contracts on the part of members. The difficulties have been accentuated by a fall in the price of commodities handled, particularly coconuts and citrus. The necessity for creating and maintaining a healthy public opinion in regard to co-operative marketing, and of assisting the active associations to overcome their troubles, is fully recognised.

Report on Land Settlements.

104. *Kellets—Clarendon*:—The total number of holdings recorded as sold at the end of December 1934, was 607. This represents an increase of 74, the total area sold being 2,735 acres. In addition 125 applications have been received for 664 acres, so that the property is gradually being sold out. Additional road construction has been carried out in the section of the property known as Coley district. This has enhanced sales. There was no major set-back during the year and the capacity of purchasers to pay up their instalments indicated steady development of production in the various crops which are being cultivated.

105. *Tobolski—St. Ann*:—During the year 7 additional allotments were made, bringing the total to 75—the total area now sold being 1,175 acres. In addition 172 acres have been applied for by 17 persons and more than 160 acres have been allotted to ex-soldiers. The conditions show a general advance in the existing holdings.

106. *Monklands—St. Thomas*:—The total area sold to date amounts to 577 acres, comprising 73 holdings. 16 further applications have been received, amounting to 208 acres. The total area that has been allotted so far to ex-soldiers amounts to 544 acres. The general situation is not as reassuring as in the case of Kellets and Tobolski.

107. *Glenbrook—Westmoreland*:—A property of 600 acres—112 holdings, has now been completely sold off, and every evidence exists of the success of this scheme.

108. *Burnt Savannah—Westmoreland*:—Two more holdings were sold bringing the total to 55 and acreage 430 acres. Applications have been received from about 6 persons for part of the hilly section (127 acres) which it was intended to reserve.

109. *Lewisburgh—St. Mary*:—The numbeir of allotments finally sold amount to 72 for 385 acres showing an increase of 19 allotments. In addition there are 102 acres which have been applied for by 20 persons. It is intended to allot a portion to ex-soldiers and thus this property will be completely sold out before long. Road extension and repairs have been carried on during the course of the year. The banana cultivations have also been extended but from the complaints of the purchasers it would appear that the soil is poor and the returns are unsatisfactory.

110. *Hopewell and Lundie—Westmoreland*:—The distribution of allotments commenced in 1933 and so far 47 lots for a total of 262 acres have been disposed of. Agreements for sale in connection with 10 additional allotments comprising 48 acres have still to be executed. 76 acres still remain to be sold.

111. *Malvern Chase—St. Elizabeth*:—Sales on this property begun in 1933, and the property is now almost completely sold off. 23 holdings or 176 acres have been sold. There are 3 more allotments for which final agreements have not yet been finally executed.

112. *Great Valley—Hanover and Catalina*—Portland—properties formerly operated by Loan Banks which were proving unsuccessful were taken over by this Department for administration.

Great Valley—10 applications have been received up to December, 1934, for approximately 87 acres.

Catalina—Little or nothing has been done on this property as most of the people had acquired lands solely for banana cultivation and have been unable to pay as a result of the devastating effect of Panama Disease on their cultivations. A Committee, of which the Director of Agriculture is Chairman, has been appointed to go into the whole matter. There have been no applications for the purchase of the unsold area.

113. *Morgans Forest—Clarendon*:—A property of 781 acres was acquired in August 1934, and applications were subsequently received for nearly the whole of the property, from more than 250 applicants. Extensive road construction was commenced for the purpose of opening up the property which was almost completely occupied by tenants of the former owner.

114. *Cauldwell—Hanover*:—A property of 606 acres almost completely tenanted, was acquired and formally taken possession of in October, 1934.

115. *General*:—Of the existing Land Settlements acquired prior to 1934, the number of sales when finally completed will be slightly more than 1,200. The allotments are of an average size of 6 acres. The general improvement in the payment of instalments on all the properties indicate that there has been a steady recovery from set-backs in weather experienced in 1932 and 1933. Many of the roads for the opening up of the various properties were improved and in some cases were extended.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

116. The Colony's trade in 1934 showed marked improvement when compared with the figures for the preceding year. The value and volume of both Exports and Imports increased.

117. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £4,621,634 as compared with £4,218,755 in 1933. A comparative statement showing the quantities and values of the principal articles from the principal countries, is given in Table A.

118. The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcels Post, amounted to £969,454, an increase of £48,941 Parcels Post duties amounted to £29,180, an increase of £2,941.

119. The Export Trade, exclusive of Parcels Post exports, increased in 1934. The value was £2,730,507 in 1933 and £3,205,271 in 1934. The value of Re-exports however, decreased in 1934 due to the fall in the Re-export of Gold Specie. The value of Re-Exports in 1934 was £151,039 as against £348,731 in 1933. A comparative table of the quantities and values of the twelve principal products exported and the quantities and values of each exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Other Countries, is also given in Table B.

120. The values of Exports and Imports for the years 1913 and 1931 to 1934 are shown below.

	1913.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports (F.O.B.) ..	2,430,208	3,420,750	3,271,357	2,745,300	3,219,072
Value of Imports (C.I.F.) ..	2,837,447	4,945,539	4,754,152	4,367,843	4,777,069

121. Bananas are the principal product exported. The value is about 55% of the total value of the Island's exports. The value of the import and the export trade with the British Empire remained stationary, as the following percentages show:—

Imports.

	1932.	1933.	1934.
British Empire ..	69.4%	70.0%	69.1%
Other Countries ..	30.6%	30.0%	30.9%

Exports.

British Empire ..	76.5%	85.0%	85.9%
Other Countries ..	23.5%	15.0%	14.1%

122. The following table shows the change in direction of Trade, with the principal countries in 1913-14 and during the past three years:—

(Average) Imports.

	1913-14.	1932.	1933.	1934.
United Kingdom ..	38.0%	41.4%	40.2%	39.2%
U. S. A.	47.1%	17.8%	16.3%	18.3%
Canada	8.5%	15.0%	16.0%	15.9%
Other Countries ..	6.4%	25.7%	27.5%	26.6%

(Average) Exports.

United Kingdom	17.9%	49.1%	56.3%	55.0%
U. S. A. ..	59.3%	18.0%	9.4%	9.2%
Canada	5.6%	25.5%	27.8%	29.6%
Other Countries ..	17.2%	7.4%	6.5%	6.2%

TABLE "A."

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity	1932. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	Canada. Quantity.
				£	
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post)			1,890,526	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	164,807	40,843	3,891
	Butter	lbs.	112,873	6,035	50,733
	Butter Substitutes	"	441,176	10,930	..
	Fish—Dried Salted	"	35,915	445	6,101,964
	Pickled	"	..	..	8,856,990
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye	bags	73,775	61,745	285,966
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	1,228,102	20,696	3,900
	Ham	"	116,670	5,440	133,602
	Pork, Wet Salted	"		..	298,554
	Milk, Condensed	"	2,258,007	48,090	749,807
	Oils, Edible	galls	37,907	7,223	24
	Tobacco, Cigarettes	lbs.	61,848	18,598	2
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	141,689	236,359	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	97,260
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	28,471	..
	Boots and Shoes	dz. prs.	35,265	126,046	1,061
	Carriages Motor Cars	No.	191	27,377	235
	Part of (including Tyres and Tubes	..	..	28,180	..
	Cement	brls.	63,879	33,022	..
	Cotton Piece-goods	yds.	14,177,902	247,867	2,273
	Other Manufactures	..	..	58,736	..
	Hardware	..	..	59,404	..
	Medicines and Drugs		..	25,225	..
	Metals: Iron galvanized, steel bars, and sheets, nails and rivets	..	..	34,057	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene	galls.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit	"	12	4	1
	Silk Manufactures	..		33,508	
	Soap, Laundry	lbs.	5,036,001	63,900	1,051
	Wool Manufactures	..	..	40,525	..

TABLE "A".

1932.

Canada.		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
687,147	..	817.211	.	1,177,636		4,572,520
1,070	1	..	18,305	4,028	187,004	5,941
3,323	5		507,132	27,825	670,743	37 183
..	100	2	7,328	153	548,614	11,085
75,890	13,296	637	8,907,754	121,793	15,058,929	198,765
73,699	..		317,510	2,186	9,174,500	75,885
259,267	7,373	9,072	..	..	397,114	330,084
70	3,185	54	..	..	1,225,187	20,820
6,794	89,560	4,834	9,520	571	1,013,552	17,629
5,977	775,938	15,314	595	12	1,075,087	21,303
19,015	846,954	15,207	1,286,756	27,696	5,231,524	110,098
6	1,748	275	1,209	327	10,888	7,831
2	1,845	543	5	3	63,700	19,146
..	3,824	6,875	..	..	145,513	243,234
875	12,090,120	74,940	2,730,571	20,741	14,917,951	96,556
2,770	..	22,350	..	27,906		80,607
1,349	3,412	9,632	71,974	72,413	111,712	203,440
32,987	173	24,215	5	335	604	84,914
21,109	..	29,227	..	5,751	..	82,970
	14	25	18,711	3,131	82,604	42,178
67	4,919,507	62,654	814,587	14,564	10,914,369	325,162
1,277	..	13,326	..	16,483	..	86,825
7,428	..	21,036	..	11,970	..	99,838
7,013	..	25,771	..	4,840	..	62,649
1,332		1,958	..	9,108	..	46,515
..	928,263	61,884	445,011	28,122	1,374,174	90,006
2	1,941,488	37,507	1,485,230	109,688	3,426,797	197,601
7,470	..	7,588	..	170,099	..	178,065
12	391,917	5,395	248,954	4,140	1,677,923	73,447
12	..	100	..	1,701	..	42,398

TABLE "A."

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity	United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	£ 1,697,475	
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ..	galls.	134,915	32,716	2,107
	Butter	lbs.	25,475	1,050	22,194
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	584,296	13,570	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	11,895	273	5,235,683
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,366,275
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye	bags	120,856	102,135	324,167
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	931,349	15,111	1,600
	Ham ..	"	79.264	5,677	70,069
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	200	2	115,622
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,597.562	32,867	721,419
	Oils, Edible ..	galls.	924	650	1
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	36,521	12,463	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal	tons	113,585	172,132	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	1,548.260
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	30,493	..
	Boots and Shoes	dz. prs.	22,636	78,189	282
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	279	37,221	247
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes	..	..	21,882	..
	Cement ..	brls.	83,636	38,328	..
	Cotton—Piece-goods ..	yds.	8,446,070	152,914	3,570
	Other Manufactuzes	..		50,531	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	72,960	..
	Medicines and Drugs		..	28,551	..
	Metals: Iron galvanized, steel bars, and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	32,221	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene	galls.	234	13	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	36	12	5
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	18,472	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	4,475,339	56,907	525
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	24,801	..

TABLE "A".

1933.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
675,297	..	687,937	..	1,0[illegible]8,046	..	4,218,755
601	2,484	611	14,521	3,062	154,027	36,990
1,601	202	12	744,289	30,349	792,160	33,012
..	..	..	7,032	152	591,328	13,722
53,606	11,741	649	..	..	14,298,060	152,306
55,841	..	..	133,000	1,361	8,499,275	57,202
273,916	1,613	2,399	..	..	446,636	378,450
30	13,915	189	7,100	91	953,964	15,421
3,429	190,636	7,340	7,300	468	347,269	16,914
4,057	945,917	16,021	..	..	1,161,739	20,080
15,840	1,352,751	23,295	2,131,886	30,716	5,803,618	102,718
..	53	21	997	347	1,975	1,018
..	1,724	417	3	3	38,248	12,882
..	7,085	10,672	65	62	120,735	182,866
7,534	12,718,260	80,786	2,883,449	22,068	17,149,969	110,388
2,268	..	17,661	..	29,437	..	79,859
381	1,362	2,200	27,250	42,944	51,533	123,714
34,269	153	18,958	11	1,360	690	91,808
20,787	..	18,087	..	473	..	61,229
..	14	18	19,418	9,507	103,168	47,853
108	2,037,099	23,187	6,764,767	75,664	17,251,506	251,873
722	..	3,999	..	13,517	..	68,769
9,480	..	18,274	..	18,552	..	119,266
7,299	..	25,431	..	4,991	..	66,272
4,474	..	1,028	..	4,911		42,634
..	738,582	49,951	707,220	37,938	1,446,036	87,902
3	488,969	18,034	4,682,692	142,144	5,171,702	160,193
7,915	..	2,362	..	94,197	..	122,946
9	153,360	1,646	2,850	31	4,632,074	58,593
128	..	143	..	1,058	..	26,130

TABLE "A."

Principal Articles Imported.		Unit of Quantity.	1934. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	Canada. Quantity.
				£	
Total Imports (not including Parcels Post)			..	1,809,917	
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	114,185	30,964	2,480
	Butter	lbs.	2,143	64	9,203
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	610,969	11,693	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	13,533	212	5,687,664
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	9,372,798
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye	bags	136,814	101,385	260,827
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted	lbs.	1,076,200	15,251	..
	Ham	"	51,038	5,018	11,636
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	..	..	195,200
	Milk, Condensed	"	1,885,986	34,011	885,859
	Oils, Edible ..	galls.	878	633	3
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	25,923	8,557	2
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	109,677	136,459	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	3,062,932
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	34,393	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	dz. prs.	36,158	106,518	3,677
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	188	24,354	420
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes	..	..	13,777	..
	Cement ..	brls.	130,443	54,966	..
	Cotton—Piece-goods ..	yds.	13,386,932	231,677	10,215
	Other Manufactures	..	..	47,116	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	75,173	..
	Medicines and Drugs	"	..	27,591	..
	Metals: Iron galvanized, steel bars, and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	29,919	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene	galls.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	39	12	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	37,201	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	4,757,358	53,308	..
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	35,682	..

TABLE "A"

1934.						
Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
734,825	..	847,289	..	1,229,603	..	4,621,634
496	1,557	355	13,401	3,081	132,823	34,896
541	436	28	1,104,961	37,761	1,116,743	38,394
..	37	1	2,236	52	613,242	11,746
68,903	15,420	645	8,224,521	103,213	13,941,138	172,973
65,471	..	..	111,170	896	9,483,968	66,367
232,453	1,181	1,709	3,353	2,386	402,175	337,933
..	96,460	1,605	128,100	1,445	1,294,760	18,301
568	297,769	11,138	13,444	681	373,914	15,405
3,015	1,118,072	15,781	1,600	26	1,314,872	18,822
18,549	1,301,239	20,501	2,860,575	39,235	6,933,659	112,296
1	28	10	769	314	1,678	958
2	1,681	356	3	3	27,609	8,918
..	15,583	19,895	..	..	125,260	156,354
17,544	16,432,589	111,757	1,405,517	10,132	20,901,038	139,427
5,735	..	9,603	..	31,414	..	81,145
4,793	1,562	3,236	94,568	90,122	135,965	204,669
55,143	241	34,288	..	.	849	113,785
32,375	..	17,316		254	..	63,722
..	64	86	22,738	10,149	153,245	65,201
411	3,710,679	46,850	5,954,469	62,933	23,062,295	341,871
1,925	..	2,102	..	20,914	..	72,057
10,705	..	29,633	..	24,908	..	140,419
5,534	..	26,048	..	5,325	..	64,498
6,714	..	5,538	..	4,874	..	47,045
..	698,176	26,820	905,447	48,993	1,603,623	75,813
..	106,134	3,893	6,098,281	152,793	6,204,454	156,696
13,910	..	4,787	..	67,232	..	123,150
..	168,199	1,771	2,465	21	4,928,022	55,100
68	..	169	..	1,306	..	37,225

TABLE "P."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1932. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (F.O.B.)	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value (F.O.B.)	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value (F.O.B.)	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value (F.O.B.)	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	1,597,494	..	830,262	..	586,385	..	240,525	..	3,254,666
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	77,491	766	4,216,367	41,872	305,994	2,818	300,936	2,646	4,900,788	48,102
Coffee, Raw ..	"	307,925	7,898	7,767,350	196,532	411,742	10,167	390,438	9,460	8,877,455	224,057
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas ..	Stems	13,258,522	1,265,942	2,645,219	235,822	4,380,415	359,442	76,457	7,905	20,360,613	1,869,111
Grapefruit	No.	10,178,159	52,736	3,447,489	17,240	..	..	163,722	872	13,789,370	70,848
Coconuts	"	2,552,096	7,686	6,661,450	21,938	29,107,725	98,732	917,540	3,170	39,238,811	131,526
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	13,629	46,696	..	..	414	1,694	2,649	9,548	16,692	57,938
Nuts or Expressing Oil:											
Copra ..	lbs.	5,843,670	30,876	..	..	613,830	2,832		..	6,456,500	33,708
Spices: Ginger ..	"	754,591	15,923	236,069	5,303	576,757	12,596	93,998	1,856	1,661,415	35,678
Pimento, Dry	"	352,955	2,771	228,227	1,639	2,321,077	16,799	5,375,549	40,478	8,277,808	61,687
Spirits: Rum ..	galls.	102,097	12,212	11,172	1,389	166	18	68,034	7,890	181,469	21,519
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	8,966	79,339	29,408	262,543	..	..	114	1,027	38,488	342,909
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	743	2,074	..	..	6,139	17,509	12,376	35,647	19,258	55,230

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (F.O.B.)	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value (F.O.B.)	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value (F.O.B.)	Other Countries. Quantity	Other Countries. Value (F.O.B.)	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	1,603,971	..	668,048	..	257,944	..	200,544	..	2,730,507
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	61,261	534	3,599,669	31,166	56,867	504	26,449	231	3,744,246	32,435
Coffee, Raw ..	"	263,579	5,930	9,466,023	210,257	17,404	398	77,224	1,728	9,824,230	218,313
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas ..	Stems	8,387,582	805,586	1,832,295	179,373	337,319	33,497	173	20	10,557,369	1,018,476
Grapefruit	No.	9,775,576	50,730	1,888,927	8,945	..	..	201,756	970	11,866,259	60,645
Coconuts		1,651,150	4,828	6,693,099	21,647	28,641,111	89,678	452,199	1,425	37,437,559	117,578
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	26,384	87,592	..	..	602	3,309	3,075	1,627	30,045	101,528
Nuts for Expressing Oil: Copra ..	lbs.	4,549,590	19,335	180	1	5,576,164	2,623		..	5,125,934	21,959
Spices: Ginger ..	"	783,539	14,604	143,485	2,664	692,269	12,921	46,632	857	1,665,926	31,046
Pimento, Dry	"	602,381	4,827	231,265	1,803	2,151,110	16,626	6,116,573	46,555	9,101,329	69,811
Spirits: Rum ..	galls.	290,820	35,835	12,151	1,584	12,255	1,838	70,546	9,016	385,872	48,273
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	28,013	260,369	17,142	162,854	..	..	115	1,072	45,270	424,295
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	1,152	3,219	..	..	10,268	27,093	13,684	38,362	25,104	68,674

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1934. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (F.O.B.)	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value (F.O.B.)	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value (F.O.B.)	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value (F.O.B.)	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	1,699,162	..	907,548	..	326,553	..	272,008	..	3,205,271
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	2,512	15	4,400,791	42,370	..	..	36,177	323	4,439,480	42,708
Coffee, Raw ..	"	286,072	22,891	6,741,315	142,769	623	22	104,553	2,409	7,132,563	168,091
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas ..	Stems	12,533,463	1,289,714	2,667,790	288,556	706,897	79,365	66,756	7,447	15,974,906	1,665,082
Grapefruit	No.	14,071,418	67,567	2,549,335	10,266	..	..	115,809	537	16,736,562	78,370
Coconuts	"	604,700	1,448	5,994,180	14,041	30,401,437	80,774	144,330	483	37,144,647	96,746
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	21,154	69,466	..	..	352	1,354	2,010	7,436	23,516	78,256
Nuts for Expressing Oil: Copra ..	lbs.		..	..	..	147	1	..	..	147	1
Spices: Ginger ..	"	1,388,611	36,031	187,136	4,950	689,904	17,779	129,018	5,819	2,394,669	64,579
Pimento, Dry	"	881,813	7,529	303,695	2,368	2,510,492	21,175	8,454,678	65,276	12,150,678	96,348
Spirits: Rum ..	galls.	296,850	54,896	15,374	6172	59,114	52,358	88,460	2[illegible],377	459,798	135,803
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	9,442	81,505	44,733	366,147	..	..	52	508	54,227	448,160
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	100	250	..	..	1,600	3,615	10,328	28,272	12,028	32,137

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

123. The average rate of wages for labourers in Government employ is: Skilled 3/6 to 4/6 per day. Unskilled 2/6 to 3/- per day. Private employers pay skilled men from 3/6 to 4/8 per day and unskilled men from 2/6 to 3/- per day. Women in private employ get from 1/6 to 1/8 per day. Factory workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each and shop assistants receive a wage of from 50/- to 70/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 8 hours each.

The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway and a schedule of the wages paid in the Departments is set out below:—

Head Offices—

Clerks	... ...	From 20/- to £5 10/- per week according to Grade.
Learner Clerks	... ...	From 10/- to 20/- per week.

Way and Works Branch—

Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180	to	£335	per annum.
Draughtsmen ...	"	50/-	"	150/-	per week
Learner Draughtsmen	"	15/-	"	25/-	"
Foremen ...	"	45/-	"	60/-	"
Junior Foremen ...	"	30/-	"	45/-	"
Learner Foremen ...	"	20/-	"	29/-	"
Carpenters ...	"	6/-			per day
Labourers ...	"	2/6 to 3/6 per day			
Gangers ...	"	3/9 to 4/4 per day			
Gatemen ...	"	9/-	to	10/-	per week

Locomotive Branch—

Foremen ...	"	95/- "	115/	"
Chargemen ...	"	60/- "	70/-	"
Machinists, Fitters, Blacksmiths, Moulders, Boilermakers and Coppersmiths, etc. ...	"	32/- "	64/-	"
Engine Drivers ...	"	60/- "	80/6	"
Firemen ...	"	37/- "	44/-	"
Carpenters, including Saw Mill Machinist, Truck Fitters, Asst. Truck Fitters and Pattern Makers ...	"	30/- "	54/-	"
Painters ...	"	28/- "	34/-	"
Labourers (unskilled)	"		18/-	"
Labourers (skilled)	"		21/-	"
Greasers ...	"	30/- "	36/-	"
Watchmen ...	"	25/- "	33/-	"
Shedmen ...			4/- per day 5/- per night	
Apprentices ...	"	8/- to	24/- per week	

Traffic Branch—

Trains Controllers ...	"	90/- "	125/- per week	
Station Masters ...	"	60/- "	110/-	"
Station Clerks ...	"	20/- "	35/-	"
Invoices and Booking Clerks	"	37/6 "	90/4	"
Porters, Kingston ...	"		3/- per day	
Porters, Outstations ...	"	1/6 "	2/9 per day	
Shunters ...	"	20/ "	35/- per week	
Guards ...	"	30/- "	60/-	"
Brakesmen ...	"	21/- "	30/-	"
Tranship Porters ...	"	21/- "	40/-	"
Wharfinger ...	"		105/-	"
Assistant Wharfinger	"		37/6	"
Storemen ...	"	2/6 to 3/4 per day		
Female Typists ...	"	35/- to 45/- per week		

124. Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays and time and a half for Sunday work.

125. Drivers and and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

126. Station Masters are paid overtime for Sundays and Public Holidays, and so are the Assistants and Junior Trains Controllers. Parcels Office Clerks and Booking Clerk, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sunday work. Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

127. The following is a list, giving costs, of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	...	...	8 ozs. for 2 2-5d.
Crackers	...	...	1d. for twenty
Peas and Beans		...	5d. to 6d. per quart
Yams	...	...	1d. to 1½d. per lb.
Cocoanuts	...	...	1d. each
Sweet Potatoes		...	1½d. per lb.
Cocoes	...	...	1½d. per lb
Plantains	...	...	2d. each
Sugar, B.A.	...	...	3d. per lb.
Flour	...	...	2d. to 2½d. per lb.
Rice	...	...	1½d. to 2d. per lb
Meal	...	...	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	...	...	5d. per lb.
Herrings	...	...	3d. per lb.
Shads	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mackerels	...	...	3d. per lb.
Salmon	...	...	7½d. per lb.
Onions	...	...	4½d. per lb.
Beef, w/s	...	...	6d. per lb.
Pork, w/s	...	...	9d. per lb.
Cocoanut Oil	...	...	10d. to 1/- per quart
Milk, Full Cream		...	5½d. to 6½d per tin
Beef, Fresh	...	...	4½d. to 7½d. per lb.
Salt Fine	...	...	1d. per lb.

128. During 1934 a 4lb. loaf of bread cost 1/7 1-5d. and a labourer's pay therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 9 loaves in Government employ and from 9 to 13 loaves in private employ. In Jamaica however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

129. The cost of living in Jamaica although it has decreased somewhat in recent years, is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100 as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the Index Figure for 1934 works out at an average of 136 made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—		
Local Products	145	
Imported Articles	116	130.5 (mean)
Clothing, etc.	...	132
Miscellaneous	...	145
		408
Average	...	136

130. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month.

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CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

131. The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1933-34 was £212,615, an increase of £8,446 on the expenditure for 1932-33.

132. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools, (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools, (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owner's representive but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools; (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government School. On 31st December, 1934, there were 147 schools administered by School Boards, 87 of which are owned by the Government while 60 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas in which the average attendance is 59%. The number of children affected is 18,215 excluding infants. In the non-compulsory areas 115,440 children are enrolled with an average attendance of 50%.

133. The total enrolment for the whole island is 142,141 with an average attendance of 52%.

134. School attendance in 1933 was seriously affected by drought and later by abnormally heavy rains.

135. The total cost of Elementary Education excusive of establishment charges for 1933-34 amounted to £169,464.

136. There are in all 651 grant-aided Elementary Schools. There are also a large number of elementary private schools in regard to which details are not available. Seven new Government Schools were opened during 1934. A sum of £2,000 was expended during he same period in building grants for denominational schools and teachers' quarters but there are still many Denominational School Buildings in a very bad state of repair.

137. A special Government Grant of £4,000 was required to replace buildings damaged by hurricane. This was supplemented by an equivalent amount from voluntary sources.

138. The Primary Schools employ about 1,800 teachers, excluding Pupil Teachers. There are four Training Colleges, one for men and three for women teachers. There is also a small Training Centre for Infant School Teachers.

139. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years are awarded annually to children from Primary Schools in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In

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addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided Secondary Schools, twenty-one in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

140. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 22 Centres. At the last Examinations held (July and December 1934) 540 Candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 273 passed (51%), 311 for the School Certificate of whom 194 passed (62%) and 21 entered for and 9 passed (43%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

141. Public Assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

142. In the examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1934, 39 Candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 23 passed, including 8 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 7 Candidates, 1 of whom passed and 3 were referred in one subject. Two Candidates sat for Intermediate Divinity and passed. Three Candidates sat for the Intermediate Examination in Science and one passed. Two Candidates sat for the Final Examination in Arts and failed, and one Candidate sat for the Final Examination in Laws and failed.

143. There are two recognized Continuation Schools for Girls, both in the parish of St. Mary and the Government Technical School in Kingston has a Continuation Department. Avenues for continued education are provided by the Farm School at Hope, Trade Scholarships, Scholarships and Free Places in Secondary Schools, and Free Places at the Technical School.

144. The Kingston Technical School is a Government Institution which provides for the training of boys and girls in Continuation, Commercia, Domestic Science and Technical Subjects. The installation of electrical appliances, a battery of forges and other up-to-date equipment has considerably enhanced the scope of the work whilst the adoption of the requirements of recognized external examining bodies like the Royal Society of Arts and the City and Guilds of London Institute has raised the standard of the school. The large enrolment in the Evening Classes is evidence that these classes are becoming better known and appreciated. Special Courses for Training College Students and public elementary school teachers are in active operation.

145. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School Boys who wish to be apprenticed to a trade or to enter the Government Farm School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years, part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

146. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curriculum includes Literary Subjects, Needlework, Housecarft and Hygiene. These schools do excellent work especially from the point of view of character training. There

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is little doubt however, that their work should be of a less literary and more practical nature. But there are few local teachers able to teach domestic subjects and fewer still to teach commercially profitable handicrafts. There is no Continuation School for boys outside Kingston.

147. Manual Training Departments are attached to eleven Government Schools but two are in abeyance on account of shortage of qualified staff.

148. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been re-organized and are shewing much improvement in numbers and efficiency. There are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

149. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools an orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortly Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Until recently children could not be detained in these schools after the age of 16, but they may now be detained until 18 in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the classroom or for trade instruction.

150. The Goverment Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys and Girls) is maintained by the Government, under the charge of the Inspector of Goverrnment Industrial Schools. A Board of visitors is appointd by the Governor, which arranges monthly visits of inspection and holds bimonthly Board Meetings.

151. The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 ft. above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply, the site is ideal for the purpose. The building though very old are spacious, well ventilated and cool. Improvements are being made which include a suitable playground for the girls.

152. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospital) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside of the poor relief law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1933-34 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

153. The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands from teachers, sanitary inspectors and citizens for information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease.

154. The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing "Jamaica Public Health". The bulletin is used in more than 250 schools of the island as a text book in hygiene and would be adopted in other schools if more copies of the publication could be supplied.

155. Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being dealt with by the health departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lanterns and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards designed for use in schools, at markets, and other public places, to give information about the more common diseases, are distributed.

156. Dental Clinics are in operation in eight parishes, the cost being divided between the Government and the Parochial Boards. A systematic medical examination of school children in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew was initiated during the year.

157. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association there are at present 133 groups actively at work. These groups comprise 125 Scout Troops, 43 Wolf Cub Packs and 43 Rover Crews, numbering 307 Scouters, 1,980 Scouts, 93 Sea Scouts, 523 Cubs, 327 Rover Scouts, 92 Rover Sea-Scouts—a total of 3,322. This shows an increase of 552 over 1933 when the total was 2,170.

158. His Excellency Sir Edward Denham, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

159. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 103 Companies at work. These comprise 15 Ranger, 68 Guide and 20 Brownie Companies. The total enrolment for 1934 was 2,295. The President is Lady Denham and Mrs. D. O. Kelly-Lawson is Island Commissioner.

160. The Institute of Jamaica for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art—(with its Library of 36,909 books, 1,730 Manuscripts and 739 Maps and Plans being 26,019 books in the General Library and 10,890 in the West India Reference Library)—distributed 52,926 books amongst its members during 1934, in addition to which many members of the public, including visitors and tourists from England, Canada and the United States, consulted the General Library and the West India Reference Library.

161. In the latter was one graduate doing post-graduate work on a West Indian subject and seven visitors to the Island doing research work.

162. Both the Literary and the Teachers Associations affiliated with the Institute borrowed books during the year.

163. An Exhibition of Photography was held under the auspices of the Institute of Jamaica, from 31st January to 17th February. Prizes were awarded including a Silver Medal.

164. Many parties of school children visited the Natural History Museum and the History Gallery of the Institute.

165. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its 27th Annual Examination of Candidates in Music. There were 961 entries for the Practical and Theoretical, for wich 648 candidates sat.

166. The Musical Society of Jamaica held at the Institute two meetings during the year.

167. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian Teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

168. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary School Boys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

169. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various Competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

170. As in the case of cricket the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

171. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and inter-scholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

172. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1930	entered	1,631	vessels of	3,573,731	net tons.	
1931	"	1,438	"	3,244,558	"	"
1932	"	1,355	"	3,508,696	"	"
1933	"	1,304	"	3,698,330	"	"
1934	"	1,326	"	3,844,127	"	"
1930	cleared	1,625	"	3,541,633	"	"
1931	"	1,407	"	3,222,945	"	"
1932	"	1,291	"	3,440,374	"	"
1933	"	1,291	"	3,718,880	"	"
1934	"	1,291	"	3,812,128	"	"

173. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Lines, Blue Funnel Line, Leyland Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line Ltd., The Canadian National Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The James Nourse Ltd. The Canadian Pacific R.R. Steamship Co., The Standard Fruit & Shipping Co., Shaw Saville Albion, The Webster Steamship Line, (the last named company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders & Fyffes is a British registered Company the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit & Shipping Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

174. The Island possesses a good system of Macadam Roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,457 miles which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,380 miles of which 2,036 are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,344 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads.

They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

175. During 1934 the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £104 per mile. Many miles of these roads were originally constructed of limestone surfacing without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of modern motor traffic. Legislature prohibiting importation and use, without special permission, of Motor Vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen has been enacted.

176. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic safely.

177. Up to the end of the year under review the mileage of Asphalt Sprayed Roads amounted to 183 miles 14 chains.

178. The New Programme of Road Construction Works authorised under Loan Laws 17 of 1933 and 18 of 1933, commenced in 1933, was continued. At the close of 1934 nearly all these items of work have been completed and it is hoped that the entire programme will be finished by the 31st March, 1935. Some of these undertakings have been under consideration for many years and their completion will result in definite improvement in certain areas, while others will have the effect of opening up and developing fertile areas which were in need of better road facilities.

179. It must be borne in mind, however, that Law 17 of 1933 provided for only part cost towards the construction of certain roads and until a further Loan is raised for the completion of these works, now partially done, the full benefits for which these roads were intended will not be reaped nor will the full purpose for which the roads were selected be served.

180. As a result of this programme, 26 miles and 29 chains have been added to the mileage of main roads, and 22 miles and 50 chains of existing main roads have been improved.

181. In addition to these Loan Works several weak bridges were reconstructed during the year.

182. The work of restoring the main roads of the Colony which were so severely damaged by the abnormal flood rains of 1933 was continued and was pushed on, and by the end of the current Financial Year there will be little left to complete the programme of restoration works approved of.

183. Heavy flood rainfall during October and November, 1934, caused considerable damage to roads in the eastern end of the Island which had the effect of slowing up and setting back some of the major flood damage "1933" repair works.

184. The Department, however, has done its utmost to meet the most pressing claims for repairs caused by the October and November, 1934 flood rains, and all roads were opened to traffic shortly after, the cost being met from Maintenance Funds.

185. The question of asphalting certain arterial main roads where the traffic is heavy is one of first importance to the Colony, and it is hoped that this much-desired and necessary undertaking will not be long deferred.

186. The mean rainfall for the Island was 79.82 inches or 5.95 inches above the 60-year average.

The mean number of rainy days was 139, the average being 122.

Canals.

187. There are no navigable Canals in the Island.

Motor Omnibus Transport.

188. The Motor Omnibus services in the Island continue to play their part in the economic development of the communities served. In Kingston and Lower Saint Andrew, fifty-seven omnibuses ply for hire on thirteen routes, totalling fifty-five miles.

189. There has been a slight decrease in the number of omnibuses operating in the country districts during the present year. At present there are sixty-eight omnibuses covering several hundred miles of roads.

190. Government appointed a Commission to enquire into the subject of Road and Rail Transport and its co-ordination and it is hoped shortly to receive their Report with recommendations.

Jamaica Government Railway.

191. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio, 63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield —23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

192. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast, Port Antonio being north-east and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

193. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1934, was £277,726 1s. 8d. and the expenditure £273,729 2s. 6d. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 282,602 tons, as compared with 212,590 tons for the year 1933; the number of passengers carried in 1934 was 509,904 as compared with 500,081 in 1933.

194. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

195. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60lb. rails with 80lb. raisl has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60 lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927 the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and

under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1934 the total mileage which has been changed from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails is 102 miles.

196. *Passenger Traffic*—The passenger traffic during this period shows improvement. There was an appreciable increase in the number of passengers carried.

197. *General Merchandise Traffic.*—Under this head there has been a increased tonnage but a slight decrease in revenue. The increased amount of traffic carried can be considered satisfactory under present conditions.

198. *Banana Traffic.*—There has been an increase in tonnage and revenue under this head. This recovery is very gratifying after the serious set-backs which we experienced during the past two years.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

199. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year, 1934, there were 1,892 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 telegraph and 138 telephone offices. Eight telephone offices were opened during the year.

200. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all night and holiday telegrams service is provided on payment of graduated fees. An optional service of telegrams conveying Christmas and New Year wishes was inaugurated for the first time during the year under review from the 20th of December until the 1st of January of the following year. The charge for such telegrams was sixpence for the first twelve words and half-penny for each additional word. 2,572 such messages were sent during the period.

201. The Railway telegraphic system, in connection with which there are 44 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal and Telegraph system but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

202. In 1933, 304,126 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £15,283 15s. 5½d. In 1934, 289,207 and £15,154 4s. 9d., respectively.

203. There are three Wireless Stations in the Island under Government license, two owned and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and one by Pan-American Airways, Inc. Two are situated at Kingston, and the other at Stony Hill. Of the two owned by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., one is used principally for shore to ship traffic on the usual wave length of 600 metres. The Stony Hill Station, which is situated nine miles from Kingston, has an up-to-date 25 K.W.C.W. installation and engages in long distance commerical traffic on wave lengths of from 2,880 metres upward. This Station is controlled from the Company's Head Office at Kingston. The Pan-American Airways W/T Station is used for the control of their aircraft operating between North and South America and the Caribbean Islands. Short wave only is used.

204. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving programmes broadcast by the British, American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Stations exist in the Island. 1,887 Broadcast Receiving licenses have been issued up to date and sixteen Experimental Transmitting licenses are in existence.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

205. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclays Bank, Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

206. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1934, was as follows:—

Barclays Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank) ...	£82,913
Bank of Nova Scotia	£129,541
Royal Bank of Canada	£35,117
Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	£15,248

207. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclays Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

208. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. The Management of the Bank is in the hands of a Board appointed by the Governor under Law No. 11 of 1925. There are 114 Branches of the Bank in the Island.

209. During the year 1934 interest at the rate of 3% per annum, added half-yearly, was allowed on all deposits. In view of the fact, however, that the income received from investments is on the decline owing to the present high price of Colonial Government Securities an Order has been issued by the Governor reducing the rate of interest to 3% per annum for the first £100 and 2% per annum thereafter up to a limit of £500. This Order is to take effect as from the 1st July, 1935.

210. The Commercial Banks reduced their rate of interest on Savings Accounts from 3% p.a. to 2% p.a. as from the 1st June, 1933.

211. The total amount at credit of Depositors in the Government Savings Bank for the last five years is as follows:—

31st December 1930	£640,328
31st " 1931	£646,753
31st " 1932	£653,200
31st " 1933	£744,925
31st " 1934	£829,634

212. Under Law 11 of 1925 the Funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested in:—

(1) Public Securities of Great Britain and Ireland and of Jamaica or of any other British Colony.
(2) Loans to Agricultural Societies in Jamaica.
(3) Real Securities in Jamaica.
(4) Any investment or class of investment authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.
(5) Deposits in Banks.

213. There are 48 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (Law 33 of 1902). Seven of these Banks are moribund. The greater number of these was started early in 1913 in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans amounted to £80,489 12s. 4d. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the Encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for cultivation, the purchase of land, stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers, and have practically eliminated the usurer in the districts which they cover.

214. In 1930, Law 15 of 1930 was passed, giving the Board further and better powers, and extending their duties of supervision to all Agricultural Loan Societies.

215. In 1933, Law 11 of 1933 was passed. This provides for the cancellation of the registry of a Loan Bank, for certain specific reasons set out in the Law, and for a new form of Annual Return.

216. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purpose of purchasing properties for resale in lots to small settlers.

217. £59,641 was lent to Banks to purchase 12 properties. Two of these have been taken over by the Surveyor General, as, in addition to certain unfortunate condiitions which obtained, the local management found themselves unable to carry the schemes to completion. The Board found it necessary to appoint a Receiver in another case, and the property was sold, with a loss to Government. In contradistinction, five other Schemes have succeeded admirably. The sum of £5,895 12s. 3d. was owing on three Schemes under this head at 31st December, 1933. Land Settlement Schemes are now operated by the Surveyor General.

218. It is the policy of the Board to encourage landed proprietors, professional men and others qualified by business experience to take an active and sympathetic interest in these Banks.

219. To 31st December, 1933, £141,372 8s. was lent to 40 Banks, and £12,451 0s. 8d. received in payment.

220. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—British Gold and Silver coins, local nickel coins, local currency notes, the U.S.A. Gold eagle and its sub-multiples. Gold doubloons and the sub-divisions of the doubloons. U.S.A. silver and notes are not legal tender but are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks.

221. Accounts are kept in sterling.

222. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1934, to the extent of £92,385 12s. 6d. in the following denominations:—

2/6d. Notes.	5/- Notes	10/- Notes	
£113 7s. 6d.	£39,909 15s.	£52,362 10s.	Total—£92,385 12s. 6d

The 2/6d. Notes are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

223. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

224. In addition to the construction of new roads and bridges an account of which appears under Chapter X, the principal activities of the year were:—

(a) The reconstruction of Police Station at Allman Town.

(b) Improve Sanitation and Drainage, Kingston Pen Lands.

(c) 41 miles of New Telegraph and Telephone Lines were under construction and will be brought into Public use before the 31st March, 1935.

225. Besides, the following Works authorised under the Public and Municipal Works Loan Law 17 of 1933 were completed at the end of 1934, viz.:

(a) Eight New Post Offices.

(b) Eleven New Elementary Schools and in addition, Four Teachers' Cottages.

(c) Extension of the Nurses' Home at the Maternity Hospital, Kingston.

(d) Transfer of the Island Medical Office to its New Quarters and the former Office converted into Laboratories.

226. The building of five New Police Stations was undertaken and these will all be completed before the 31st March, 1935.

227. The extensive surveys of the several Harbours undertaken by a Harbour Engineer specially engaged from England have been completed and the report and recommendations of the Consulting Engineers have recently come to hand. The work of improving the entrance to the Falmouth Harbour has, in the meantime, been commenced.

228. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor, upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all Main Roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction enlargement, improvement, repair, management and control of any other Water Works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorised by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889, and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds of which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief Adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specifications and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorised.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, The Telephone Law, The Tramways Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a Member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police

229. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Appellate Court which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil jurisdiction) the Resident Magistarte's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

230. There are three Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges.

231. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

The civil work of the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew is disposed of by the Judge of the Kingston Court who has the same jurisdiction as a Resident Magistrate in civil proceedings.

The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

There are fourteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and one Judge of the Kingston Court.

The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

232. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. Under that Law

the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers; and the Inspector General is authorised to admit persons as Sub-Officers and Constables.

233. The present authorised strength of the Force is 23 Officers and 1,083 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for Membership unless he can produce a Certificate of character from a Magistrate or other gentlemen of position and can pass a satisfactory Medical Examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 20 or more than 25 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand.

234. Every Candidate is enrolled for five years (three months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines, and perform the duties appertaining to the Office of Constables.

235. There are separate Detectives and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The Members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police Force.

Prisons.

236. *General Penitentiary, Kingston.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, and European prisoners. There is separate cell accommodation for 645 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel, and 32 in Hospital Wards.

237. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding six months. There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the Chapel for 306, and Hospital wards for 40.

238. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accmmodation for 66.

239. *Female Prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198, ospial wards for 15.

240. In the adult prison, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

241. At the juvenile adult prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the Adult prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the Juvenile Adult prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons.

242. In the Female Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e., washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

243. The decrease in prison population during the year is very satisfactory. On 1st January there was a total muster of 1,378 which by 31st December had dropped to 1,115, the average daily population being 1,223 against 1,301 in 1933.

244. A certain amount of this decrease can be accounted for by the more extensive use being made of the Probation system. There has also been more work available for general labourers.

245. Special efforts have been made to persuade ex-prisoners to leave Kingston and try to settle in rural districts where rent and food problems are less severe and conditions more favourable for those of low earning capacity. These effects appear to have met with some degree of success but time will prove whether it is temporary or lasting.

Brief Statistics.

246. Average daily population:—

General Penitentiary	...	...	605
St. Catherine District Prison	...	...	526
Juvenile Adult Prison	...	...	35
Female Prison	...	...	57
Total	...		1,223

Number in custody 31st December, 1934:

General Penitentiary	...	...	583
St. Catherine District Prison	...	...	532
Total	...		1,115

Expenditure	...	£42,802 14 2
Revenue	...	9,798 9 6
Cost of Prisons	...	£33,004 4 8

Value of Prison manufactures used in Prisons £2,910 16s. 0d.

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

247. Twenty-six Laws were passed during the year 1934. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest:—

Law 1 of 1934.—"A Law to impose a tax on packages" The Law re-enacts to provisions of the Package Tax Law 1933 and is to endue until the 31st March 1935.

Law 3 of 1934.—"A Law to regulate the importation of textiles." The object of the Law is to control the importation into the Island of "regulated" textiles. Under the Law the Governor is empowered to fix by proclamation the total quantity of textile goods manufactured in a foreign country which may be imported during a specified period. After the quota has been fixed for any individual country and textile no person may import from that country any such textile otherwise than in accordance with a direction given under section 9 of the Law, except under licence

by the Collector General; Import licences may with the consent of the Collector General be transferred from the person to whom it is issued to any other person designated by him. When the quota for any particular country is attained the Governor is to cause a notice to that effect to be published in the Gazette and thereafter imports from that country are prohibited during the quota period. The Governor is, however, empowered to direct admission of regulated textiles in excess of the quota on payment of such higher duties than those prescribed by the Tariff Law as he may fix by proclamation.

Law 4 of 1934.—"A Law to admit in evidence the certificate of the Island Chemist or Deputy Island Chemist in cases brought under the Dangerous Drugs Law, 1924 or any Law amending or substituted for the same." The Law renders admissible in evidence the certificate of the Island or Deputy Island Chemist in cases under the Dangerous Drugs Law unless the defendant requires the attendance of the officer as a witness. If the officer is summoned at the instance of the defendant the defendant on conviction pays the sums set out in the Law.

Law 7 of 1934.—"A Law to amend further the Tariff Laws 1925-1933." The Law increases Customs duties on certain articles for which no quota has been fixed under Law 3 of 1934. The Law raises the ad valorem duty to 20% in all cases plus a specific duty varying with the different articles referred to in the schedule.

Law 8 of 1934.—"A Law to amend a Law entitled A Law to amend and consolidate the Laws imposing Licenses upon Trades and Business." (Law 7 of 1908). The Law is enacted in order to acquire greater control over "Temperance Bars." It provides the before a licence can be issued for the sale of wine, beer or other malt liquors the applicant shall produce to the Collector of Taxes a certificate from the Inspector of Police that he is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. The licence to sell wine or malt liquors is to be publicly exhibited on the premises where the business is carried on.

Law 9 of 1934.—"A Law to provide for the registration and inspection of Nursing Homes and for purposes connected therewith. The Law requires registration of every Nursing Home. Applications for registration are made to the Superintending Medical Officer in the form prescribed by him and to be accompanied by a fee of five shillings. If the Superintending Medical Officer decides to grant the application he is required to register the Home and grant a certificate of registration. The Superintending Medical Officer may refuse the application on the grounds set forth in paragraphs (a) to (e) of section 3 (3) and may on like grounds cancel registration. A right of appeal to the Governor in Privy Council against refusal to register or against cancellation is accorded to the applicant or registered person.

Law 12 of 1934.—"A Law to provide for the registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Business Names and for other purposes." The Law repeals the Registration of Business Names Law 1918 (Law 16 of 1918) and re-enacts its provisions with certain amendments. The amendments are designed to modify certain difficulties experienced by the mercantile community in the conduct of their business, to proivde means of identification of debtors, the tracing of disappearing debtors and

to check the facility with which commercial frauds are committed.

Law 18 of 1934.—"A Law to control the ether content of rum manufactured in this Island." The Law controls the ether content of rum manufactured in the Island and is to prevent the indiscriminate manufacture of high ether rum. The Law provides that no rum shall be manufactured with a higher ether content than that fixed by proclamation.

Law 21 of 1934.—"A Law to amend further the Tariff Laws 1925 to 1934." The Law provides for the exemption of worn wearing apparel sent from persons abroad as gifts to persons in this Island from the extra duty of twelve shillings a dozen provided for under Law 7 of 1934.

Law 22 of 1934—"A Law to control and regulate the manufacture and sale of rum in this Island." Agreements have been entered into by several sugar and rum manufacturers, and whose names are set out in the Law, to restrict the annual production of rum on their estates. These agreements are for the purpose of (1) controlling the production of rum manufactured in the Island. (2) preventing over producton. and (3) regulating retail prices of the same.

Law 25 of 1926.—"A Law to provide for an Excise duty on Matches." The Law creates an excise duty on matches locally manufactured.

Law 26 of 1934.—"A Law to amend the Tariff Law 1925 (Law 4 of 1925." The Law imposes a duty on foreign matches over and above the duty at present existing.

CHAPTER XV.

FINANCE.

248. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

REVENUE.

1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
£	£	£	£	£
2,292,869	2,197,572	2,085,793	2,169,307	2,037,319

EXPENDITURE.

1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
£	£	£	£	£
2,310,502	2,322,613	2,135,736	2,081,635	2,186,056

249. The total Expenditure during the year ended 31st March, 1934, was £148,737 more than the total Revenue.

250. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1934, under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue	£
I. Customs	818,098
II. Harbour and Light Dues	6,084
III. Licenses, Excise, etc.	
(a) Licenses	29,155
(b) Excise, etc.	189,562
(c) Income Tax	40,511
(d) Land and House Tax	65,859
(e) Entertainment Tax	—
(f) Fines, etc.	10,570
IV. Fees of Office, etc.	
(a) Fees of Office	21,098
(b) Stamp Duties	55,768
(c) Reimbursements-in-aid	
(1) Medical	5,055
(2) Prisons, etc.	8,587
(3) Debt Charges	122,499
(4) Miscellaneous	33,767
(d) Irrigation Receipts	12,149
V. Post Office	71,042
VI. Rents	2,272
VII. Interest	5,156
VIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	15,744
Surplus on Sinking Fund for 4% Loan under Law 13 of 1885	229,222
IX. Land Sales	2,217
X. Colonial Development Fund	4,896
Total	£1,749,311

Head of Expenditure	£
Charges of Debt	214,942
Pensions	54,929
Pensions—Widows and Orphans	13,958
The Governor and Staff	6,320
Privy Council	47
Legislative Council	3,369
Colonial Secretariat	7,934
Lands Department	16,054
Audit Department	5,669
Public Treasury	5,248
Currency Commissioners	1,016
Government Savings Bank	17,659
Immigration Department	262
Collector General's Department	64,981
Post Office	76,389
Supreme Court	5,456
Law Officers	3,542
Kingston Court	1,738
Resident Magistrates' Courts	32,784
Administrator General's Office	6,628
Medical—General Administration	45,623
" Hospitals and Lepers' Home	58,808
Medical—Lunatic Asylum	28,616
Constabulary	148,336
Prisons	27,971
Industrial	5,034
Education	163,772
Harbours and Pilotage	4,347
Marine Board	887
Imperial Forces Allowances	4,343
Local Forces	5,869
Registrar General and Island Record Office	6,232
Registration of Titles Office	2,697
Government Printing Office	18,330
Board of Supervision	556
Department of Science and Agriculture	35,094
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,180
Subventions	39,391
Miscellaneous	59,509
" Insurance Fund	129,222
Railway	52,187
Public Works Department	47,685
" " Annually Recurrent	208,605
" " Extraordinary	7,994
Colonial Development Fund	779
Total	£1,641,995

251. The Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1934, were £1,041,416 and £980,068, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £61,348. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1934, were held:—

		£	s.	d.
Loans to Agricultural Loan Societies' Board	...	22,251	12	3
Loans from Parochial Water Supplies Fund	...	11,497	5	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15 of 1932, Advance		40,861	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 25 of 1933, Advance		22,200	0	0
Land Settlement Advances	... ...	26,192	17	9
Advances on account of Loans to be raised	...	17,445	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Advances to Parochial Boards	6,147	14	0
Stores Advances	95,101	14	10½
General Advances	45,628	13	9
Investments on account of Redemption Funds guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	79,686	8	9
Investments on account of Deposits for Investment	151,364	14	0
Investments on account of Trust Funds ...	35,476	6	1
Investments for Insurance Fund	124,673	0	10
Miscellaneous Investments	30,354	10	9
Imprests	94,022	13	5
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York	6,960	19	0
Emigration Agent, India	285	14	11
Collector General for Customs Revenue ...	87	19	11
Remittances in Transit	6	10	4
Loan to Crown Agents	165,000	0	0
Hurricane Loans, 1933	3,800	10	0
Treasurer	62,371	3	0½
	£1,041,416	8	8

252. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £124,689 at the 31st March, 1934.

253. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1934, was £6,098,846. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Debt amounted to £2,991,458. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference—£3,107,388—exceeds by £846,469 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1934-35.

254. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1934:—

	Population	National Debt	Per Capita
		£	
Great Britain	45,000,000	8,030,362,567	178.45
		Public Debt	
Jamaica	1,110,000	6,098,846	5.49

255. If the acumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1934, viz: £2,991,458, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 15s. 11d.

TAXATION.

256. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended the 31st March, 1934, are given hereunder:—

i. Customs—

	£	s.	d.
Import Duties and Surtax	939,048	2	3
Export Duties	322	14	7
Package Tax	78,960	6	8

	£	s.	d.
ii. Harbour and Light Dues—			
Harbour Fees	3,037	13	9
Light Dues	6,157	1	8
iii. Licences	42,009	12	4
Excise	233,865	3	10
Income Tax	78,985	2	1
Property Tax	75,123	17	1
Entertainment Tax	—		
Fines in Petty Sessions	11,327	2	7
Surcharges	3,058	16	5
Stamp Duties	107,393	15	6½

257. *Customs Tariff.*—The general ad valorem duty is 20% and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the headings of Food, Drink and Tobacco.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

258. *Excise Duties.*—The principal Excise duties were on Cigars from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per gallon.

259. *Stamp Duties.*—Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

In addition to these are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Leases, etc.

260. There is no Hut Tax or Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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[*Continued on page 3 of cover.*]

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and

rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. The average annual rainfall at Grand Turk during the last ten years was 33·17 inches. The rainfall during 1934 was 31·07 inches.

These islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over them in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1934 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931 owing to the lack of funds.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent were " coloured " (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent were " white," and that about 1,800 people live in the Turks Islands and 3,500 in the Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

Most of the people of the Turks Islands are employed in the salt industry, while the people of the Caicos Islands are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows :—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*	*Death-rate per 1,000.*
1930	177	75	31·5	13·4
1931	177	82	32·0	14·8
1932	201	76	36·4	13·7
1933	205	120	37·2	21·8
1934	168	97	30·2	17·2

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 18; equal to a death-rate of 107 per 1,000 births. Forty-four marriages

were registered during the year. 105 persons were receiving pauper relief from the Government at the end of the year.

As regards immigration and emigration, 262 persons entered the Dependency in 1934 and 210 departed.

IV.—HEALTH.

During the year 1934, the general health of the Dependency was fair and there was no case of quarantinable disease.

The Medical Officer reported that in dispensary practice the number of patients suffering from pellagra and diseases of the digestive tract remained about the same as in the preceding year. Skin diseases were numerous and tuberculosis was more in evidence than usual. There were no infectious diseases such as whooping cough, chickenpox or smallpox during the year. There was, however, an epidemic of German measles which invaded almost every home in Grand Turk as well as some of the settlements of the Caicos group.

As regards preventive measures, only minor anti-mosquito measures were taken, such as clearing away bush and undergrowth and the filling up of pools. Major works could not be undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements and the Inspectors of Nuisances were responsible to those Boards and to the Medical Officers for seeing that all premises were kept in a proper sanitary state.

Hygiene is one of the subjects taught in all the schools.

There was regular dental inspection of the pupils in the schools by a dentist who receives a subsidy from the Government for his services to the school-children and certain others.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and the other at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and they visit the out-islands when necessary.

There is a nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a small public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the directions and supervision of the Medical Officer.

There was no public health legislation enacted during the year under review.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these islands. 1,233 were inhabited and 181 uninhabited ; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these Islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Salt is also shipped to Jamaica and Puerto Rico. At present the quantity sold in the latter places is small but efforts are being made to extend the sales. Turks islands salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. Three grades are exported : *coarse*, the natural product of the salinas ; *fishery*, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish ; and *industrial*, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk ; the industrial is bagged.

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the shipments in 1934 :—

	Quantity. *Bushels.*	*Value.* £
Canada	290,205	5,909
United States of America	97,134	1,664
Jamaica	51,040	804
Puerto Rico	50,188	789
Barbados	12,716	276
Santo Domingo	12,000	184
Haiti	9,285	154
Total	522,568	£9,780

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	22,275	12,895	10,137	13,489	9,780
Sponges	2,269	2,016	2,417	2,031	1,949
Conchs	1,188	1,122	744	1,197	935
Turtle shell	220	257	341	150	—
Cotton and cotton-seed ...	17	—	—	—	—
Sisal	37	47	—	50	—

Nearly all the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The next table gives the quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last five years :—

		1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Salt	bus.	1,163,152	754,019	577,494	687,841	522,568
Sponges	lb.	26,964	25,749	23,261	27,961	25,718
Conchs	no.	1,187,900	1,121,800	744,100	1,196,600	1,012,750
Turtle shell ...	lb.	103	257	343	150	—
Cotton (raw) ...	lb.	49	—	—	—	—
Cotton-seed ...	lb.	7,310	—	—	—	—
Sisal	lb.	3,776	8,492	—	7,471	—

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	34,165	24,291	21,942	21,900	21,114
Exports	26,403	16,589	14,018	17,351	12,973
Total	£60,568	40,880	35,960	39,251	34,087

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1930	2,867	2,339	28,959	34,165
1931	2,568	1,844	19,879	24,291
1932	5,511	3,982	12,449	21,942
1933	4,862	3,600	13,438	21,900
1934	2,922	3,863	14,329	21,114

The countries of origin of the import trade in 1934 are shown in the following table :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		2,922
Other parts of the British Empire—		
Bahamas	121	
British India	593	
British Guiana	140	
Barbados	51	
Bermuda	26	
Canada	2,063	
Jamaica	717	
Trinidad	101	
New Zealand	51	
		3,863
Total British imports		6,785
Belgium	46	
France	18	
Germany	6	
Haiti	589	
Holland	10	
Japan	297	
Portugal...	14	
Denmark	67	
Puerto Rico	71	
Santo Domingo	82	
Spain	23	
United States of America	13,106	
Total foreign imports		14,329
Total imports		£21,114

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	10,996
Raw materials	1,205
Manufactured articles	6,624
Miscellaneous	2,289
	£21,114

The principal articles imported in 1934 were as follows :—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£
Flour	barrels	1,911	1,751
Cotton goods		—	1,652
Haberdashery		—	977
Lard and substitutes	lb.	58,819	969
Meats (salted)	lb.	46,929	883
Sugar	lb.	239,100	736
Rice	lb.	147,590	736
Oil (mineral)	gal.	14,734	725
Milk (condensed)	cases	809	649
Machinery		—	475
Spirits	gal.	1,506	419
Butter and substitutes	lb.	10,772	416
Wood and timber	ft.	50,044	395
Soap (laundry)	lb.	30,415	350
Boots and shoes		—	321
Cigarettes		—	286
Vegetables (fresh)		—	268
Medicines		—	239
Hominy	brl.	210	216
Fruit (fresh)		—	194
Meal (corn)	brl.	181	179
Paper and stationery		—	174

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the exports in the last five years :—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1930	412	14,421	11,570	26,403
1931	208	9,752	6,629	16,589
1932	1,313	8,155	4,550	14,018
1933	1,199	11,049	5,103	17,351
1934	579	7,882	4,437	12,898

The destination of the exports was as follows :—

	£	£
United Kingdom		579
Bahamas	861	
Barbados	276	
Canada	5,984	
Jamaica	818	
		7,939
Haiti	1,105	
Puerto Rico	797	
San Domingo	184	
United States of America	2,369	
		4,455
Total exports		£12,973

The declared value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1934 was £12,898, and the value of the re-exports was £75.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 2s. to 3s. a day of nine hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 12s. to 30s. a month with board and lodging.

The cost of living is comparatively high, especially in the case of officials and persons from abroad.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions :—bread, 4d. per lb. ; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb. ; salt meat, 10½d. per lb. ; salt fish, 9d. per lb. ; flour, 2½d. per lb. ; rice, 4d. per qrt. ; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt. ; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt. ; potatoes, 3d. per lb. ; lard, 9d. per lb. ; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz. ; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin ; butter (salt), 2s. 0d. per lb. ; cheese, 2s. per lb. ; sugar, 2½d. per lb. ; syrup, 9d. per qrt. ; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb. ; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb. ; cocoa, 1s. per lb. ; common soap, 5d. per lb. ; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the very poor nature of the soil, very little is grown.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools. There are eleven such schools throughout the Dependency ; one in each of the principal settlements.

The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 824, and the average attendance 560. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. There were 23 pupils on the roll in 1934, and the average attendance was 20. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a fair assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica, and one of them stops regularly every six weeks to land goods from England.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Dominica and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 82,850 postal articles during the year 1934.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados, and Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are really only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year 1934 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total No.*	*Net Tonnage.*
Steamships ...	16	46	62	92,758
Sailing vessels	185	8	193	9,674

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these Islands. At the end of 1934 there were 820 accounts open with £12,350 on deposit. The investments amounted to £10,845.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver, and bronze coins, Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these islands.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the lack of funds no major public works were undertaken during the year 1934.

The usual minor public works such as the upkeep of the public buildings, streets, and roads, etc., were carried on throughout the year but on a reduced scale.

It was found possible, without causing unnecessary hardship, to reduce the amount of relief work for the unemployed at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay as owing to more favourable weather conditions in 1934, the quantity of salt gathered was in excess of the previous year's rakings.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

There are three District Magistrates who reside at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of four men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation, and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison and the senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison.

There were 204 crimes reported to or known to the Police in 1934. Of these 187 were brought before the Magistrate and 17 dropped for lack of sufficient evidence. 239 persons (165 males and 74 females) were proceeded against, 32 were apprehended and 207

summoned. 23 were discharged for want of prosecution and 11 on the merits of the case. 204 were convicted summarily; 24 were imprisoned; 13 whipped; 139 fined; and 28 bound over or otherwise disposed of.

The convictions were classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	57
Praedial larceny	7
Malicious injury to property	9
Other offences against property	38
Miscellaneous minor offences	135

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Five ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board in 1934, as follows:—

No.

1 The Supplementary Appropriation (1933) Ordinance, 1934.

2 The Astwood Pension Ordinance, 1934.

3 The Customs Ordinance, 1899, Amendment Ordinance, 1934.

4 The Salt Valuation for Royalty Ordinance, 1934.

5 The Passport Ordinance, 1934.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, nor legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there any legislative provision for sickness or old age.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1930	9,427	11,728
1931	10,318	12,820
1932	9,027	9,141
1933	9,774	10,518
1934	7,024	8,959

In 1934 the ordinary revenue amounted to £6,927, and the ordinary expenditure to £8,859.

Owing to untavourable weather conditions during the three former seasons the Dependency's main industry—the manufacture of salt by the solar evaporation of sea-water—suffered a considerable loss. The annual production, normally about 1½ million bushels, fell to approximately half a million bushels; consequently there was

considerable unemployment and consequent distress among the labouring classes who depend solely on the gathering and shipping of salt for their livelihood. The total imports fell to approximately half that of a normal year, consequently all the main heads of revenue were seriously affected. The wet weather which adversely affects the salt-producing islands proved beneficial to the inhabitants of the Caicos group where abundant crops of ground provisions were produced.

Although 1934 cannot be called a good year, there was a noticeable improvement in the salt industry and it was not found necessary as in past years to provide the customary food relief.

The year opened with a deficit of £4,190 and closed with a deficit of £6,125. This deficit includes a sum of £1,799 due to the Jamaica Treasury in respect of several loans expended principally on relief work to the unemployed.

The main items of revenue in 1934 were as follows :—

	£
Customs Duties	4,260
Royalty on Salt	762
Port Dues	587
Internal Revenue	230
Payments for Specific Services, etc.	201
Post Office	518
Revenue from Government Property	74
Interest	2
Miscellaneous Receipts	290
Voluntary Contributions by Public Officers ...	96

The main items of expenditure in 1934 were as follows :—

	£
Interest on Public Debt	55
Pensions...	1,312
Commissioner's Department	1,639
Treasury and Customs...	904
Judicial Department	42
Police and Prisons	785
Medical Department	1,196
Paupers and Lunatics...	373
Education	840
Miscellaneous	405
Post Office	300
Lighthouse Department	282
Public Works Department	400
Public Works Recurrent	321
Unemployment Relief Works	100

Every effort was made to keep down the ordinary expenditure to the lowest possible point. The Retrenchment Scheme drawn up by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, I.S.O., was not brought into effect during the year under review. This scheme will reduce expenditure with diminishing effect during the next few years by which time it is hoped trade will show signs of improvement and the salt industry will have returned to normal production,

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income-tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals or vehicles; no poll tax and no excise or stamp duties.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

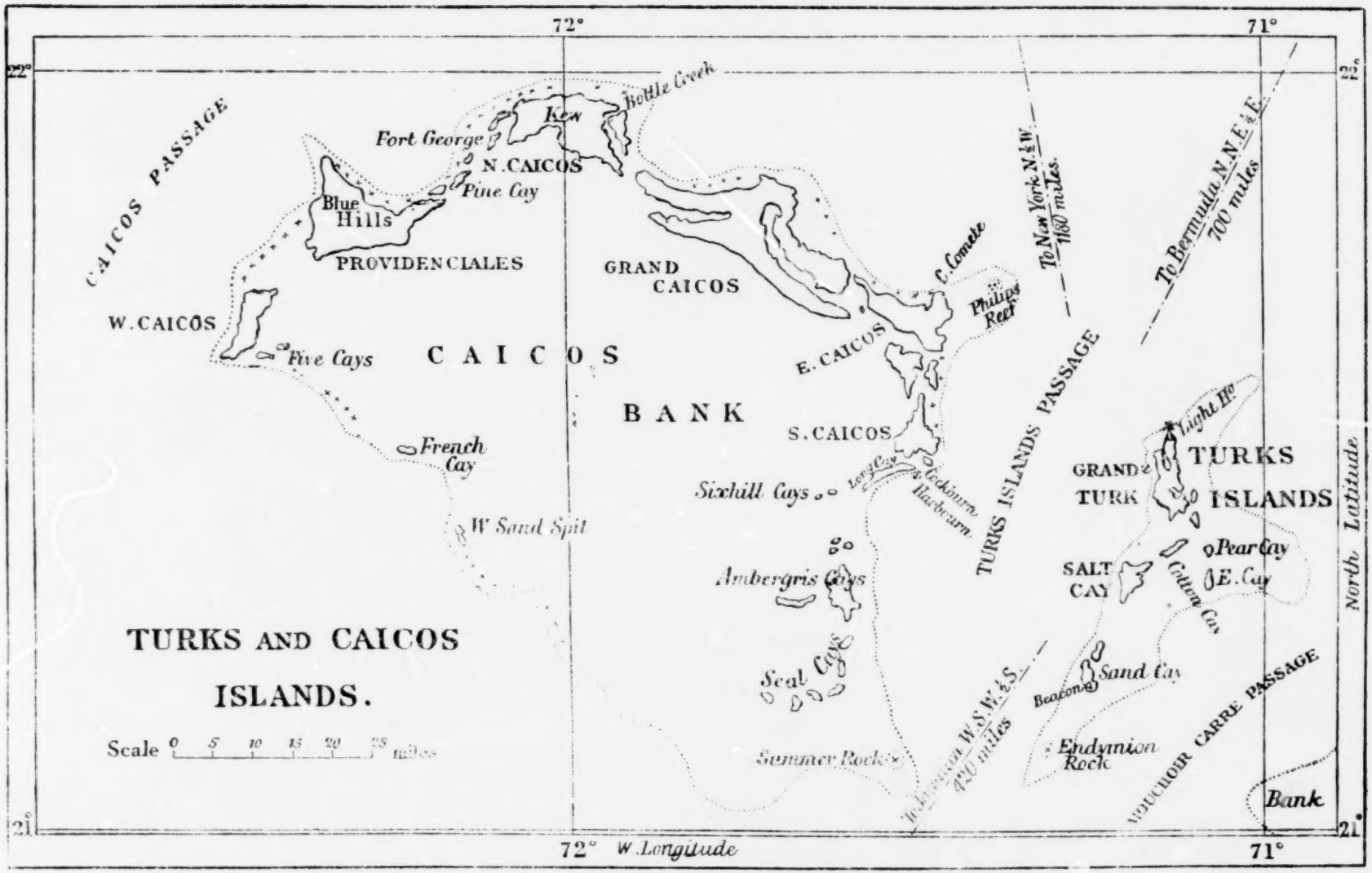
The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows:

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. *ad valorem.*
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem.*

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

There were two administrative changes during 1934. On the the retirement of the late Commissioner, Mr. H. E. Phillips, I.S.O., Mr. H. H. Hutchings, I.S.O., was appointed by the Governor of Jamaica to act until the arrival of the new Commissioner. In June, 1934, Mr. F. C. Clarkson, O.B.E., was selected by the Secretary of State for the appointment and arrived in the Dependency on the 2nd August.

His Excellency Sir Edward Denham, G.C.M.G., etc. the newly-appointed Governor of Jamaica, spent a few hours ashore at Grand Turk on 22nd October on his way to Kingston.



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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Dependency of the Cayman Islands consists of three small islands situate between longitude W. 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ in latitude N. 19° 15′ and 19° 45′. The westernmost is the island of Grand Cayman, which is approximately 20 miles from east to west and has a maximum breadth north to south of some 8 miles. The other two islands, known respectively as Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, lie about 60 miles to the north-east of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is about 10 miles long by 2 miles wide at its maximum and Cayman Brac is a little larger.

No survey of the land area has yet been made but the total of the group is estimated by various authorities at from 140 square miles to as little as 92.

The islands are low-lying and Grand Cayman is in many parts little more than mangrove swamp. The maximum height is 130 feet above sea level at the easternmost end of Cayman Brac,

a culminating point to a high plateau that rises gradually from the west. This plateau has precipitous flanks both on the north and south sides, these cliffs being separated from the sea by a narrow stretch of beach and coral formation.

Geologically the islands consist of decayed coral limestone with deposits of phosphate and a loamy soil. They are covered with dense bush containing, in addition to mangroves, much logwood, mahogany, thatch-palm (*Thrinax argentea*) and other trees of no particular economic worth.

Pasture land of considerable value for raising cattle is found on each of the islands, but agricultural land is not so abundant owing to the too frequent outcrop of decaying coral limestone and to the presence of swamps.

Climate.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the most part of the year excellent. The temperature from November until the middle of April varies from 79° to 82°, and the winds are usually gentle to fresh from the N.E. to N.W.

The summer months are hot, and, as a rule, rainfall is comparatively heavy. The hurricane season lasts from August to November, as elsewhere in the West Indies. The following is a list of the principal hurricanes during the past two centuries.

September, 1735	October 10th, 1846
August, 1751	October 10th, 1876
October, 1812	August 11th, 1903
June, 1836	August, 1915
August, 1836	September, 1917
September 24th, 1838	November 7th–9th, 1932
October 28th, 1838	July 1st, 1933

The rainfall for the year was 50·71 inches as compared with 62·80 inches in 1933.

The average monthly rainfall during the past ten years has been as follows :—

January	2·55 inches.	July	7·02 inches.
February	·74 ,,	August ...	6·14 ,,
March	·83 ,,	September ...	8·28 ,,
April	1·29 ,,	October ...	10·50 ,,
May	6·26 ,,	November ...	4·58 ,,
June	9·63 ,,	December ...	2·55 ,,

From the above, the great irregularity of the rainfall will be observed; and it is to be noted that this rainfall record is only a local one and that the above figures, taken at Georgetown, cannot be regarded as applying to, say, West Bay or for that matter a mile away from the gauge. It is evident that the dry season is between October and May, but owing to the irregularity of the rainfall, no month can be guaranteed as being really dry.

History.

The first account of the islands is the report of the third voyage of Columbus on his return from Porto Bello to Hispaniola in 1503. Therein it is stated that the islands were covered with turtle which swarmed also on the coasts in such multitudes as to look like ridges of rock.

There does not appear, however, to have been founded any settlement, but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtle being dried and salted down.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the Command of Captain William Jackson during his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :—

> "This place is low land and all rockye, and there bee other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanos, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of Sea Tortoises yearly resorte to lay their Eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

In 1655, Jamaica was taken and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands.

In Esquemeling's History of the Buccaneers, one finds how the islands continued to maintain their importance as a source of meat supply and there is the following reference :—

> "It is a thing much deserving consideration how the tortoises can find out these islands. For the greatest part of them come from the Gulf of Honduras, distant thence the whole space of one hundred and fifty leagues. Certain it is, that many times the ships, having lost their latitude through the darkness of the weather, have steered their course only by the noise of the tortoise swimming that way, and have arrived at those isles. When their season of hatching is past, they retire towards the island of Cuba, where are many good places that afford them food. But while they are at the islands of Caymanes, they eat very little or nothing."

There does not appear to have been any serious settlement on these islands until the early part of the XVIIIth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers and possibly marooned mariners.

Tradition further has it that during the six years of Sir Thomas Modyford's commission as Governor of Jamaica, 1664-1670, he

visited Little Cayman where his landing place is supposed to have been Muddyfoot's Bay, a possible corruption of his name. However, in 1734 a grant of land is recorded as having been made to the first settlers, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of " Bodden " and " Foster " are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

There are no traces of any Spanish occupation but from time to time small finds are made of Spanish coins which may indicate some form of settlement by the Spaniards, but are probably evidence confirming the residence in the islands of pirates and buccaneers. During 1934 one such find was made at Cayman Brac of some 270 coins scatted over a small area, dated 168-. The coins were identified as having been minted in Mexico and, except for one gold piece, were all of silver alloy.

The name " Cayman " has been a subject of a certain amount of discussion. It has been thought that it was derived from the Carib word for alligator although, except for the reference above given, there has been little evidence of that reptile frequenting the group to any large extent. It is of interest, however, to record that after the hurricane of 1932 at least three alligators were sighted swimming off-shore at Cayman Brac and another off Little Cayman. The evidence on this is clear but it must also be remembered that in Cayman Brac on the south side iguanas of considerable size are common. Again it has been thought that the final syllables " man " or " manas " or " manes " or " manos " were derived from the Spanish word for " hand ". Supporters of this explanation seem to have stretched their imagination considerably, for they assert that the name " hand island " was given because Grand Cayman resembled a hand, and it is scarcely likely they had the opportunity to make that observation. Others aver that the original name of the islands was " Las Tortugas " owing to the number of turtles seen in the group. So far as can be learned the earliest mention of the islands is on the Wolfenbuttel map of 1527 whereon they were called " Caymanos ". In a manuscript map of the world by Diego Ravero, dated 1529, the islands are known as " Tortugas " and in Alonzo de Santa Cruz's map of 1542 the designation " Grand Cayman " is given.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

During the eighteenth century, public affairs in the Dependency were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica under the direction of one of them locally elected as " Governor ". The principle of representative government was accepted in 1832, when elected members were received into the administrative body, and the term " custos rotulorum " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

In 1863, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vict. Chap. 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions

passed by this local body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed, but at the same time provision was made for the continuance of the legislative powers of the Justices and Vestry. These powers were more closely defined in the Imperial Act of 1863 referred to above :—

> " Respecting their own constitution and procedure ;
>
> " Respecting the powers and duties of public officers ;
>
> " And especially respecting the powers, functions and procedure of Justices of the Peace, and officers acting under authority ;
>
> " And respecting appeals from the decisions of such Justices to the Supreme Court of Jamaica ;
>
> " Respecting the establishment, maintenance, discipline, and powers of the police ;
>
> " Respecting the management, occupation, and disposal of the public property, or common land ;
>
> " Respecting the abatement of nuisances, the construction of works of public utility, the making of roads, the cleansing of streets and houses, and other matters affecting the health or convenience of the community ;
>
> " Respecting the custody of offenders and accused persons ;
>
> " Respecting the imposition and collection of rates and taxes ; and respecting the custody and expenditure thereof."

In 1893, these powers were further defined by Jamaica Law 37 of 1893 as follows :—

> " It shall be lawful for the Justices and Vestry of the said Islands, as at present constituted, or as such body may hereafter be constituted under any Law duly passed by the Legislature of this Island, or by the said Justices and Vestry, to make Laws for the peace, order and good government, of the said Islands :— Provided that no such Law shall have any force or validity until it shall have received the consent of the Governor of this Island.
>
> " Provided also that nothing herein shall be held to derogate from the powers, conferred by the hereinbefore recited Imperial Act on the Legislature in this Island, to make Laws for the said Islands ; and it shall at all times be competent to the said Legislature to resume the powers herein given to the said Justices and Vestry, and from time to time to reconstitute the said Justices and Vestry, or to abridge the powers herein conferred on them, as may be deemed expedient."

Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission

being dated 21st October, 1934, when twenty-four Justices of the Peace were appointed—nine for Georgetown; four for West Bay; one for Boddentown; one for Northside; one for East End; and eight for the Lesser Islands.

There are twenty-seven Vestrymen who represent the various districts as follows:—Georgetown, five; Prospect, five; Boddentown, five; East End, three; Northside, two; West Bay, three; Lesser Islands, four.

The election of Vestrymen is conducted biennially, and in August of the year under review a general election took place. The procedure at these elections is regulated by an Act of 1832 which has remained, except for minor details, unaltered. This Act which must be one of the shortest in existence that deals with popular representation, reads as follows:—

> "Upon requisition of the Custos, or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the District shall call the people together, and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years: Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, Prospect, and Boddentown, four for the Lesser Islands, three each for East End, and West Bay, and two for Northside. Five Magistrates and eight Vestrymen shall be considered a sufficient number to proceed with and transact any business which shall at any time be brought forward respecting the affairs of these islands.
>
> "For the due notification of a meeting of the Justices and Vestry, the constable shall henceforth be required to show the notice at each Justice's and Vestryman's house prior to putting it up at the usual place.
>
> "It shall be considered a rule that whenever there be sufficient members present, all written excuses from absent members, shall be admitted through courtesy; but should there be an insufficient number present, then every member, not absolutely hindered, shall pay a fine of 20s. to be levied in default by warrant from the succeeding Grand Court."

The power of the Custos is now vested in the office of Commissioner, who is at the same time Judge of the Grand Court. The duties of the Commissioner are regulated by Law 34 of 1898 (section 2).

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency is an increasing one. In 1774, the whole population amounted to 176 souls. By 1802, when a Census was taken by a Special Commissioner sent by the then Governor of Jamaica, the figures showed 309 whites, 73 coloured, six free blacks and 545 slaves, a total of 933.

No further figures are obtainable until the first census proper in 1891.

A comparative table showing the population and sex distribution is as follows :—

	1891.		1911.		1921.		1934.	
GRAND CAYMAN.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Georgetown ...	473	569	627	819	447	623	539	782
West Bay ...	308	419	402	563	464	675	549	895
Prospect ...	173	307	122	224	148	249	143	282
Boddentown ...	306	411	251	374	220	342	263	362
East End ...	219	329	210	313	179	310	181	256
Northside ...	115	96	101	122	138	150	147	193
CAYMAN BRAC.								
West End							104	122
Stake Bay ...							83	89
Creek	270	258	653	647	578	635	172	248
Spot Bay							230	269
LITTLE CAYMAN ...	40	29	61	75	42	53	33	39
SHIPPING	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Totals	1,904	2,418	2,427	3,137	2,216	3,037	2,472	3,537
	4,322		5,564		5,253		6,009	

The excess of females over males revealed in this table is an outstanding feature of the Dependency.

The proportion although accurate on the days of census-taking must, however, be discounted owing to the number of men absent as mentioned above, fishing and sea-faring, to which should be added a considerable number of young men who are working outside the Dependency, chiefly in the United States and Central America.

The racial classification is difficult to determine. The terms "white", "black" and "coloured" are taken in the literal sense and have very little relationship to racial distinction.

In the August census these figures were as follows :—

	White.	Black.	Coloured.	East Indian	Carib.	Total.
Grand Cayman	1,809	805	1,974	2	2	4,592
Cayman Brac	492	35	790	—	—	1,317
Little Cayman	62	—	10	—	—	72
Shipping	5	—	23	—	—	28
Totals	2,368	840	2,797	2	2	6,009

Statistics of immigration and emigration are as follows, according to the returns of outward and inward passengers :—

Year.	Outward.	Inward.
1930 ...	526	291
1931 ...	557	641
1932 ...	(not available)	
1933 ...	352	442
1934 ...	375	420

The accuracy of these figures leaves much to be desired since a considerable number of men leave the islands, not as passengers, but as ships' ratings.

The statistics of births and deaths are as follows :—

Year.	No. of births.	Birth-rate per thousand.	Infantile mortality.	No. of deaths.	Death-rate per thousand.
1930 ...	185	35	34	48	9
1931 ...	178	33	67	67	12
1932 ...	(not available)				
1933 ...	162	30	154	156	29
1934 ...	172	28	52	55	9

During the year under review there were 48 marriages which compares with preceding tables as follows :—

Year.	No. of marriages.	Rate per thousand.
1930 ...	49	8
1931 ...	40	7
1932 ...	37	7
1933 ...	32	6
1934 ...	48	8

The population of the islands is preponderantly British ; the next in numbers being nationals of the United States of America whose number, 53, includes a large proportion of Cayman Islanders who have naturalised themselves as American citizens. There were 26 Greek subjects in the islands, reference to whom will be made later.

IV.—HEALTH.

During 1934, health returned to the normal and the death rate per thousand dropped once more to nine. No hurricanes were experienced during 1934 with the result that the gastro-intestinal disorders noted in last year's Report as due to the after effects of the 1932 storm were no more than usual.

Deaths totalled 55, of which 24 were of persons over 70 years of age.

There were 172 births, a rate of 28 per thousand. Of these nine died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 52 per mille.

During the year under review there were no epidemics or outbreaks of any serious description.

Typhoid fever.—The number of cases reported and treated was 15, 14 in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac, which compares with 40 in 1933.

Malaria.—No increase in the incidence of this disease was reported at Grand Cayman ; the dispenser at Cayman Brac however reported several cases in the eastern portion of Cayman Brac which were of a simple intermittent type. The Government Medical Officer in his Annual Report draws attention to the great risk run by the islanders in their failure to take elementary precautions to prevent the spread of this disease should it occur with any virulence.

Bronchial disorders.—The Government Medical Officer writes :—

" An accurate determination of the incidence of these disorders is a matter of dead reckoning, as there may be hundreds suffering from bronchitis who may never receive or even require treatment. Situated as these islands are geographically, with nothing climatical

to excite changes in the bronchial membranes, there is a relative preponderance of bronchial affections yearly. This appears to vary inversely with the rule when compared with the etiology of similar disorders occurring in cold climates, for when there should be a decrease in the incidence of common bronchial ailments, there is an increase. In the winter months out here very few cases of bronchitis receive treatment, but in the summer months when the mosquitoes are rendering life miserable and the noxious smoke-pot is in operation, bronchitis is prevalent. It is to be hoped that the changes which allow duty-free importations of anti-mosquito materials will be helpful in the matter."

Tuberculosis.—The incidence of tuberculosis remains the same.

The unusual healthiness of the Dependency is illustrated in the following table which shows how old age is the principal cause of death. In this respect, the year 1931 presented some remarkable figures which have hitherto not been recorded. In that year there were 14 deaths at Boddentown, the youngest of which was at 66 years and the oldest at 100, the average being 81. In the same year, at East End there were four deaths at 84, 86, 84 and 87 respectively.

Year.	*Total deaths.*	*Enteric.*	*Dysentery.*	*Tuberculosis.*	*Malaria.*	*Over 70 years old.*	
						M.	*F.*
1930 ...	48	1	—	—	—	8	9
1931 ...	67	1	—	1	1	14	14
1932 ...		(Records incomplete)					
1933 ...	156	14	10	3	—	28	31
1934 ...	55	1	1	1	—	8	16

The fact that so many males are absent between the ages of 18 and 60 might be thought to account for these figures in a small way, but this is not the case and deaths of young and middle-aged men abroad from the Caymans are very rare. At the same time the female population between those years does not migrate, and their deaths between the ages of 18-60 are most unusual.

The state of the healthiness is all the more surprising in view of the prevalence during the summer months of vast swarms of mosquitoes and the almost complete lack of sanitation.

The mosquito problem has never been seriously tackled and presents vast difficulties. The settlements have been allowed to grow up without any attention to town-planning, access to most of the houses being impossible for wheeled traffic. The result is that the great majority of houses are scattered without order and surrounded each by small compounds in which weeds and fruit trees have been allowed to grow at will almost without any care at all. The soil is generally hard coral rock, full of cracks and crevices and where it is soft it is during the summer months, a mass of crab holes. Trees blown down in the storms have been allowed to lie on the ground; bananas, palms, corn and bread-fruit have been cultivated amongst the houses; pigs are indiscriminately kept;

old tins, bottles and sea shells, chiefly of the conch, are thrown away regardlessly. In short, everything seems to have been done to encourage the breeding of mosquitoes.

During the year an attempt was made to clean Georgetown, and the people responded so well that possibly if they persevere the plague of mosquitoes may diminish. It is an undeniable fact that, after the cleaning, the swarms of mosquitoes decreased to a very great extent. It is difficult, as conditions are at present, to do much more than take this first elementary step towards sanitation. There are no incinerators and the settlements could not afford a sanitary gang. Unfortunately the mosquito season coincides with the period when most of the men are away, and thorough cleaning cannot be undertaken, nor in the absence of legislation would it be possible to control the disposal of rubbish. There has been no survey made of the mosquitoes themselves but it is to be noted that probably as much as 90 per cent. are *Aedes Aegypti.*

In certain areas, notably at West Bay, a movement to keep the immediate surroundings of the houses clear and to cultivate small flower gardens has been most successful.

During 1934, apart from the cleaning of the town, a further step against the mosquito plague with its ever-present menace of fevers was taken by the exemption from customs duty of mosquito netting, wire gauze, insecticides and quinine.

The sanitary laws require modernization, dating as they do from 1899. An amending law passed in 1912 for the Georgetown area called for the erection of surface earth closets, and provision was made for its extension to other areas. Advantage has not yet been taken of this provision.

In a few of the more modern houses indoor closets have been constructed and these are controlled by cesspools. But the majority of the people are too poor to afford this improvement. Even Government House has only an outside surface closet.

There is no hospital in the Dependency. Provision for medical attention is provided by the services of a Government Medical Officer, stationed in Grand Cayman, and a dispenser resident in Cayman Brac.

The former enjoys private practice and is entitled to fees regulated by rules drawn up under Law 3 of 1901, which provided for the appointment.

There are no certificated midwives, such services being rendered by volunteers who usually receive a small remuneration.

In the 1933 Report, mention was made of a legacy from the late Miss Helen Lambert for the purposes of assisting towards the foundation of a hospital. The amount received was £383 8s., of which £160 was utilized to transform a building at Georgetown into what might be serviceable as a hospital; £147 8s. 3d. was spent in instruments and other equipment. The balance at the end of the year of £75 19s. 9d. has been placed on deposit in the Jamaica Government Savings Bank. The Dependency has not yet been

able to afford the cost of maintenance and in any case it is doubtful as to whether patients would agree to reside in a hospital away from their homes, for even in cases from outside settlements the sufferers are certain to have relatives at Georgetown with whom they would prefer to stay and where they would feel happier.

During the census, particulars were taken of certain infirmities shown in the accompanying table:—

	Leprosy.		*Insane.*		*Deaf.*		*Dumb.*		*Blind.*		*Deaf and Dumb.*		*Total.*
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	
Grand Cayman ...	2	—	2	2	3	3	1	1	5	8	11	8	46
Cayman Brac ...	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	3	—	2	1	2	14
Little Cayman ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	6
Total ...	2	—	3	4	4	4	2	4	8	10	15	10	66

The water supply of the Dependency leaves much to be desired. The people depend almost exclusively on rain which is caught from the iron roofs into cement cisterns or iron tanks. No statistics are available as to the number of these but at the end of the winter a shortage of water is experienced in most places, and the irregularity of the rain fall noted above is liable to cause serious inconvenience. During 1934, West Bay was particularly troubled in this manner and whilst Georgetown had a sufficiency of water West Bay had a very inadequate supply. During these periods of water shortage the poorer people are usually allowed a ration of water from their wealthier friends without cost. But frequently they have recourse to what is locally known as spring water. This spring water is obtained from unprotected wells and holes and after the first few draughts becomes brackish due probably to its being tidal. The incidence of typhoid and similar disorders might possibly be traced to the use of this water which is not protected, but there is no reliable evidence on which to base such a conclusion, nor are there any statistics available as to the true incidence of typhoid or its relationship to rainfall.

The difficulty of creating a public water supply is very great. Artesian wells might possibly find good fresh water, but this is doubtful as the islands seem to be large honey-combed coral banks with the sea infiltrating everywhere. To erect rain collecting cisterns on a large scale might solve the problem, but it would be difficult to select sites at which the public could easily procure the necessary water, and again a single collecting area might conceivably be for a whole season without rainfall. A multiplicity of small cisterns might solve the problem.

V.—HOUSING.

It was possible during 1934 to obtain some statistics relative to housing conditions.

Since 1921, the number of houses in the Dependency has increased from 1,060 to 1,246.

	1911.	1921.	1934.	Average number of persons per house, 1934.
Grand Cayman ...	765	815	961	4·7
Cayman Brac ...	254	226	267	4·8
Little Cayman ...	29	19	18	4·0
Total ..	1,048	1,060	1,246	4·69

During 1934, remarkable work was done at Cayman Brac in restoring the island to the pre-hurricane (November, 1932) condition. Houses of a superior type were erected by the more well-to-do and built further inland from the sea under the "Bluff." The poorer people were unwilling to leave the sea-shore and rebuilt their houses within a few yards of the water, unfortunately thus preserving a form of ribbon development along the coast which will successfully prevent any chance of Cayman Brac becoming attractive to visitors.

This ribbon development is to be met with throughout the Dependency and in course of time the islands would be fringed with small houses. To prevent this a regional planning scheme was passed by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry in an effort to preserve the amenities of the strands and beaches not yet spoilt by the erection of a poor class of wooden house. This Law has not yet been finally approved on account of certain legal difficulties.

It cannot be said that there is general overcrowding except in a few isolated places in Georgetown.

Thatch roofs have almost disappeared save for outbuildings such as kitchens. The roofs were made of the leaves of the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*, and were real objects of art, and it is to be hoped that this craftsmanship will be preserved. Outwardly the appearance is not striking, but from the inside the intricate and regular weaving of the leaves present a view of good and beautiful workmanship. It is worth recording in connexion with the thatching of roofs that this work was performed not for remuneration but as a communal work for which the reward was a fiesta, even the principal artisans receiving no payment.

A few examples remain of a type of house which is claimed to be peculiar to the Cayman Islands. These were often two-storeyed with shingle roofs to which there was no overhang and of which the slope was not very acute. The walls were made of puddled coral and sand, the coral having first been reduced to powder by burning. Sections are set up at a time between hardwood uprights and interlacing of small beams. Windows were cut and having no glass were merely shuttered, either with jalousies or boards.

Practically every house is owned by the family resident therein, only a few being rented. Rental varies, from £1 a month upwards.

Lodging for working-class people is not expensive. Often young unmarried men come from the outlying areas to the larger centres

for casual work. Their board and lodging costs from 6s. a week upwards, but usually arrangements can be made to lodge with relatives.

There are no building societies in the Dependency; but a strong family or communal feeling exists whereby persons of the poorer class desirous of erecting a new house can obtain labour and assistance free of charge.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

For a short period (1884-1890) the islands were exploited for phosphates, deposits being worked commercially in each of the three islands. But the grade of the phosphates was low and the area of the deposits not of any extent. Since the closing down of these works there has been no mineral production and the Dependency relies entirely on the harvest of the sea and of the field.

Agriculture.

Agriculturally the islands are of a very promising character and are capable of producing practically every crop that grows within the tropic zone. The soil consists of marl and this, enriched by vegetable decay as well as the mild phosphatic deposits, should have made the islands of considerable agricultural value. The Cayman Islanders, however, are essentially fisher-folk and seamen, and the result is that the fields are not cultivated to the full extent of their possibilities, nor are they cared for to the amount required. It is the same with the fruit trees which are not cultivated but merely planted. A conspicuous feature of agricultural conditions is the complete indifference of the women-folk who in other parts take their full share of the labour. Even among the negro population the women do not display any real interest in the fields.

The principal field products are:—corn, guinea corn, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, cassava, pumpkins, melons, and plaintains, and the principal fruit trees are mango, banana, sapodilla, avocado pear, paw-paw, sweet and sour sops and the various citrus. It is to be noted that although sisal and Spanish sabre grows almost everywhere in the islands, pineapples are conspicuous by their absence. It is possible that this is due to superstitution as the people relate that they believe children were fatally poisoned some years ago through eating pineapples imported from Central America.

Most of the agricultural production is by individual workers who, as a rule, own the land they farm. There are, however, quite a few plantation owners who employ labour.

Statistics are not available as to the quantity or value of the crops which are wholly consumed locally. The islands, however, are not self-supporting, but import a certain amount of fresh fruits and vegetables annually.

Live Stock.

At one time the islands maintained a considerable number of pigs, but these have disappeared as herds, only a few single ones being maintained in sties close to the houses. On the other hand cattle thrive especially in the areas covered by guinea grass. Some years ago considerable loss was caused by ticks introduced from Cuba. This was successfully combated by compulsory dipping and to-day the islands seem to be comparatively free from any disease caused by this pest. The number of cattle is estimated at about 1,200, most of which are of good stock, including Frisian, Jersey, Indian-Hungary, and a small polled breed. These cattle are generally owned in very small herds, only a few farmers having as many as a dozen.

The pasture lands on Cayman Brac are, for the Dependency, remarkably fine. They are situated at the top of the scarp where the herds are watered through a system of cisterns and tanks, but some owners, unable to afford this luxury, have to drive their cattle down to water, a dangerous proceeding which frequently causes the death of animals through accidents and falls.

There used to be an export trade of cattle to Cuba, but this seems to have disappeared for the time being. Indeed, cattle are imported from Swan Island, which, although not under the British Flag, is inhabited almost entirely by Caymanians. The price of cattle is on an average £5 to £6 a head for bulls, £6 for bullocks, and £5 to £7 for milch cows. During the year 1934 the number of cattle killed in Georgetown market where statistics alone are available was 109 and the price charged was 6d. per pound, which includes all parts of the beast and makes no distinction as to the choice of joint.

A few goats are kept, and these are generally tethered near the houses. Sheep are entirely unknown to-day, although at one time they were a feature of the island.

Poultry are kept by practically every householder and allowed to run indiscriminately about to find their food with the inevitable result that they tend to become small and scraggy. Only a few turkeys and ducks but no geese are kept. The price of a fowl varies from 9d. upwards, and the cost of eggs is from 1s. per dozen.

An attempt has been made to cultivate bees but so far with no striking result.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry is divided into off-shore and high-seas fishing. Practically every male practises the first and disposes of his surplus fish without difficulty. The value of this industry is impossible to determine. The high-seas fishing consists chiefly of turtling and sharking. There are two types of turtling, one for hawksbill turtle and the other for green turtle. The former is mainly for the shell,

which during the year fluctuated in price from 8s. to 15s. per pound. The latter is for local consumption and for the American and European markets. The figures of this industry are as follows :—

Year.	Green Turtle. Quantity. (head)	Green Turtle. Value. £	Hawksbill. Quantity. (lb.)	Hawksbill. Value. £
1930	2,214	4,428	3,000	1,975
1931	2,298	4,552	4,150	2,160
1932	1,004	1,049*	619	306*
1933	966	966	1,990	1,115
1934	1,504	1,504	9,883	5,690

* Grand Cayman only.

The turtle are taken on the banks, shoals, and cays that lie off the Honduranean and Nicaraguan coasts. The seasons for their catching are from January to March, and July to September.

The turtling industry is conducted on a basis that can be compared with co-operation as understood in the practice of modern co-operative societies.

During the months of January and July the turtling fleet consisting of about 15 sailing schooners, sets out for the turtling grounds. A schooner usually carries ten men as a crew, including three officers. When the work of catching the turtle begins, they divide into three " gangs ", an officer being in charge (or pilot) of each boat. Nets are used for taking the turtle.

The men proceed in the evening to the shoals where the turtle sleep, set their nets and return to the ship. A turtle does not usually sleep in the same place each night so that the setting of the nets requires considerable knowledge of the habits and movements of the turtle. During the night turtles have to rise to the surface to breathe and it is then that they are caught in the nets, which are so constructed that breathing is possible and there is very little loss by drowning. Sharks, however, are often a real nuisance at this time and attack the enmeshed turtle.

A usual catch is 25 head, but as many as 40 to 50 may be caught in a single night in this manner.

During one season a schooner may catch from 150 to 200 turtle. In order to keep the turtle alive and healthy, kraals are constructed in the shallow waters of the cays, where they are fed with a seaweed, commonly known as turtle grass.

The men are paid no wages, but they receive a share in the proceeds of the sale of the turtle. The price paid in the American markets during 1934, chiefly at Key West, Florida, was from 5 to 7 cents per pound, the weight of a fully developed turtle varying from 100-200 lb. In addition to the actual price for the turtle buyers paid a flat rate of 2 cents per lb. as freight but it is only the larger schooners which make the trip across to the United States.

During the year under review this trade with Key West was reduced considerably. Attention was turned more to the Jamaican

and European market where the price ranged from £2 to £4 per head, but these markets require small quantities only and there is considerable loss in the turtle owing to the length of the voyage to Great Britain.

The initial expenses including cost of nets, gear, buoys, &c., are borne by the owners of the vessels. The crew work voluntarily in making the ship ready for sea and in knitting the nets, the owners supplying food during this time. From the gross proceeds of the sale of a catch the Customs duties at Nicaragua of 50 cents a head are deducted. The balance is divided equally, one half to the crew and the other to the owner. From the crew's portion is again deducted the cost of the stores carried which averages from £15 to £20. The remainder is then divided into equal shares. The officers, however, receive out of the ship's or owners' portion what is known as " extras ", that is three-quarters share to the Captain, one-half to the 1st mate and one-quarter to the 2nd mate. So that on the termination of a good trip an ordinary sailor may realize for his labours from £25 to £30, and an officer from £40 to £50. The port expenses of the ship are paid by the owners.

Sharking is a comparatively new industry and is carried on chiefly by the people of West Bay who proceed on somewhat similar lines to the turtlers. The sharks are caught off the same cays but there are not yet sufficient data available or sufficient knowledge of the movements of the fish to record any statistics of value.

To-day there are practically no local industries except that of thatch rope and a certain amount of hat weaving. Formerly a canning industry existed at Georgetown but this has long since disappeared. The thatch rope industry is carried out by the men and women-folk in their own homes and in their own time and at their own inclination. The importance of the industry to the islanders can be gauged from the quantity of rope exported. The accompanying table shows the fluctuations of the thatch rope industry.

Year.	*Fathoms in 1,000's.*	*Value.*	*Average cost per 1,000 fathoms.*
		£	s.
1930	1,610	2,014	25
1931	1,626	1,626	20
1932	1,525	1,534	20
1933	1,412	1,163	18
1934	1,374	1,374	20

Thatch rope is made from the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*. It is not cultivated but is to be found growing everywhere in the islands. The manufacture of the rope is carried on by the poorer classes, principally in the districts of West Bay and East End. It is chiefly the women-folk who turn their hands to this industry for their livelihood.

The rope is shipped almost entirely to Jamaica where a curious trade-custom is still preserved. The vessel taking the rope receives no freight but is credited with 20 per cent. of the value received. This 20 per cent. is shared in various proportions between the owner and the master and crew. At the same time the practice is not only to sell rope to larger merchants in Kingston but also to peddle it around the coast, thereby competing with their principal clients, the distributing agents in Kingston. The survival of this antiquated method of doing business prevents any reasonable chance of thatch rope obtaining a better market.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports in 1934 were valued at £23,145, being £8,605 less than in 1933. The decrease was due rather to lower prices than to reduction in quantity. Exports were valued at £13,315, showing an increase of £4,767, as compared with 1933. Re-exports are included, being valued at £407, as compared with £3,421 in 1933.

Trade is maintained principally with the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and the United States of America, and the percentages for the past five years are as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Imports.					
United Kingdom	7·02	10·57	8·01	15·85	14·04
Jamaica	35·18	27·80	23·07	41·11	36·00
United States	49·45	47·64	52·28	34·74	29·55
Exports.					
United Kingdom	4·86	4·55	2·00	3·78	2·23
Jamaica	65·13	51·87	45·34	73·33	79·65
United States	29·50	35·37	40·35	21·53	16·95

Imports from Empire sources for the year 1934 amounted to 52·50 per cent. of the total imports, as compared with 57·66 per cent. in 1933.

The total value of domestic exports amounted to £12,908, a figure surprisingly satisfactory in view of the general world depression. This total has not been surpassed since 1928, and is actually 151 per cent. increase over the previous year. There was a 50 per cent. increase in the shipment of live turtles ; tortoise shell increased from 1,900 lb. to 9,900 lb. ; shark skins rose in value from £425 to £1,663, being 55 cwt. as against 14 in 1933. However, the prices received did not show much variation.

The following tables show the direction of the import trade and the distribution of the exports during the years 1929 to 1933.

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Imports.					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	3,002	4,418	2,816	5,035	3,250
Other British Possessions	15,617	11,858	8,419	13,274	8,687
United States	21,126	19,896	18,373	11,030	6,841
Other Countries	2,965	5,590	5,532	2,411	4,367
	42,710	41,762	35,140	31,750	23,145

Exports (Domestic).

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	600	522	200	194	308
Other British Possessions	8,027	5,940	4,724	3,761	10,343
United States	3,646	4,050	4,021	1,104	2,257
Other Countries	51	938	1,018	68	—
	12,324	11,450	9,963	5,127	12,908

Re-Exports.

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Jamaica	65	250	12	1,211	312
Other Countries	—	349	260	386	95
United States	—	—	—	1,824	—
	65	599	272	3,421	407

During 1934, a Chamber of Commerce for the Cayman Islands was formed at Georgetown and most of the leading merchants became members.

A German firm of Bremen sent an emissary to the Dependency in July. The intentions are, once the question of exchange has been settled, to purchase island produce, such as shark skins and turtle, and also to investigate the possibilities of the sponge industry and to explore the possibility of making Grand Cayman the entrepôt of a central Caribbean sponge factory.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There is comparatively little employment for unskilled labour either by Government or other employers. The principal work is that of cleaning roads for which the usual daily rate is 3s. Agricultural labour is employed by some of the larger land owners but is of a temporary nature, permanent labour being practically unknown. Such labour is paid at the rate of 3s. a day. Boys are employed to herd the cattle and receive from 6s. to 8s. a month, together with food. Other casual labour is employed on the water-front and receives 6d. per hour.

There are no regulations as to the number of hours, but in Government employ these are limited to eight.

Skilled labour works as a rule by contract. Shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, etc., command a wage from 8s. to 12s. a day.

The staple food is wheaten flour and corn meal, both imported. It is difficult to estimate the value of the wages earned in terms of bread loaves as the people are usually their own bakers and the loaves are of irregular size and weight. There is a bakery at Georgetown, but this only serves the more well-to-do classes.

One of the most interesting features of wage-earning in the Dependency is that in vogue on the turtling vessels referred to in a previous chapter.

The cost of living for officials does not vary much whether the officer lives at Georgetown or elsewhere. In either case the cost is low compared with elsewhere in the West Indies. The majority of Government officials belong to local families and therefore have access without cost to the produce of the orchards and fields. A stranger would probably require at least £60 per annum and a married man about £100.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education throughout the Dependency is free and compulsory. The school age is from 7 to 14 for both sexes and is confined to elementary subjects. There are no secondary or technical schools or institutions for higher education. Control of education is vested in a Board appointed annually. This Board functions under Law 5 of 1920 by which there was placed at its disposal annually a sum of £1,500, details of expenditure being left entirely in the hands of the Board, and surplus balances, if any, remaining at its disposal.

Since 1930 expenditure has been annually as follows :—

Year.	*Expenditure.* £	*No. of Children on school rolls.*
1930	1,682 7 7	909
1931	1,492 19 11	916
1932	1,429 9 10	887
1933	1,308 16 4	870
1934	1,563 17 8	824

The number of children on the roll during the year was 824 whose education was provided in 13 schools, four of which were at Cayman Brac. There is no school at Little Cayman where only two children of school age are to be found. At the same time there are seven private schools with an attendance of 82 pupils. There are 22 teachers, a number that includes pupil teachers. Teachers are appointed by the Board and are generally in possession of some teaching certificate. Public opinion has for some years expressed itself as being dissatisfied with the whole system of education as it is claimed that the results have not yet reached the expectations of 1920, so that the whole matter of education will have to come under review at no distant date. An amending Law was passed during 1934 by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry towards this end. It enlarged the Board of Education so as to include representatives from all districts, thereby making it possible to convene local committees which would be familiar with the conditions peculiar to their area. At the same time owing to the decline of the revenue specifically earmarked for education the amount of the annual grant will no longer remain fixed at £1,500, but will be subject to the requirements of the Board of Education annually submitted to and approved by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry.

The system of awarding scholarships to enable young men to learn the profession of teaching in Jamaica was discontinued during

the year as there was a sufficiency of teachers and there were no prospects of any vacancy occurring within a reasonable period.

The standard of teaching is based on the pupil teachers' examination of Jamaica, of which there are three grades. In 1934, 48 students sat for this examination. Of these eleven passed the first grade, six the second, and one the third; but it is obviously not a high standard.

It is to be observed that education is both free and compulsory. The census revealed, however, that there were 1,102 children of school age of whom only 82 per cent. were on the rolls of both private and public schools.

No provision is made for the maintenance of orphanages or for any sick and aged people. The Justices and Vestry grant a small sum towards the maintenance of paupers, which is distributed on the advice of the local Justices to deserving cases for the provision of small luxuries such as sugar, coffee, flour and tobacco. During the year there were 59 people on this pauper list.

The system has not proved satisfactory, and it has been decided to modify the manner in which this relief is granted. Instead of cash payments there will be distribution of the ordinary requirements such as flour, sugar, coffee, and tobacco. The Assembly included on the free list goods imported for distribution to the poor and the distribution itself is being entrusted to a newly formed Friendly Society composed of ladies in the various districts. It is hoped that this measure will ensure a larger and more regular distribution of necessities, the visiting of the poor, and at the same time provide an outlet for the naturally charitable inclinations of the women.

Throughout 1934, conditions of general poverty obtained everywhere in the Dependency. The aged people who depended on remittances from their sons abroad were left without that aid. Young mothers with families likewise dependent on money from outside were equally stranded. At the same time the fall in value of thatch rope affected directly the poorer classes, who have found themselves more and more involved in a variety of the "truck system" which enforces payment in kind in exchange for produce that is not readily marketable.

The smallness of the community and the close relationship of most people with one another tend naturally to the encouragement of mutual recreation. Concerts are frequently arranged for various charitable purposes and are well patronized. At the same time there is in Georgetown a tennis club, and there are cricket clubs at the capital and at West Bay.

A subscription library has existed at Georgetown and has received an annual grant since 1920 of £40. It has increasingly been less patronized; but at West Bay where a public reading room was started locally in 1934 there has been considerable interest taken by the public and the room itself is generally full

in the evening. This small library is supported entirely by voluntary efforts.

A Boy Scouts Association was formed in November, 1934, with the Commissioner of the Dependency as President. The first troop of scouts was raised at Georgetown and the movement promises to spread.

During the year, there was formed with headquarters at Georgetown a Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club. This Club is the nucleus from which in the future there will evolve two branches, pleasure sailing and commercial sailing. The Club was enthusiastically supported and includes members of both sexes. During the year the Club fostered the idea of holding an annual Regatta which had met with general approbation at a meeting of the public. It was arranged that the first Regatta should be held in January, 1935, under the auspices of the Club which receives the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and most of His Excellency's predecessors.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In Grand Cayman a motorable road runs from North West point to Boddentown, a distance of about 20 miles. At Georgetown this road bifurcates, one branch continuing inland as far as Red Bay and the other one following the coast line closely to the same point. In the settlements of West Bay and Georgetown there are a few streets that follow no considered plan. There are also sections of road connecting the main artery with the North Sound both at Georgetown and West Bay, which during the year were widened and repaired. Bridle paths connect the other districts one with the other. In Cayman Brac during the year the new road from West End to Creek was improved and is now a good motorable highway. In Little Cayman there are no roads, only paths, as there is no need for any public communication other than connexion between houses of members of the same family.

Communications cannot be said to be good. The roads are narrow and follow no direct line. Indeed in the past the authorities have met considerable opposition in getting permission to construct even the merest track.

The cost of maintenance and construction of these roads is inordinately high. The new road in Cayman Brac begun and almost completed in 1933 was finished at a cost of £1,848 which works out at £168 per mile. Maintenance costs in Grand Cayman have been during the past five years as follows :—

Year.	*Miles open.*	*Cost.* £	*Average per mile* £
1930	30	296	10
1931	30	653	22
1932	30	158	5
1933	33	473	14
1934	33	406	13

Owing to the hurricane of November, 1932, most of the roads suffered considerable damage and the repairs to them were paid out of the Hurricane Relief Funds, a course justifiable in providing work to many who had been thrown out of employment.

The first motor-car introduced into these islands was in 1914. The following are the returns of motor vehicles in use during the past four years :—

Year.	*No. of motor-cars.*	*No. of lorries.*	*No. of motor-cycles.*
1931	56	4	2
1932	51	4	2
1933	43	7	—
1934	41	7	2

Motor-cars pay an annual tax of £4; motor-trucks, £6; motor cycles with side-car, £1 10s.; without side-car, £1.

A considerable amount of intercommunication is by the sea in cat-boats and other small craft. No particulars are available.

A few pack horses, mules, and donkeys still survive and are taxed.

There is no telegraph service, but a small telephone system is operated by Government between Georgetown, Boddentown and West Bay, with its central exchange at Georgetown. Instruments are not provided privately to the public, but the latter has access to those in the public buildings. A small charge is made, viz., 6d. per message and 3d. to 1s. 6d. for delivery, according to distance.

There is no telegraphic communication from Grand Cayman either by cable or wireless with the rest of the world. The need for such facilities is obvious in the modern world and it is hoped that with the assistance of a public subscription started during the year under review the Government may be able to establish in the near future a wireless station.

The postal service has been maintained since the year 1890. There are post offices in every district, with daily deliveries in Georgetown, and a service three times per week elsewhere.

External services are maintained by mail subsidy with Jamaica once in every 17 days in either direction and with Cuba and the United States about nine times a year. Use is made of schooners whenever possible. Communication between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman depends on the Jamaican service.

The volume of postal business carried in 1934 is estimated as follows :—

Inward.

Letters and postcards.	*Newspapers.*	*Books, circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
23,000	4,000	9,000	1,845	37,845

Outward.

Letters and postcards.	*Newspapers.*	*Books, circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
22,000	200	—	250	22,450

The contract for a subsidized mail service was renewed in February, 1932, for five years, and is to the amount of £600 of which the Dependency pays half.

A comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the postal department during the past five years is as follows :—

Year.	*Expenditure.*	*Revenue.*
	£	£
1930	760	956
1931	798	722
1932	1,182	3,529
1933	791	2,238
1934	741	1,067

The large increase in revenue during 1932-1934 was due to a new series of stamps, issued to commemorate the centenary of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry.

Georgetown is a port of registry for shipping and had on its register at the beginning of the year 51 sailing and 14 motor vessels, of a total tonnage of 5,087 (gross).

During the year five ships of a total tonnage of 185 were added, and three of a total tonnage of 286 removed, and at the end of the year there were 67 ships of a total tonnage of 4,956 on the register.

During the year the arrivals and departures of vessels were as follows :—

	Arrivals.			*Departures.*		
Nationality.	*Sail and Motor.*	*Steam.*	*Total.*	*Sail and Motor*	*Steam.*	*Total.*
British ...	172	1	173	184	1	185
Colombian ...	3	—	3	3	—	3
Honduranian	3	—	3	3	—	3
American ...	3	—	3	4	—	4
Total ...	181	1	182	194	1	195

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The currency and weights and measures are the same as those that obtain in Great Britain. Popular practice and the close connexion with the United States of America allows use to be made of the smaller denominations of United States currency, but these are not accepted in Government offices.

The total amount of currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £3,000, but it is difficult to arrive at any approach to accuracy.

There are no banks in the Dependency, but a Post Office Savings Bank was established in 1908. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. and depositors are allowed to deposit up to a maximum of

£400, and not more than £200 in any one year. Statistics of the Bank are as follows :—

Year.	*No. of Depositors.*	*Amount of deposit at beginning of year.*	*Amount of deposit during the year.*	*Amount of withdrawal during the year.*
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1930	60	1,740 2 7	1,183 3 10	874 9 11
1931	67	2,092 10 9	1,124 1 3	1,485 14 11
1932	64	1,772 9 8	1,238 17 6	1,003 12 9
1933	68	2,055 7 2	1,226 15 5	1,344 1 10
1934	78	1,993 8 7	922 3 11	922 5 9

During the year a branch of the Bank was opened at Cayman Brac where, at the end of the year, there were 38 depositors who had deposited £64 10s. and withdrawn £17 6s.

Against the total deposit of £2,042 4s. 8d., the balance due to depositors at the end of the year, the Savings Bank had invested, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in recognized funds, £1,828 2s. 3d.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In Grand Cayman, no fresh work was undertaken by the Department whose activities were confined to maintenance and ordinary repairs. But the grounds of Government House, some five acres in extent, were for the first time thoroughly cleaned and cleared, the bush being completely cut away. A flower garden was started and Bahamas grass planted over about one-third of the area. At the end of the year Government House was being repainted and to a certain extent repaired, but the ground floor is so full of white ants and dry rot that it is doubtful whether the building is worth preserving.

In Cayman Brac a good office was built to replace the one destroyed in the storm. It was erected at Stake Bay, and consists of a Post Office; Custom House and Collector's Office, and has accommodation on an upper storey for the Commissioner when visiting the island. Rain is collected from the roof in a tank which will provide an additional source for water in the time of need.

The Department consists of a Foreman of Works in Grand Cayman and in Cayman Brac. The only labour is casual, which is remunerated at the rate of 3s. *per diem*.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Law in force in the Dependency is the common law of England as it existed at the time of the enactment of the Imperial Act of the Government of the Cayman Islands dated 22nd June, 1863. Since then various acts have been passed under the Constitution referred to in Chapter II both in Jamaica and in the Dependency.

The principal court is the Grand Court constituted by the Jamaica Legislature, Chap. 18 of 1894. This Court is a part of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica and is presided over by a Judge, who is also the Commissioner. It sits twice a year, in June and December. There are Petty Courts, over which the Justices preside in the various districts whenever occasion arises.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Dependency during the year :—

Persons charged by police or otherwise	72	
	—	72
Convicted summarily	63	
Acquitted summarily	7	
Committed to Grand Court	2	
	—	72
Convicted by Grand Court	2	

Justices of the Peace are appointed in a General Commission of the Peace and give their services voluntarily.

The Police Force consists of one Inspector and six constables stationed in the various districts. In each district there is a lock-up, and at Georgetown a general prison for offenders to serve sentences. It has been the practice to send to Jamaica, convicts sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment. The prison in Georgetown is an old building and provides accommodation in three cells. There is no special provision for juvenile offenders, but Magistrates have always exercised their discretionary powers in their case. In a similar way time is usually allowed for the payment of fines and use is made of the probation system.

The health of prisoners was uniformly good throughout the year.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted during the year.

Law 3 : " *The Regulation of Immigration Law*, 1934 " to enable the Government to restrict and control immigration.

Law 4 : " *The Importation of Animals Law*, 1934 " to enable the Government to restrict and control the importation of animals.

Law 6 : " *The Tariff Law*, 1934 ". This Law embodies the previous Tariff Laws and incorporates the principle of Imperial preference by increasing duties on certain foreign goods and enlarging the free list.

Law 7 : " *The Electric Lighting Law*, 1934 ", controls and regulates the public supply of electricity.

Law 8 : " *The Boy Scouts Association Law*, 1934 ", protects the privileges of the Boy Scout Movement.

Law 9 : " *The Education (Amendment) Law*, 1934 ", enlarges the Board of Education and restores to the Justices and Vestry the control over the finances of Education.

Law 10: "*The Spirit Licence (Amendment) Law*, 1934", permits occasional and hotel licences.

Law 11: "*The Regional Planning Law*, 1934", prevents ribbon development along the coasts and preserves the amenities of the country side. This Law has not yet been approved and is not in force.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure in tabulated form is as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.* £ s. d.	*Expenditure.* £ s. d.
1930	6,466 4 9	6,228 4 7
1931	6,209 19 11	7,290 1 5
1932	8,141 1 4	6,547 14 9
1933	7,298 11 3	6,538 13 2
1934	5,695 9 5	6,994 18 5
Average	6,762 5 4	6,719 18 5

There is no public debt, but provision has been made for a loan of £3,660 at 3½ per cent. from the Jamaica Government in connexion with financing the repairs to roads and buildings damaged in the hurricane of 1932. In November, 1933, the Jamaica Legislature had agreed to waive interest for five years. The loan was accepted in 1934 and by the 1935 Estimates (Appropriation Law 5 of 1934) provision was made for a sinking fund.

The Dependency has no assets, the only investments being those of the Post Office Savings Bank.

Taxation.

Customs Tariff.—The general ad valorem duty is 12½ per cent., and there is a preferential rate to certain goods imported from the British Empire, as follows:—

Article.	*Preferential Tariff.*	*General Tariff.*
Aerated Waters, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Ale and Beer, and other malt liquors, Cider and Perry, per gal.	1s. 6d.	3s.
Bay Rum and Bay water, per gal.	6s.	12s.
Butter and Margarine, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Carriages and Bicycles, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Cement, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Hardware ,, ...	7½ ,,	12½ ,,
Perfumery, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Roofing Iron, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Spirits, namely Alcohol, Brandy, Gin, Rum, Whisky and other potable spirits, per gal.	9s.	18s.
Spirits, Methylated, and other non-potable spirits, per gal.	4d.	6d.
Tea, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Tobacco, leaf and plug, per lb.	3d.	4d.
Tobacco, cigarettes, per thousand	4s.	5s.
Tobacco, cigars, *ad valorem*	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
Wines and Cordials, per gal.	3s.	8s.

There is also a Free list consisting chiefly of goods for Government, printed matter, manures, fertilisers, insecticides.

Taxes, personal and on property are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
On each animal-drawn vehicle used on a public road ...	0	6	0
On each dog	0	1	0
On each head of neat cattle, horse-kind, mules and asses, regardless of age	0	1	0
On each vessel owned wholly or in part by persons resident in the Dependency for each and every ton as registered	0	0	2
On each bicycle	0	6	0
On each boat or canoe in use not belonging to or on board a registered vessel	0	1	0
On each motor-cycle	1	0	0
On each motor-cycle with sidecar	1	10	0
On each motor-car	4	0	0
On each truck	6	0	0
On each firearm, 2s., revolvers, 10s.			
Personal tax	0	8	0

Liquor licences, fines of court, and drivers' licences comprise other heads of internal revenue.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond.

Small fees, including cemetery fees, fees of court and fees of markets and pounds are collectable under the head " Payments for Specific Services ".

The following table shows the yield each year during the last five years.

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs, Import duties ...	4,472	4,288	3,704	4,348	3,208
Taxes, personal, etc.	735	585	515	342	455
Liquor licences	28	28	28	28	29
Fines of courts	28	24	18	15	18
Car Drivers' licences	27	28	28	23	25
Warehouse rents	232	222	201	219	154
Payments for specific services	39	45	31	35	23

During the year under review the 1932 Hurricane Relief Funds were wound up, and a statement of the expenditure and receipts is as follows :—

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Gleaner Fund, Jamaica	2,017	3	4
Gift from Imperial Government.	1,000	0	0
Gift from Jamaican Government.	1,000	0	0
Loan from Jamaican Government.	3,660	0	0
Other receipts ...	280	0	3
	£7,957	3	7

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Stores and material ...	1,906	4	8
Medical Supplies ...	164	5	4
Aeroplane services ...	4	19	0
Relief and relief works	5,858	5	9
Wireless Fund ...	23	8	10
	£7,957	3	7

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. A. W. Cardinall was appointed Commissioner in January and arrived in the Dependency on 14th February, when he assumed duty.

On 16th May the Motor Vessel *Lady Slater* was launched. She is the largest vessel of this type yet built in Grand Cayman. She measures 273 tons gross and 145 tons net. It is particularly noteworthy that she was the first vessel in the islands to have been launched from a slip-way, all previous vessels having been rolled on their sides to the sea.

On 3rd August, the Cuban Government Naval Training Ship *Patria* visited Grand Cayman with Dr. José Carlos Millas, Director of the Cuban National Observatory, and Senor Oscar Contreras, Chief of the engineering staff attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, who came on a mission in connection with the question of establishing a meteorological wireless station at Georgetown. The result of their visit was not known at the end of the year.

A slight earthquake shock was felt in Cayman Brac during May.

An incident of a most unusual character is to be recorded as having occurred during the year under review. On 7th November, 1933, a party of men, women and children were sighted near the east end of Little Cayman on a part of the island completely cut off from all means of communication with the inhabitants, except by water. The majority of these people were children, and it was at first believed that they had been shipwrecked, but later discovered that they were Greek subjects who alleged that they had been marooned by a vessel from Belize. The unfortunate people were in a terrible state. They were without water or food and practically without clothes. The inhabitants of Little Cayman, as soon as the news was brought to them, sent out canoes and fetched the people into the settlement at South Town where they clothed and fed them until the arrival of the Motor Ship *Cimboco* on her regular run from Kingston to Grand Cayman, when they were removed to Georgetown. Here they were looked after by the Government aided by public charity while their story was being investigated.

It transpired that the people were of Greek nationality born at Corfu, but were possibly of gipsy extraction. They had wandered across Europe to South America and eventually landed in San Domingo whence they appear to have reached British Honduras. Here they were not welcome and they were ordered to be deported. Arrangements were made for them to proceed to Cuba, via Grand Cayman, but they were abandoned and set ashore on Little Cayman.

In March, after arrangements had been completed with visas and other permits, these people were shipped to Haiti, but the local

authorities returned them to Grand Cayman. Eventually in September arrangements were successfully made to send them to South America where they had relatives and where they were received by the authorities.

The cost of the incident to the Dependency amounted to £269 9s. 3d. of which the Greek Government refunded £218 9s. 3d., the total amount of a claim submitted in March, after which date the Greeks had established communication with friends and relatives who remitted from time to time small sums sufficient to ensure their maintenance.

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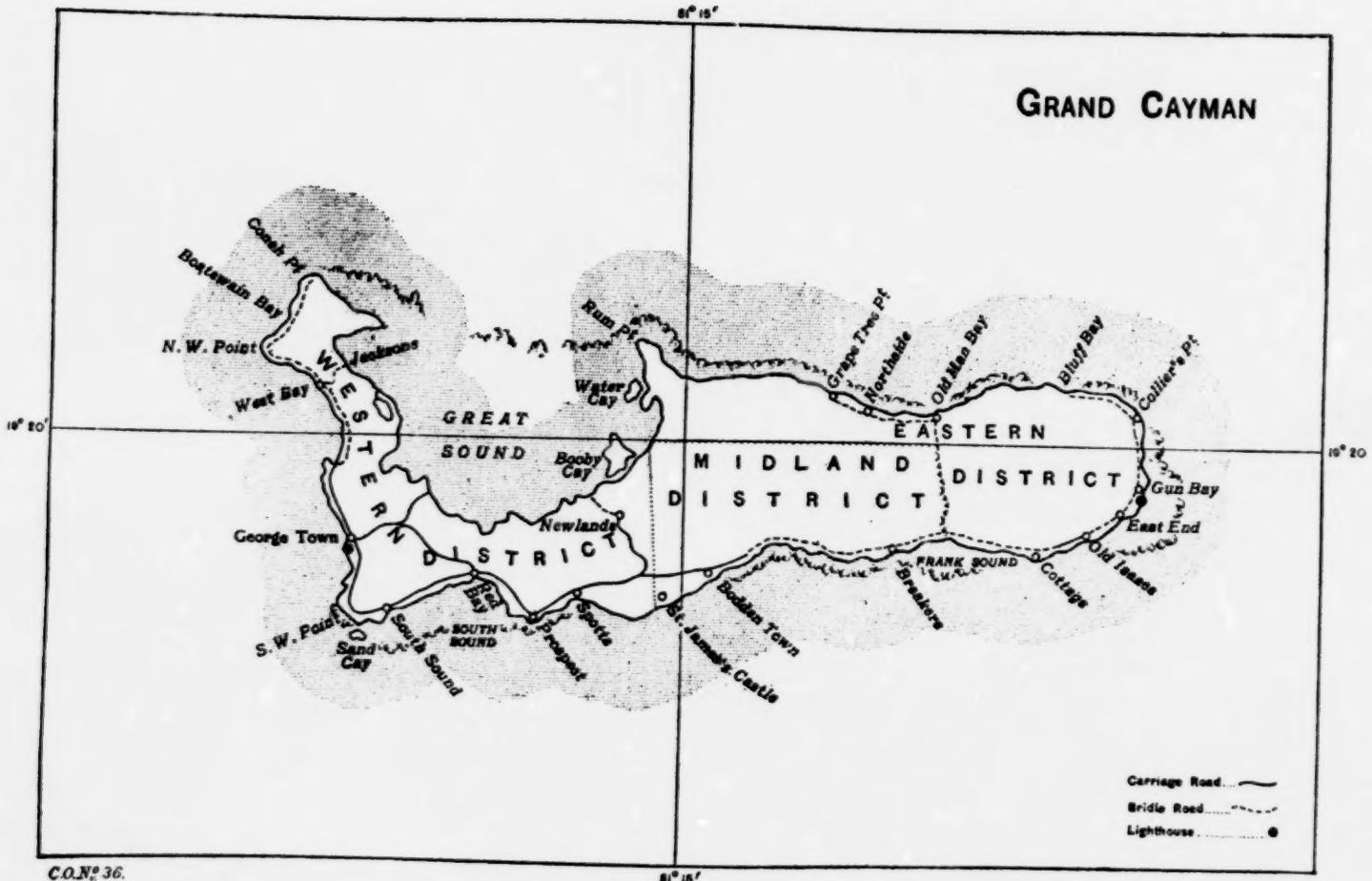

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Dependency of the Cayman Islands consists of three small islands situate between longitude W. 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ in latitude N. 19° 15′ and 19° 45′. The westernmost is the island of Grand Cayman, which is approximately 20 miles from east to west and has a maximum breadth north to south of some 8 miles. The other two islands, known respectively as Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, lie about 60 miles north-east of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is about 10 miles long by 2 miles wide at its maximum and Cayman Brac is a little larger.

No survey of the land area has yet been made but the total of the group is estimated by various authorities at from 140 square miles to as little as 92.

The islands are low-lying and Grand Cayman is in many parts little more than mangrove swamp. The maximum height is 130 feet above sea-level at the easternmost end of Cayman Brac, a culminating point to a high plateau that rises gradually from the west. This plateau has precipitous flanks both on the north and south sides, these cliffs being separated from the sea by a narrow stretch of beach and coral formation.

Geologically the islands consist of decayed coral limestone with deposits of phosphate and a loamy soil. They are covered with dense bush containing, in addition to mangroves, much logwood, mahogany, thatch-palm (*Thrinax argentea*) and other trees of no particular economic worth.

Pasture land of considerable value for raising cattle is found on each of the islands, but agricultural land is not so abundant owing to the too frequent outcrop of decaying coral limestone and to the presence of swamps.

Climate.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the most part of the year excellent. The temperature from November until the middle of April varies from 79° F. to 82° F., and the winds are usually gentle to fresh from north-east to north-west.

The summer months are hot, and, as a rule, rainfall is comparatively heavy. The hurricane season lasts from August to November, as elsewhere in the West Indies. The following is a list of the principal hurricanes during the present century :—

August, 1903	November 7th–9th, 1932
August, 1915	July 1st, 1933
September, 1917	September 25th–27th, 1935

The rainfall for the year was 61·50 inches as compared with 50·71 inches in 1934.

The average monthly rainfall during the past 10 years has been as follows :—

	Inches.		*Inches.*
January	2·43	July	6·95
February	·69	August ...	6·44
March	1·01	September ...	8·60
April	1·04	October ...	12·02
May	5·23	November ...	3·82
June	9·17	December ...	2·45

From the above, the great irregularity of the rainfall will be observed; and it is to be noted that this rainfall record is only a local one and that the above figures, taken at Georgetown, cannot be regarded as applying to, say, West Bay or for that matter to any point outside a radius of a mile from the gauge. It is evident that the dry season is between October and May, but, owing to the irregularity of the rainfall, no month can be guaranteed as being really dry.

At the end of the year under review a modern meteorological station was erected at Georgetown by the Cuban Department of Agriculture. The building belongs to the Cayman Islands Government but the instruments to the Cuban authorities. This station will be placed in service at the beginning of the 1936 hurricane season.

During the hurricane season, morning and evening observations will be wirelessed to Cuba where they will be embodied in the weather forecasts and distributed generally to all parts of the Caribbean.

History.

The first account of the islands is the report of the third voyage of Columbus on his return from Porto Bello to Hispaniola in 1503. Therein it is stated that the islands were covered with turtle which swarmed also on the coasts in such multitudes as to look like ridges of rock.

No settlement appears, however, to have been founded; but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson during his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads :—

> "This place is low land and all rockye, and there bee other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanos, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of Sea Tortoises yearly resorte to lay their Eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

In 1655, Jamaica was taken and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands.

In Esquemeling's History of the Buccaneers, one finds how the islands continued to maintain their importance as a source of meat supply and there is the following reference :—

> "It is a thing much deserving consideration how the tortoises can find out these islands. For the greatest part of them come from the Gulf of Honduras, distant thence the whole space of one hundred and fifty leagues. Certain it is, that many times the ships, having lost their latitude through the darkness of the weather, have steered their course only by the noise of the tortoise swimming that way, and have arrived at those isles. When their season of hatching is past, they retire

towards the island of Cuba, where are many good places that afford them food. But while they are at the islands of Caymanes, they eat very little or nothing."

There does not appear to have been any serious settlement on these islands until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beach-combers, and possibly marooned mariners.

Tradition further has it that during the six years of Sir Thomas Modyford's commission as Governor of Jamaica, 1664-1670, he visited Little Cayman where his landing place is supposed to have been Muddyfoot's Bay, a possible corruption of his name. Not till 1734, however, is a grant of land recorded as having been made to the first settlers, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of " Bodden " and " Foster " are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

There are no traces of any Spanish occupation but from time to time small finds are made of Spanish coins, which may indicate some form of settlement by the Spaniards but are more probably evidence of the residence in the islands of pirates and buccaneers. During 1934 one such find was made at Cayman Brac of 270 coins scattered over a small area, dated 168—. The coins were identified as having been minted in Mexico and, except for one gold piece, were all of silver alloy.

The name " Cayman " has been the subject of a certain amount of discussion, information regarding which will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

During the eighteenth century, public affairs in the Dependency were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, under the direction of one of them locally elected as " Governor ". The principle of representative government was accepted in 1832, when elected members were received into the administrative body, and the term " custos rotulorum " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

In 1863, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vict. Chap. 31) recognizing the existence of Acts and Resolutions passed by this body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed, but at the same time provision was made for the continuance of the legislative powers of the Justices and Vestry. These powers were more closely defined in the Imperial Act of 1863 referred to above.

In 1893, these powers were further defined by Jamaica Law 37 of 1893 as follows :—

> "It shall be lawful for the Justices and Vestry of the said Islands, as at present constituted, or as such body may hereafter be constituted under any Law duly passed by the Legislature of this Island, or by the said Justices and Vestry, to make Laws for the peace, order and good government of the said Islands :—
>
> "Provided that no such Law shall have any force or validity until it shall have received the consent of the Governor of this Island.
>
> "Provided also that nothing herein shall be held to derogate from the powers, conferred by the hereinbefore recited Imperial Act on the Legislature in this Island, to make Laws for the said Islands; and it shall at all times be competent to the said Legislature to resume the powers herein given to the said Justices and Vestry, and from time to time to reconstitute the said Justices and Vestry, or to abridge the powers herein conferred on them, as may be deemed expedient."

Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 21st October, 1934, when 24 Justices of the Peace were appointed—nine for Georgetown; four for West Bay; one for Boddentown; one for Northside; one for East End; and eight for the Lesser Islands.

There are 27 Vestrymen who represent the various districts as follows :—Georgetown, five; Prospect, three; Boddentown, five; East End, three; Northside, two; West Bay, five; Lesser Islands, four.

During 1935 a Redistribution Bill was passed allocating five Vestrymen to West Bay instead of three, and decreasing the representatives of Prospect from five to three. This is more in accordance with the distribution of population.

The election of Vestrymen is conducted biennially. The procedure at these elections is regulated by an Act of 1832 which has remained, except for minor details, unaltered.

The power of the Custos is now vested in the office of Commissioner, who is at the same time Judge of the Grand Court. The duties of the Commissioner are regulated by Law 34 of 1898 (section 2).

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency is an increasing one. In 1774, the whole population amounted to 176 souls. By 1802, when a census was taken by a Special Commissioner sent down by the then Governor of Jamaica, the figures showed 309 whites, 73 coloured, six free blacks and 545 slaves, a total of 933.

No further figures are obtainable until the first census proper in 1891.

A comparative table showing the population and sex distribution follows :—

	1891.		1911.		1921.		1934.	
GRAND CAYMAN.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Georgetown ...	473	569	627	819	447	623	539	782
West Bay	308	419	402	563	464	675	549	895
Prospect	173	307	122	224	148	249	143	282
Boddentown ...	306	411	251	374	220	342	263	362
East End	219	329	210	313	179	310	181	256
Northside ...	115	96	101	122	138	150	147	193
CAYMAN BRAC.								
West End	270	258	653	647	578	635	104	122
Stake Bay ...							83	89
Creek							172	248
Spot Bay							230	269
LITTLE CAYMAN ...	40	29	61	75	42	53	33	39
SHIPPING	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Totals	1,904	2,418	2,427	3,137	2,216	3,037	2,472	3,537
	4,322		5,564		5,253		6,009	

The excess of females over males revealed in this table is an outstanding feature of the Dependency.

The proportion, although accurate on the days of census-taking, must be discounted owing to the number of men absent fishing and sea-faring, to which should be added a considerable number of young men who are working outside the Dependency, chiefly in the United States and Central America.

The racial classification is difficult to determine. The terms "white", "black" and "coloured" are taken in the literal sense and have very little relationship to racial distinction.

In the 1934 census these figures were as follows :—

	White.	Black.	Coloured.	East Indian	Carib.	Total.
Grand Cayman	1,809	805	1,974	2	2	4,592
Cayman Brac	492	35	790	—	—	1,317
Little Cayman	62	—	10	—	—	72
Shipping	5	—	23	—	—	28
Totals	2,368	840	2,797	2	2	6,009

Statistics of immigration are as follows, according to the returns of outward and inward passengers :—

Year.	Outward.	Inward.
1931 ...	557	641
1932 ...	(not available)	
1933 ...	352	442
1934 ...	375	420
1935 ...	427	397

The accuracy of these figures leaves much to be desired since a considerable number of men leave the islands, not as passengers, but as ships' ratings.

The statistics of births and deaths are as follows :—

Year.	No. of births.	Birth-rate per thousand.	Infantile mortality per thousand births.	No. of deaths.	Death-rate per thousand.
1931 ...	178	33	67	67	12
1932 ...	(not available)				
1933 ...	162	30	154	156	29
1934 ...	172	28	52	55	9
1935 ...	197	33	25	50	8

During the year under review there were 41 marriages, which compare with preceding years as follows :—

Year.	No. of marriages.	Rate per thousand.
1931 ...	40	7
1932 ...	37	7
1933 ...	32	6
1934 ...	48	8
1935 ...	41	7

The population of the islands is preponderantly British, the next in numbers being nationals of the United States of America whose number, 53, includes a large proportion of Cayman Islanders who have naturalized themselves as American citizens.

IV.—HEALTH.

During 1935 the health of the Dependency was good. The Government Medical Officer writes :—" There has been a definite improvement over that of the previous year ".

Deaths totalled 50, of which six were between the ages of 70 and 80 years ; ten between 80 and 90, and four between 90 and 100.

There were 197 births, a rate of 33 per thousand. Of these, five died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 25 per mille.

During the year under review there were no epidemics or outbreaks of any serious description.

Typhoid fever.—The number of cases reported and treated was three (in Grand Cayman) compared with 14 in 1934.

Malaria.—No increase in the incidence of this disease was reported at Grand Cayman ; the dispenser at Cayman Brac, however, reported several cases in the eastern portion of Cayman Brac which were of a simple intermittent type.

Bronchial disorders.—The Government Medical Officer writes :—" There is no change in the incidence of these disorders ".

Tuberculosis.—The number of cases reported and treated was two, both from the Lesser Islands. Of these one person contracted the disease abroad. The Government Medical Officer writes :—" This disease is much dreaded in the Dependency. This dread and the response of the public to advice and preventive teachings on this disease greatly contribute to the satisfactory level of the incidence thereof ".

Causes of Death.—The unusual healthiness of the Dependency is illustrated in the following table, which shows that old age is

the principal cause of death. In this respect the year 1931 presented some remarkable figures. In that year there were 14 deaths at Boddentown, the youngest of which was at 66 years and the oldest at 100, the average being 81. In the same year at East End there were four deaths at 84, 86, 84 and 87 respectively.

Year.	*Total deaths.*	*Enteric.*	*Dysentery.*	*Tuberculosis.*	*Malaria.*	*Over 70 years old*	
						M.	*F.*
1930 ...	48	1	—	—	—	8	9
1931 ...	67	1	—	1	1	14	14
1932 ...	(Records incomplete)						
1933 ...	156	14	10	3	—	28	31
1934 ...	33	1	1	1	—	8	16
1935 ...	50	1	—	2	1	6	14

The fact that so many males are absent between the ages of 18 and 60 might be thought to account for these figures in a small way, but this is not the case and deaths of young and middle-aged men abroad from the Caymans are very rare. At the same time the female population between these years does not migrate, and their deaths between the ages of 18-60 are most unusual.

The state of the healthiness is all the more surprising in view of the prevalence during the summer months of vast swarms of mosquitoes and the almost complete lack of sanitation.

The mosquito problem has never been seriously tackled and presents great difficulties. The settlements have been allowed to grow up without any attention to town-planning, access to most of the houses being impossible for wheeled traffic. The result is that the great majority of houses are scattered without order and surrounded each by small compounds in which weeds and fruit trees have been allowed to grow at will, almost without any care at all. The soil is generally hard coral rock, full of cracks and crevices, and where it is soft it is during the summer months a mass of crab holes. Trees blown down in the storms have been allowed to lie on the ground; bananas, palms, corn and bread-fruit have been cultivated amongst the houses; pigs are indiscriminately kept; old tins, bottles and sea shells, chiefly of the conch, are thrown away regardlessly. In short everything has been done to encourage the breeding of mosquitoes.

During the year under review an attempt was made to clean Georgetown as was done in 1934 and the people responded so well that possibly if they persevere the plague of mosquitoes may diminish. It is an undeniable fact that after the cleaning the swarms of mosquitoes decreased to a very great extent. But it is difficult as conditions are at present to do much more than take this first elementary step towards sanitation. There are no incinerators and the settlements could not afford a sanitary gang. Unfortunately the mosquito season coincides with the period when most of the men are away so that cleaning thoroughly cannot be undertaken, nor in the absence of legislation would it be possible to control the disposal of rubbish.

There has been no survey made of the mosquitoes themselves but it is to be noted that probably as much as 90 per cent. are *Aedes Aegypti.*

The sanitary laws require modernization, dating as they do from 1899. An amending Law passed in 1912 for the Georgetown area called for the erection of surface earth closets, and provision was made for its extension to other areas. Advantage has not yet been taken of this provision.

In a few of the more modern houses indoor closets have been constructed and these are controlled by cesspools. But the majority of the people are too poor to afford this improvement. Even Government House has as yet only an outside surface closet.

There is no hosiptal in the Dependency. Provision for medical attention is provided by the services of a Government Medical Officer, stationed in Grand Cayman, and a dispenser resident in Cayman Brac.

The former enjoys private practice and is entitled to fees regulated by rules drawn up under Law 3 of 1901, which provided for the appointment.

There are no certificated midwives, such services being rendered by volunteers who usually receive a small remuneration.

The water supply of the Dependency leaves much to be desired. The people depend almost exclusively on rain which is caught from the iron roofs into cement cisterns or iron tanks. No statistics are available as to the number of these but at the end of the winter a shortage of water is experienced in most places, and the irregularity of the rainfall noted above is liable to cause serious inconvenience. The difficulty of creating a public water supply is very great.

V.—HOUSING.

Since 1921, the number of houses in the Dependency has increased from 1,060 to 1,246, as shown below :—

	Number of Houses.			*Average number of persons per house, 1934.*
	1911.	*1921.*	*1934.*	
Grand Cayman ...	765	815	961	4·7
Cayman Brac ...	254	226	267	4·8
Little Cayman ...	29	19	18	4·0
Total ...	1,048	1,060	1,246	4·69

It cannot be said that there is general overcrowding except in a few isolated places in Georgetown.

Thatch roofs have almost disappeared, save for outbuildings such as kitchens. The roofs were made of the leaves of the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*, and were real objects of art, and it is to be hoped that this craftsmanship will be preserved. Outwardly the appearance is not striking, but from the inside the intricate and regular weaving of the leaves presents a view of good and beautiful workmanship. It is worth recording in connexion with the thatching

of roofs that this work was performed not for remuneration but as a communal work for which the reward was a fiesta, even the principal artisans receiving no payment.

A few examples remain of a type of house which is claimed to be peculiar to the Cayman Islands. These were often two-storeyed with shingle roofs to which there was no overhang and of which the slope was not very acute. The walls were made of puddled coral and sand, the coral having first been reduced to powder by burning. Sections are set up one at a time between hardwood uprights and interlacing of small beams. Windows were cut and having no glass were merely shuttered, either with jalousies or boards.

Practically every house is owned by the family resident therein, only a few being rented. Rental varies, from £1 a month upwards.

Lodging for working-class people is not expensive. Often young unmarried men come from the outlying areas to the larger centres for casual work. Their board and lodging costs from 6s. a week upwards, but usually arrangements can be made to lodge with relatives.

There are no building societies in the Dependency; but a strong family or communal feeling exists whereby persons of the poorer class desirous of erecting a new house can obtain labour and assistance free of charge.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

For a short period (1884-90) the islands were exploited for phosphates, deposits being worked commercially in each of the three islands. But the grade of the phosphates was low and the area of the deposits not of any extent. Since the closing down of these works there has been no mineral production and the Dependency relies entirely on the harvest of the sea and of the field.

Agriculture.

Agriculturally the islands are of a very promising character and are capable of producing practically every crop that grows within the tropic zone. The soil consists of marl and this, enriched by vegetable decay as well as the mild phosphatic deposits, should have made the islands of considerable agricultural value. The Cayman Islanders, however, are essentially fisher-folk and seamen, and the result is that the fields are not cultivated to the full extent of their possibilities, nor are they cared for as they should be. It is the same with the fruit trees which are not cultivated but merely planted. A conspicuous feature of agricultural conditions is the complete indifference of the women-folk who in other parts take their full share of the labour. Even among the negro population the women do not display any real interest in the fields.

The principal field products are:—corn, guinea corn, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, cassava, pumpkins, melons, and plantains,

and the principal fruit trees are mango, banana, sapodilla, avocado pear, paw-paw, sweet and sour sops and the various forms of citrus. It is notable that although sisal and Spanish sabre grow almost everywhere in the islands, pineapples are conspicuous by their absence. It is possible that this is due to superstition as the people relate that they believe children were fatally poisoned some years ago through eating pineapples imported from Central America.

Most of the agricultural production is by individual workers who, as a rule, own the land they farm. There are, however, a number of plantation owners who employ labour.

Statistics are not available as to the quantity or value of the crops grown in the Dependency, which are wholly consumed locally. The islands are not self-supporting, a certain amount of fresh fruits and vegetables being imported.

Live Stock.

At one time the islands maintained a considerable number of pigs, but these have disappeared as herds, only a few single ones being maintained in sties close to the houses. On the other hand cattle thrive, especially in the areas covered by guinea grass. Some years ago considerable loss was caused by ticks introduced from Cuba. This was successfully combated by compulsory dipping and to-day the islands seem to be comparatively free from any disease caused by this pest. The number of cattle is estimated at about 1,200, most of which are of good stock, including Frisian, Jersey, Indian-Hungary, and a small polled breed. These cattle are generally owned in very small herds, few farmers having as many as a dozen.

The pasture lands on Cayman Brac are, for the Dependency, remarkably fine.

There used to be an export trade of cattle to Cuba, but this seems to have disappeared for the present. Indeed, cattle are imported from Swan Island, which, although not under the British Flag, is inhabited almost entirely by Caymanians. The price of cattle is on an average £5 to £6 a head for bulls, £6 for bullocks, and £5 to £7 for milch cows.

A few goats are kept, and these are generally tethered near the houses. Sheep are entirely unknown to-day, although at one time they were a feature of the island.

Poultry are kept by practically every householder and allowed to run indiscriminately about to find their food, with the inevitable result that they tend to become small and scraggy. Only a few turkeys and ducks but no geese are kept. The price of a fowl varies from 9d. upwards, and the cost of eggs is from 1s. per dozen.

An attempt has been made to cultivate bees, so far with no striking result.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry is divided into off-shore and high-seas fishing. Practically every male practises off-shore fishing and disposes of his surplus fish without difficulty. The value of this industry is impossible to determine. The high-seas fishing consists chiefly of turtling and sharking. There are two types of turtling, one for hawksbill turtle and the other for green turtle. The former is mainly for the shell, the price of which fluctuated during the year from 8s. to 15s. per pound. The latter is for local consumption and for the American and European markets. The figures of this industry are as follows :—

	Green Turtle.		*Hawksbill.*	
Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
1931	2,298	4,552	4,150	2,160
1932	1,004	1,049*	619	306*
1933	966	966	1,990	1,115
1934	1.504	1,504	9,883	5,690
1935	1,673	2,059	5,302	2,593

* Grand Cayman only.

The turtle are taken off the banks, shoals, and cays that lie off the Honduranean and Nicaraguan coasts. The seasons for their catching are from January to March, and July to September.

A full description of the industry will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

Sharking is a comparatively new industry and is carried on chiefly by the people of West Bay. The sharks are taken off the banks and cays that lie off the Honduranean and Nicaraguan coasts. There is one season for their catching, from July to November.

The fishermen and their boats are taken over on the sailing schooners, and deposited on the various cays. It is difficult to describe the life of these once their work begins. Crude huts are erected chiefly from the thatch palm carried from Grand Cayman, and these form the only means of shelter from the sun throughout the season. The cays are almost void of any form of vegetation. Fresh water is taken from wells on the neighbouring cays. Stores, or food supplies, to last for five months have to be carried from home. The majority of the cays are not more than 2 feet above sea-level, and some are as small as 100 feet in length. In spite of their smallness as many as 30 men may be found inhabiting one of these cays.

Nets are used chiefly for taking the sharks. The particular variety of shark taken by the fishermen is known as the " nurse ".

During the season of the year under review the " nurse " was caught, principally for its skin, which when properly cured makes excellent leather, and is used in making articles such as handbags, purses, and belts. Enquiries are being made as to the possibility of preserving the meat, backbone, and other parts, all of which it is believed will find a ready market in Great Britain and the United States.

The canoe or boat used in " sharking " is exclusively the " cat-boat ", a small island-made boat painted blue, a fast sailer, and noted for its seaworthiness. Each boat is manned by three men, a captain and two sailors, and as with turtling the men are paid no wages for their catch, but they receive a share in the proceeds of the sale of the skins. The price paid in the American market during 1935 ranged from $1·50 to $2·50 per skin, valued according to its size. The total catch for 1935 amounted to 11,962 skins valued at £2,532, their final destination being to the United States of America.

The initial expenses including cost of nets, gear, etc., are borne by the owners of the cat-boats. From the gross proceeds of the sale of a catch the cost of transportation by schooner is first deducted, and the cost of the permit to fish and of shipping the skins is also deducted. The balance is divided between the fishermen and the owner. From the fishermen's portion is again deducted the cost of the stores. So that on the termination of a good catch a fisherman may realize for his labours from £10-£12.

An average catch by one boat for a season is 100-150 skins, but during the year one boat is known to have taken as many as 350. Taking the " nurse " is no easy task. Considerable risks in weather conditions, dangers from exposure, and attacks from the shark are experienced. The actual catching of the fish is said to be the hardest part of the work, but the preserving of the skin which has to be properly taken from the body, salted, dried, and packed is also difficult.

During 1935 this industry gave work to some 300 men, and as many as 90 cat-boats were used.

To-day there are practically no local industries except that of thatch rope and a certain amount of hat weaving. Formerly a canning industry existed at Georgetown but this has long since disappeared. The thatch rope industry is carried out by the men and women-folk in their own homes and in their own time and at their own inclination. The importance of the industry to the islanders can be gauged from the quantity of rope exported. The accompanying table shows the fluctations of the thatch rope industry :—

Year.	*Fathoms in 1,000's.*	*Value.*	*Average cost per 1,000 fathoms.*
		£	s.
1931	1,626	1,626	20
1932	1,525	1,534	20
1933	1,412	1,163	18
1934	1,374	1,374	20
1935	1,539	1,373	17

Thatch rope is made from the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*. It is not cultivated but it is found growing everywhere in the islands. The manufacture of the rope is carried on by the poorer classes, principally in the districts of West Bay and East End. It is chiefly the women-folk who turn their hands to this industry for their livelihood.

The rope is shipped almost entirely to Jamaica where a curious trade-custom is still preserved. The vessel taking the rope receives no freight but is credited with 20 per cent. of the value received. This 20 per cent. is shared in various proportions between the owner and the master and crew. At the same time the practice is not only to sell rope to larger merchants in Kingston but also to peddle it around the coast, thereby competing with their principal clients, the distributing agents in Kingston. The survival of this antiquated method of doing business prevents any reasonable chance of thatch rope obtaining a better market.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports in 1935 were valued at £24,355 being £1,210 more than in 1934. Exports were valued at £10,820 showing a decrease of £2,495 as compared with 1934. Re-exports are included, being valued at £22, as compared with £407.

Trade is maintained principally with the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and the United States of America, and the percentages for the past five years are as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Imports.					
United Kingdom	10·57	8·01	15·85	14·04	16·42
Jamaica	27·80	23·07	41·11	36·00	31·43
United States of America	47·64	52·28	34·74	29·55	32·72
Exports.					
United Kingdom	4·55	2·00	3·78	2·23	1·39
Jamaica	51·87	45·34	73·33	79·65	56·02
United States of America	35·37	40·35	21·53	16·95	39·46

Imports from Empire sources for the year 1935 amounted to 50·00 per cent. of the total imports, as compared with 52·50 per cent. in 1934.

The total value of domestic exports amounted to £10,798.

The following tables show the sources of the import trade and the distribution of the exports during the years 1930 to 1935 :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Imports.	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	4,418	2,816	5,035	3,250	4,000
Other British Possessions	11,858	8,419	13,274	8,687	8,169
United States of America	19,896	18,373	11,030	6,841	7,971
Other Countries	5,590	5,532	2,411	4,367	4,215
	41,762	35,140	31,750	23,145	24,355
Exports (Domestic).	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	522	200	194	308	150
Other British Possessions	5,940	4,724	3,761	10,343	6,051
United States of America	4,050	4,021	1,104	2,257	4,262
Other Countries	938	1,018	68	—	335
	11,450	9,963	5,127	12,908	10,798

	Re-Exports.				
	1930.	*1931.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Jamaica	250	12	1,211	312	14
Other Countries	349	260	386	95	8
United States of America	—	—	1,824	—	—
	599	272	3,421	407	22

The Chamber of Commerce for the Cayman Islands formed at Georgetown in 1934 continued to function throughout the year. This Chamber will fill a long-felt need, and is already proving itself of considerable value to the community.

As a result of the activities of a German firm of Bremen referred to in the 1934 report, a sponge industry was developed during 1935. The result of this enterprise was that 250 cwt. of sponges were shipped, mainly to Germany and the United States of America.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There is comparatively little employment for unskilled labour either by Government or other employers. The principal work is that of cleaning roads for which the usual daily rate is 3s. Agricultural labour is employed by some of the larger land owners but is of a temporary nature, permanent labour being practically unknown. Such labour is paid at the rate of 3s. a day. Boys are employed to herd the cattle and receive from 6s. to 8s. a month, together with food. Other casual labour is employed on the water-front and receives 6d. per hour.

There are no regulations as to the number of hours, but in Government employ these are limited to eight.

Skilled labour works as a rule by contract. Shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, &c., command a wage from 8s. to 12s. a day.

The staple food is wheaten flour and corn meal, both imported. It is difficult to estimate the value of the wages earned in terms of bread loaves as the people are usually their own bakers and the loaves are of irregular size and weight. There is a bakery at Georgetown, but this only serves the more well-to-do classes.

One of the most interesting features of wage-earning in the Dependency is that in vogue on the sharking vessels referred to in a previous chapter.

The cost of living for officials does not vary much whether the officer lives at Georgetown or elsewhere. In either case the cost is low compared with elsewhere in the West Indies. The majority of Government officials belong to local families and therefore have access without cost to the produce of the orchards and fields. A stranger would probably require at least £60 per annum and a married man about £100.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education throughout the Dependency is free and compulsory. The school age is from seven to 14 for both sexes and is confined to elementary subjects. There are no secondary or technical schools or institutions for higher education. Control of education is vested in a Board appointed annually. This Board functions under Law 5 of 1920 by which there was placed at its disposal annually a sum of £1,500, details of expenditure being left entirely in the hands of the Board, and surplus balances, if any, remaining at its disposal.

Since 1931 expenditure has been annually as follows :—

Year.	*Expenditure.* £ s. d.	*No. of Children on school rolls.*
1931	1,492 19 11	916
1932	1,429 9 10	887
1933	1,308 16 4	870
1934	1,563 17 8	824
1935	1,402 18 10	876

The number of children on the roll during the year was 876 whose education was provided in 13 schools, four of which were at Cayman Brac. There is no school at Little Cayman where only two children of school age are to be found. At the same time there are seven private schools with an attendance of 84 pupils. There are 22 teachers, the number including pupil-teachers. Teachers are appointed by the Board and are generally in possession of some teaching certificate. Public opinion has for some years expressed itself as being dissatisfied with the whole system of education as it is claimed that the results have not yet reached the expectations of 1920, so that the whole matter of education will have to come under review at no distant date. An amending Law was passed during 1934 by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry towards this end. It enlarged the Board of Education so as to include representatives from all districts, thereby making it possible to convene local committees which would be familiar with the conditions peculiar to their area. At the same time owing to the decline of the revenue specifically earmarked for education the amount of the annual grant will no longer remain fixed at £1,500, but will be subject to the requirements of the Board of Education annually submitted to and approved by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry.

The standard of teaching is based on the pupil-teachers' examination of Jamaica, of which there are three grades. In 1935, 49 students sat for this examination. Of these six passed the first grade, one the second, and one the third; but it is obviously not a high standard.

No provision is made for orphanages or for the maintenance of sick and aged people. The Justices and Vestry grant a small sum towards the maintenance of paupers, which is distributed on the

advice of the local Justices to deserving cases for the provision of small luxuries such as sugar, flour and tobacco. During the year there were 46 people on this pauper list.

The system has not proved satisfactory, and it has been decided to modify the manner in which this relief is granted. Instead of cash payments there will be distribution of the ordinary requirements such as flour, coffee and tobacco. The Assembly included on the free list goods imported for distribution to the poor and the distribution itself is being entrusted to a newly formed Friendly Society composed of ladies in the various districts. It is hoped that this measure will ensure a larger and more regular distribution of necessities, the visiting of the poor, and at the same time provide an outlet for the naturally charitable inclinations of the women. This system worked successfully during 1935.

Throughout 1935 conditions of general poverty obtained everywhere in the Dependency. The aged people who depended on remittances from their sons abroad were left without that aid. Young mothers with families likewise dependent on money from outside were equally stranded. At the same time the fall in value of thatch rope affected directly the poorer classes, who have found themselves more and more involved in a variety of the " truck system " which enforces payment in kind in exchange for produce that is not readily marketable.

The smallness of the community and the close relationship of most people with one another tend naturally to the encouragement of mutual recreation. Concerts are frequently arranged for various charitable purposes and are well patronized. At the same time there is in Georgetown a tennis club, and there are cricket clubs at the capital and at West Bay.

The subscription Library at Georgetown continued to function throughout the year. The annual grant of £40 was renewed, not as an absolute grant, but on condition that the papers, magazines and books subscribed for by the library should be regularly sent to the outlying districts.

The public reading room at West Bay, which is conducted entirely by voluntary effort, was increasingly patronized and it is hoped that the distribution of the reading matter subscribed for through the grant will encourage this welcome enterprise.

The Sea Scout movement made considerable progress during the year. A second troop was formed at West Bay and a Cub pack was started in Georgetown. There are now 60 Sea Scouts and 45 Cubs. It is hoped that during 1936 the remaining districts in Grand Cayman will be able to join in the movement. Great encouragement has been given to the boys by the courtesies and facilities extended to them by H.M.S. *Danae* and other warships.

The example of the boys was followed by the girls and a Company of Girl Guides, with 41 members, was formed in Georgetown. These Guides are affiliated to the Jamaica Association and are not a separate body as are the Sea Scouts.

The first Regatta was held in January. It is hoped that this will become an annual affair, as its preliminary success was most gratifying and attracted a number of visitors from outside the Dependency. The Regatta was held under the auspices of the Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club, founded in 1934, of which His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica is Commodore. The Club had presented to it nine challenge cups, as well as several cups to be won outright, and during the year two further challenge cups were received. The publicity given the islands by the Regatta is undoubtedly great. It resulted in several enquiries being made as to ship-building and aroused a general interest not only in Jamaica but in Cuba and Central America. During 1936 it is hoped that the second Regatta will be larger and a still greater success.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Communications by motorable road increased considerably during the year and every district is now linked up by this communication.

The road which went from West Bay to Boddentown was continued to East End with a branch at Frank Sound to Northside. The length of these additional roads amounted to about 15 miles, and their construction gave employment to a number of men who otherwise would have suffered considerably. The people of North Side and West End willingly gave free of charge their land and the necessary road material, as well as one-fifth of the labour. The total cost to the Dependency amounted to £874 or £58 per mile, this sum including the cost of tools and inspection.

In the settlements of West Bay and Georgetown there are a few streets that follow no considered plan. There are also sections of road connecting the main artery with the North Sound both at Georgetown and West Bay, which during the year were widened and repaired. In Cayman Brac the new road from West End to Creek was further improved and is now a good motorable highway. In Little Cayman there are no roads, only paths, as there is no need for any public communication other than connexion between houses of members of the same family.

Communications cannot be said to be good. The roads are narrow and follow no direct line. Indeed in the past the authorities have met considerable opposition in getting permission to construct even the merest track.

The cost of maintenance and construction of these roads is inordinately high. Maintenance costs in Grand Cayman during the past five years have averaged £17 per mile.

The first motor car was introduced into these islands in 1914. In 1935, there were 41 cars and seven lorries and five motor cycles.

Motor cars pay an annual tax of £4; motor trucks, £6; motor cycles with side-car, £1 10s., without side-car, £1.

A considerable amount of intercommunication is by the sea, in cat-boats and other small craft. No particulars are available.

A few pack horses, mules, and donkeys still survive and are taxed.

A small telephone system is operated by Government between Georgetown, Boddentown and West Bay, with its central exchange at Georgetown. Instruments are not provided privately to the public, but the latter has access to those in the public buildings. A small charge is made, viz., 6d. per message and 3d. to 1s. 6d. for delivery, according to distance.

The year under review witnessed the construction of a building and the installation therein of a combined wireless and meteorological station, which was opened on 23rd November. This building was the result of a combined effort by the Cuban Government and the Government of the Dependency. The wireless equipment cost £696, of which £332 was raised by public subscription.

The installation consists of :—

> One type S 100 short-wave telegraph transmitter of 100 watts aerial power capable of operating on a range of 30-60 metres, with full complement of necessary spares and aerials; two receivers having a wave range of about 15-200 metres, with spares; one petrol engine D.C. generator (two kilowatts) and spares; one 110 volt accumulator battery and wiring.

The plant was installed by Cable and Wireless Limited, but the building in which it was housed was the work of the Cuban authorities.

The official opening was attended by a representative of His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, T. J. Guilfoyle, Superintendent of Telegraphs, and Senor Castro, Sub-Secretary of Agriculture, Havana, Dr. Jose Carlos Millas, Director of the National Observatory at Havana, T. Ifor Rees, H.M. British Consul-General at Havana and W. H. I. Stephens, Engineer, Cable and Wireless, Limited. A very large crowd witnessed the ceremony. On the occasion of the opening an incident worthy of record was a message telephoned by His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, the reception being very clear. A telegram of loyal greetings was sent to His Majesty the King who graciously replied. Other messages were exchanged with the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, and with Ceylon, the Falkland Islands, Sydney, Vancouver and Cape Town. Messages were also exchanged between the westernmost and easternmost British island in the Caribbean.

The service promises to be a success, and up to the end of the year there were 113 messages despatched and 96 received.

The charge per word for transmission to Jamaica is as follows :— Ordinary 1s., Deferred 6d., Code 7½d., Night letter (25 words) 8s. 4d. (minimum). All messages are sent through the Direct West India Cable Company, Kingston.

The postal service has been maintained since the year 1890. There are post offices in every district, with deliveries daily in Georgetown and three times per week elsewhere.

External services are maintained by mail subsidy with Jamaica once in every 17 days in either direction and with Cuba and the United States about nine times a year. Use is made of schooners whenever possible. Communication between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman depends on the Jamaican service.

The volume of postal business carried in 1935 is estimated as follows :—

	Letters and postcards.	*Newspapers.*	*Books and circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
Inward	**24,000**	**4,000**	**9,000**	**2,100**	**39,100**
Outward	**25,000**	—	—	**300**	**25,300**

The contract for a subsidized mail service was renewed in February, 1932, for five years, and is to the amount of £600, of which the Dependency pays half.

A comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the postal department during the past five years is as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1931	722	798
1932	3,529	1,182
1933	2,238	791
1934	1,067	741
1935	8,694	2,029

The large increase in revenue during 1932-4 was due to a new series of stamps issued to commemorate the centenary of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry, and the sum of £8,694 in 1935 was the result of sales of the special Silver Jubilee Issue of stamps and of a pictorial issue.

Georgetown is a port of registry for shipping and had on its register at the beginning of the year 53 sailing and 14 motor vessels, of a total tonnage of 4,956 (gross).

During the year, six ships of a total tonnage of 396 were added, and 15 of a total tonnage of 692 removed, and at the end of the year there were 58 ships of a total tonnage of 4,660 on the register.

During the year the arrivals and departures of vessels were as follows :—

Nationality.	Sail and Motor. Arrivals.	Departures.
British	160	162
Colombian	5	5
Honduranian	11	8
American	4	4
Total	180	179

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The currency and weights and measures are the same as those that obtain in Great Britain. Popular practice and the close connexion with the United States of America allows use to be made of the smaller denominations of United States currency, but these are not accepted in Government offices.

The total amount of currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £3,000, but it is difficult to arrive at any approach to accuracy.

There are no banks in the Dependency, other than a Post Office Savings Bank which was established in 1908. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. and depositors are allowed to deposit up to a maximum of £400, and not more than £200 in any one year. Statistics of the Bank are as follows :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of deposit at beginning of year.	Amount of deposit during the year.	Amount of withdrawal during the year.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1931	67	2,092 10 9	1,124 1 3	1,485 14 11
1932	64	1,772 9 8	1,238 17 6	1,003 12 9
1933	68	2,055 7 2	1,226 15 5	1,344 1 10
1934	78	1,993 8 7	922 3 11	922 5 9
1935	125	2,042 4 8	2,389 4 3	1,268 10 0

Against the total deposit of £3,215 10s. 10d., the balance due to depositors at the end of the year, the Savings Bank had invested, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in recognized funds, £2,078 2s. 3d.

The branch of the Bank opened at Cayman Brac in 1934 continued to work successfully throughout the year. There were 35 accounts, deposits totalling £576 7s. and withdrawals £43 18s. 2d.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In Grand Cayman no fresh work was undertaken other than the opening of motorable roads to the districts of East End and Northside, referred to in Chapter X. Apart from this work the activities of the Department were confined to maintenance and repairs. The flower garden at Government House, started in 1934, was improved, and the Bahamas grass extended to cover about one-half of the total area of the grounds.

The Department consists of a Foreman of Works in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. The only labour is casual, which is remunerated at the rate of 3s. a day.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Law in force in the Dependency is the common law of England as it existed at the time of the enactment of the Imperial Act of the Government of the Cayman Islands dated 22nd June, 1863. Since then various Acts have been passed under the Constitution referred to in Chapter II, both in Jamaica and in the Dependency.

The principal court is the Grand Court constituted by the Jamaica Legislature, Chap. 18 of 1894. This court is a part of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica and is presided over by a Judge, who is also the Commissioner. It sits twice a year in June and December. There are Petty Courts, over which Justices preside in the various districts whenever occasion arises.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Dependency during the year :—

Persons charged by police or otherwise	—	55
Convicted summarily	37	—
Acquitted summarily	16	—
Committed to Grand Court	2	55
	—	—
Convicted by Grand Court	—	2

Justices of the Peace are appointed in a General Commission of the Peace and give their services voluntarily.

During the year the Police Force was re-organized and consists at present of :—One Inspector, one Sergeant, five Constables, four District Constables.

The re-organization is intended to replace a detached Force by a disciplined one, the constables being engaged for a short term of service, whilst the district constables are, as heretofore, men stationed in the outlying districts without discipline.

In each district there is a lock-up and at Georgetown there is a general prison for offenders to serve sentences. It has been the practice to send to Jamaica convicts sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment. The prison in Georgetown is an old building and provides accommodation in three cells. There is no special provision for juvenile offenders, but Magistrates have always exercised their discretionary powers in their case. In a similar way time is usually allowed for the payment of fines and use is made of the probation system.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good throughout the year.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted during the year :—

Law 3 of 1935. *The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Law*, 1935, facilitates the enforcement in the Cayman Islands of Maintenance Orders made in England and Ireland.

Law 5 of 1935. *The Girl Guides Association Law*, 1935, protects the privileges of the Girl Guide movement.

Law 8 of 1935. *The* 1932 *Hurricane Relief Loan Law*, 1935, provides for a loan of £3,660 from the Government of Jamaica, for the purpose of relief and relief works.

Law 11 of 1935. *The Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands (Redistribution) Law*, 1935, provides for a re-distribution in the number of seats for certain districts in the Legislative Assembly.

Law 13 of 1935. *The Post Office Amendment Law*, 1935, provides for the introduction of an Imperial penny postage.

Law 14 of 1935. *The Probates (Re-Sealing) Law*, 1935, permits the Re-Sealing in the Cayman Islands of Probates and Letters of Administration obtained in any part of the Empire.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure is given below :—

Year.	*Revenue.*			*Expenditure.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1931	6,209	19	11	7,290	1	5
1932	8,141	1	4	6,547	14	9
1933	7,298	11	3	6,538	13	2
1934	5,695	9	5	6,994	18	5
1935	13,432	17	0	9,212	3	0
Average	8,155	11	9	7,316	14	2

There is no public debt, but provision has been made for a loan of £3,660 at 3½ per cent. from the Jamaica Government in connexion with financing the repairs to roads and buildings damaged in the hurricane of 1932. In November, 1933, the Jamaica Legislature had agreed to waive interest for five years. The loan was accepted in 1934 and by the 1935 Estimates (Appropriation Law 5 of 1934) provision was made for a sinking fund.

The Dependency has no assets, the only investments being those of the Post Office Savings Bank.

Taxation.

Customs Tariff.—The general *ad valorem* duty is 12½ per cent., and there is a preferential rate in respect of certain goods imported from the British Empire, as follows :—

Article.	*Preferential Tariff.*	*General Tariff.*
Aerated waters, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Ale and beer, and other malt liquors, cider and perry, per gal.	1s. 6d.	3s.
Bay rum and bay water, per gal.	6s.	12s.
Butter and margarine, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Carriages and bicycles, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Cement, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Hardware ,, ...	7½ ,,	12½ ,,
Perfumery, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Roofing Iron, ,, ...	12½ ,,	20 ,,
Spirits, namely alcohol, brandy, gin, rum, whisky and other potable spirits, per gal.	9s.	18s.
Spirits, methylated, and other non-potable spirits, per gal.	4d.	6d.
Tea, *ad valorem*	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.
Tobacco, leaf and plug, per lb.	3d.	4d.
Tobacco, cigarettes, per thousand	4s.	5s.
Tobacco, cigars, *ad valorem*	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
Wines and cordials, per gal.	3s.	8s.

There is also a Free list consisting chiefly of goods for Government, printed matter, manures, fertilizers, insecticides.

Taxes, personal and on property are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
On each animal-drawn vehicle used on a public road ...		6	0
On each dog		1	0
On each head of neat cattle, horse-kind, mules and asses ...		1	0
On each vessel owned wholly or in part by persons resident in the Dependency for each and every ton as registered... ...			2
On each boat or canoe in use, not belonging to or on board a registered vessel		1	0
On each bicycle		6	0
On each motor-cycle	1	0	0
On each motor-cycle with sidecar	1	10	0
On each motor-car	4	0	0
On each truck	6	0	0
On each firearm		2	0
On each revolver		10	0
Personal tax		8	0

Liquor licences, fines of court, and drivers' licences comprise other heads of internal revenue.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond.

Small fees, including cemetery fees, fees of court and fees of markets and pounds are collectable under the head " Payments for Specific Services ".

The following table shows the yield each year during the last five years :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs, Import duties ...	4,288	3,704	4,348	3,208	3,322
Taxes, personal, etc.	585	515	342	455	540
Liquor licences	28	28	28	29	28
Fines of courts	24	18	15	18	19
Car Drivers' licences	28	28	23	25	24
Warehouse rents	222	201	219	154	185
Payments for specific services	45	31	35	23	34

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

H.M.S. *Danae* visited Georgetown on 26th February—1st March.

His Majesty's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the Dependency. On 6th May, after Thanksgiving Services, the day was given over to celebrations and a beacon message was lit from west to east. There was a flower show, a procession of decorated cars, a pageant of the " History of the Dependency ", and various other forms of entertainment. His Majesty's message was broadcast and listened to with great respect by a very large crowd.

Empire Day was marked by the opening of the new roads already referred to, nearly every motor car in the island taking part in the procession.

On 25th September a hurricane struck Cayman Brac, fortunately doing little damage, but owing to the general anxiety H.M.S. *Danae* visited the island.

Mr. W. H. Edwards, Government Entomologist of Jamaica, visited the Dependency during March in connexion with various plant diseases.

The following Cuban warships called at Georgetown in connexion with the erection of the meteorological station, above referred to :—*Columbia, Viente de Mayo* (on two occasions), and *Baire.*

An aeroplane flew over Grand Cayman on 14th January. This was a great event, as the Dependency for some time now has been off the main route.

Mr. A. W. Cardinall administered the Government throughout the year.

APPENDIX.

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				s. d.
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Cayman Islands Gazette.	—	—	Occasional 1910–1913 only.	2

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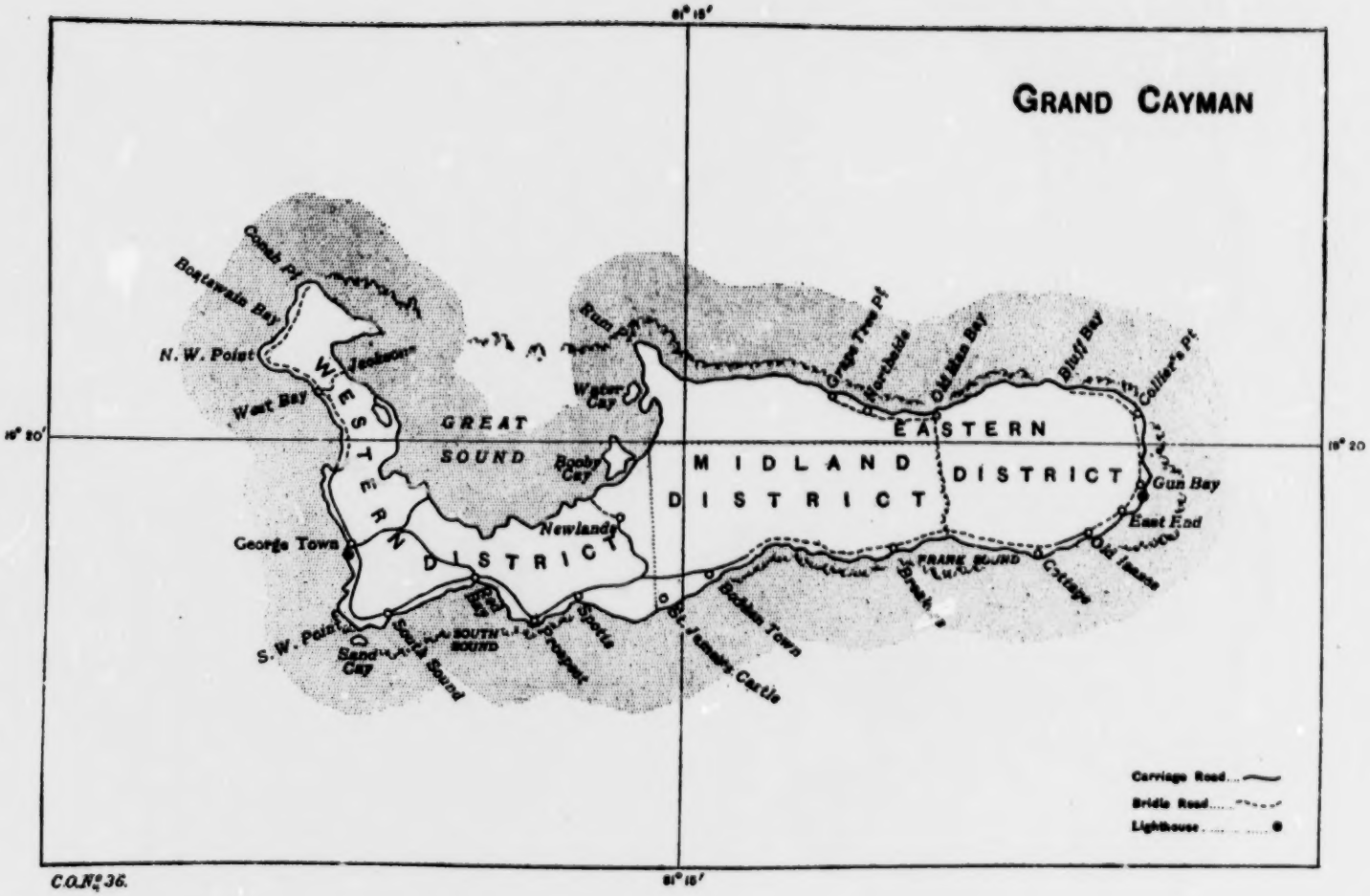
* 3 Vols. Book 1, Chapter XII gives a detailed account of the Cayman Islands.



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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1935.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitution. Through the county of Surrey and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generaly in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th Century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with Maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as

compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in number from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: The Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector

General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen, 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water and Sewerage Board appointed under Law 33 of 1933 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and Saint Andrew. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1933 was 9,864, being at the rate of 9.4 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/8 per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

20. There was a decrease in Emigration and Immigration during 1935 compared with the year 1934. The departures in 1933 were 636, in 1934, 662 and in 1935, 612. The arrivals in 1933 were 2,638, in 1934, 1,789 and in 1935, 1,306.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1935 was 1,121,823 this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1934 and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1935.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1935, was 4,628 the rate being 4.1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.9 in 1934.

23. During the same period 37,379 births were registered of which 18,898 were boys and 18,481 were girls. The birth rate works out to 33.5 per 1,000 as against 31.2 during 1934.

24. The number of deaths registered was 19,706 of which 9,962 were males and 9,744 were females, the death rate being 17.7 per 1,000 The rate for 1934 was 17.0. During 1935, 6,264 or 31.8 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,144 or 26.1 were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1934 were 29.4 and 24.0 per cent. The infantile death rate under one year was 13.7 as compared with 13.1 in 1934.

25. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Tuberculosis	9.94
Heart Disease	9.39
Pneumonia	8.44
Congenital Debility	7.05
Old Age	5.05
Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over)	4.5
Cancer	4.22
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4.11
Typhoid Fever	3.5
Syphilis	3.33
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy	2.94

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

26. The health of the Island during 1935 was better than in the preceding year due to no small extent to the reduction of malaria which had risen far above normal in association with the high rainfall of 1933 and 1934.

The public response during 1935 to the wider and cheaper facilities for medical treatment provided in 1934 was reflected in the marked increase in attendance at the various treatment centres and in the work of the Central Laboratory. These facilities are as follows:—

27. Hospital charges were revised so as to lighten the cost of indoor medical and surgical treatment to the poorer groups of population. Patients with incomes less than 20/- per week now pay nothing for admission and treatment in hospitals.

28. A ticket system was established whereby responsible citizens are authorised to supply the poorer classes with free or cheap tickets for outdoor attendance at dispensaries or hospitals. Patients with incomes less than 12/- per week receive free treatment, those between 12/- and 25/- pay 1/6, and those between 25/- and 50/- pay 2/6. Each Medical Officer in charge of a district is now provided with a central dispensary

(the hospital in the case of 19 out of the 42 medical districts) and a number of subsidiary dispensaries which are being increased as funds are available. There were 59, 327 attendances of these ticket patients.

29. Free laboratory service was provided to private practitioners in respect to diseases of importance to the Public Health. 2,958 examinations were made during the year under this system.

30. The programme of Yaws control devised in 1933, and described in previous Reports, was put into more active operation.

31. Free treatment for malaria is provided through the Medical Officers of Health and their Sanitary Staff in the field wherever there is any indication of rise above endemic level.

32. The increasing use being made of these cheaper facilities is already leading to improvement in the health of certain districts where the Yaws and Malaria programmes are being satisfactorily developed, a valuable index being the recorded improvement in attendance of School Children.

33. Two epidemics of Typhoid occurred, in the rural area of lower Trelawny, and the town of Morant Bay with 32 and 22 cases, respectively.

VITAL STATISTICS.

34. Population—The estimated population on 31st December, 1935, was 1,121,823.

Birth Rate—37,379 births were registered, giving a rate of 33.48 per 1,000 population. 72.23% of the births were illegitimate.

Death Rate—The crude death rate rose slightly from 17.06 in 1934 to 17.7 in 1935.

Infant Mortality—The Island death rates under 1 year and under 5 years were respectively 137 and 186 per 1,000 live births as compared with 131 and 181 in 1934.

PRINCIPAL DISEASE GROUPS.

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.

35. (a) *Enteric Fevers.*—1,117 cases were notified as compared with 1,092 in 1933 and 1,361 in 1934. Marked reduction apparent in the parishes of Kingston, St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James and St. Catherine. 277 cases were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital with 62 deaths, and 545 in the District Hospitals with 132 deaths. Two important epidemics occurred, one in lower Trelawny with 32 cases and one in Morant Bay with 22. 5 smaller outbreaks were also noted.

(b) *Dysentery.*—184 cases were notified as compared with 249 in 1933 and 333 in 1934. 82 of them were admitted to hospitals with 10 deaths.

(c) *Intestinal Parasites.*—The rural population continue to show a hookworm infection rate of 60% to 90% depending on rainfall, soil and sanitation and the incidence of round worms is frequently over 50% in various districts. In townships, however, where the occupation and hygiene of the people make infection less likely, the rate is usually below 25%.

Malaria.—The following table shows a comparison over a 3-year period:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.
Total deaths recorded ..	513	680	571
No. of in-patients, Kingston Public Hospital	427	882	683
No. of deaths, Kingston Public Hospital ..	11	32	22
No. of in-patients, District Hospitals ..	4,536	4,088	2,800
No. of out-patients, District Hospitals ..	10,083	14,363	13,185
No. of deaths, District Hospitals ..	146	124	119

A low incidence of the disease prevailed during the first three-quarters of the year followed by an increase in the last quarter particularly in Kingston, St. Andrew, and St. Mary and to a less extent in St. Ann, St. Catherine and Portland.

An outbreak of epidemic proportions developed in association with the Moneague Lakes, but this was anticipated and there were no deaths.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—1,395 cases were notified as compared with 1,402 in 1934 and 1,095 deaths were recorded. 589 cases (42%) were notified in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew.

Venereal Diseases.—In the Kingston Public Hospital 1,227 cases of Syphilis and 222 of Gonococcal infections were treated as in-patients with 21 and 1 deaths respectively. District Hospitals admitted 1,125 cases of Syphilis with 32 deaths, and 1,233 of Gonococcal infections with 2 deaths.

A special Women's Free Clinic was established in Kingston. From October, to the end of the year 569 patients were seen.

Yaws.—The incidence of Yaws found in the Island Survey of 1932 was submitted in diagramatic map form in the Annual Report of 1933 There is very close relationship between the incidence of yaws and rainfall. Not only has the incidence been found to be highest in the wet upland areas involving 50% of the population in some uncontrolled areas, but even in controlled areas relapses of quiescent cases and new cases occur most frequently in the periods of heaviest rain. It is too early to carry out a complete Island re-survey but the special Mobile Treatment Units of the Yaws Commission have maintained systematic control of some of these heavily infected districts for from one to two years according to the plan laid down in 1932. In these areas the number of infectious cases has been reduced by at least 70% and the improvement is being maintained. The attendance of school children in these areas has been increased in several schools by at least 50%.

In less heavily infected districts where existing permanent staff undertake control 12,615 cases were found in a population of 220,232, the infection rate varying from 1% to 25%. In most of these areas satisfactory progress is being made in reducing the incidence of infectious cases.

Diseases of School Children.—The School Medical Officer of the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew found 3,709 children with defects among 5,095 examined. Dental defects are not included in these as they receive the attention of the School Dentist. The majority of them were eye defects due to malnutrition.

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36. *Hospitals.*—The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	100
Public Lunatic Asylum, Kingston ...	1,952
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay ...	30
,, ,, ,, Hordley ...	40
,, ,, ,, Port Antonio ...	55
,, ,, ,, Buff Bay ...	50
,, ,, ,, Annotto Bay ...	60
,, ,, ,, Port Maria ...	65
,, ,, ,, St. Ann's Bay ...	40
,, ,, ,, Cave Valley ...	12
,, ,, ,, Falmouth ...	25
,, ,, ,, Ulster Spring ...	6
,, ,, ,, St. James's ...	70
,, ,, ,, Lucea	30
,, ,, ,, Sav-la-Mar ...	66
,, ,, ,, Black River ...	70
,, ,, ,, Mandeville ...	35
,, ,, ,, Chapelton ...	33
,, ,, ,, Lionel Town ...	50
,, ,, ,, Spanish Town ...	70
,, ,, ,, Linstead ...	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

The work of the Hospitals shews a further increase over previous years as shewn below:—

	Kingston Public Hospital.			District Hospitals.		
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1933.	1934.	1935.
In-patients	7,351	8,133	8,269	19,149	23,067	23,346
Out-patients	162,257	171,318	162,311	63,892	94,960	105,705
Operations	3,359	3,718	3,723	7,762	10,455	11,383
Deaths ..	821	742	698	1,156	1,110	1,216

In the X-Ray Department of the Kingston Public Hospital, 3,105 patients were examined as compared with 2,293 in 1933 and 2,765 in 1934.

The accommodation of the Jubilee Maternity Hospital was increased from 40 to 100 beds and an Ante-Natal Department was built.

Outdoor Dispensary Service.—Under the new ticket system instituted in 1934, there were 59,327 attendances of 29,320 patients at the outpatient departments of Hospitals and at dispensaries, almost all of whom were treated free of charge.

Prevention of Disease.

37. *Laboratory Work.*—The demand for laboratory service continued to increase with consequent improvement in the accuracy of information concerning diseases of Public Health importance. The following table indicate the increase for the past four years of examinations performed.

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Kingston Public Hospital ..	9,061	10,099	19,259	22,634
Lunatic Asylum ..	701	601	967	1,530
Other Institutions	1,181	1,926	1,826	5,133
Country Medical Districts ..	875	1,018	1,783	3,871
Health Officers ..	175	739	2,709	3,440
Private Practitioners ..	642	716	835	2,958
Total	12,635	15,099	27,379	39,566

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.—The chief preventive measures against Typhoid fever are latrine construction, improvement to water supplies, inoculation, and hospitalization of cases. 822 cases of Typhoid out of 1,117 notified, were hospitalized with 194 deaths. In the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew 84% of the notified cases were admitted to the Kingston Hospital, and they came almost entirely from the poorer groups of the population.

10,444 new latrines were constructed under the supervision of the Staffs of Local Boards of Health and 14,206 were repaired.

35,094 anti-typhoid inoculations were given by Medical Officers of Health as compared with 26,952 in the previous year.

The Hookworm Commission working in the parishes of St. Catherine and St. James examined 20,019 persons and found 11,901 infected with hookworm. The infection rate varied from 20% in the poorer sections of urban districts to over 80% in rural districts. 10,629 were given treatments.

Malaria.—Steady progress was made in developing anti-malaria measures, not only by extending the areas under control but in substituting permanent instead of temporary measures notably in the swamp lands to the west of Kingston.

Free distribution of quinine was increased in areas where the disease gave indication of rising unduly. Assistance was afforded to the Local Boards and large land owners to develop control programmes, and this policy is being followed as far as possible. In this manner new areas were put under control in Westmoreland, St. James, St. Mary and St. Catherine with the assistance of the United Fruit Company, The Standard Fruit Company and the Local Boards of St. James and Westmoreland. The programmes provided by the United Fruit Company in Clarendon and the Sugar Estates in St. Thomas were further extended and improved.

The drainage of approximately 20 acres of swamp lands on Government property to the west of Kingston was completed during the year, and proposals are under consideration for reclamation schemes in the towns of Montego Bay, Port Maria and Black River, the funds to be provided under the New Loan Works.

Tuberculosis.—The year has been characterised by intensified public interest in the control of this disease displayed by the generous response to the Jubilee Memorial Appeal Fund for a Sanatorium which realised over £32,000 in ten months. It is proposed to establish a large Central Institution near to Kingston and special wards attached to District Hospitals, the additional funds necessary being provided from Loan. When this programme is completed, at least 500 beds will be available which will go far towards meeting present requirements.

Anti-Tuberculosis work has developed rapidly and along sound lines since the establishment of a voluntary Anti-Tuberculosis League in 1927 and a Tuberculosis Commission in 1928. There is a central well equipped dispensary in Kingston with a small temporary hospital of 44 beds, and Medical Officers of Health in other parishes maintain dispensaries and clinics at various points in their areas. An X-Ray Motor Unit provides diagnostic facilities at these rural centres. In Kingston, Montego Bay and Spanish Town nurses are provided for home supervision of infected families while elsewhere Sanitary Inspectors carry out this field work. Medical Officers of Health refer suitable cases for surgical treatment to District Medical Officers in charge of hospitals as far as beds have been available hitherto, while nearly all Parochial Poor Houses have special wards for receiving advanced cases.

The Anti-Tuberculosis League has a branch in every parish which co-operated with the Health Authorities in educational work and in providing various forms of assistance to cases and their families.

During 1935, the Kingston Dispensary notified 32% of all cases and performed the following work:

Clinical and X-Ray examinations, new patients	1,428
Clinical Examinations without X-Ray, new patients	1,840
Operation of Artificial Pneumothorax	1 930
Operation of Phrenicectomy	114
Home Visits	5,588

The use of surgical treatment continues to develop with a progressive increase in the number of cases which return to their normal occupations and remain in good health.

The X-Ray Motor Unit travelled 5,963 miles and took 1,942 pictures.

Research work on the epidemiology, pathology, and immunology of the disease is being continued.

The Anti-Tuberculosis League is a voluntary association which obtains funds through the sale of Christmas Seals and entertainments. The Jubilee Memorial Appeal was carried out under its auspices.

It maintains three whole-time nurses and two part-time nurses, and provides food relief for needy persons. It also assists in maintaining healthy children of infected families in a Children's Home.

Its most recent development has been the after care of arrested cases by organizing suitable work.

Yaws.—Through the activity of the temporary Yaws Commission and the permanent staff of Central and Local Authorities 144,057 treatments were given to 34,619 cases as compared with 116,654 to 27,005 cases in the previous year.

The permanent staff made further progress in establishing the plan of control laid down in 1933 particularly in the parishes of Portland, Manchester, and Trelawny.

Each Medical District is divided into 3 or 4 defined control areas, so that the whole Island is now mapped out as approximately 160 permanent control areas, each with a population varying from 3,000 to 10,000. Each control area is surveyed every 6 months and all infec-

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tious cases found are treated at each survey. Heavily infected areas are being dealt with by two special Mobile treatment units, each consisting of a Medical Officer, a Clerk, and three Sanitary Inspectors. In 1935 one of these units dealt with 10 areas containing approximately 30,000 population, 7 of which were old areas, and 3 were surveyed for the first time. The other Unit devoted the year to control of 5 areas, all in Portland with a total population of about 23,000. In these 5 areas the incidence of infectious cases was reduced by about 75% and with this reduction, the areas have been left in the hands of the permanent staffs for maintenance.

Infant Welfare.—The attendances at the Clinics of the Child Welfare Association shewed decreases for the year ended 31st March, 1936. There were 18,202 attendances at Sick Clinics as compared with 22,517 in the previous year and 3,463 attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics as compared with the previous 3,753. There were also 5,726 attendances of well babies.

Bureau of Health Education.—Volume X of the Bulletin *Jamaica Public Health* was published during the year, an edition of 20,000 copies being sent out each month. The Bureau continued to distribute pamphlets, leaflets, and posters, etc., and pre-natal letters.

School Dental Clinics.—Clinics were operated in nine parishes, 23,449 new children were examined as compared with 21,120 in the previous year with 15,522 extractions and 14,667 fillings.

Parochial Health Department.—The health activities which received most attention were Health Education, Control of Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, Malaria, and Yaws. There was improvement in the supervision of dairies in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, bacteriological quality of milk showing steady improvement. The staffs of Parochial Sanitary Inspectors found 12,615 cases of yaws, carried out 65,004 meat inspections, with 7,896 condemnations, and 72,900 inspections of other foods, with 2,973 condemnations. 33,235 written notices were issued and legal action was taken in 1,503 cases. Medical Officers of Health carried out 59,014 inspections of Foodhandlers.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

38. Housing development for the upper and middle classes is progressing along satisfactory lines particularly in the rapidly developing suburban areas of Kingston and Montego Bay.

A Central Housing Advisory Board was established—

(a) To receive and consider reports from Parochial Boards and other organizations as to the housing conditions in the respective parishes.
(b) To co-operate with the Central Lands Advisory Board.
(c) To make representations to the Central Government as to measures expedient for relieving local conditions.

39. Preliminary investigations were carried out by Medical Officers of Health for the information of this Board, which confirm the impression that the overcrowded, insanitary slum areas in parts of Kingston and elsewhere maintain a high incidence of communicable diseases particularly Tuberculosis and Typhoid Fever. Consideration is being given to housing schemes to relieve the conditions in the worst of these areas.

40. The housing conditions of the independent small settler group

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among the rural labouring classes show steady improvement, but those of the rural tenant group are generally very unsatisfactory, while the barracks provided for labourers by some Estates are highly insanitary.

41. Local Boards of Health are making some progress in enforcing provision of sanitary latrines for all homes, but overcrowding, dampness, lack of ventilation, light, latrines and of wholesome and adequate water supplies exist to a great extent in many districts with consequent maintenance of high incidence of communicable diseases, notably Typhoid Fever and Yaws.

42. Consideration is being given to the provision of adequate housing legislation to be enforced by Local Boards of Health in order to improve these conditions and the increasing desire of the majority of the rural labouring classes to live under better conditions can be fostered and utilized by provision of simple standards of size, design and construction of houses.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

43. Although two storms were experienced in September and October, the year 1935 was generally prosperous from the agricultural point of view. The value of the exports of the Colony's main agricultural products showed an increase of from £3,023,636 in 1934 to £3,638,944 in 1935.

44. But for the storms it is possible that the output of bananas would have been almost a record one. As it was a total of 20,379,326 stems (equivalent to 13,098,330 counts), valued at £2,174,406 were shipped, compared with 15,974,906 stems (equivalent to 9,647,773 counts), valued at £1,665,082 in 1934. It is expected that 20 million stems will be available for export in normal circumstances during 1936. In addition to this satisfactory increase in both quantity and value, there was an improvement in grading from 60.4% in 1934 to 64.2% in 1935. The storms caused serious reduction in output during the last three months of the year and exports are not expected to show any close approach to normal before April or May, 1936. The damage to cultivations rendered it necessary for the Government to consider measures of assistance and relief. The Legislative Council approved of loans to cultivators owning less than 50 acres in bananas, who had experienced serious damage, to be made through the Agricultural Loan Societies, and the sum of £25,000 was approved for distribution by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board to Loan Banks to enable the latter to make loans at 6% interest to that class of grower. The Banana Industry Aid Board was re-constituted by Law (Law 24 of 1935) and was authorised to issue loans to a like amount.

45. Panama Disease continued to take its toll and it was found necessary, for economic reasons, to give approval for a wider application of the "one-root" treatment approved for the parish of St. Mary only, in 1934. As a result banana growers are now co-operating with the field staff of the Department of Science and Agriculture to a better extent than ever before in combating this serious menace to the industry. As a general rule growers are required now to carry out the treatment themselves at their own expense, and compensation for healthy plants destroyed has almost disappeared. These steps have led to a considerable reduction in the expenses attached to the administration of the Panama Disease Order, and Inspectors who are now relieved from the

duty of treating cases for smaller cultivators are able to cover their districts more rapidly and frequently and to exercise better control over the position than formerly. As well as doing everything possible, with due regard to the economic position of cultivators, to check the spread of Panama Disease, the Department of Agriculture is investigating the development of resistant varieties of banana having the desired commercial characteristics and the fertilizer requirements of the crop in different districts

46. In order to assist the Government to meet the expenditure on research work connected with the banana industry, the Fruit Companies and the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association have made contributions to enable further investigations on the manuring of bananas to be conducted.

47. Shipping trials with the Cavendish or China banana, and with seedling bananas evolved by the Department of Science and Agriculture, were continued during the year and yielded results of interest and value to the industry, which will be recorded in published reports. Markets for bananas remained fairly good throughout the year.

48. The affairs of the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association gave cause for anxiety and representations were frequently made with a view to securing greater protection of their supplies which the Association alleged were going to other companies. Early in the year consideration was given to the possibility of enabling the Association to pay outright prices for fruit supplied to them, equivalent to those paid by the other Companies, and in December Legislative Council approved of the Association being guaranteed in a sum of £10,000 over a period of six months, and the grant of a moratorium for the year 1936 in respect of certain charges due by the Association under the Law so as to put them in the position to pay market prices to their suppliers at the time of delivery of the fruit.

49. It was felt the position of the industry as a whole required the most searching and impartial enquiry, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies was, therefore, requested to select the personnel of a Commission, the members of which arrived in the Island on the 1st January, 1936, and are now engaged upon their investigations.

50. *Sugar.*—The production of sugar again showed a substantial increase over the previous year, the total being 76,753 tons as compared with 72,430 tons for 1934. The exports totalled 68,939 tons vauled at £558,464, compared with 54,227 tons valued at £448,160 for 1934. It is noteworthy that the substantial increase in the production of sugar is accompanied by an increase in the weight of cane produced by cane farmers and supplied to factories. In 1934, 2,144 farmers supplied 106,541 tons of sugar cane,—the corresponding figures for 1935 being 3,838 farmers and 160,848 tons of cane, an increase of 1,694 farmers and 54,307 tons of cane.

The Sugar Control Board and the Advisory Committee on the Sugar Industry continued to function throughout the year. The Sugar Manufacturers' Association again provided a sum of £300 to defray the expenses of a Statistical Clerk attached to the Department of Science and Agriculture for the purpose of compiling crop and factory records which are issued periodically and supplied to all sugar factories. This service has enabled an accurate record of cane, sugar, and rum production to be kept in respect of each of the thirty-four factories, which has thus been available for the issue of an annual bulletin dealing with the economics of the industry. Bulletin No. 4 (New Series) issued by the Department of Science and Agriculture gives a survey of the yields

of sugar cane in Jamaica for the 1933-34 season. A similar report for the 1934-35 season is now in course of preparation.

51. Increasing interest is evidenced in the Wet Sugar Industry. Prices on the whole have been unattractive during the year.

52. *Rum.*—The exports of Rum were 466,259 gallons valued at £149,998 in 1935,—an increase in quantity of 6,461 gallons and in value of £14,195. The Rum Pool continued to operate with benefit to the industry.

53. *Citrus.*—The exports of grapefruit declined to a marked extent in quantity and value, the recorded figures being 16,736,562 fruits in 1934 valued at £78,370, compared with 8,716,631 fruits in 1935 valued at £47,170. A very high proportion of the Jamaica crop consists of seeded varieties which are, for practical purposes, unmarketable abroad after the beginning of December. The possibility of processing a portion of the crop and selling it in the form of canned fruit, juice, and juice powder, is now being investigated.

Despite the disappointing market returns of 1935 for grapefruit, there is confidence in the future although keen competition is experienced in our markets from other countries.

54. The export of oranges showed a remarkable increase from 78,555 boxes in 1934 valued at £32,572 to 143,597 boxes in 1935 valued at £56,625, thus compensating in a large measure for the decline in value of grapefruit exports. This increase was largely due to the New Zealand market which took 32,240 boxes of oranges during the calendar year 1935. In order to avoid over-supplying that market it has been found desirable to introduce measures under the Agricultural Produce Law 1926, to control quantities shipped from Jamaica. The Regulations made under the Law have worked smoothly during the present season. It is satisfactory to know that Jamaica oranges are highly regarded in the New Zealand market and that official reports on the condition of consignments on arrival have been good.

55. The Government has continued the Citrus Development programme first commenced in 1933, and during the year 40,028 plants of standard marketable varieties were distributed by the two large Government nurseries and planted out under the supervision of officers of the Agricultural Department. The Legislative Council gave approval in May, 1935, to a scheme for providing loans to planters who desired to establish substantial areas in citrus, and effect was given to the scheme by a Law passed during the Autumn Session. Under that portion of the programme assistance had been rendered for the planting of 122 acres up to the end of 1935.

56. The Jamaica Citrus Producers' Association continued to operate during the year and the lease of the Packing House owned by the Government was conditionally extended to the Association up to the 25th May, 1936. It is understood that contractors have not loyally supported the Association during the year with a result that it has had to purchase fruit in the open market in order to continue in business and to maintain its brands in the markets.

57. *Orange Oil.*—Exports of Orange Oil declined in quantity from 5,030 gallons in 1934 to 3,564 gallons in 1935, but the values were practically the same, being £7,397 in 1934 and £7,387 in 1935.

58. *Pimento.*—The pimento crop declined seriously in production and the exports fell from 12,150,678 lbs. in 1934 to 8,047,863 lbs. in 1935, the values being £96,348 in 1934 and £80,725 in 1935. The overseas demand for pimento fell off and growers and merchants were experiencing difficulty in disposing of the crops. The disease of pimento

continued to be serious in certain districts, and caused a material reduction in the amount available for harvest in 1935. This disease was first observed early in 1934 and spread alarmingly in the pimento areas at higher altitudes in South Manchester. No economic remedial measures were practicable. It has been fortunately possible to secure the services of a Sheldon Research Fellow of Harvard University to conduct research on the subject. His investigations are not yet completed. He has, however, obtained sufficient evidence to show that the disease has been present in Jamaica at least since 1891, but that it did not attack Pimento seriously until the beginning of 1934 when it was able to do so because of rather unusual climatic conditions during the early part of that year. He considers that the disease will be confined to higher altitude districts where conditions of temperature and humidity are such as to favour the development of the Rust which is responsible for the trouble.

59. *Honey.*—Exports of Honey increased from 1,623,214 lbs. in 1934 to 1,872,400 lbs. in 1935, but declined in value from £16,360 to £13,585.

60. The Beekeeping Industry continued to be menaced by an outbreak of Foul Brood Disease which first made its appearance in the Kingston District during the latter part of 1934. The failure on the part of owners of infected apiaries to adopt effective methods for the reduction of the disease rendered it necessary to exercise compulsion under The Protection from Disease (Bees) Law.

61. *Coconuts and Copra.*—There was a slight fall in the value of Coconuts exported, though quantities showed a small increase, the figures being 37,144,647 nuts exported in 1934 valued at £96,746, and 37,256,680 nuts in 1935 valued at £91,187. The Coconut Industry in general appears to be in a healthy condition and the number of factories established to manufacture coconut products for sale in the Island, has increased. The manufacture and sale locally of laundry soap having coconut oil as its principal ingredient, continues to develop and to be reflected in Customs returns for imports of soap which are now considerably lower than formerly.

62. The outbreak of Bud Rot Disease has not yet been entirely suppressed in St. James and Hanover but the control campaign is continuing. Trees in St. Mary reported to be suffering from a disease in 1934, officially attributed to be the physiological result of adverse weather conditions, have now recovered.

63. It is remarkable that exports of Copra remained practically negligible, showing that the coconuts surplus to the requirements of the whole nut market, are rapidly disposed of locally in various forms, including oil, meal, and soap.

64. *Ginger.*—Dry Ginger exports increased from 2,394,669 lbs. in 1934 valued at £64,579 to 2,879,017 lbs. valued at £69,938

65. *Cocoa and Coffee.*—Cocoa also increased despite the continuance of low and rather unattractive prices, while Coffee, though increasing a quantity from 7,132,563 lbs. to 7,593,697 lbs. decreased in value from £168,091 to £155,452. Some concern is felt at the position of the Coffee Industry which must place itself in a position to meet the increased competition in the markets by other countries where production is highly organised and where the greatest care is exercised in the processing of the crop. The highly attractive prices for Blue Mountain Coffee in 1934 appear to have led to the export of grades of coffee under that name, which, while coming from some of the higher areas, were not true Blue Mountain coffee.

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66 *Logwood and Logwood Extracts.*—Logwood and Logwood Extracts both showed considerable increases in quantity and value of exports in 1935, compared with 1934, while the value and exports of Bitterwood, Quassia Chips and Fustic declined somewhat.

67. *Cattle and Beef Industries.*—The total number of cattle slaughtered for human consumption during 1935, as disclosed by official returns, was 34,583, compared with 32,559 in 1934. There was also an increase in the exports of Hides which amounted to 20,405 valued at £9,458 in 1935, compared with 19,826 valued at £9,158 in 1934. Goatskins were exported to the number of 189,427 valued at £14,398, compared with 180,152 valued at £13,121 in 1934.

68. The general position of the Beef Cattle Industry continued to give cause for concern, owing to a surplus of animals available for slaughter and a continuance of low prices. The increased use of mechanical tillage and haulage on sugar estates is, to some extent, responsilbe for this situation. A Committee appointed in 1934 to investigate and make recommendations in regard to the Beef Cattle Industry in Jamaica reported in June 1935. Action is being taken on the Report to investigate the possibility of encouraging greater consumption of fresh beef, and the better regulation of the conditions under which butchering is carried on. The contemplated erection of a modern slaughter house in Kingston should tend considerably to improve the position.

69. A Committee also reported in July on the Dairy Industry and made recommendations for the encouragement of the manufacture of butter for local consumption.

70. There were two outbreaks of Anthrax in 1935 and two recurrent outbreaks registered of Texas Fever. No survey work on Tuberculosis in cattle was possible during the year. There are a number of obscure diseases of stock in Jamaica which need investigation. No research work has yet been undertaken on the blood parasites of animals nor on internal parasites such as liver flukes in cattle, sheep, and goats. Paraplasmosis (Texas Fever) has been known to exist for some time in Jamaica, but only recently was Anaplasmosis recognised.

71. Importations of stud animals in 1935 include: 4 Bulls, 1 Suffolk Ram and 5 Suffolk Ewes; 1 Anglo-Nubian Goat and 2 Does, and 1 Duroc-Jersey Boar. Exports included 150 pack mules to the Republic of Panama.

72.—*Low Temperature and Marketing Experiment Station.*—The Low Temperature and Marketing Experiment Station was opened in May, 1935, for the purpose of dealing with refrigeration and transport problems connected with the export of bananas and citrus fruit, and of exploring the possibilities of export trade development in minor fruits and vegetables. Experimental plots were also instituted in connection with this Station for the trial of a wide variety of vegetables and other potential exportable products.

73. From the time of its establishment to the end of the year the Experiment Station exported some 3,500 packages, covering in all 49 different shipments. Of these the majority were sent to Covent Garden, London, but trial shipments were also sent to Canada and Curacao. Satisfactory results were obtained with shipments of eggplants, sweet peppers, mangoes, limes, new potatoes, beans, vegetable marrows and carrots, all of which showed profitable returns, and in all these cases there appears to be ample possibility of development.

74. *Hope Farm School.*—The Hope Farm School completed its first 25 years and fitting reference was made to the Jubilee of the Institution by His Excellency the Governor on Graduation Day which was held on July 4, 1935. At the end of the year there were 46 students in residence. The training given at the School is carefully planned in regard to the agricultural requirements of the Island and the improvements resulting from the reorganisation of the School in 1931 have been maintained and extended. The School is attracting a good type of youth and little difficulty is now experienced in securing employment for those who have completed the Course.

75. *Staff Conference and Summer Course.*—The second Annual Staff Conference of the Department of Science and Agriculture was held in January, 1935, and attended by all grades of the staff of that Department as well as by the Chief Inspector of Produce and the Secretary and Supervisors of the Agricultural Society.

76. The Summer Course of Lectures and Demonstrations again took place in July, the meetings being well attended.

77. *Visit to Trinidad by Agricultural Officers.*—Approval was given for two officers of the Department (Messrs. J. B. Sutherland and A. F. Thelwell) to visit Trinidad in February. Accommodation was provided for them at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture there and the Principal made excellent arrangements for them to see and hear all that was possible durinng the three weeks' stay in connection with the work of the College and of the Department of Agriculture, while visits were paid to plantations of various kinds in different parts of the Island.

78. *General.*—Speaking generally, the agricultural prospects (in so far as production is concerned) for 1936 are good. The output of bananas, given satisfactory weather conditions, is expected to reach 20 million stems, while a substantial increase of some 10,000 tons is estimated for the sugar crop. The new factory now almost completed at Caymanas, is expected to commence grinding in March, 1936. The Citrus crop gives promise of further increase, a satisfactory feature being the greater quantities of seedless grapefruit likely to be available for export as a result of the planting programme of the past few years. The production of coconuts, also, is estimated to be greater in 1936 and exports of nuts are likely to increase if market prices are sufficiently attractive. The increased consumption of beef is likely to lead to increased exports of hides, which, as already mentioned, showed a substantial increase during the last year over 1934.

79. The demand for Lime Juice, the exports of which almost doubled in 1935, is expected to be well maintained, and the demand for certain essential oils to increase.

80. Though no great improvement in general commodity prices can be foreseen for the year, there appears to be a prospect of the maintenance, if not the actual increase in market value of Copra which have, during recent months, shown a tendency to rise. It may, therefore, again be possible to export Copra profitably.

81. Enuiries have shown that a good demand now exists for cigar leaf tobacco of Empire origin, and Jamaica has an opportunity of entering the market which should provide yet another substantial agricultural activity for its people.

82. Jamaica is exceptionally fortunate in having a climate and soil which enable a wide range of products to be profitably grown, and to have at the same time markets in which those commodities have hitherto found a ready and profitable sale. It is, however, becoming more evident that increased competition by other countries demand the exercise of

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greater care and trouble to improve standards of quality and to supply the grades and varieties of different kinds of produce which are most readily acceptable in the markets. The banana, the sugar and rum, and possibly the coconut industries, are well organized, but citrus, coffee, and tobacco, among others, call for special and early attention.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

83. There were heavy shipments of Bananas during the first nine months of the year and the result was marked improvement in the Colony's trade during 1935 when compared with the figures for the preceding year. The value and volume of both Exports and Imports increased.

The value of the imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post), amounted to £4,854,814 as compared with £4,621,634 in 1934. A comparative statement showing the quantities and values of the principal articles from the principal countries, is given in Table A.

84. The yield from Import Duties exclusive of Parcels Post, amounted to £1,004,939, an increase of £35,485. Parcels Post duties amounted to £29,104, a decrease of £76. The Export Trade exclusive of Parcels Post exports, for 1935 increased. The value was £3,205,271 in 1934 and £3,828,012 in 1935. The value of Re-exports in 1935 was £147,439 as against £151,039 in 1934. A comparative table of the quantities and values of the twelve principal products exported and the quantities and values of each exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and other countries, is also given in Table B.

85. The values of Exports and Imports for the years 1913 and 1932 to 1935 are shown below:

	1913.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports (F.O.B.)	2,430,208	3,271,357	2,745,300	3,219,072	3,838,933
Value of Imports (C.I.F.)	2,837,447	4,754,152	4,367,343	4,777,069	5,009,906

86. Bananas are the principal product exported. The value is about 59% of the total value of the Island's exports. The value of the import and the export trade with the British Empire remained stationary, as the following percentages show:—

Imports.

		1933.	1934.	1935.
British Empire	...	70.0%	69.1%	71.6%
Other Countries	...	30.0%	30.9%	28.4%

Exports—Domestic.

		1933.	1934.	1935.
British Empire	...	85.0%	85.9%	85.6%
Other Countries	...	15.0%	14.1%	14.4%

87. The following table shows the change in direction of Trade with the principal countries in 1913-14 and during the past three years:—

Imports.

	1913-14. (Average.)	1933.	1934.	1935.
	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	38.0	40.2	39.2	40.3
U. S. A.	47.1	16.3	18.3	18.1
Canada	8.5	16.0	15.9	16.3
Other Countries	6.4	27.5	26.6	25.3

Exports.

United Kingdom	17.9	56.3	55.0	56.3
U. S. A.	59.3	9.4	9.2	8.9
Canada	5.6	27.8	29.6	28.1
Other Countries	17.2	6.5	6.2	6.7

TABLE "A."

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1933. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1933. Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..		£ 1,697,475	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter	galls.	134,915	32,716	2,107
	Butter	lbs.	25,475	1,050	22,194
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	584,296	13,570	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	11,895	273	5,235,683
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,366,275
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye	bags	120,856	102,135	324,167
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	931,349	15,111	1,600
	Ham ..	"	79,264	5,677	70,069
	Pork Wet Salted ..	"	200	2	115,622
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,597,562	32,867	721,419
	Oils, Edible ..	galls.	924	650	1
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	36,521	12,463	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	113,585	172,132	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	1,548,260
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	30,493	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	dz. prs.	22,636	78,189	282
	Carriages—Motor Cars ..	No.	279	37,221	247
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes		..	21,882	..
	Cement ..	brls.	83,636	38,328	..
	Cotton—Piece-goods ..	yds.	8,446,070	152,914	3,570
	Other Manufactures	..	..	50,531	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	72,960	..
	Medicines and Drugs		..	28,551	..
	Metals: Iron galvanized, steel bars, and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	32,221	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene	galls.	234	13	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	36	12	5
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	18,472	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	4,475,339	56,907	525
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	24,801	..

TABLE "A"

1933.						
Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
675,297	..	687,937	..	1,068,046	..	4,218,755
601	2,484	611	14,521	3,062	154,027	36,990
1,601	202	12	744,289	30,349	792,160	33 012
..	..	..	7,032	152	591,328	13,722
53,606	11,741	649	9,038,741	97,778	14,298,060	152,306
55,841	..	..	133,000	1,361	8,499,275	57,202
273,916	1,613	2,399	..	..	446,636	378,450
30	13,915	189	7,100	91	953,964	15,421
3,429	190,636	7,340	7,300	468	347,269	16,914
4,057	945,917	16,021	..	..	1,161,739	20,080
15,840	1,352,751	23,295	2,131,886	30,716	5,803,618	102,718
..	53	21	997	347	1,975	1,018
..	1,724	417	3	3	38,248	12,882
..	7,085	10,672	65	62	120,735	182,866
7,534	12,718,260	80,786	2,883,449	22,068	17,149,969	110,388
2,268	..	17,661	..	29,437	..	79,859
381	1,362	2,200	27,250	42,944	51,533	123,714
34,269	153	18,958	11	1,360	690	91,808
20,787	..	18,087	..	473	..	61,229
..	14	18	19,418	9,507	103,168	47,853
108	2,037,099	23,187	6,764,767	75,664	17,251,506	251,873
722	..	3,999	..	13,517	..	68,769
9,480	..	18,274	..	18,552	..	119,266
7,299	..	25,431	..	4,991	..	66,272
4,474	..	1,028	..	4,911	..	42,634
..	738,582	49,951	707,220	37,938	1,446,036	87,902
3	488,969	18,034	4,682,692	142,144	5,171,702	160,193
7,955	..	2,362	..	94,197	..	122,946
9	153,360	1,646	2,850	31	4,632,074	58,593
128	..	143	..	1,058	..	26,130

TABLE "A"

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1934. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1934. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1934. Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	£ 1,809,917	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ..	gals.	114,185	30,964	2,480
	Butter ..	lbs.	2,143	64	9,203
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	610,969	11,693	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	13,533	212	5,687,664
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	9,372,798
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye ..	bags	136,814	101,385	260,827
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	1,076,200	15,251	..
	Ham ..	"	51,038	3,018	11,636
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	..	..	195,200
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,885,986	34,011	885,859
	Oils, Edible ..	gals.	878	633	3
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	25,923	8,557	2
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal	tons	109,677	136,459	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir	ft.	..	..	3,062,932
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified)	..	..	54,393	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	36,158	106,518	3,677
	Carriages, Motor Cars ..	No.	188	24,354	420
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	13,777	..
	Cement ..	brls.	130,443	54,966	..
	Cotton—Piece Goods ..	yds.	13,386,932	231,677	10,215
	Other Manufactures	..	..	47,116	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	75,173	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	27,591	..
	Metals—Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets nails and rivets ..	..	..	29,919	..
	Oils:—Illuminating (kerosene)	galls.	..	..	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	39	12	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	37,201	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	4,757,358	53,308	..
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	35,682	..

TABLE "A"

1934.						
Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£		£		£		£
734,825	..	847,289	..	1,229,603	..	4,621,634
496	1,557	355	13,401	3 081	132,823	34,896
541	436	28	1,104,961	37 761	1,116,743	38,394
..	37	1	2,236	52	613,242	11,746
68,903	15,420	645	8,224,521	103,213	13,941,138	172,973
65,471	..	..	111,170	896	9,483,968	66.367
232,453	1,181	1,709	3,353	2,386	402,175	337,933
..	90,460	1,605	128,100	1,445	1,294,760	18,301
568	297,769	11,138	13,444	681	373,914	15,405
3,015	1,118,072	15,781	1,600	26	1,314,872	18,822
18,549	1,301,239	20,501	2,860,575	39,235	6,933,659	112,296
1	28	10	769	314	1,678	958
2	1,681	356	3	3	27,609	8,918
..	15,583	19,895	..	..	125,260	156,354
17,544	16,432,589	111,751	1,405,517	10,132	20.901,038	139,427
5,735	..	2,303	..	31.414	..	81,145
4,793	1,562	3,236	94,568	90,122	135,965	204,669
55,143	241	34,288	..	..	849	113,785
32,375	..	17,316		254	..	63,722
..	64	86	22,738	10,149	153.245	65,201
411	3,710,679	46,850	5,954,469	62,933	23,062,295	341.871
1,925	..	2.102	..	20,914	..	72,057
10,705	..	29,633	..	24,908	..	140,419
5,534	..	26,048	..	5,325	..	64.498
6,714	..	5,538	..	4,874	..	47,045
..	698,176	26,820	905,447	48,993	1,603,623	75,813
..	106,134	3,893	6,098,281	152,793	6,204.454	156,696
13,910	..	4,787	..	67,232	..	123,130
..	168,199	1,771	2,465	21	4,928,022	55.100
68	..	169	..	1,306	..	37,225

TABLE "A".

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1934. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1934. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1934. Canada. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	£ 1,954,897	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ..	gals.	124,477	31,501	3,344
	Butter ..	lbs.	2,417	139	6,639
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	836,609	14,224	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	13,401	170	6,412,202
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,406,325
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye ..	bags	103,909	82,283	255,762
	Meats, Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	914,129	16,242	1,000
	Ham ..	"	66,555	4,175	46,246
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	4,069	71	161,800
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	1,676,858	30,303	731,690
	Oils, Edible ..	gals.	1,423	1,106	9
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	24,959	7,885	..
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured	Coal ..	tons	102,307	114,433	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	865,334
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	..	..	35,119	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	30,605	89,036	5,480
	Carriages, Motor Cars ..	No.	294	36,450	548
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	12,803	..
	Cement ..	brls.	98,483	42,382	2,813
	Cotton—Piece-Goods ..	yds.	22,156,356	347,831	19,339
	Other Manufactures ..	..	..	48,010	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	69,164	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	31,625	..
	Metals—Iron galvanized, steel bars and sheets, nails and rivets ..	..	..	49,290	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene)	gals.	1,600	68	..
	Motor Spirit ..	"	71	26	
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	51,082	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	3,800,574	41,817	..
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	40,927	..

TABLE "A".

1935.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
Value C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£ 794,177	..	£ 879,932	..	£ 1,225,808	..	£ 4,854,814
782	1,329	178	8,562	1,897	137,712	34,358
403	539	33	1,068,641	38,462	1,078,236	39,037
..	60	2	1,456	21	838,125	14,247
69,911	16,449	730	9,686,168	116,003	16,128,220	186,814
68,449	..	..	124,910	1,135	8,531,235	69,584
237,596	4,960	5,320	44,428	32,502	409,059	357,701
17	112,000	2,130	301,269	4,483	1,328,398	22,872
2,142	248,684	13,709	31,577	1,627	393,062	21,653
3,812	590,531	13,970	63,864	1,383	820,264	19,236
14,756	768,152	12,288	3,614,345	46,767	6,791,045	104,114
11	251	118	1,071	380	2,757	1,615
..	2,674	548	4	..	27,637	8,433
..	21,416	23,372	..	..	123.723	137,805
5,102	14,902,902	99,299	1,566,085	12,004	17,334,321	116.405
11,848	..	5,067	.	31,379	..	83,413
15,020	59	301	42,136	29,533	78,280	133,890
74,876	223	30,589	1	25	1,066	141,940
37,361	..	19,608	..	147	..	69,919
1,267	100	144	27,892	9,971	129,288	53,764
632	6,680,808	81,789	113,807	3,021	28,970,310	433,273
1,848	..	2,839	..	16,819	..	69,516
13,670	..	34,066	..	32,476	..	149,376
7,487	..	28,612	..	5,422	..	73,146
5,791	..	4,899	..	6,800	..	66,780
..	745,010	30,159	876,544	31,282	1,623,154	61,509
9,477	133,512	4,304	7,022,664	154,574	7,156,247	158,904
..	..	7,413	..	49,367	..	117,339
270	108,040	1,193	2,400	24	3,911,014	43,034
	..	202	..	4,901	..	46,300

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1933. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value (F.O.B.)	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value (F.O.B.)	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value (F.O.B.)	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value (F.O.B.)	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	1,603,971	..	668,048	..	257,944	..	200,544	..	2,730,507
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	61,261	534	3,599,669	31,166	56,867	504	26,449	231	3.744,246	32,435
Coffee, Raw ..	"	263,579	5,930	9,466,023	210,257	17,404	398	77,224	1,728	9,824,230	218.313
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas ..	Stems	8,387,582	805,586	1.832,295	179,373	337,319	33,497	173	20	10,557,369	1,018,476
Grapefruit	No.	9,775,576	50,730	1,888,927	8,945	..	..	201,756	970	11,866,259	60,645
Coconuts	"	1,651,150	4,828	6,693,099	21,647	28,641,111	89,678	452.199	1,425	37,437,559	117,578
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	26,384	87,592	..	..	602	2,309	3,059	11,627	30,045	101,528
Nuts for Expressing Oil:											
Copra ..	lbs.	4,549,590	19,335	180	1	576,164	2,623	..	..	5,125,934	21,959
Spices: Ginger Dry ..	"	783,539	14,604	143,485	2.664	692,260	12,921	46,642	857	1,665,926	31,046
Pimento ..	"	602,381	4,827	231,265	1,803	2,151,110	16,626	6,116,573	46,555	9.101.329	69,811
Spirits: Rum ..	galls.	290,820	35,835	12,151	1,584	12,255	1,838	70,646	9,016	385,872	48,273
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	28,013	260,369	17,142	162,854	..	..	115	1,072	45,270	424,295
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	1,152	3,219	..	..	10,268	27,093	13,684	38,362	25,104	68,674

TABLE "B."

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1934									
		United Kingdom.		Canada.		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	1,699,162	..	907,548	..	326,553	..	272,008	..	3,205,271
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	2,512	15	4,400,791	42,370	..	..	36,177	323	4,439,480	42,708
Coffee, Raw ..	"	286,072	22,891	6,741,315	142,769	623	22	104,553	2,409	7,132,563	168,091
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas ..	Stems	12,533,463	1,289,714	2,667,790	288,556	796,897	79,365	66,756	7,447	15,974,906	1,665,082
Grapefruit	No.	14,071,418	67,567	2,549,335	10,266	..	..	115,809	537	16,736,562	78,370
Coconuts	"	604,700	1,448	5,994,180	14,041	30,401,437	80,774	144,330	483	37,144,647	96,746
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	21,154	69,466	..	..	352	1,354	2,010	7,436	23,516	78,256
Nuts for Expressing Oil:											
Copra ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	147	1	..	..	147	1
Spices: Ginger Dry ..	"	1,388,611	36,031	187,136	4,950	689,904	17,779	129,018	5,819	2,394,669	64,579
Pimento ..	"	881,813	7,529	303,695	2,368	2,510,492	21,175	8,454,678	65,276	12,150,678	96,348
Spirits: Rum ..	galls.	296,850	54,896	15,374	6,172	59,114	52,358	88,460	22,377	459,798	135,803
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	9,442	81,505	44,733	366,147	..	..	52	508	54,227	448,160
Wood and Timber: Logwood	"	100	250	..	..	1,600	3,615	10,328	28,272	12,028	32,137

TABLE "B"

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1935. United Kingdom. Quantity.	United Kingdom. Value. (F.O.B.)	Canada. Quantity.	Canada. Value (F.O.B.	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value (F.O.B.)	Other Countries. Quantity.	Other Countries. Value (F.O.B.)	Total. Quantity.	Total. Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post)	..	..	2,070,366	..	1,033,778	..	327,849	..	259,501	..	3,691,494
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs	4,480	43	5,002,859	46,374	..	..	71,436	694	5,078,775	47,111
Coffee, Raw ..	"	490,844	34,602	6,914,021	116,023	35,612	624	153,220	4,203	7,593,697	155,452
Fruits and Nuts—Bananas	stems	16,120,700	1,694,957	2,352,672	281,765	1,079,534	110,126	517,275	87,558	20,379,326	2,174,406
Grapefruit	No.	6,593,488	38,279	1,861,250	7,666	..	..	261,893	1,225	8,716,631	47,170
Coconuts	"	2,050,630	4,855	8,704,780	19,570	26,468,568	66,685	32,702	77	37,256,680	91,187
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	22,951	75,630	..	..	504	1,815	1,517	6,128	24,972	83,573
Nuts for Expressing Oil— Copra ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices: Ginger Dry ..	"	1,461,670	37,343	299,286	6,748	961,345	21,272	156,716	4,575	2,879,017	69,938
Pimento ..	"	381,283	4,090	303,459	2,967	4,089,124	43,322	3,273,997	30 346	8,047,863	80 725
Spirits—Rum ..	galls.	294,460	69,829	24,286	10,970	48,141	42 728	99,372	26,471	466,259	149,998
Sugar—Unrefined ..	tons	7,063	57,057	61,848	501,037	..	..	28	370	68,939	558,464
Wood & Timber—Logwood	"	25	75	..	..	3,686	10,416	12,365	32,501	16,076	42,992

CHAPTER

Wages and Cost of Living.

88. The average rate of wages for labourers in Government employ is: Skilled or Unskilled 2/6 to 3/6 per day. Private employers pay skilled men from 3/6 to 4/8 per day and unskilled men from 2/- to 3/- per day. Women in private employ get from 1/6 to 1/8 per day. Factory workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each and shop assistants receive a wage of from 50/- to 70/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 8 hours each.

The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway and a schedule of the wages paid in the Departments is set out below:—

Head Offices—

Clerks ..	..	.. From 20/- to £5 10/- per week according to grade.
Learner Clerks	..	.. From 10/- to 20/- per week.

Way and Works Branch—

Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180 to £335 per annum
Draughtsmen ..	"	£2 10/- to £7 10/- per week
Learner Draughtsmen	"	15/- to 25/- per week
Foremen ..	"	45/- to 60/- per week
Junior Foremen ..	"	30/- to 45/- per week
Learner Foremen ..	"	20/- to 29/- per week
Carpenters ..	"	6/- per day
Labourers ..	"	2/6 to 3/6 per day
Gangers ..	"	3/9 to 4/4 per day
Gatemen ..	"	9/- to 10/- per week

Locomotive Branch—

Foremen ..	"	95/- to £5 15/- per week
Chargemen ..	"	60/- to 70/- per week
Machinists, Fitters, Blacksmiths Moulders, Boilermakers and Coppersmiths, etc.	..	32/- to 64/- per week
Engine Drivers ..	"	60/- to 80/6 per week
Firemen ..	"	37/- to 44/- per week
Carpenters including Saw Mill Machinists, Truck Fitters, Asst. Truck Fitters and Pattern Makers	"	30/- to 54/- per week
Painters ..	"	28/- to 34/- per week
Labourers (unskilled)	..	18/- per week
Labourers (skilled) ..	..	21/- per week
Greasers ..	"	30/- to 36/- per week
Watchmen ..	"	25/- to 33/- per week
Shedmen ..	"	4/- per day 5/- per night
Apprentices ..	"	8/- to 24/- per week

Traffic Branch—

Train Controllers ..	from	90/- to 125/- per week
Station Masters ..	"	60/- to 110/- per week
Station Clerks ..	"	20/- to 35/- per week
Invoices and Booking Clerks	"	37/6 to 90/4 per week
Porters, Kingston ..	"	3/- per day
Porters, Outstations	..	1/6 to 2/9 per day
Shunters ..	"	20/- to 35/- per week
Guards ..	"	30/- to 60/- per week
Brakesmen ..	"	21/- to 30/- per week
Tranship Porters ..	"	21/- to 40/- per week
Wharfinger ..	"	105/- per week
Asst. Wharfinger ..	"	37/6 per week
Storemen ..	"	2/6 to 3/4 per day
Female Typists ..	"	35/- to 45/- per week

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays and time and a half for Sunday work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis. Station Masters are paid overtime for Sundays and Public Holidays and so are the Assistant and Junior Train Controllers. Parcels Office Clerks and Booknig Clerk, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sunday work. Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

89. The following is a list, giving costs, of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread ...	8 ozs. for 2 2-5d.
Crackers ...	1d. for twenty
Peas and Beans	5d. to 6d. per quart
Yams ...	1½d. to 2½d. per lb.
Cocoanuts ...	1d. each
Sweet Potatoes	1d. per lb.
Cocoes ...	1d. per lb.
Plantains ...	2d. each
Sugar, B.A.	2½d. per lb.
Flour ...	2½d. per lb.
Rice ...	2d. per lb.
Meal ...	1½d. per lb.
Codfish ...	5d. per lb.
Herrings ...	3d. per lb.
Shads ...	3d. per lb.
Mackerels ...	3½d. per lb.
Salmon ...	7½d. per lb.
Onions ...	3d. per lb.
Beef, w/s ...	7d. per lb.
Pork, w/s	9d. per lb.
Cocoanut Oil	10½d. to 1/- per quart
Milk, Full Cream	4½d. to 6½d. per tin
Beef, Fresh ...	4½d. to 7½d. per lb.
Salt, Fine ...	1d. per lb.

90. During 1934 a 4lb. loaf of bread cost 1/7 1-5d. and a labourer's pay therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 9 loaves in Government employ and from 9 to 13 loaves in private employ.

In Jamaica, however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

91. The cost of living in Jamaica although it is lower by 6 points than for 1934 (being 130 as against 136), is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100 as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the Index Figure for 1935 works out at an average of 130 made up as follows:

Foodstuffs—		
Local Products	138	
Imported Articles	115	126.5 (mean)
Clothing, etc. ..	..	131
Miscellaneous	..	133
		391
Average	..	130

92. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month. These prices are however considerably advanced for short lets during the Tourist Season.

CHAPTER IX.

Educational and Welfare Institutions.

93. The total Department Expenditure on Education for the year 1934-35 was £218,601, an increase of £5,986 on the expenditure for 1933-34.

94. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools, (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owner's representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools, (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. On 1st April, 1935, there were 148 schools administered by School Boards, 88 of which are owned by the Government while 60 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas.

95. The total enrolment for the whole Island is 147,914 with an average attendance of 56%, and the total cost of elementary education exclusive of establishment charges for 1934-35 amounted to £184,656.

96. There are in all 650 grant-aided elementary schools. There is also a large number of elementary private schools for which statistics are

not available. Three new Government Schools were opened during the year and one Infant School which had formerly been an Infant Department. Building grants to the value of £3,000 were made in 1935 for the repair of Denominational Schools and teachers' quarters. Many buildings remain, however, in a bad state of repair.

97. The Primary Schools employ about 1,750 teachers, excluding pupil teachers, nearly 60% of these are trained. There are four training colleges, one for men, three for women and a small training centre for Infant School Teachers.

98. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by Scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years in the first instance are awarded annually to children resident in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided and recognized Secondary Schools, twenty-three in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

99. Public Assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three Scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

100. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 21 centres. At the last Examinations held (July and December, 1935) 587 candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 364 passed (62%), 348 for the School Certificate of whom 221 passed (63.5%) and 18 entered for and 15 passed (83%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

101. In the Examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1935, 46 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 24 passed, including 7 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 14 candidates, 9 of whom passed and 1 was referred in one subject. Two candidates sat for Intermediate Divinity and passed. One candidate sat for the Intermediate Examination in Laws and passed, and one in Science who failed. There were no candidates for Final Examinations during 1935.

102. Vocational training for Elementary School Boys is provided in Kingston at two manual training centres and similar training elsewhere at twelve Government Schools. Apart from some limited instruction in minor handicrafts the majority of the schools have no manual or domestic training.

103. Opportunities for further vocational training are afforded by Trade Scholarships, two Continuation Schools and the Government Technical School, Kingston. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been reorganized and are shewing much improvement in numbers and efficiency. There are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

104. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School Boys who wish to be apprenticed to a trade or to enter the Government Farm School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where

necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years, part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

105. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curriculum includes Literary Subjects, Needlework, Housecraft and Hygiene. These Schools do excellent work especially from the point of view of character training. There is little doubt, however, that their work should be of a less literary and more practical nature. But there are few local teachers able to teach domestic subjects and fewer still to teach commercially profitable handicrafts. There is no Continuation School for boys outside Kingston.

106. The Kingston Technical School, with an enrolment of 261 day students provides training for girls and boys in Continuation, Commercial, Domestic Science and Technical Subjects. Examinations are held by external examining bodies such as the Royal Society of Arts and the City and Guilds of London Institute. Special courses for Training College students and elementary school teachers are also included. The continued large enrolment, 281 at present, in the evening classes is evidence of public recognition of their value.

107. The first steps were taken in 1935 towards the establishment of a Government Vocational School with a rural bias at Holmwood, Christiana.

108. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools and orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Children may now be detained until 18 years of age in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the classroom or for trade instruction.

109. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys and Girls) is maintained by the Government under the charge of the Inspector of Government Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor, which arranges monthly visits of inspection and holds bi-monthly Board Meetings. The numbers on Roll on 31st December, 1935, were 309 boys and 2 girls

110. The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply the site is ideal for the purpose. The buildings though very old, are spacious, well ventilated and cool. The Girls' section was closed during 1936 and the buildings used for younger boys.

111. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside the Poor Relief Law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1933-34 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

112. The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands from teachers, Sanitary Inspectors and citizens for information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease.

113. The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing "Jamaica Public Health." The bulletin is used in more than 250 schools of the island as a text in hygiene and would be adopted in other schools if more copies of the publication could be supplied.

114. Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being dealt with by the Health Departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lanterns and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards designed for use in schools, at markets and other public places, to give information about the more common diseases are distributed.

115. Dental Clinics are in operation in nine parishes. It is only in the parishes of Portland, Trelawny, St. James, Clarendon and St. Catherine that the cost is now divided between the Government and the Parochial Boards. A Medical Officer for schools was appointed by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation who maintained a systematic medical examination of school children during the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew.

116. The Institute of Jamaica for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art—(with its Library of 35,684 books, 1,802 manuscripts and 743 maps and plans—being 26,513 books in the General Library and 8,571 in the West India Reference Library)—distributed 53,063 books amongst its members during 1935, in addition to which many members of the public, including visitors and tourists from England, Canada and the United States, consulted works in the General Library and the West India Reference Library. In the latter there were three professors, two authors and two students doing work on West Indian subjects.

117. Boxes of books were loaned to some of the Branch Libraries and Teachers' Library Association during the year. Some new sets are being prepared for loan to these Societies.

118. No Art Exhibitions were held during the year. Two Silver Musgrave Medals were awarded at the end of the year—one to Mr. Clifford Tyrell for his excellence as a cartoonist during 1935 and another to Mr. J. E. Clare McFarlane for his efforts in promoting local poetry and its appreciation throughout the Island.

119. Many parties of school children visited the Institute during the year.

120. The History Gallery has proved a great attraction not only to visitors from abroad, but also to intelligent visitors from the country parts interested in the history of the Island, acting as it does to illustrate the books in the West India Reference Library.

121. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its twenty-eighth Annual Examination of candidates in Pianoforte, Violin, Viola and Singing. There were 974 entries for the Practical and Theoretical Examinations. As a result of the examinations 845 certificates were awarded.

122. The Musical Society of Jamaica held one meeting during the year.

123. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association there are at present 147 Groups actively at work. These groups comprise 134 Scout Troops, 51 Wolf Cub Packs and 48 Rover Crews, numbering 334 Scouters, 2,037

Scouts, 71 Sea Scouts, 582 Cubs, 327 Rover Scouts, 59 Rover Sea Scouts—a total of 3,447. This shews an increased of 125 over 1934 when the total was 3,322.

124. His Excellency Sir Edward Denham, is Chief Scout of Jamaica

125. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 114 Companies at work, including 18 Ranger, 76 Guide and 20 Brownie Companies.

126. The President is Lady Denham and Mrs. D. O. Kelly Lawson is Island Commissioner.

127. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

128. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary School boys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

129. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various Competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

130. As in the case of cricket the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

131. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Inter-scholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transports.

132. The following Statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1931	entered	1,438	vessels of	3,244,558	net	tons.
1932	"	1,355	"	3,508,696	"	"
1933	"	1,304	"	3,698,330	"	"
1934	"	1,326	"	3,844,127	"	"
1935	"	1,457	"	4,268,701	"	"
1931	cleared	1,407	"	3,222,945	"	"
1932	"	1,291	"	3,440,374	"	"
1933	"	1,291	"	3,718,880	"	"
1934	"	1,291	"	3,812,128	"	"
1935	"	1,406	"	4,225,513	"	"

133. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Lines, Blue Funnel Line, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, The Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Ltd., The Canadian National Steamship Company, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., The James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R.R. Steamship Co., The Standard Fruit & Shipping Co., Shaw Saville

Albion, The Webster Steamship Line, (the last named Company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders & Fyffes is a British registered Company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit & Shipping Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., The Aluminum Line, Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

134. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

135. The Island possesses a good system of Macadam Roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of total length of 2,478 miles which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,409 miles of which 2,108 miles are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,301 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

136. During 1935, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £101 per mile. Many miles of these roads were originally constructed of limestone surfacing without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of modern motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting importation and use without special permission, of motor vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic. Up to the end of the year under review the mileage of asphalt treated roads amounted to 208 miles 40 chains.

137. The programme of road construction works authorised under Loan Laws, 17 and 18 of 1933, respectively, has been completed. These roads will be of benefit to the Colony and especially to those areas which were in need of better road facilities. In addition to these Loan Works several weak bridges were reconstructed during the year.

138. Heavy flood rainfall during September and October, 1935, caused considerable damage to roads and contingent works especially in the Eastern end of the Island. All roads were, however, opened to traffic with little delay, and works of restoration have been carried out and will be completed before the 31st March, 1936.

139. The Loan Law, 22 of 1935, passed towards the close of the year, includes many items of road work which will make for better road facilities and open up fertile areas for agricultural development. A beginning has been made on a large programme for asphalting main arterial roads which will be a great improvement and will effect a saving in the cost of Road Maintenance. After the period necessary for the carrying out of Surveys, the preparation of plans and estimates, a start has been made on certain items of work in Portland, St. Mary, Manchester and St. Catherine, principally with the object of affording some relief to the unemployed in those parishes. The preliminary investigation into other road works included in the first instalment of £500,000 of the Loan are in hand and actual work will commence shortly.

140. The mean rainfall for the Island was 71.13 inches or 2.74 inches below the 60-year average. The mean number of rainy days was 119, the average being 122.

Canals.

141. There are no navigable Canals in the Island.

Motor Omnibus Transport.

142. The Motor Omnibus services in the Island continue to play their part in the economic development of the communities served. In Kingston and lower St. Andrew, fifty-seven Omnibuses ply for hire on thirteen Routes, totalling fifty-six miles.

143. There has been an increase in the number of Omnibuses operating in the country districts during the present year. At present there are eighty-four Omnibuses covering several hundred miles of roads.

144. The Report from the Commission appointed to enquire into the subject of Road and Rail transport and the co-ordination of these services is now under consideration.

Jamaica Government Railway.

145. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) 210½ miles in length. It traveres the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio 63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

146. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast Port Antonio being north-east; and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

147. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1935, was £288,811 5s. 4d., and the expenditure £270,506 18s. 8d. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for Renewals, Depreciation and Betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review, was 292,573 tons, as compared with 282,602 tons for the year 1934; the number of passengers carried in 1935, was 443,969 as compared with 509,904 in 1934.

148. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of nine members, consisting of the Director and eight others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

149. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60lb. rails with 80lb. rails has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more ex-

peditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1935 the total mileage which has been changed from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails is 102 miles.

150. *Passenger Traffic.*—The passenger traffic during this period shows a decrease due to road motor competition and the spending power of the Public being affected by storms in September and October, 1935.

151. *General Merchandise Traffic.*—Under this head there has been a decrease in tonnage and in revenue due to keen competition by motor trucks.

152. *Banana Traffic.*—There has been an increase in tonnage of 28,433 tons and an increase in receipts of £18,214 during the period under review. This traffic suffered a severe set-back on account of storms in September and October, 1935, but for this a very substantial increase was anticipated over the output of 1934.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service.

153 (a) *Inland.*—There are 294 Post Offices in the Island. These are connected by 1,638 miles of postal routes. Of these, 536 are served by combined mail-and-passenger motor vans operated by Contractors, 886 by foot-couriers and animal-drawn vehicles operated by the Public Works Department, 210 by Jamaica Government Railways, and 6 miles by sea route.

There is a daily exchange of mails between the capital and all Post Offices.

154 (b) *Overseas.*—1. Mail communication is maintained by the steamers of the United Fruit Co. and Colombian Line, with United States, Central America, and Cuba; Elders & Fyffes, with Great Britain; Canadian National Steamships, with Canada; Central America and Bahamas; Aluminum Line, with West India Islands; Standard Fruit & Shipping Co., with Central America; and Jamaica Banana Co., with Continental Europe.

2. Air communication is maintained by Pan American Airways and affiliated lines as per schedule below:

Southbound: A mail-carrying air plane flies from Miami, U.S.A., (via Havana, Cuba) every Tuesday and Friday at 8.15 a.m., arrives at Kingston on the same days at 5.30 p.m. and flies to Cristobal (via Barranquilla, Colombia,) on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6.30 a.m., arriving on the same days at 5.00 p.m.

Northbound: A plane flies from Cristobal (via Barranquilla) every Wednesday and Saturday at 6.30 a.m., arrives at Kingston on the same days at 5.30 p.m., and flies to Miami (via Havana) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8.00 a.m., arriving on the same days at 5.15 p.m.

East and Westbound.—A plane flies from Kingston every Wednesday at 9.00 a.m. for Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Santo Domingo City, Republic of Dominicana, arriving at latter place at 11.15 a.m., on Friday. Return plane flies from Santo Domingo City to Port-au-Prince at 1 p.m. on Friday and arrives at Kingston at 4.30 p.m., on Tuesday.

155. The Government Postal and Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879 with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1935, there were 1,858 miles of Telegraph and Telephone lines, with 60 Telegraph and 145 Telephone offices. Seven telephone offices were opened during the year.

156. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press Telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegram service is provided on payment of graduated fees. An optional service of telegrams conveying Christmas and New Year greetings inaugurated in 1934, was continued in 1935. The charge was sixpence for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word; 3,460 such messages were sent.

157. The Railway Telegraphic Service in connection with which there are 44 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in colloboration with the Postal and Telegraph System but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

158. In 1934, 326,634 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £17,594 4s. 8d. In 1935, 382,122 and £18,616 19s. 6½d. respectively.

159. *Submarine Cables*: Direct circuits are now operated from Kingston by the Direct West India Cable Company's system to Turks Island, Bermuda, Barbados and Halifax, N.S. At Halifax semi-automatic re-transmission is provided to Montreal and London, providing a virtually direct circuit to both places.

The West India & Panama System provides direct circuits to Santiago, Cuba, Havana, Cuba, and New York City; also to San Juan and Ponce, Porto Rico.

The rates generally have remained unaltered but, through the Direct West India Cable Company's association with Cable and Wireless Ltd., there has been a marked increase in facilities through their co-operation and the vast network of Cable and Wireless Systems under their control.

160. *Wireless*: During 1935 many developments have taken place in Wireless Service in Jamaica. A new station was built at Half-way Tree to accommodate the Radio Telephone Receiver and Terminal Equipment. The receivers for all Services are now located at the Half-way Tree Station and the transmitters at Stony Hill. It is expected that the service will be opened to the public on March 1, 1936.

161. *Ship Shore Service*: Continuous watch is maintained for ships and traffic is exchanged on medium and short waves, the latter at schedule times to accommodate vessels similarly fitted; providing a means of communication up to distances of 2,000 miles or more.

Kingston Station has been abandoned and the masts removed. The hours of service were extended from 16 hours per day to "continuous watch."

162. *Point to Point Service*: The object of this Service is to provide direct outlets for places not served by Cable. These points served are Nassau, Bahamas; Belize, British Honduras and Cayman Islands.

163. *Radio Telephony*: During 1935 the installation of the necessary equipment was begun to provide Jamaica with a Radio Telephone link with the outside world connecting with the telephone system of the Jamaica Telephone Company.

164. Numerous Wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving programmes broadcast by the British, American and other broadcasting Stations. No broadcasting Station exist in the Island. Approximately 4,000 broadcast receiving licenses have been issued up to date and 29 experimental transmitting licenses are in existence.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

165. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclays Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

166. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1935, was as follows:—

Barclays Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	... ...	£83,661
Bank of Nova Scotia	...	£125,227
Royal Bank of Canada	...	£42,002
Canadian Bank of Commerce		£14,773

167. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclays Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Novia Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Browns Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

168. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—

British Gold and Silver Coins, local nickel coins, local currency notes, the U.S.A., Gold eagle and its sub-multiples. Gold doubloons and the sub-divisions of the doubloons, U.S.A., silver and notes are not legal tender but are freely accepted throughout the business community and by the Banks.

Accounts are kept in sterling.

169. Local Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1935, to the extent of £88,278 17s. 6d., in the following denominations:—

2/6 Notes	5/- Notes	10/- Notes	Total.
£112 17s. 6d.	£38,552 0s. 0d.	£49,614 0s. 0d.	£88,278 17s. 6d.

The 2/6d. Notes are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

170. Jamaica has its own nickel coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

171. In addition to the construction of New Roads and Bridges an account of which appears under Chapter X. the principal activities of the year were:—

(1) Enlargement of Government Printing Office.
(2) Fire-proofing Record Office, Spanish Town.
(3) Re-roofing General Penitentiary, 1st Instalment.
(4) Water Supplies Police Stations.

(5) New Ward and certain improvements to Lunatic Asylum.
(6) Operating Theatre, Public General Hospital, Linstead.
(7) Special Repairs to Milk River Baths.
(8) Protective Works Rio Cobre Irrigation Dam.

172. In addition, the following works authorised under the Public and Municipal Works Loan Law 17 of 1933, were completed. The Building Programme from date of commencement to 31st December, 1935, comprised the construction of:—

12 New Post Offices.
12 New Schools.
7 Teachers' Cottages.
5 Police Stations.

Extensive additions were also made to the following:—

Public General Hospitals, Black River, Kingston and Falmouth.
Kingston Maternity Hospital and Nurses' Home.

The work of improving the entrance to the Falmouth Harbour is still in progress.

173. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all Main Roads—Law 33 of 1931.
(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.
(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.
(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.
(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.
(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction, enlargement, improvement, repair, management and control of any other Water Works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorised by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889 and 19 of 1900.
(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds of which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.
(h) The Director of Public Works is the Chief Adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specifications and estimates for all such undertakings and for the construction of the works when authorised.
(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, The Telephone Law, The Tramways Law and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law, (24 of 1907) and is Ex-Officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

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CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

174. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Court of Appeal which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil and criminal) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

175. There are four Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice, a Judge of the Court of Appeal and two Puisne Judges.

176. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

There are fifteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and an Assistant Resident Magistrate for the parish of Kingston.

The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

177. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Police or Constabulary Force. In 1935 this Law was repealed and the Jamaica Constabulary Force Consolidating and Amendment Law 1935, was passed. Under this latter Law the Governor is empowered to appoint Officers, Staff Sergeants Major and Sergeants Major and the Inspector General is authorised to appoint persons as Sub-Officers below that rank and as Constables. The present Authorised Strength of the Force is 23 Officers and 1,098 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. No person is eligible for membership unless he can produce a Certificate of Character from a Magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory medical examination. He must not be less than 5 feet 8 inches in height and 33 inches round the chest; not less than 19 or more than 30 years of age and unmarried; and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document, and to write a fair hand. Every candidate is enrolled for five years (six months on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines and perform the duties pertaining to the Office of Constables. There are separate Detective and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District

Constabulary Force for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class small settlers and act as auxiliaries to the regular Police Force.

PRISONS.

178. *General Penitentiary.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months and European prisoners. There is separate cell accommodation for 645 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel and 32 in Hospital Wards.

179. *St Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding six months.

There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the Chapel for 306 and Hospital Wards for 40.

180. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accommodation for 66.

181. Females' Prison, Kingston:—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198; Hospital Wards for 15.

182. In the adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

183. At the juvenile adult prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily and among other privileges which may be earned are games and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the Adult prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the juvenile adult prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons. Suitable boys are taught the citrus industry by members of the Department of Agriculture and many have in consequence, been placed in good jobs.

184. In the Females' Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e., washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

185. From statistics given below it will be seen that there was a further reduction in the average daily population during 1935, although it is regretted that the muster towards the end of that period showed an increase, which it is hoped will be only temporary.

Brief Statistics.

186. Average daily population

	1934.	1935.
General Penitentiary ...	605	572
St. Catherine District Prison	526	501
Juvenile Adult Prison ...	35	36
Female Prison ...	57	52
	1,223	1,161

1931—1,133; 1932—1,201; 1933—1,301.

Number in custody	31st Dec., 1934.	31st Dec., 1935
General Penitentiary	583	658
St. Catherine District Prison	532	545
	1,115	1,203

1931—1,179; 1932—1,363; 1933—1,460.

		1934.	1935.
Expenditure	...	£42,802 14 2	£41,132 8 11
Revenue	...	9,798 9 6	9,291 14 0
Cost of Prisons	...	£33,004 4 8	£31,840 14 11

		1934.	1935.
Value of Prison Manufactures used in Prisons	...	£2,910 16 0	£3,141 1 0

187. The efforts to persuade ex-prisoners to return to rural districts have been continued and many instances are known of men, who, as Kingstonians were continually in and out of prison, having settled down to work as agricultural and general labourers and having in consequence stayed out of prison for satisfactory periods, and show every sign of remaining out. Particulars of a few such cases are:—

P. S. 50. From Sept. 1900 to April 1924 had 15 convictions which included a sentence of 5 years P. S. In January 1925 convicted of shopbreaking and larceny and sentenced to 7 years P. S. Released May 1930, sent to the country and has not been convicted since. Rents and works an acre of land and works for neighbouring estates.

P. S. 233. From 1911-1928 had 23 convictions, including a sentence of 4 years P. S. In 1929 was sentenced to 7 years P. S. for wounding. Discharged February, 1935, and has not been heard of since.

C. 2660. 1907-1930, had 9 convictions which included sentences of 7 and 4 years. Last discharged January 1933 and found work with Public Works department, and is reported doing well.

C. 1712. 1918-1929, had 9 convictions. Was discharged May, 1930 and found work in the country. When last heard of was doing well and had not been back to prison.

Similarly, many ex-habitual-criminals who have left prison equipped with trade knowledge appear to have reformed. For example—

C. 95—1917-1933, had 16 convictions. Was taught mattress making and upholstering. Discharged May, 1934, and has had a hard struggle to live ever since, but is determined to keep out of prison and keeps in close touch with Salvation Army.

C. 366—1917-1934, had thirteen convictions. Was taught tailoring. Discharged February, 1935, and first instalment paid for a sewing machine. Has done well and paid for his machine.

P. S. 22 1909-1929, had 11 convictions, the final one being for counterfeit coins for which his sentence was 7 years P.S. Was a shoemaker and was raised to a first class tradesman. Discharged December, 1934, and given £3 to start a business. Is doing very well.

P.S. 292—1923-1931, had 10 convictions. Last sentence 5 years P.S. Discharged March, 1935, and given 30/- to start tailoring at which he had become proficient. Went to the country and is doing well and trying to save money to return to relatives at Cristobal.

P.S. 96—1922-26, had 4 convictions. Last sentence 10 years P.S. for manslaughter. Discharged January, 1934, and given 45/- for tools, stock, etc., to start small butcher's business in country. Has not been heard of since.

188. Those who know the difficulty of re-adjusting criminals, particularly when industrial and labour conditions are adverse, will appreciate the satisfaction that the cases mentioned and the many others equally worthy of mention, give to members of this Department, the Chaplains, and Major Austin of the Salvation Army who have pulled together as a team each bringing different influences into action to attain this result.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

189. Thirty-one Laws were passed during the year 1935. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest:—

Law 3 *of* 1935.—"A Law to provide that a Woman who wilfully causes the Death of her newly-born child may under certain conditions be convicted of Infanticide." The Law provides that though a woman by a wilful act or omission causes the death of her newly-born child yet if at the time of the act or omission she had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth and by reason thereof the balance of her mind was then disturbed, a jury may return a verdict of infanticide instead of murder. In such case she can be dealt with and punished as if she had been guilty of the manslaughter of her child.

The Law preserves the right of the jury to return, as the evidence may warrant, other verdicts, namely, manslaughter, guilty but insane, or concealment of birth. The jury, if satisfied that the accused is guilty of an offence under section1 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Children Law, 1896, may find her guilty of such offence.

Law 4 *of* 1935.—"A Law to Prohibit the Passing of the Sentence of Death upon expectant Mothers and for other purposes connected therewith." The Law gives power to the Court to pass a sentence of penal servitude for life instead of a sentence of death on a woman found guilty of an offence punishable with death who at the time of her conviction is pregnant. The Law also makes provision as to how the question of the woman's pregnancy shall be determined.

Law 15 *of* 1935.—"A Law to Safeguard Local Industries and Trades." The Law prohibits, except under License to be granted by the Governor:—

(1) the manufacture for sale, the erection of factories for the manufacture for sale, of the articles mentioned in the first schedule or such other articles as may be added from time to time, to the first schedule by order of the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State and

(2) the carrying on of any such trade as may be specified by order by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Application for the License to be made to the Governor who

may grant the License or subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, refuse the License on the ground that to grant it would be prejudicial to the public interest. The Governor's decision to grant or refuse a License is to be final and conclusive.

All Licenses granted under any other Laws are rendered in-operative by Section 6 of this Law, provision being made in the proviso to the Section for refund of License Duties of Licenses rendered in-operative. The effect of the Section is to render necessary applications for Licenses under this Law in all cases by persons who desire to manufacture for sale any article or to conduct any trade controlled by this Law.

Law 16 *of* 1935.—"A Law to impose a duty on passengers transported to Jamaica by ship or aircraft." The Law imposes a tax or duty on persons arriving at Jamaica in order to provide funds for the better advertising of Jamaica, and for other purposes connected with the tourist trade of the Island. The duty is fixed at ten shillings for those visitors who remain in the Island beyond seventy-two hours, and at four shillings for those visitors whose stay is shorter.

The personnel of the transporting ship or aircraft, deck passengers, persons born in the Colony, persons resident in the Colony throughout six months preceding their departure therefrom, persons under twelve years of age, persons travelling on behalf of Imperial or of any Colonial or Dominion Government and the passengers referred to in Section 8 of the Law, are excepted from the charge.

Obligation to pay the duty is imposed on the Transporting Company as defined and such Companies are required to make a return and to pay the duty to the Collector General.

Law 26 *of* 1935.—"A Law relating to the Registration of Clubs." The Law provides for registration of Clubs. Application therefor is to be made by the Secretary of the Club to the Resident Magistrate for the parish in which the Club is situate for an order directed to the Clerk of the Courts to enter the Club on the Register. Registration of a Club does not constitute the Club premises Licensed premises or authorise the sale of intoxicating liquor which would be otherwise illegal. A fee of ten shillings is payable to the Treasurer in respect of each application for registration. Notice of the application is to be given to the Inspector of Police for the parish and the Inspector of Police may object to the making of any order for the registration of the Club.

Law 31 *of* 1935.—"A Law for Affording Assistance to Owners of Land in Establishing Citrus Orchards." The Law gives effect to the scheme prepared by the Director of Agriculture for developing the Citrus Industry in Jamaica which was approved by Resolution by The Legislative Council on the 28th day of May, 1935.

The Law provides for the establishment of a Citrus Development Loan Board and for advances to that Board by the Treasurer, out of General Revenue, of such sums as may be required from time to time by the Board not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of £7,200, and for loans by the Board out of moneys so advanced to persons engaged in establishing Citrus Orchards.

Repayment of loans is to be secured by the deed set forth in the schedule which when executed is to be deemed to have been made under the provisions of Law 6 of 1887 as amended by Law 48 of 1903.

CHAPTER XV.

Finance.

189. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35
£	£	£	£	£
2,197,572	2,085,793	2,169,307	2,037,319	2,260,352

Expenditure.

1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35
£	£	£	£	£
2,322,613	2,135,736	2,081,635	2,186,056	2,255,502

The total Expenditure during the year ended the 31st March, 1935 was £4,850 less than the total Revenue.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1935, under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs	866,247
II. Harbour and Light Dues	7,013
III. Licenses, Excise, etc.	
(a) Licenses	31,404
(b) Excise, etc.	202,748
(c) Income Tax	50,416
(d) Land and House Tax	73,671
(e) Fines, etc.	12,460
IV. Fees of Office, etc.	
(a) Fees of Office	20,879
(b) Stamp Duties	62,143
(c) Reimbursements-in-aid	
(d) Irrigation Receipts	12,992
(1) Medical	5,723
(2) Prisons, etc.	9,074
(3) Debt Charges	104,846
(4) Miscellaneous	25,209
V. Post Office	78,075
VI. Rents	2,531
VII. Interest	2,762
VIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	14,812
IX. Surplus on Sinking Fund for 3% Loan under Law 13 of 1885	1,708
IX. Land Sales	3,293
X. Colonial Development	
Total	£1,587,996

Head Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Charges of Debt	185,582
Pensions	59,504
Pensions—Widows and Orphans	13,749
The Governor and Staff	5,538
Privy Council	46
Legislative Council	2,579
Colonial Secretariat	7,780
Lands Department	14,121
Audit Department	5,923
Public Treasury	5,512
Currency Commissioners	1,234
Government Savings Bank	9,383
Immigration Department	8
Collector General's Department	67,494
Post Office	81,188
Supreme Court	7,021
Law Officers	3,834
Kingston Court	1,855
Resident Magistrates' Courts	32,949
Administrator General's Office	7,178
Medical—General Adminsitration	47,725
Medical—Hospitals and Lepers' Home	61,427
,, Lunatic Asylum	29,742
Constabulary	152,508
Prisons	27,533
Industrial	4,776
Education	170,134
Harbours and Pilotage	3,812
Marine Board	742
Imperial Forces Allowances	4,623
Local Forces	6,069
Registrar General and Island Record Office	6,599
Registration of Titles Office	2,618
Government Printing Office	15,727
Board of Supervision	277
Department of Science and Agriculture	36,088
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,233
Subventions	39,048
Miscellaneous	65,383
Railway	50,283
Public Works Department	46,266
Public Works Annually Recurrent	220,775
Public Works Extraordinary	51,517
Colonial Development Fund	1,026
Total	£1,558,409

189. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1935 were £962,280 and £896,090, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £66,190. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1935, were held:—

OCT 3 1940

	£	s.	d.
Loans:—			
To Agricultural Loan Societies Board ...	17,809	18	11
From Parochial Water Supplies Fund, Law 25/1928	12,019	1	6
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15/1932, Advance	32,200	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 25/1933, Advance	29,700	0	0
Hurricane Loan, 1933	6,701	10	8
Advances:—			
Land Settlement	33,712	5	3
On account of Loans to be raised ...	76,265	6	8
To Parochial Boards	12,774	0	0
Stores	99,059	4	3
General	50,377	6	3¼
Appropriated Funds Invested:—			
Redemption Funds for loans guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony ...	86,101	13	9
Deposits for Investment	162,133	18	7
Trust Funds	36,742	16	5
Miscellaneous Funds, (Earthquake Loan Board, Surplus Funds)	30,906	14	3
Insurance Fund	162,273	16	2
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid Law 15/1932	3,118	16	10
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid Law 25/1933	867	4	3
Collector General for Customs Revenue	166	16	7
Director Jamaica Railway ...	8,456	13	11
Emigration Agent, India	188	1	5
Crown Agents for Sundry Invested Funds ...	47	10	9
Imprests	55,681	11	1
Remittances in Transit	49	18	11
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York ...	1,671	13	4
Treasurer	43,253	11	1¼
	£962,279	11	0¾

The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially ear-marked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £162,756 at the 31st March, 1935.

190. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1935, was £3,835,637. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Debt amounted to £668,133.

If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference—£3,167,504—exceeds by £1,084,578 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1935-36.

For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1935:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
Great Britain	45,000,000	7,922,124,093	176.04
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	1,110,000	3,835,637	3.46

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1935, viz., £668,133, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 17s. 0d.

TAXATION.

191. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1935, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. Customs—			
Import Duties	991,132	3	10
Export Duties	398	17	2
Package Tax	75,280	15	1
ii. Harbour and Light Dues—			
Harbour Fees	2,839	18	6
Light Dues	6,054	9	5
iii. Licenses	41,100	6	9
Excise	248,802	16	10
Income Tax	59,863	7	10
Property Tax	79,804	11	0
Fines in Petty Sessions ...	9,576	5	0
Surcharges	3,707	8	2
Stamp Duties	82,157	16	2

192. *Customs Tariff.*—The general ad valorem duty is 20% and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the headings of Food, Drink and Tobacco.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc.. and Agricultural Implements.

193. *Excise Duties.*—The principal Excise duties were on Cigars from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per proof gallon.

Stamp Duties—

Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

In addition to these are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyances, Leases, etc.

194. There is no Hut Tax or Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, 1936

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitution. Through the county of Surrey and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The Colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds, and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th Century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with Maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the Island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial

Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in number from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: The Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her

Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen, 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water Commission appointed under Law 34 of 1936 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and St. Andrew. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population 8,694), Port Antonio, (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1935 was 10,966, being at the rate of 10.18 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief cost 1/8d. per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

20. There was a decrease in Emigration and an increase in Immigration during 1936 compared with the year 1935. The departures in 1934 were 662, in 1935, 612, and in 1936, 451. The arrivals in 1934 were 1,789, in 1935, 1,306, and in 1936, 969.

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1936, was 1,138,558, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1935, and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1936.

22. The number of marriages registered during 1936 was 4,421, the rate being 3.9 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.1 in 1935.

23. During the same period, 36,561 births were registered, of which 18,317 were boys and 18,244 were girls. The birth rate works out at 32.35 per 1,000 as against 33.48 during 1935.

24. The number of deaths registered was 19,629, of which 9,720 were males and 9,909 were females, the death rate being 17.37 per 1,000. The rate for 1935 was 17.70. During 1936, 5,910, or 30.10 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age, and of these, 4,781, or 24.35, were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1935 were 31.8 and 26.10 per cent.

The infantile death rate under one year was 13.07, as compared with 13.7 in 1935.

25. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were: Tuberculosis 8.26, Heart Disease, 9.54, Congenital Debility, 4.99, Pneumonia, 6.65, Old Age, 6.10, Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 5.38, Typhoid Fever 3.16, Diarrhoea and Enteritis 3.44, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy 2.83, Cancer and other malignant Tumours 3.27, Syphilis 3.55, Malaria 4.32.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

26. The Health of the Island was satisfactory during 1936, and particularly so during the last quarter. In the early months of the year there were two water-borne Epidemics—one of Typhoid, at Chapelton, in the parish of Clarendon, with 64 cases and 6 deaths, one of Dysentery at Yallahs, in the parish of St. Thomas, with 70 cases and 1 death.

27. Prolonged spring rains caused an increase of Malaria in the Summer, particularly in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, and to a less extent in parts of the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Manchester where no organised control measures had hitherto been found necessary, but prompt use of larvicides with liberal distribution of quinine were adequate to control these outbreaks.

28. There is evidence that the Yaws Control programme, instituted in 1933, is causing a steady reduction in the number of active and infectious cases.

29. Vigorous efforts were made to improve the control measures against Communicable Gastro-intestinal diseases, details of which are set out later in this Report.

30. The Out-door Dispensary Service attracted a greatly increased number of patients, there being 204,527 attendances in 1936, as compared with 59,327 in the previous year. While this service has relieved the out-patients departments of District Hospitals to some extent, the bed accommodation of some Hospitals has become quite inadequate and arrangements have been made for increases.

31. The demands on the Laboratory Service continued to increase rapidly and provision has been made in the coming year's Estimates to strengthen the Staff.

Vital Statistics.

32. Population.—The estimated population on 31st December, 1936, was 1,138,558.

Birth Rate.—36,561 births were registered, giving a rate of 32.35 per 1,000 population. 71.66% of the births were illegitimate.

Death Rate.—The crude death rate fell from 17.7 in 1935 to 17.4 in 1936.

Infant Mortality.—The Island death rates under 1 year and under 5 years were respectively 130 and 183 per 1,000 live births as compared with 137 and 186 in 1935.

Principal Disease Groups.

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.

33. (a) *Enteric Fever.* 1,277 cases were notified as compared with 1,117 in 1935 and 1,361 in 1934. The parishes showing a significant increase over the previous year were Clarendon, St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. James and Portland, while there was marked reduction in Kingston, Trelawny and Manchester. 320 cases were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital with 53 deaths, and 723 cases in the District Hospitals with 150 deaths.

34. There was a water borne epidemic at the town of Chapelton with 64 cases and 6 deaths. In St. Mary the disease showed a widely scattered rise over the first half of the year.

35. (b) *Dysentery.*—There were 310 cases of Dysentery as compared with 184 in 1935. An epidemic of Bacillary Dysentery occurred at Yallahs of water borne origin with 70 cases and 1 death. 121 cases were admitted to the Public Hospitals with 10 deaths.

36. (c) *Intestinal Parasites.*—The rural population continue to show a hookworm infection rate of 60% to 90%, depending on rainfall, soil and sanitation, and the incidence of round worms is frequently over 50% in various districts. In townships, however, where the occupation and hygiene of the people make infection less likely, the rate is usually below 25%.

37. *Malaria.*—There were unusually prolonged rains in the Spring of 1936, which favoured maintenance of the high incidence of Malaria produced during the preceding four years, each with a rainfall above average, and during the Summer there were a few small outbreaks further inland and upland than had been observed for many years particularly in the uplands of St. Elizabeth and Manchester where lake formation developed. The measures undertaken were, however, sufficient to control these quickly.

38. In endemic coastal areas, where no organised control measures had hitherto been undertaken, there was some temporary rise in incidence which gave no cause for concern except in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew. In this area the disease rose to epidemic proportions during the Summer with a number of deaths, but with the organisation of control measures and a relatively scanty October rainfall the conditions were rapidly returning to normal by the end of the year.

39. The following table shows comparative data for 3 years for Malaria:—

Malaria.	1934.	1935.	1936
Total Deaths recorded for Island ...	680	571	672
No. of in-patients, Kingston Public Hospital	882	683	1,359
No. of deaths, Kingston Public Hospital ...	32	22	42
No. of in-patients, District Hospitals ...	4,088	2,800	2,638
No. of out-patients, District Hospital ...	14,363	13,185	14,376
No. of deaths, District Hospitals ...	124	119	113

40. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—1,452 cases were notified as compared with 1,395 in 1935, and 1,083 deaths were reported. 55% of the total number of new cases notified were from the Corporate Area and St. Catherine.

41. *Venereal Diseases.*—In the Kingston Public Hospital 449 cases of Syphilis and 317 of Gonococcal infections were treated with 23 and 1 deaths, respectively. District Hospitals admitted 1,072 cases of Syphilis with 48 deaths and 1,099 of Gonococcal infections with 2 deaths.

42. A Male Free Clinic was established in Kingston in October, 1936. Patients seen and treated at this Clinic as well as at the Women's Free Clinic established in 1935, are as follows:—

WOMEN'S FREE CLINIC.

Disease.	New Patients Treated.	No. of Treatments.
Gonorrhoea ...	3,252	67,047
Syphilis ...	1,683	17,199

MALE'S FREE CLINIC.

Disease.	New Patients Treated.	No. of Treatments.
Gonorrhoea ...	1,221	24,768
Syphilis ...	1,332	6,453

43. The visit of Mrs. Neville-Rolfe, Secretary-General of the British Social Hygiene Council, was followed by assistance being granted to the extent of £5,800 by the Colonial Development Fund on condition that the Colony provided the balance necessary to start Venereal Diseases Clinics at Kingston, Montego Bay, Port Antonio and Spanish Town and to improve the facilities at the Public General Hospital. A sum of £6,165 has been provided in the Estimates to carry out this programme.

Yaws.

44. In the course of surveys conducted by Health Officers in areas of light or moderate infection, 15,456 active cases of Yaws were found in a population of 448,288 persons, the infection rate varying from 0.5% to 10.0%. The Mobile Treatments Units of the Yaws Commission working in more heavily infected areas found from 35% to 60% of the population in these areas with either active disease or with a history of having been infected within a few years previously.

45. Fully 90% of the cases give a history of infection prior to 15 years of age and the disease is a major cause of disability of school children in many districts. The surveys carried out during 1936 include many re-surveys of areas which had been carefully treated from 6 to 12 months previously, and in every such area a definite reduction of the incidence of infectious cases has been observed, in some cases the reduction being more than 50%. These findings give assurance that a general reduction in the incidence of open Yaws has been effected during the year.

Diseases of School Children.

46. The Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew is the only Local Authority provided with a School Medical Service. During 1936, 3,770 out of 4,921 children examined were found to have defects. These do not include Dental defects which are dealt with by the School Dentists.

47. In rural parishes surveys showed that as many as 96% of School Children in some districts are infected with Hookworm, and the great majority harbour other worms as well.

48. The School Medical Officer of the Corporate Area classified the children examined by her in 1936 with respect to their state of Nutrition as follows:—

Good or	56%
Very Fair ...	—
Subnormal ...	29.8%
Bad	14.2%
Total under-nourished ...	44%

Hospitals.

49. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Maternity Hospital, Kingston	100
Public Lunatic Asylum	2,023
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay ...	32
" " " Hordley ...	40
" " " Port Antonio ...	55
" " " Buff Bay ...	50
" " " Annotto Bay ...	60
" " " Port Maria ...	67
" " " St. Ann's Bay ...	42
" " " Cave Valley ...	14
" " " Falmouth ...	25
" " " Ulster Spring ...	8
" " " St. James ...	72
" " " Lucea ...	30
" " " Sav.-la-Mar ...	68
" " " Black River ...	72
" " " Mandeville ...	37
" " " Chapelton ...	35
" " " Lionel Town ...	50
" " " Spanish Town ...	70
" " " Linstead ...	90
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town ...	120

Owing to increased demands the official accommodation at some Hospitals has been insufficient and arrangements for increased accommodation had to be made for example, St. James's Hospital now holds 124 with some difficulty.

50. The following table shows a comparison of the work of Hospitals over the past three years:

	Kingston Public Hospital.			District Hospitals.		
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1934.	1935.	1936.
In-patients	8,133	8,269	8,926	23,067	23,346	23,021
Out-patients	171,318	162,311	169,821	94,960	105,705	91,765
Operations	3,718	3,723	4,071	10,455	11,383	10,282
Deaths	742	698	712	1,110	1,216	1,196

51. The epidemic of Malaria in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew mainly accounted for the marked increase of admissions of Out-patients in the case of the Kingston Public Hospital. Some decrease of Out-patients at the District Hospitals was recorded chiefly with respect to Malaria and Venereal Disease, and this total reduction of attendance is no doubt in large part due to the establishment of rural outdoor dispensaries which are now attracting large numbers who formerly had to go long distances to Hospitals.

52. Special accommodation for Maternity cases consisting of Labour Room, Maternity Ward, Baths, etc., has been provided during the year at the Port Maria, Lucea and Spanish Town Public General Hospitals, and it is hoped to continue to extend these facilities to all other District Hospitals.

53. Special expenditure for covered ways between Hospital buildings —from Wards to Operating Theatres, Kitchens, etc.—has been made and practically every Hospital is now well provided for in this respect.

54. In the X-Ray Department of the Kingston Public Hospital 3,721 patients were examined, as compared with 2,765 in 1934 and 3,105 in 1935.

Outdoor Dispensary Service.

55. The public took advantage to a greatly increased extent of the out-door dispensary ticket system established in 1934, there being 204,527 attendances during the year as compared with 59,327 attendances in 1935.

Prevention of Disease.

Laboratory Work.

56. The Laboratory provides free service for Private Practitioners with respect to Communicable Diseases in addition to its work for the Medical Department. There was a continued marked increase in its work in 1936, there being a total of 57,950 examinations compared with 39,566 in 1935 (the examination of mosquitoes and larvae not included). This new record is 46.5% over and above the total for the last year and more than twice the work done in 1934. The increase was manifested in nearly all phases of work, but the items mainly responsible were the high incidence of Malaria (in Kingston and St. Andrew especially) during the four months—June to September, and the establishment of the first two Clinics in the Island's Special Campaign against Venereal Disease.

57. The following Table indicates the increase for the past four years of examinations performed:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Kingston Public Hospital ...	10,099	19,259	22,634	20,064
Lunatic Asylum ...	601	967	1,530	1,642
Other Institutions ...	1,926	1,826	5,133	19,792
Country Medical Districts	1,018	1,783	3,871	7,527
Health Officers ...	739	2,709	3,440	4,241
Private Practitioners ...	716	835	2,958	4,684
Total	15,099	27,379	39,566	57,950

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases.

58. The important measures urged during the year were improvement of water supplies, latrine construction, hospitalisation of cases, inoculation of contacts, and also of large groups in areas showing tendency to a rise in incidence above average, during the year.

59. Exhaustive sanitary surveys were carried out with respect to water supplies and latrines, and as a result special efforts were made to improve the conditions in respect to those two important requirements. £25,175 have been spent on improvements from the Parochial Water Supplies Fund. Provision of £77,500 has been made in two instalments of the Loan proposals, and Loans amounting to £36,000 have already been approved in respect of the improvement of the supplies of Montego Bay, May Pen, Chapelton and Lucea. Proposals for improvement of other supplies were also put in course of preparation.

60. Local Boards of Health reported the construction of 12,442 new latrines as compared with 10,444 in the preceding year. 1,043 cases, or 82% of the total number of Typhoid notified were hospitalised, and 37,947 antityphoid inoculations were administered as compared with 35,094 in 1935.

Malaria.

61. Some extension of control was made in the 9 important endemic low-lying areas where temporary control measures have been maintained for some years. This was made possible by the co-operation of Local Boards and private owners. Two new control areas were organised, one in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew because of the Summer epidemic, and the other at the Milk River Baths. In the former area reliance has had to be on larvicides for the present while further progress is being made on permanent drainage and filling and in the latter area the chief measure for safety of the visitors to the Baths is to maintain the river clear of vegetation for at least half a mile above and below the Baths.

62. In the absence of sufficient funds to undertake large schemes for permanent drainage and filling, it has been necessary to develop the use of larvicides as far as possible, together with unstinted distribution of quinine. These "temporary" measures have continued to be satisfactory in areas where Malaria was formerly of very high endemicity, and although the years 1931 to 1935 inclusive have been marked by rainfall above average, Malaria in these controlled areas has remained at a comparatively low level and the measures in these main foci have been of the greatest value in restraining the spread of the disease to uncontrolled areas where conditions have become more favourable on account of abnormal rainfall.

63. However, the main objective of permanent measures of control by filling and drainage has always been kept in view, and a steady progress was obtained during 1936 in filling with refuse collections in Kingston, Montego Bay and other coastal towns. A portion of a swamp at Orange Bay was filled, an amount of £200 being specially provided for the purpose. Plans have been prepared for reclamation under Loan Provisions for certain swamps in relation to Kingston, Montego Bay Port Maria and Black River.

Tuberculosis.

64. The main features of the Government programme for management of Tuberculosis are—

(a) Dispensary Service; (b) Institutional care; (c) Home supervision of cases; (d) Special Training of Medical Officers in diagnosis and treatment; (e) Education; (f) Research. This programme is augmented by the activities of the Anti-Tuberculosis League which has a branch in every parish and assists indigent infected families in various ways, fosters educational measures, provides the salaries for a few Nurses for home supervision, and aids in the rehabilitation of arrested cases.

65. During 1936, the effectiveness of the Dispensary service was indicated by the facts that the Kingston Tuberculosis Dispensary notified 80% of the total cases notified in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, and Medical Officers of Health of all other parishes notified 33% of the total cases in their parishes. The Radiological facilities for dispensary service maintained by Health Officers outside of Kingston provided by the X-Ray Motor Unit, which travelled 3,237 miles and took 2,417 X-Ray photographs of patients.

66. Some progress was made in carrying out the programme planned for establishing Institutional facilities. The general objective is that Government should provide the beds for cases suitable for active surgical treatment while Parochial Boards provide beds in Poor Houses for those which are not. A site has been selected for the erection of the King George V Jubilee Memorial Hospital and Sanatorium and plans and arrangements are being pushed for construction. It is planned also to construct a special Tuberculosis Ward of 16 beds in association with one hospital in each parish. One of these wards was completed during 1936, at the Linstead Hospital.

67. The Parochial Board of Westmoreland completed construction of special wards in connection with their Poor House, and the St. Catherine Board have made preparations to do the same. Seven other Boards had already provided special wards prior to 1936.

68. Home visits at varying intervals were made during the year to almost every known infected family. These were made by Health Officers, and also by Nurses in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, Manchester, St. Catherine, and in Montego Bay and a few other towns, while elsewhere in rural areas this work was performed by Sanitary Inspectors.

69. The Rockefeller Foundation continued research work on Tuberculosis, particularly with respect to the possibility of vaccination against the disease and this study gives promise to be of great importance.

Yaws.

70. The general plan for control laid down in 1933 has now been established in every parish in the Island except in Kingston and small sections of Manchester and St. Ann where the disease presents no problem.

71. The plan was described briefly in the corresponding Report for 1935, the main features being:—

(a) The Island is mapped out in a number of control areas, each with a population of from 3,000 to 1,000.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors carry out a complete house to house census of each area recording cases of Yaws and serving notices on them to attend for treatment at a fixed time and place.

(c) Treatment Centres are fixed and a course of treatment is provided for a period of 6 to 8 weeks at each of these.

(d) Re-surveys with treatment of active cases are carried out in each area at intervals of 6 months as long as the disease is of sufficient importance in the area. In addition, cases may attend and obtain treatment at any hospital or dispensary.

72. A total of 149,534 treatments were given to approximately 28,700 cases by Medical Officers in charge of districts and by the Mobile Treatment Units of the Yaws Commission, as compared with 144,057 treatments to 34,619 cases in the previous year.

Infant Welfare.

73. The attendances at the Clinics of the Child Welfare Association showed decreases for the year ended 31st March, 1937. There were 17,748 attendances at sick Clinics as compared with 18,202 in the previous year and 5,622 attendances of well babies.

Bureau of Health Education.

74. This branch of Public Health was taken over by the Central Government on the 1st January, 1936.

75. Volume XII of the Bulletin *Jamaica Public Health* was published during the year, an addition of 22,000 copies being sent out each month. Pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc., and pre-natal letters were distributed as usual.

Public Health Nursing.

76. Experimental demonstrations of the use of Public Health Nurses were undertaken in a few parishes. The Rockefeller Foundation assisted in these demonstrations particularly with respect to rural tuberculosis. School medical inspection, maternal hygiene and general health education were also included in the demonstrations, and these have served to create the interest of Local Boards of Health. The Government has proposed a scheme for Public Health Nursing on a co-operative basis with Local Boards of Health, some of which are already making arrangements to undertake the service.

School Dental Clinics.

77. Clinics are operated in nine parishes. 20,715 new children were examined, as compared with 23,449 in the previous year, with 14,770 extractions and 13,479 fillings.

Parochial Health Departments.

78. The main activities undertaken by the fourteen Local Boards of Health were control of Typhoid and other communicable gastro-intestinal diseases, Malaria, Yaws and Tuberculosis, Supervision of Milk and Food Supplies, Health Education, School Dental Clinics and in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, a School Medical Service.

79. The Central Government continued to assist Local Boards in these activities through the Central Board of Health mainly by provision of Medical Officers of Health and specially trained Sanitary Inspectors. The Central Government also provided 25% of the cost of 6 of the 9 Parochial School Dental Service.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

80. The Central Housing Advisory Board which was established in the preceding year has submitted proposals for slum clearance in Kingston. A special scheme has been set out in detail for establishment of a model township to provide accommodation for population to be displaced by clearance of one of the worst slum areas in Kingston. The principles outlined in this special scheme are such as will be generally applicable to further housing improvement in the Urban areas.

81. Allocation has been made from the Development Loan for a sum of £50,000 (part of a total of £100,000 to be devoted to Housing) to be expended from the second instalment of this Loan.

82. A Slum Clearance Bill will be presented at the 1937 Spring Session of the Legislative Council and after passing of the Bill a start will be made on the first project in Kingston.

83. In order that the amount allotted by Government to Slum Clearance and Housing Development may be utilized to initiate the greatest possible number of schemes, it will be used as a revolving fund to be recovered from sales of buildings erected under the scheme. The Central Housing Advisory Board has been in negotiations with Building Societies with a view to their financing the construction of model cottages and reconstruction of slum areas, on special terms. The tentative financial arrangements now before Government represent a great improvement on the existing facilities and will be of great relief to the poorer classes for whom these projects are specially designed.

84. The high class suburban areas of Kingston continued to expand along satisfactory lines. Outside of Kingston the most urgent slum problem is that which exists in Montego Bay. Full investigations are being carried out in this matter and its associated problems, such as drainage, sewage disposal and town planning with a view to improvement of the town as a Tourist Resort.

85. Montego Bay showed continued development of its suburban areas by construction of high class residences.

86. Several Estates carried out improvements to barracks, the replacement of inferior structures by model cottages with satisfactory kitchen and sanitary facilities at Rose Hall in St. James being specially worthy of mention.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

87. The mean total Rainfall for the Island during 1936 was 86.20 inches which is 12.33 inches in excess of the average. During the first six months of the year the rainfall was 57% above the average but in the second half it was 12% below.

88. No serious storms or hurricanes occured during the year, but Northers were experienced on the Northside in the latter part of December and occasioned slight damage to banana cultivations. Two strong wind storms, one in July and one in October swept through a narrow path passing through Southern Saint Andrew, Lower St. Catherine and parts of Vere, which damaged banana cultivations and caused an estimated loss of about 150,000 plants.

89. Despite the effect of the two storms of 1935 upon the year's production of bananas, the value of the agricultural products again showed a marked increase over the previous year, which should be regarded generally, as a good one from the point of view of production.

90. Apart from favourable weather conditions there was a substantial improvement in markets for certain commodities:—cocoa, pimento and honey particularly. The value of the colony's four principal exports which ranked next in order to bananas, namely:—sugar, rum, citrus and coffee, increased from £967,700 in 1935 to £1,178,000 in 1936. These four items together represented in value a little less than one-third of the total value of the produce of the Island, as disclosed by Customs returns which show that the grand total of exports in 1936 was £3,697,608 as compared with £3,691,494. Again, excluding bananas, there was an increase in the value of all other Jamaican products amounting to £268,915 over the previous year.

91. It may be of interest to give a five-year comparison of the total value of products exported, including bananas, and the value of products exported, other than bananas:

		Total Value, including Bananas.	Value excluding Bananas.
1932*	...	£3,271,357	£1,402,246
1933*	...	£2,771,498	£1,753,022
1934	...	£3,219,072	£1,200,596
1935*	...	£3,691,494	£1,517,088
1936	...	£3,697,608	£1,786,003

*Years in which serious storms occurred.

It is thus clearly shown that there is a marked tendency for the value of products other than bananas to increase, which may be taken as an indication of the Colony's general agricultural improvement.

92. The exports of bananas in 1936 were 18,762,794 stems (11,742,279 counts) valued at £1,911,605, compared with 20,379,326 stems (13,098,330 counts) valued at £2,174,406 in 1935. It is again observed that these and other export statistics are furnished by the Collector General, whose returns are compiled from Customs export statements.

93. Examination of the prices paid to growers for bananas throughout the year, and of the internal charges involved by commissions, transport costs and wharfage, indicates that the actual value of the banana industry to the Island in 1936—i.e., the amount of money circulated in the Colony, was approximately two and a quarter million pounds.

94. The storms of 1935, as well as affecting production during that year, reduced the output during the early months of 1936, and it was not until the middle of May that weekly exports approximated to the normal figure. From then until the end of the year the exports were mainly typical of those of a normal year, except that in December the quantities were rather greater than usual. The peak export occurred during the period July 4th to August 15th, and on five occasions within that time weekly quantities shipped exceeded half-a million stems.

95. The effect of Panama Disease upon banana cultivations continues to be felt and is now proving a serious limit to production, particularly in parts of St. Mary and Vere. Conditions in the latter district of the parish of Clarendon are not the best for banana production, and the experience of large planters there indicates that banana production may be considerably reduced, giving place to sugar-cane and other crops. Inspectors of Plant Diseases in all districts of the Island have been required to exercise increased vigilance and to enforce the Law and Orders relating to the control of Panama Disease. The modified treatment authorised in 1935 is being applied with discretion but steady pressure upon cultivators of all classes continues to be necessary to ensure the prompt treatment of cases.

96. The Leaf Spot of bananas caused by the fungus *Cercospora musae* made its appearance in several districts of the Island but was most apparent in areas which had been affected by unusual weather conditions in the months of May and June. This condition has become apparent in the Caribbean area during the past few years and has given considerable trouble in Honduras where special measures have been taken to cope with it. Early action was taken in Jamaica to observe the onset of the disease and to test possible methods of control. Two officers of the Department of Agriculture visited Honduras to study the situation there, and upon their return definite experiments were planned in order to observe the variation in intensity of infection and possibilities of methods of control. Equipment and materials were imported by the Government in readiness to commence a control campaign by means of spraying, should that prove to be necessary, but at the time of writing there is no indication that the disease is likely to prove a serious factor in banana production in Jamaica. The position is, however, being most carefully watched and it is hoped that further experience will confirm the present opinion.

97. Reference was made in the Report for 1935 to the anxiety which was felt in regard to the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association and to the appointment of a Commission to investigate the Banana Industry. That Commission, consisting of Mr. W. Gavin, C.B.E., Mr. E. Furnival Jones and Mr. J. H. Gorvin, C.B.E., sat in Jamaica from January until May, during which time the banana industry at all stages, from production to marketing, was thoroughly investigated. Early in their proceedings the Commission was able to bring about a tentative working arrangement between the United Fruit Company and the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, to which the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company were also a party. These arrangements worked satisfactorily and resulted in uniform prices being paid by all three exporting companies for fruit at the time of delivery, thus removing the difficulties experienced by the Association in their previous system of working which involved the payment of an advance upon the fruit at the time of delivery, with a subsequent payment when market returns had been ascertained. The Legislative Council approved of the Association being guaranteed in a sum of £10,000 for a period of six months to enable outright prices to be paid and it is satisfactory to note that over the period of the whole year, the Association made a small profit and did not find it necessary to call upon the Government to implement the guarantee.

98. The recommendations of the Jamaica Banana Commission, contained in their extensive and valuable report which was issued to the Public in August, 1936, have now received the approval of the Legislative Council, which enacted three Laws:—

(a) Law 20 of 1936—A Law to reconstitute the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, Limited, into a Trading Company.

(b) Law 21 of 1936—A Law to provide for the issue by The Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, Limited, of Debentures and for Government Guarantee of such Debentures

(c) Law 24 of 1936—A Law to enable the Regulation and better control of the Banana Industry.

The terms of the Agreement amongst the Companies were the subject of considerable discussion which took the form of friendly negotiations. These have now been concluded and the Agreement ratified . It is confidently expected that this Agreement, combined with the legislation referred to above, will ensure the prosperity of the banana industry for ten years.

Sugar.

99. The total production of sugar by the 34 factories operating in the Island was 91,463 tons compared with 76,753 tons in 1935. There was also a substantial increase in exports of sugar both in quantity and value, the amount exported in 1936 being 77,809 tons, valued at £632,451, compared with 68,739 tons valued at £558,464 in 1935. The statistics in respect of independent cane farmers and the quantities of cane supplied by them to factories for the year 1936 are not available at the time of writing, but it is understood from the Jamaica Sugar & Rum Manufacturers' Association that a further substantial increase was experienced during the year.

100. Attention is being given to the encouragement of improved methods of cultivation with the object of increasing yields of cane for smaller and less experienced growers.

101. The periodical issue of field and factory statistical records compiled by the Department of Agriculture with assistance given by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association was continued.

102. "A Survey of the yields of Sugar Cane in Jamaica for 1934/35" was published by the Department of Agriculture as Bulletin No. 8 during the year. The returns received for the compilation of this report represented 93% of the total cane grown at the 34 factories compared with 78% for the previous annual period.

Rum.

103. A still further increase in the exports of Rum occurred in 1936, the figures being 671,335 gallons valued at £194,645, compared with 466,259 gallons, valued at £149,998 in 1935. It is reported that a greater demand for rum is now being experienced.

Citrus Fruits.

104. The Citrus Industry experienced a very good year, which gave promising indications for future production both for local consumption and export.

105. The New Zealand market for oranges, which has been developed since the 1933/34 season when exports to that Dominion first commenced, provided an outlet for 58,217 boxes of oranges during the calendar year.

106. Total exports of oranges in 1936 were 346,728 boxes, valued at £120,233. This quantity included 89,246 boxes of bitter oranges exported for marmalade manufacture, which were valued at £23,856. Orange exports for 1935 totalled 143,597 boxes, valued at £56,625. The exports of this fruit in 1936 were 4½ times the quantity and nearly 4 times the value of those for the year 1934. Grapefruit exports totalled

180,678 boxes valued at £69,765, compared with 107,166 boxes, valued at £47,170 in the previous year. There is a substantial local market for oranges and grapefruit, the consumption of which cannot be ascertained.

107. The future of the Citrus Industry is promising despite the set-backs experienced by some individuals owing to market fluctuations and to the fact that seeded grapefruit can only command a remunerative price in export markets for short periods of the year. From the export point of view the Citrus Industry ranked fourth with a total f.o.b. value of £190,000 in 1936, excluding minor products such as limes, orange oil, lime oil and lime juice. Increasing quantities of the "seedless" types of grapefruit are now being produced as a result of the Government Citrus Development work, while marked improvements have taken place in the processing and packing of fruit for export. There are now 7 mechanically equipped packing houses in the Island, compared with 2 in 1935.

108. The Jamaica Citrus Producers Association was unable to surmount its difficulties though it continued in operation. It became necessary for the Government to take over the Packing House, formerly leased at a nominal rental to the Association. Legislative Council approved of the payment of a sum of £2,600 to the Association in respect of additions to the Packing House and equipment which had been made at the Association's expense, and to defray a part of the expenditure which had been incurred by the Association for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

109. The Packing House was operated by the Department of Science and Agriculture with effect from the 1st June.

Pimento.

110. Pimento production continued to be affected by the Rust Disease which has caused a practical cessation of output in the higher altitude districts, particularly in South Manchester. A careful study of the disease has indicated that it can only seriously affect trees where conditions of temperature and humidity are favourable to its development, and that as a general rule it will be confined to higher altitude districts, particularly those above 1,000 feet. Apart from localized outbreaks under exceptional weather conditions it is unlikely to affect pimento growing in the lower districts. No method of control which is sufficiently cheap to permit of economical application is available.

111. Exports of Pimento for 1936 were 5,888,425 lbs., valued at £140,858, compared with 8,047,863 lbs., valued at £80,725 in 1935. Exports for 1936 were less than half of those for 1934, but the value was almost 50% higher.

112. The production of Pimento Leaf Oil by distillation, which almost ceased for a time, was recommenced towards the end of the year, when three stills were in operation in South Manchester. The price paid for leaves was 1/3d. per 100 lbs., delivered to the still, which gives a return for each tree considerably in excess of the annual value of the crop of berries.

Honey.

113 There was a decrease in the quantity of exports but an increase in value compared with 1935, the figures being 1,630,671 lbs. valued at £15,155 in 1936, compared with 1,872,400 lbs., valued at £13,585 in 1935.

114. The outbreak of Foul Brood Disease of Bees mentioned in the previous report was brought completely under control during the year.

Coconuts.

115. The production of coconuts was to some extent affected by the storms of 1935. Markets for whole nuts were poor during the earlier months of 1936, but prices and demand improved markedly in the latter half of the year. The general position of the industry showed improvement, and local prices for copra supplied to oil and soap factories rose in sympathy with the advance in overseas market values. Competition for the local edible oil market amongst the factories led to a renewal of the pool agreement for a period ending on 31st March, 1937, by which time it is hoped that some more permanent method of regulating the industry may be introduced.

116. The Jamaica Cocoanut Producers' Association, Limited, experienced a satisfactory year. The acquisition of a soap factory, which was transferred to new buildings on the same site as their oil factory, has ensured a permanent outlet for crude coconut oil surplus to the Association's market for edible oil.

117. Exports of whole nuts totalled 31,406,479, valued at £76,276, compared with 37,256,680, valued at £91,187 in 1935. Exports of copra were negligible. In the absence of a system for the collection and recording of agricultural and industrial statistics, it is not possible to give more than a general indication of the industry as a whole. The internal demand for edible oil is now almost entirely met by the locally produced coconut oil, and the manufacture of laundry soap containing coconut oil supplies nearly one half of the Island consumption.

118. Apart from these large-scale industrial uses of coconuts and coconut products, there is a considerable production of oil by families, who extract coconut oil by a simple process in their houses, and a high consumption of "water coconuts," for drinking purposes, particularly in the larger centres of population.

119. Control work on the Bud Rot of Coconuts was continued in St. James and Hanover. Plantations in other parts of the Colony are in healthy and productive condition.

Ginger.

120. Exports again showed an increase from 2,879,017 lbs. valued at £69,938 in 1935 to 3,420,772 lbs. valued at £72,636 in 19[illegible].

Cocoa.

121. The continued low prices which remained current until May led to neglect, and in some cases, destruction of trees, but the marked increase in price in export markets which occurred during the latter months of the year stimulated interest in the crop. Exports fell to 3,640,405 lbs. which was 72% of the quantity exported in 1935. The value, however, was practically the same, being £49,684 compared with £50,111 in 1935.

Coffee.

122. This showed a substantial increase in quantity from 7,593,697 lbs. in 1935 to 10,396,688 lbs. in 1936 valued at £160,980, some £5,500 higher than the value of exports for the previous year. Considerable interest was displayed in the marketing of coffee during the early part of the year and enquiries made in regard to both Blue Mountain grades and lowland coffees led to a better understanding of the position and will, it is hoped, result in improvements in conditions under which the latter is produced.

Miscellaneous.

123. Exports of Logwood and Logwood Extracts were somewhat lower than in 1935. The value of exports of other products increased from £106,347 in 1935 to £132,075 in 1936. This is partly accounted for by exports of minor fruits and vegetables such as mangoes, limes, capsicums, potatoes, eggplants, and other vegetables, the production of which is being encouraged. The Department of Agriculture, through the activities of the Low Temperature Station, exported 16,281 packages of miscellaneous fruits and vegetables, principally to the United Kingdom and Canada. Special efforts were made to improve the marketing of limes, of which considerable quantities were shipped to England for the first time. 13,681 packages of limes valued at £7,358 were exported during 1936, compared with 3,317 packages valued at £2,284 in 1935.

The exports of Lime Juice decreased, while those of Grapefruit increased considerably, the total quantity of the two kinds together amounting to 48,645 gallons in 1936, compared with 47,119 gallons in 1935.

Exports of Kola Nuts doubled in quantity and almost trebled in price, amounting to 482,157 lbs. valued at £2,732 in 1936.

Annatto decreased in quantity by 5½% but increased in value by 3% compared with 1935. The exports in 1936 were 862,973 lbs. valued at £9,535.

Essential Oils increased in quantity and value by approximately 50%.

124. The production of potatoes for export has been the subject of enquiry for some time. In 1935 a Canadian Company conducted large scale field trials in Manchester with a view to determining the possibility of establishing commercial scale production in Jamaica. In 1936 this Company (The Jamaica Development Company) acquired land in St. Ann on which planting operations were commenced later in the year. Some 200 acres were put under crop and exports commenced early in 1937.

Cattle and Beef Industries.

125. The total number of cattle slaughtered for human consumption as disclosed by official returns, was 34,584 head; an increase of 1 over the previous year. The parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew accounted for 11,689 head in 1936, or 81 less than in 1935. There has been a slight improvement in the market price for beef cattle. Plans have been received for the proposed new Slaughter House to be erected in Kingston on which it is hoped that work will be commenced shortly. Provision is to be included for the preparation of by-products and investigations have been instituted on the possibility of establishing a Beef Cannery.

Hides and Skins.

126. There was a considerable increase in exports of Hides and Skins both in quantity and value. Hides of cattle exported in 1936 amounted to 21,547 vaued at £11,322, compared with 20,405, valued at £9,458 in the previous year, while Goatskins increased by 22%, to 231,551 valued at £20,811 in 1936, compared with a value of £14,398 in 1935.

127. Considerable interest continues to be displayed in the Dairy Industry and an enquiry into the prospects of establishing butter

production on a larger scale has resulted in a scheme for the erection of a Central Butter Factory, to which consideration is now being given.

Agricultural Development Board.

128. The Agricultural Development Board, set up in 1935, recommended the introduction of a Tobacco Development Scheme, which received the approval of the Legislative Council and the Secretary of State, and was put into effect during the year. The Tobacco Specialist assumed duty in July. Three experimental demonstration centres were established, and small scale field trials in promising districts. Financial assistance under The Agricultural Loans Law, 1887, was afforded to 19 growers having a total area of 119 acres for the growing of tobacco under contract. A Tobacco grading fermenting and packing Station was erected to deal with the export crop both from contracted growers and from independent growers who desire to market their crop through the Station.

129. Several varieties of tobacco, both local and imported, have been the subject of field trials, and good types of wrapper, binder and filler leaf have been produced. A large quantity of seed has been obtained from selected plants for distribution to growers during next season. Regulations governing the grades, qualities and method of packing of export tobacco have been introduced under The Agricultural Produce Law, 1926.

Agricultural Education.

130. The Government Farm School had an average attendance of 50 students—an increase of 4 over the previous year—14 students completed the three-year Course and received Diplomas at the Annual Graduation in July. The employment of students after they have undergone training at the Farm School has shown considerable improvement. There are now 24 ex-students employed by the Department of Agriculture and 7 by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, while the demand for these young men by other organisations and by the general planting community is a pleasing indication of the esteem in which the School is held.

131. It is satisfactory to record the increased interest taken in the institution by members of the Public who attend the various annual functions held at the School.

132. The first Practical Training Centre for boys at Holmwood is now well established and some 40 boys are receiving instruction in agriculture and in various useful trades. The general scheme of instruction has been given an agricultural bias and the 40 boys who attend the school appear to take a very keen interest in their work. The centre was opened early in the year and excellent progress has been made with the cultivation of the land. Coffee, citrus, bananas, potatoes and other crops are being grown, while attention is also paid to livestock. A valuable feature of the school is the care which is being devoted to land utilisation and crop husbandry with a view to avoiding such undesirable practices as the burning of bush when land is being cleared, and the waste of organic matter which can be used as mulch.

133. The annual Summer Course of Lectures and Demonstrations was held at Hope in July and was well attended by the general public, as well as by the field staffs of the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Society.

134. Articles on the subjects of agricultural importance were contributed regularly by members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture for publication in the Journal of the Agricultural Society. Three departmental bulletins on Dairying, Insecticides and the yields of sugar cane in 1934-35, were published during the year.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

135. The past year has proved a difficult one in many ways and revenue collections have been erratic. With the recovery of Bananas, the close of the year showed promise of improvement but for the most part there was little money in circulation and trade was very dull.

136. The lack of purchasing power was reflected in the falling off in the revenue derived from Rum Excise Duties.

137. The value of the Import Trade during 1936 is practically the same as the value of the Import Trade during 1935. Trade from Hong Kong shows a marked increase from a value of £58,000 in 1935 to £132,000 in 1936. One item showing a marked increase is Boots and Shoes the importations for 1936 being 143,661 dozen pairs against 75,873 dozen pairs for 1935. While this increase is 84% the increase in value is only about 35% showing that the shoes are of very cheap quality. Imports of fuel oil increased from 90,000 tons to 129,000 tons.

138. The value of the Island Export Trade also approximates closely to that of 1935. The United Kingdom takes over 50% of Jamaica's exports and Canada over 25%. Grapefruit, Oranges and Rum show large increases, Pimento and Logwood show diseases.

139. The values of Exports and Imports for years 1932-1936 are shown below:

Value of Exports (F.O.B.)

1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936
£	£	£	£	£
3,271,357	2,745,300	3,219,072	3,838,933	3,807,239

Value of Imports (C.I.F.)

1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936
£	£	£	£	£
4,754,152	4,367,843	4,777,069	5,009,906	4 923,931

Imports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936
British Empire ...	70.0%	69.1%	71.6%	73.1%
Other Countries ...	30.0%	30.9%	28.4%	26.9%

Exports (Domestic).

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936
British Empire	...	85.0%	85.9%	85.6%	85.7%
Other Countries	...	15.0%	14.1%	14.4%	14.3%

The following table shows the change in direction of Trade, with the principal countries during the past four years:—

Imports.

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
United Kingdom	...	40.2	39.2	40.3	39.6
U.S.A. ...	...	16.3	18.3	18.1	16.4
Canada ...	...	16.0	15.9	16.3	16.0
Other Countries	...	27.5	26.6	25.3	28.0

Exports.

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
United Kingdom	...	56.3	55.0	56.3	55.0
U.S.A. ...	...	9.4	9.2	8.9	7.0
Canada ...	...	27.8	29.6	28.1	29.5
Other Countries	...	6.5	6.2	6.7	8.5

	Principal Articles Imported.	Unit of Quantity.	1936. United Kingdom. Quantity.	1936. United Kingdom. Value (C.I.F.)	1936. Quantity.
	Total Imports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	£ 1,876,971	..
Food, Drink and Tobacco.	Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ..	gals.	71,185	19,355	947
	Butter	lbs.	11,021	220	27,867
	Butter Substitutes ..	"	717,786	13,745	..
	Fish—Dried Salted ..	"	112,019	1,049	5,640,332
	Pickled ..	"	..	..	8,326,930
	Grain—Flour, Wheaten and Rye ..	bags 196 lbs	66,164	55,772	269,011
	Meats—Beef, Wet Salted ..	lbs.	971,682	16,119	..
	Ham ..	"	68,158	4,251	46,259
	Pork, Wet Salted ..	"	1,000	16	244,100
	Milk, Condensed ..	"	4,265,476	64,723	168,399
	Oils, Edible ..	gals.	1,692	1,462	11
	Tobacco, Cigarettes ..	lbs.	33,023	12,403	26
Articles Mainly Unmanufactured.	Coal ..	tons	174,849	176,502	..
	Lumber, Pitch Pine, White Pine, Douglas Fir ..	ft.	..	..	1,210,718
Articles Mainly Manufactured.	Apparel (not specially classified) ..	..	..	33,847	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	dz. prs.	33,478	92,490	7,828
	Carriages, Motor Cars ..	No.	269	32,580	498
	Parts of (including Tyres and Tubes)	..	..	13,606	..
	Cement ..	brls.	84,824	37,518	2,671
	Cotton—Piece Goods ..	yds.	20,291,288	328,857	7,832
	Other Manufactures	..	..	41,359	..
	Hardware ..	..	..	77,976	..
	Medicines and Drugs ..	..	..	27,540	..
	Metals—Irons galvanized, steel bars and sheets nails, screws and rivets ..	..	..	39,888	..
	Oils: Illuminating (Kerosene)	gals.	400	17	..
	" Motor Spirits ..	"	37	21	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	..	..	42,538	..
	Soap, Laundry ..	lbs.	3,763,746	41,169	50
	Wool Manufactures ..	..	..	42,156	..

1936.

Canada.	U. S. A.		Other Countries		Total.	
Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)	Quantity.	Value (C.I.F.)
£ 804,394	..	£ 833,875	..	£ 1,408,691	..	£ 4,923,931
198	1,090	193	5,635	1,180	78,867	20,926
1,723	337	25	1,060,404	45,082	1,099,629	47,050
..	24	1	..	..	717,810	13,746
54,144	17,825	837	11,440,237	114,960	17,210,413	170,990
56,502	200	1	62,700	632	8,389,830	57,135
254,761	1,141	1,758	91,460	77,767	427,776	390,058
..	200	3	20,440	332	992,322	16,454
2,386	84,271	4,723	122,046	5,762	320,734	17,122
5,437	338,013	8,203	30,391	673	613,504	14,329
3,092	365,881	5,574	3,194,364	38,408	7,994,120	111,797
12	324	109	707	247	2,724	1,830
9	3,700	970	4	4	36,753	13,386
..	..	..	..	..	174,849	176,502
8,775	11,544,888	86,909	1,896,542	14,470	14,652,148	110,154
17,561	..	6,627	..	72,512	..	130,547
25,280	64	195	102,291	62,471	143,661	180,436
75,434	271	39,161	4	419	1,042	147,594
29,913	..	20,038	..	242	..	63,799
1,170	42	62	43,349	14,587	130,886	53,337
338	4,013,684	52,606	312,969	5,271	24,623,773	387,072
2,606	..	4,803	..	19,407	..	68,175
11,086	..	33,279	..	28,849	..	151,190
7,680	..	25,956	..	5,310	..	66,486
4,038	..	3,232	..	7,082	..	54,240
..	685,373	23,429	1,007,277	30,142	1,693,050	53,588
..	121,993	4,426	6,338,828	121,006	6,460,858	125,453
13,147	..	14,412	..	49,412	..	119,509
..	151,752	1,774	5,404	55	3,920,952	42,998
125	..	251	..	4,899	..	47,431

Principal Articles Exported.	Unit of Quantity	1936.									
		United Kingdom.		Canada.		U. S. A.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value. (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£
Total Exports (not including Parcels Post) ..	..	..	2,000,077		1,093,408	..	264,919	..	325,162	..	3,683,566
Cocoa, Raw ..	lbs.	2,740	49	3,602,455	49,157	..	..	35,210	478	3,640,405	49,684
Coffee, Raw ..	"	293,178	6,432	8,165,520	126,191	1,876,446	26,970	61,544	1,387	10,396,688	160,980
Fruits and Nuts: Bananas	stems	15,437,384	1,529,396	2,458,375	289,360	33,295	3,97[illegible]	833,740	88,878	18,762,794	1,911,605
Grapefruit	No.	16,115,454	62,956	1,222,600	4,228	294	2	729,478	2,579	18,067,826	69,765
Oranges ..	bxs.	156,924	51,344	122,070	41,408	..	..	67,734	27,481	346,728	120,233
Coconuts	No.	1,847,480	4,961	10,290,190	21,902	19,104,205	48,806	164,604	607	31,406,479	76,276
Logwood	tons	1,204	3,155	..	..	2,842	6,723	8,178	20,086	12,224	29,964
Logwood Extracts ..	cwts.	22,465	72,975	..	..	319	1,155	903	3,109	23,687	77,239
Spices—Ginger ..	lbs.	1,146,123	22,792	339,700	6,707	1,632,620	36,036	302,329	7,101	3,420,772	72,636
Pimento ..	"	336,267	7,287	98,373	2,293	2,161,083	51,331	3,292,702	79,947	5,888,425	140,858
Spirits—Rum ..	galls.	426,230	91,471	28,189	12,108	38,235	37,717	178,681	753,349	671,335	194,645
Sugar: Unrefined ..	tons	12,284	98,202	65,398	533,157	..	..	127	1,092	77,809	632,451

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

140. The average rate of wages for labourers in Government employ is: Skilled or unskilled, 2/6d. to 3/6d. per day. Private employers pay skilled men from 3/- to 3/6d. per day, and unskilled men from 2/- to 2/6d. per day. Women in private employ get from 1/6d. to 1/8d. per day. Factory workers receive a wage of from 20/- to 25/- per week for a week of 5½ days of 9 hours each, and shop assistants receive a wage of from 50/- to 70/- per week of 5½ days of 8 hours each. Notion store girls receive wages of from 12/- to 20/- per week. Office Clerks (girls) receive from 15/- to 45/- per week. Pressmen receive wages on an average of 40/- per week, Male Compositors 30/- per week, Female Compositors 9/- per week.

141. The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway, and a schedule of the wages paid by the Department is set out below:—

Rates of Pay.

Head Offices.

Clerks—From 25/- to £5 10/- per week, according to Grade.
Learner Clerks—From 10/- to 25/- per week.

Engineering Branch.

Permanent Way Superintendents	from	£180 to £335	per annum
Draughtsmen	"	£2 10/- to £7 10/-	per week
Learner Draughtsmen ...	"	£1 to £2 10/-	" "
Foremen	"	50/- to 65/-	" "
Junior Foremen	"	30/- to 50/-	" "
Learner "	"	20/- to 30/-	" "
Carpenters	"	32/- to 40/-	" "
Labourers	"	18/- to 21/-	" "
Gangers	"	24/- to 30/-	" "
Gatemen		11/-	" "
Locomotive Branch.			
Foremen	"	80/- to 120/-	" "
Chargemen	"	50/- to 80/-	" "
Machinists, etc., and Air Brake and Rolling Stock Examiners ...	"	32/- to 70/-	" "
Artisans, Carpenters, etc. ...	"	32/- to 60/-	" "
Other Artisans	"	32/- to 48/-	" "
Artisans (3) other trades ...	"	60/- to 80/-	" "
Firemen	"	40/- to 65/-	" "
Engine Drivers	"	80/- to 120/-	" "
Carpenters, including Saw Mill Machinists, Truck Fitters, Assistant Truck Fitters and Pattern Makers	"	32/- to 60/-	" "
Painters		48/-	" "
Labourers (Kingston)	"	18/- to 21/-	" "
" (outstations) ...	"	15/- to 18/-	" "
Greasers	"	32/- to 40/-	" "
Watchmen	"	25/- to 35/-	" "
Shedmen (Day)	"	24/- to 27/-	" "
" (Night)	"	30/- to 33/-	" "
Apprentices	"	8/- to 24/-	" "

Traffic Branch.

Trains Controllers ...	...	from 85/- to 150/-	per week
Station Master, Kingston	...	" 100/- to 120/-	" "
Other Station Masters	...	" 50/- to 110/-	" "
Station Clerks ...	...	" 25/- to 50/-	" "
Goods Clerks ...	...	" 15/- to 90/-	" "
1 Booking Clerk ...	...	" £175 to £235	per annum
Porters, Kingston ...	...	" 18/- to 21/-	per week
" Outstations	...	" 15/- to 18/-	" "
Shunters ...	...	" 25/- to 50/-	" "
Guards	...	" 30/- to 70/-	" "
Brakesmen ...	...	" 21/- to 35/-	" "
Wharfinger ...	...	" 80/- to 120/-	" "
Assistant Wharfinger ...	...	" 45/- to 60/-	" "
Storemen ...	...	" 18/- to 25/-	" "
Female Typists ...	...	" 35/- to 50/-	" "

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays, and time and a half for Sunday work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

Station Masters are paid overtime for Sundays and Public Holidays and so are the Assistant and Junior Train Controllers. Parcels Office Clerks and Booking Clerk, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sunday work.

Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

142. The following is a list, giving costs of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	...	8 ozs. for 2d.
Crackers	...	½d. per dozen
Peas and Beans	...	6d. per quart
Yams	...	2d. per lb.
Cocoanuts	...	1d. each
Sweet Potatoes	...	1d. per lb.
Cocoes	...	1d. per lb.
Plantains	...	1½d. each
Sugar, Brown Albion	...	2½d. per lb.
Flour	...	1¾d. per lb.
Rice	...	1½d. per lb.
Meal	...	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	...	4d. per lb.
Herrings	...	3d. per lb.
Shads	...	3d. per lb.
Mackerels	...	3d. per lb.
Salmon	...	6d. per lb.
Onions	...	2½d. per lb.
Beef, wet salted	...	6d. per lb.
Pork, wet salted	...	9d. per lb.
Cocoanut Oil	...	1/3d. per quart
Milk, Condensed	...	4½d. per tin
Beef, fresh	...	6d. per lb.
Salt, fine	...	1d. per lb.

143. During 1935, a 4 lb. loaf of bread cost 1/4d., and a labourer's pay, therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 15 loaves in Government employ and from 13 to 15 loaves in private employ.

In Jamaica, however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaica labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams or sweet potatoes.

144. The cost of living in Jamaica, although it is lower by 8.2 points than for 1935 (being 121.8 as against 130), is still considerably above pre-war level. Taking 100 as the Index Figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the Index Figure for 1935 works out at an average of 121.8, made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—			
Local Products	...	135.4	
Imported Articles	...	102.5	119 (mean)
Clothing, etc.	...		123.4
Miscellaneous	...		123.1
			365.5
Average	...		121.8

145. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew, and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts, unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month. These prices are, however, considerably advanced for short lets during the Tourist Season.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

146. The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1935-36 was £226,392, an increase of £7,791 on the expenditure for 1934-35.

147. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools, (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools, whose only difference from denominational schools, is that the Manager is not necessarily the owner's representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools, (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. On 1st April, 1936, there were 152 schools administered by School Boards, 89 of which are owned by the Government while 63 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas.

148. The total enrolment for the whole Island is 150,557 with an average attendance of 57%, and the total cost of elementary education exclusive of establishment charges for 1935-36 amounted to £187,309.

149. There are in all 653 grant-aided elementary schools. There is also a large number of elementary private schools for which statistics are not available. A new Government School was opened during the year. Building grants to the value of £3,000 were made in 1936 for the repair of Denominational Schools and Teachers' Quarters. Many buildings remain, however, in a bad state of repair.

150. The Primary Schools employ about 1,987 teachers, excluding pupil teachers; nearly 60% of these are trained. There are four training Colleges, one for men, three for women and a small Training Centre for Infant School Teachers.

151. The further education of Elementary School Children is assisted from General Revenue by Scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years in the first instance are awarded annually to children resident in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided and recognized Secondary Schools, twenty-four in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

152. Public assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from the Government funds for three Scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

153. The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 21 centres. At the last Examinations held (July and December 1936) 607 candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 327 passed (53%), 420 for the School Certificate of whom 232 passed (55%) and 18 entered for and 11 passed (61%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

154. In the Examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1936, 57 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 30 passed, including 3 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 8 candidates, 3 of whom passed. Three candidates sat for the Intermediate Examination in Laws and all failed, and one in Science who was referred in one subject. One candidate sat for the Intermediate Examination in Economics and passed. In the final examinations one Candidate sat for the B.A. General Examination and passed and one sat for the B.A. Honours and passed obtaining Second Class Honours (Upper Division.)

155. Vocational training for Elementary School Boys is provided in Kingston at two manual training centres and similar training elsewhere at 10 Government Schools. Apart frome some limited instruction in minor handicrafts the majority of the schools have no manual or domestic training.

156. Opportunities for further vocational training are afforded by Trade Scholarships, two Continuation Schools and the Government Technical School, Kingston. Recognized Evening Classes are held only at the Kingston Technical School where they have been reorganized and are shewing much improvement in numbers and efficiency. There are also unaided private Commercial Colleges which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects.

157. The first Practical Training Centre for Boys, designed to give a sound training in Agriculture and Craftsmanship was opened in March, 1936.

158. Trade Scholarships are awarded to Elementary School Boys who wish to be apprenticed to a Trade or to enter the Government Farm

School. Their value is £20 per annum which may be increased where necessary by a maintenance grant of £20 per annum. They are tenable for a maximum period of five years, part of which is usually spent at the Technical School, Kingston.

159. The Carron Hall and Highgate Girls' Continuation Schools, St. Mary, receive Government Grants. Their curriculum includes Literary Subjects, Needlework, Housecraft and Hygiene. These Schools do excellent work especially from the point of view of character training.

160. The Kingston Technical School, with an enrolment of 289 students provides training for girls and boys in Continuation, Commercial, Domestic Science and Technical Subjects. Examinations are held by external examining bodies such as the Royal Society of Arts, and the City and Guilds of London Institute. Special courses for Training College Students and Elementary School Teachers are also included. The continued large enrolment, 350 at present, in the evening classes is evidence of public recognition of their value.

161. There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining Schools and Orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's Order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian Children. Children may now be detained until 18 years of age in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the classroom or for trade instruction.

162. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys) is maintained by the Government under the charge of the Inspector of Government Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor, which arranges visits of inspection and holds bi-monthly Board Meetings. The number on Roll on 31st December 1936 was 366.

163. The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 ft. above sea level, and yet is only 9 miles from Kingston. Apart from the difficulty of obtaining an adequate water supply the site is ideal for the purpose. The buildings though very old, are spacious, well ventilated and cool. The Girls' section was closed during 1936, and the buildings used for younger boys.

164. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside the Poor Relief Law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1935-36 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

165. The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands from teachers, sanitary inspectors and citizens for information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease.

166. The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing "Jamaica Public Health." This bulletin is used in nearly every school of the Island as a text in hygiene.

167. Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being

dealt with by the Health Departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lanterns and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards designed for use in schools, at markets and other public places, to give information about the more common diseases are distributed.

168. Dental Clinics are in operation in nine parishes. It is only in the parishes of Portland, Trelawny, St. James, Clarendon and St. Catherine that the cost is now divided between the Government and the Parochial Boards. A Medical Officer for Schools was appointed by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation who maintained a systematic medical examination of school children during the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew.

169. The Institute of Jamaica for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art—(with its Library of 39,215 books, 1,715 manuscripts and 747 maps and plans—being 27,447 books in the General Library and 9,306 in the West India Reference Library, including Pamphlets and Newspapers)—distributed 58,678 books amongst its members during 1936, in addition to which many members of the public, including visitors and tourists from England, Canada and the United States, consulted works in the General Library and the West India Reference Library. In the latter there was one professor, three authors and six students doing work on West Indian subjects.

170. Boxes of books were loaned to some of the Branch Libraries and Teachers' Library Association during the year. Some new sets have been prepared for loan to these Societies.

171. Four Art Exhibitions were held during the year. Two Silver Musgrave Medals were awarded at the end of the year—one to Mr Astley Clerk, for his efforts for the development of Music and to maintain interest in the Folklore of Jamaica, and another to Mr. J. F. Brennan, for his work on the Meteorology of Jamaica.

172. Many parties of school children visited the Institute during the year.

173. The History Gallery has proved a great attraction not only to visitors from abroad, but also to intelligent visitors from the country parts interested in the history of the Island, acting as it does to illustrate the books in the West India Reference Library.

174. During the year the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its twenty-ninth Annual Examination of candidates in Pianoforte, Violin, Viola and Singing. There were 931 entries for the Practical and Theoretical Examinations. As a result of the examinations, 857 certificates were awarded.

175. The Musical Society of Jamaica held one meeting during the year.

176. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts Association there are at present 155 Groups actually at work. These groups comprise 140 Scout Troops, 55 Wolf Cub Packs and 44 Rover Crews, numbering 350 Scouters, 2,130 Scouts, 61 Sea Scouts, 705 Cubs, 292 Rover Scouts, 121 Rover Sea Scouts—a total of 3,659. This shews an increase of 212 over 1935 when the total was 3,447.

177. His Excellency Sir Edward Denham, is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

178. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 144 Companies at work, including 290 Rangers, 1,974 Guides and 536 Brownies—a total of 2,800.

179. The President is Lady Denham, and Mrs. D. O. Kelly-Lawson is Island Commissioner.

180. Cricket is played during the season all over the Island, and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925, and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian teams to England and Australia, have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

181. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February, inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary School boys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

182. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various Competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

183. As in the case of cricket, the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

184. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Inter-scholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

185. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1932	entered	1,355	vessels	of	3,508,696	net	tons
1933	"	1,304	"	"	3,698,330	"	"
1934	"	1,326	"	"	3,844,127	"	"
1935	"	1,457	"	"	4,268,701	"	"
1936	"	1,464	"	"	4,520,788	"	"
1932	cleared	1,291	"	"	3,440,374	"	"
1933	"	1,291	"	"	3,718,880	"	"
1934	"	1,291	"	"	3,812,128	"	"
1935	"	1,406	"	"	4,225,513	"	"
1936	"	1,453	"	"	4,524,460	"	"

186. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—Cunard Steamship Company, Blue Star Line, New Zealand Shipping Company, Anchor Line, Royal Mail Lines, Blue Funnel Lines, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Canadian National Steamships, Pacific Steam Navigation Company, James Nours & Company, Canadian Pacific R.R.S. Company, Standard Fruit & Steamship Company, Shaw, Saville & Albion, Webster Steamship Line, (the last named Company is registered in Jamaica). Although Elders & Fyffes is a British Registered Company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The Clyde Mallor, The Grace Line, The United States Lines, The American Pioneer Line, The Eastern S.S. Company, The United Fruit Company, The Standard Fruit & Steamship Company, The Colombian Steam Company, The Aluminum Line, The Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland-American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., the Hamburg-American and the North German Lloyd.

French.—French Line.

Italian.—Italian Line.

Swedish.—Swedish-American.

Poland—Gydnia Line.

Also an Air Line by the Pan-American Airways, Inc.

187. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

(a) ROADS.

188. The Island possesses a good system of Macadam Roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,479 miles, which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,409 miles of which 2,108 miles are suitable for light motor traffic, and 2,301 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

189. During 1936 the main roads were maintained at an average cost of £102 per mile. Many miles of these roads were originally constructed of limestone surfacing without any proper foundation, and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of modern motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen, without special permission, has been enacted.

190. The Transport Commission appointed to consider measures to be adopted for the better regulation and control of road traffic in Jamaica, and to report specifically on Speed Limit, Fees for Licenses, Compulsory Third Party Insurance, for all mechanically propelled vehicles, have submitted their recommendations which are now receiving attention.

191. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic.

192. Up to the end of the year under review, the mileage of asphalt treated roads amounted to 241 miles 69 chains.

193. Heavy flood rainfall during the months of May and June, 1936, caused considerable damage to roads and contingent works; the parishes most affected being St. Andrew, Manchester, Clarendon and St. Catherine. All roads, however, were opened to traffic with little delay, and restoration works will be completed before 31st March, 1937.

194. The programme of Road Construction works, authorized under the First Instalment of the Public Works Loan Law 22 of 1935, commenced in 1936 is nearing completion; and it is hoped that the programme undertaken will be finished by 31st March, 1937.

195. A start on the asphalting of Main Arterial Roads, included in the above programme, has been made, which while greatly improving such roads, will effect a saving on the cost of Roads Maintenance and increase the comfort of the travelling public.

196. The programme of works to be pursued under the Second Instalment of the above mentioned Loan Law has been approved of by the Legislature, and continuation of the Road Programme is included therein.

197. Surveys with respect to roads to be constructed under this

instalment are now being carried out, and it is hoped that actual work will commence early in the new financial year.

198. Under Public Works Extraordinary, a number of weak bridges were reconstructed and improvements carried out to certain existing main roads.

199. The mean rainfall for the Island was 86.20 inches, or 12.33 inches above the 60 year average.

The mean number of rainy days was 135, the average being 122.

(b) CANALS.

200. There are no navigable Canals in the Island.

Motor Omnibus.

201. Motor Omnibus services in the Island continue to play their part in the development of the communities served, and are proving more popular from year to year.

202. In Kingston and Lower St. Andrew there has been an increase in the number of omnibuses licensed to ply for hire, and in the number of routes approved. There is also a marked improvement in the type of bus being used. There are 63 omnibuses operating over 15 routes totalling 78 miles. There has been no increase this year in the number of omnibuses operating between the City and outlying country districts. The number remains at 84 omnibuses which cover several hundreds of miles of route.

JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

203. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32¼ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield —23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

204. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast Port Antonio being north-east; and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ ins. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja, at 31 miles—905 feet.

205. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1936, was £249,833 1s. 11d., and the expenditure, £266,621 7s. 9d. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for Renewals, Depreciation and Betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 275,363 tons, as compared with 231,254 tons for the year 1935; the number of passengers carried in 1936 was 381,960, as compared with 443,969 in 1935.

206. The Management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of eight members, consisting of the Director and seven others,

chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

207. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60 lb. rails with 80 lb. rails, has been proceeding. 133 miles of 60 lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927 the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1936 the total mileage which has been changed from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails, is 102 miles. During 1936 short lengths of worn 80 lb. rails were renewed, totalling 1 mile.

Passenger Traffic.

208. The passenger traffic during this period shows a decrease largely due to motor competition. A new time-table is being prepared and will shortly be put into operation which will result in the speeding up of the train service, and, it is hoped, in increased numbers of passengers travelling by rail.

General Merchandise Traffic.

209. There has been a decrease under this head in tonnage and revenue, which is due to road motor competition.

Banana Traffic.

210. There has been a decrease under this head in tonnage and in revenue, which is due to the severe set-back to the banana industry caused by abnormal climatic conditions during September and October, 1935. The figures for the last three months, however, reveal a steady recovery, and this improvement should continue.

POSTAL.

211. *Inland.*—There are 294 Post Offices in Jamaica—an average of one office to each 38.9 square kilometers—of which 120 are branches of the Government Savings Bank.

Of these, 231 have one daily exchange of mails with Kingston, 40 have two exchanges; 14 have three; and 4 have four exchanges, while 5 offices exchange 9 mails weekly with Kingston.

The inland mail services are performed by Jamaica Government Railway, private contractors, Public Works Department, and Jamaica Public Service Co., and the daily mileage covered is as follows:—

	Miles.
By Jamaica Government Railway	756¼
By motor vans (contractors)	1,056
By animal drawn carts	189
By foot-couriers	1,601
By tram car	66
By sea	12
	3,680¼

212. *Overseas.*—1. Mail communications are maintained by steamers of Elders and Fyffes, Limited, Standard Fruit and Steamship Co., Shaw Sevill Line with Great Britain; United Fruit Company and Colombian Line with United States of America, Central America and Cuba; Canadian National Steamships with Canada and Central America; Pickford and Black with Canada; Aluminum Line with the British West India Islands; Jamaica Banana Company with Holland;

Cayman Island Motor Boat Company with the Cayman Islands; and by various cruise steamers.

213. Pan-American Airways, Inc., link Jamaica with the United States of America, Canada, Central and South America, Mexico and the West Indies.

214. The following are the operating schedules:—

Southbound.—A mail-carrying air plane flies from Miami, U.S.A. (via Havana, Cuba) every Tuesday and Saturday at 8.00 a.m., arrives at Kingston on the same days, at 1.45 p.m., and flies to Barranquilla, Colombia, on same days at 2.15 p.m., arriving at 5.43 p.m.

Northbound.—A plane flies from Baranquilla every Sunday and Wednesday at 7.00 a.m., arrives at Kingston on the same days, 10.00 a.m., and flies to Miami (via Havana) on same days, 10.45 a.m., arriving at 4.52 p.m.

East and Westbound.—A plane flies from Kingston every Thursday at 8.15 a.m. for Port-au-Prince, Haiti, arriving at 1.44 p.m. on same day. Return plane flies from Port-au-Prince, at noon on Tuesday, and arrives at Kingston at 4.50 p.m. on same day.

215. The Trans-Pacific air service from San Francisco to Manila, P.I., provides an 11-13-day service from Jamaica to Hong Kong and China; and the Trans-Atlantic steamship service performed by the steamers Normandie, Bremen, Europa and Queen Mary provides an 8-day air mail service from Kingston to British or French port.

Postal Telegraph and Telephone Service.

216. The Government Postal and Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879 with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1936, there were 1,878 miles of Telegraph and Telephone lines with 60 Telegraph and 146 Telephone offices. Two telephone offices were opened during the year and one closed.

217. The charge for Inland telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday Telegram Service is provided on payment of graduated fees. An optional service of telegrams conveying Christmas and New Year greetings inaugurated in 1934 was continued in 1936. The charge was sixpence for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. 3,664 such telegrams were sent.

218. The Jamaica Government Railway Telegraphic Service in connection with which there are 45 offices, assist in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collobora-tion with the Postal and Telegraph System but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

219. In 1935, 382,122 telegrams were despatched, and the revenue amounted to £18,616 19s. 6½d. In 1936, 371,410 and £15,549 18s. 8½d., respectively.

220. Overseas cables are handled in both directions, i.e., out-going and in-coming by the Department, which collected £3,916 10s. 0d. for Cable Tolls for delivery to the Cable Company.

Submarine Cables.—The Cable Companies were amalgamated in 1936 under the title "The West India and Panama Telegraph Company" which remains a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, Ltd. Direct circuits are now operated from Kingston by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's System to Turks Island, Bermuda, Barbados and Halifax, N.S. At Halifax, semi automatic retransmis-sion is provided to Montreal and London providing a virtually direct

circuit to both places. The West India and Panama System also provides direct circuits to Santiago, Cuba, Havana, Cuba, and New York City, also to San Juan and Ponce, Porto Rico.

221. The rates generally have remained unaltered, but through the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's Association with Cable and Wireless, Ltd., there has been a marked increase in facilities through their co-operation and vast network of Cable and Wireless Systems under their control.

Wireless.

222. During 1935 a new station was built at Halfway Tree to accommodate the Radio Telephone receivers and Terminal Equipment. The receivers for all services are now located at the Halfway Tree Station and the transmitters at Stony Hill. An overseas telephone service was opened to the public during 1936, the connection being through Miami, Florida. This service may be extended to Europe in 1937.

Ship Shore Service.

223. Continuous watch is maintained for ships, and traffic is exchanged on medium and short waves on schedule providing a means of communication up to distances of 2,000 miles or more.

Broadcasting.

224. No broadcasting stations exist on the Island. At present 3,828 broadcasting receiving licenses have been issued up to date, and 33 experimental transmitting licenses are in existence. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving programmes broadcast by the Empire, America, and other broadcasting stations.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

225. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are: Barclays Bank, Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

226. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1936, was as follows:—

Barclays Bank—Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly The Colonial Bank)	£98,035
Bank of Nova Scotia	£131,535
Royal Bank of Canada	£46,067
Canadian Bank of Commerce	£14,000

227. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclays Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar, and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

228. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—

British Gold and Silver coins, local nickel coins, Government currency notes.

Accounts are kept in sterling.

229. Government Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1936, to the extent of £97,934 2s. 6d. in the following denominations:

2/6d. Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/- Notes.
£112 7s. 6d.	£42,862 15s. 0d.	£54,959 0s. 0d.

230. Jamaica has its own subsidiary (nickel) coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

231. In addition to the construction of New Roads and Bridges, an account of which appears under Chapter X, the principal activities of the year were:—

Public Works Extraordinary.

(1) Court House at Gayle, Repairs and Purchase of Site.
(2) General Penitentiary—Special Repairs.
(3) St. Catherine District Prison—Special Repairs No. 1 Block and Cells.
(4) Mental Hospital—Additional Accommodation.
(5) do Special Repairs.
(6) Public General Hospital, Sav.-la-Mar, Improvements.
(7) Maternity Wards Hospitals.
(8) Kings House Repairs.
(9) Technical School, Kingston, Additional accommodation, Sanitation and Improvement.
(10) Jamaica College—Repairs and Improvements.

232. The Building Programme authorized under the Public and Municipal Works Loan Law, 17 of 1933 with the exception of Petersfield Post Office, Park Mountain School now under construction, and the reconditioning of the Halfway Tree Court House, has been completed.

233. Exclusive of the Road Programme set out in Chapter X, with respect to Public Works Loan Law 22 of 1935, First Instalment, the following Works also included under this Law are in progress:—

(1) Improvements, Kingston Harbour.
(2) Improvements, Port Antonio Harbour (Surveys).
(3) Irrigation Scheme (Surveys).
(4) Operating Theatre—Public General Hospital, Kingston.
(5) T.B. Ward, Linstead Public General Hospital (completed).
(6) Acquiring and reconditioning 150 East Street for Headquarters Criminal Investigation Department.
(7) Reclamation Swamp Lands (Kingston Pen).

234. The Building for housing the Tourist Trade Bureau, constructed out of funds collected from the Tourist Tax, has been completed and is now occupied.

235. The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by order of the Governor upon the Director of Public Works, which include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all main roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877, and the construction, enlargement, improvement, repair, management and control of any other Water Works at the request of a Parochial Board and Authorized by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889, and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds of which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds for which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the Chief Adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specification and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorized.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, The Telephone Law, the Tramways Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law, (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

236. The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Court of Appeal which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil and criminal) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

237. There are four Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice, a Judge of the Court of Appeal and two Puisne Judges.

238. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

There are fifteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and an Assistant Resident Magistrate for the parish of Kingston.

The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

Police.

239. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force, dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Constabulary Force. This latter Law was repealed in 1935 and Law 27 of 1935, "The Jamaica Constabulary Force Consolidation and Amendment Law, 1935," brought into effect.

240. Under Law 27 of 1935, the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers, and the Inspector General is authorised to appoint the Sub-Officers and Constables.

241. The present authorised strength of the Force is 24 Officers and 1,099 Sub-Officers and Constables. No person shall be eligible for admission into the Jamaica Constabulary unless he can produce a Certificate of Character from a Magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory Medical Examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and thirty-three inches round the chest; not less than nineteen or more than thirty years of age, and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document, and to write a fair hand.

242. Every Constable is enrolled for five years (the first six months being on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent.

243. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines and perform the duties appertaining to the Office of Constables. There are separate Detectives and Water Police Branches recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police Force.

Prisons.

244. *General Penitentiary.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, and European prisoners. There is separate cell accommodation for 720 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the chapel, and 32 in Hospital Wards. It has not been necessary to keep prisoners in association since 1929.

245. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding 6 months. There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the chapel for 306, and hospital wards for 40.

246. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accommodation for 66.

247. *Females' Prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198; hospital wards for 15.

248. In the adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

249. At the Juvenile adult prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the adult prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the juvenile adult prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons. Suitable boys are taught the citrus industry by members of the Department of Agriculture, and many have, in consequence, been placed in good jobs.

250. In the Females' prison, satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e., washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate, because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good.

Brief Statistics.

251. *Average Daily Population.*

	1934.	1935.	1936.
General Penitentiary	605	572	596
St. Catherine District Prison ...	526	501	558
Juvenile Adult Prison	35	36	37
Female Prison	57	52	58
	1,223	1,161	1,249

1932—1,201; 1933—1,301:

Number in custody.	31.12.35.	31.12.36.
General Penitentiary	658	623
St. Catherine District Prison	545	649
	1,203	1,272

1932—1,363; 1933—1,460; 1934—1,115.

	1935.	1936.
Expenditure	£41,132 8 11	£40,998 18 0
Revenue	£9,291 14 0	8,844 0 3
Materials supplied other Depts. free	£2,024 13 6	1,840 7 6
Cost of Prisons	£29,816 1 5	£30,314 10 3
Cost per prisoner per annum	£25 18 7	£24 5 5

Value of Prison manufactures and farm products used in prison:—

1935.	1936.
£3,141 1s. 0d.	£3,145 15s. 9d.

The statistics given above shew an increase over last year in the average daily population, but the figure is only slightly above the average for the past 10 years (1,225) and so, taking into account the increase in the population of the Colony and the extent of unemployment, cannot be considered other than satisfactory.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

252. Thirty-seven Laws were passed during the year 1936. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest:—

Law 3 of 1936.—"A Law to Amend a Law entitled a Law to Amend and Consolidate the Laws imposing Licenses upon Trades and Business, (Law 7 of 1908)." The Law was enacted in order to substitute a schedule of license duties for the duties then subsisting. The effect of the Law is to increase the revenues of the Corporation and Parochial Boards in order to meet the debt charges on that portion of the loan raised for parochial housing and water supply schemes. The revenues of the Corporation and of the Boards being charged accordingly.

Law 5 of 1936.—"A Law to Amend the Young Criminals Punishment Law 1904 (Law 25 of 1904)." The Law alters the age of a "child" from under the age of twelve years to under the age of fourteen years, and that of a "young person" from fourteen years to sixteen years. It abolishes the power hitherto existing to imprison a child.

Law 7 of 1936.—"A Law to make Provision for the Enforcement in Jamaica of Judgments given in Foreign Countries which accord Reciprocal Treatment to Judgments given in Jamaica for facilitating the enforcement in Foreign Countries of Judgments given in Jamaica and for other purposes in connection with the matters aforesaid." The Law makes provision for the enforcement in Jamaica of Foreign Judgments of those countries which accord enforcement in those countries of Judgments given in Jamaica.

Law 16 of 1936.—"A Law to enable Agricultural Loan Societies to which Advances are made from Public Funds to make Loans of a Special Class." The Law is for the purpose of affording aid to the Agricultural Industry of the Island whenever materially damaged. It provides that whenever the Legislative Council vote financial aid for the industry, it shall be lawful for the Governor to place the sum voted at the disposal of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board for the purpose of loans to Agricultural Societies.

Law 20 of 1936.—"A Law to reconstitute the Jamaica Banana Producers Association, Limited, into a Trading Company."

Law 21 of 1936.—"A Law to provide for the Issue by The Jamaica Banana Producers Association, Limited, of Debentures and for Government Guarantee of such Debentures."

Law 24 of 1936—"A Law to enable the Regulation and better control of the Banana Industry."

The three Laws mentioned above, being Law 20 of 1936, Law 21 of 1936, and Law 24 of 1936, reconstitute the Jamaica Banana Producers Association into a Limited Liability Company, make provision for Government Guarantee of loans raised by the reconstituted Company by means of debentures not exceeding £450,000 in value and enact certain provisions which would have the effect when implemented of regulating the supply of fruit to the fruit Companies operating in Jamaica.

Law 27 of 1936.—"A Law to Amend further the Laws relating to the Administrator General."

Law 28 of 1936.—"A Law to Amend further the Laws relating to Bankruptcy."

The two Laws mentioned above, being Law 27 of 1936 and Law 28 of 1936, render effective the Government's policy for the separation of the office of the Administrator General from that of the Trustee in Bankruptcy in the Supreme Court.

Law 35 of 1936.—"A Law relating to the Distribution of Estates of Intestates and Charges on Property of Deceased Persons." The Law repeals all Laws governing escheat and the devolution of property on intestacy and re-enacts in Jamaica, with slight modification, the relevant provisions of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 (Imperial).

CHAPTER XV.

FINANCE.

253. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36
£	£	£	£	£
2,085,793	2,169,307	2,037,319	2,260,352	2,121,965

Expenditure.

1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.
£	£	£	£	£
2,135,736	2,081,635	2,186,056	2,255,502	2,178,228

254. The total Expenditure during the year ended the 31st March 1936, was £56,263 more than the total Revenue.

255. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1936, under the various Heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs and Excise—	
Customs	872,818
Excise	193,658
II. Harbour Dues, etc.	6,916
III. Licence and Other Internal Revenue Licences—	
Licences	37,219
Fines, etc.	3,621
Judicial Revenue	9,075
IV. Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, etc.—	
Fees of Office	8,191
Commissions	3,227
Stamp Duties	53,143
Judicial Revenue	9,061
V. Reimbursements—	
(1) Debt Charges	111,401
(2) Pensions—Contributions	10,419
(3) Salaries, etc.	7,118
(4) General	7,496
VI. Post Office and Telegraphs—	
(a) Post Office	68,376
(b) Telegraphs	11,556
VII. Departmental Revenue—	
(a) Medical	7,608
(b) Prisons	8,547
(c) Science and Agriculture	2,094
(d) Printing Office	202
(e) Surveyor General	210
(f) Public Works Department	—
(g) Education Department	21
VIII. Irrigation Receipts	13,195
IX. Direct Taxation	127,301
X. Currency	—
XI. Rents	2,104
XII. Interest	2,541
XIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	5,731
	£1,582,844
XIV Surplus in Sinking Funds	—
XV. Land Sales	1,948
XVI. Colonial Development Fund	34,913
	£1,619,705

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount
	£
Charges of Debt	188,704
Pensions	64,494
Pensions of Widows and Orphans	14,634
The Governor and Staff	6,160
Privy Council	47
Legislative Council	3,519
Colonial Secretariat	7,813
Lands Department	9,083
Land Settlement	5,044
Audit Department	6,242
Public Treasury	5,794
Currency Commissioners	999
Government Savings Bank	9,847
Immigration Department	13
Collector General's Department	68,474
Post Office	80,616
Supreme Court	8,997
Law Officers	3,789
Resident Magistrate Courts	32,963
Administrator General's Office	7,033
Medical—General Administration	22,987
" Health Service	27,516
" Hospitals and Lepers' Home	68,543
" Lunatic Asylum	31,730
Constabulary	146,946
Prisons	27,415
Industrial School	4,221
Education	178,019
Harbours and Pilotage	3,750
Marine Board	644
Imperial Forces Allowances	4,296
Local Forces	6,292
Registrar General's Department and Island Record Office	6,255
Registration of Titles Office	2,606
Government Printing Office	16,622
Board of Supervision	555
Department of Science and Agriculture	39,361
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,326
Subventions	55,075
Miscellaneous	38,545
Railway	60,263
Public Works Department	39,593
" " Annual Recurrent	220,464
" " Extraordinary	20,379
	£1,547,668
Colonial Development Fund	773
	£1,548.441

256. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1936, were £977,831 and £967,895, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £9,936. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1936 were held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans—			
To Agricultural Loan Societies Board ...	37,283	9	3
To Wolmer's Trust	3,596	10	5
From Parochial Water Supplies Fund, Law 25 of 1928	10,985	14	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15/1932, Advance	19,800	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 25/1933, Advance	19,300	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 24/1935, Advance	23,000	0	0
Hurricane Loan, 1933	5,875	3	4
Advances—			
Land Settlement	40,202	10	4
On account of Loans to be raised	69,873	9	10
To Parochial Boards	5,133	0	0
Stores	107,494	12	10½
General	41,959	0	7
Appropriated Funds Invested—			
Redemption Funds for Loans guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	78,361	6	4
Deposits for Investment	163,589	3	7
Trust Funds	36,924	8	11
Miscellaneous Funds (Insurance Fund and Earthquake Loan Board)	195,727	1	11
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana-Industry Aid, Law 15/1932	3,646	9	3
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid, Law 25/1933	1,613	7	3
Expenses Banana Industry Aid Board, Laws 15, 1932, 25/1933 and 24/1935	6,827	14	6
Collector General for Customs Revenue ...	187	15	3
Director Jamaica Railway	2,706	11	8
Emigration Agent, India	139	8	0
Crown Agents for Sundry Invested Funds ...	124	8	11
Imprests	74,323	3	4
Remittances in Transit	2,858	12	5
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York	1,722	5	2
Treasurer	24,575	8	4
	£977,830	15	6½

257. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £181,986 at the 31st March, 1936.

258. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1936, was £3,780,653. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Debt amounted to £561,806. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference—£3,218,847—exceeds by £1,030,066 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1936-37.

259. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1936:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	
Great Britain ...	45,000,000	7,916,412,462	175.92
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica ...	1,130,000	3,780,653	3.34

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1936, viz.: £561,806, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £2 16s. 0d.

CHAPTER XV.

TAXATION.

260. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1936, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. *Customs*—			
Import Duties	1,024,719	0	0
Export Duties	2,200	0	0
Package Tax	79,844	0	0
ii. *Harbour and Light Dues*—			
Harbour Fees	2,898	0	0
Light Dues	7,184	0	0
iii. Licences	42,635	4	1
Excise	255,943	19	2
Income Tax	78,007	0	4
Property Tax	87,393	12	4
Fines in Petty Sessions	12,164	13	9
Surcharges	3,692	6	9
Stamp Duties	78,711	13	9

Customs Tariff.

261. The general *ad valorem* duty is 20%, and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain clases of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the heading of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Apparel.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

Excise Duties.

262. The principal Excise duties were on Cigars, from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per proof gallon.

Stamp Duties.

263. Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

264. In addition to these are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyance, Leases, etc.

265. There is no Hut Tax nor Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)

1936

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Dependency of the Cayman Islands consists of three small islands situate between longitude W. 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ in latitude N. 19° 15′ and 19° 45′. The westernmost is the island of Grand Cayman, which is approximately 20 miles from east to west and has a maximum breadth north to south of some 8 miles. The other two islands, known respectively as Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, lie about 60 miles north-east of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is about 10 miles long by 2 miles wide at its maximum and Cayman Brac is a little larger.

No survey of the land area has yet been made but the total of the group is estimated by various authorities at from 140 square miles to as little as 92.

The islands are low-lying and Grand Cayman is in many parts little more than mangrove swamp. The maximum height is 130 feet above sea-level at the easternmost end of Cayman Brac,

a culminating point to a high plateau that rises gradually from the west. This plateau has precipitous flanks both on the north and south sides, these cliffs being separated from the sea by a narrow stretch of beach and coral formation.

Geologically the islands consist of decayed coral limestone with deposits of phosphate and a loamy soil. They are covered with dense bush containing, in addition to mangroves, much logwood, mahogany, thatch-palm and other trees of no particular economic worth.

Pasture land of considerable value for raising cattle is found on each of the islands, but agricultural land is not so abundant owing to the too frequent outcrop of decaying coral limestone and to the presence of swamps.

Climate.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the most part of the year excellent. The temperature from November until the middle of April varies from 79° F. to 82° F., and the winds are usually gentle to fresh from north-east to north-west.

The summer months are hot, and, as a rule, rainfall is comparatively heavy. The hurricane season lasts from August to November, as elsewhere in the West Indies. The following is a list of the principal hurricanes during the present century:—

August, 1903
August, 1915
September, 1917
November 7th-9th, 1932
July 1st, 1933
September 25th-27th, 1935.

The rainfall for the year was 91·44 inches as compared with 61·50 inches in 1935.

The annual rainfall has averaged since 1921 63·90 inches, and the year under review has been the wettest known during that period, excepting for 1931 when 102·33 inches fell.

No month is free from rain, but the rainy season proper can be said to last from May till October inclusively, the wettest months being September and October. During 1936, however, there was exceptionally heavy rain during May with the heaviest recorded downfall for one day of 8·66 inches.

During the year the Meteorological Station, erected in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture at Georgetown, began observations on 15th July. From that date until 15th November a trained observer from the National Observatory at Havana was stationed at Georgetown. Reports were exchanged twice a day with the Cuban capital, whence the information required was transmitted throughout the Caribbean.

History.

The first account of the islands is the report of the third voyage of Columbus on his return from Porto Bello to Hispaniola in 1503. Therein it is stated that the islands were covered with turtle which swarmed also on the coasts in such multitudes as to look look like ridges of rock.

No settlement appears, however, to have been founded; but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson during his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads:—

> "This place is low land and all rockye, and there bee other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanos, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of Sea Tortoises yearly resorte to lay their Eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

In 1655, Jamaica was taken and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands.

In Esquemeling's History of the Buccaneers, one finds how the islands continued to maintain their importance as a source of meat supply and there is the following reference:—

> "It is a thing much deserving consideration how the tortoises can find out these islands. For the greatest part of them come from the Gulf of Honduras, distant thence the whole space of one hundred and fifty leagues. Certain it is, that many times the ships, having lost their latitude through the darkness of the weather, have steered their course only by the noise of the tortoise swimming that way, and have arrived at those isles. When their season of hatching is past, they retire towards the island of Cuba, where are many good places that afford them food. But while they are at the islands of Caymanes, they eat very little or nothing."

There does not appear to have been any serious settlement on these islands until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beachcombers, and possibly marooned mariners.

Tradition further has it that during the six years of Sir Thomas Modyford's commission as Governor of Jamaica, 1664-70, he visited Little Cayman where his landing place is supposed to have been Muddyfoot's Bay, a possible corruption of his name. Not till 1734, however, is a grant of land recorded as having been made to the first settlers, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of " Bodden " and " Foster " are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

There are no traces of any Spanish occupation but from time to time small finds are made of Spanish coins, which may indicate evidence of the residence in the islands of pirates and buccaneers. During 1934 one such find was made at Cayman Brac of 270 coins scattered over a small area, dated 168--. The coins were identified as having been minted in Mexico and, except for one gold piece, were all of silver alloy.

The name " Cayman " has been the subject of a certain amount of discussion, information regarding which will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

During the eighteenth century, public affairs in the Dependency were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, under the direction of one of them locally elected as " Governor ". The principle of representative government was accepted in 1832, when elected members were received into the administrative body, and the term " custos rotulorum " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

In 1863, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vict. Chap. 31) recognizing the existence of Acts and Resolutions passed by this body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed, but at the same time provision was made for the continuance of the legislative powers of the Justices and Vestry. These powers were more closely defined in the Imperial Act of 1863 referred to above and in 1893 were further explained by Jamaica Law 37 of 1893.

Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 21st October, 1934, when 24 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

There are 27 Vestrymen whose election takes place every two years, the latest having been held in August, 1936, when the following statistics are to be noted:—

Constituency.	*No. of Electorate.*	*No. of Voters.*	*No. of Representatives.*
Georgetown	235	147	5
West Bay	185	73	5
Prospect	37	19	3
Boddentown	87	40	5
East End	79	29	3
Northside	61	20	2
Lesser Islands	262	66	4
	946	394	27

Thus 41·64 per cent. of the electorate went to the polls. But it is to be observed how high a proportion to the total electorate the total of representatives bears.

The power of the Custos is now vested in the office of Commissioner, who is at the same time Judge of the Grand Court. The duties of the Commissioner are regulated by Law 34 of 1898 (section 2).

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency is an increasing one. In 1774, the whole population amounted to 176 souls. By 1802, when a census was taken by a Special Commissioner sent down by the then Governor of Jamaica, the figures showed 309 whites, 73 coloured, 6 free blacks and 545 slaves, a total of 933.

No further figures are obtainable until the first census proper in 1891.

In the 1935 Annual Report details of the population and sex distribution are given. Summarized they are as follows:—

1891.		*1911.*		*1921.*		*1934.*	
M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
1,904	2,418	2,427	3,137	2,216	3,037	2,472	3,537
4,322		5,564		5,253		6,009	

The proportion of males to females remains the same and is approximately 100 males to 150 females. This excess of females is most noticeable after the age group 16 to 17. Until that age males and females are approximately 50:50.

There has been a steady annual increase of the population which it is estimated to-day to total 6,700, a number inclusive of those men absent fishing in 1934 when the Census was taken.

Immigration and emigration statistics are as follows:—

Year.	*Outward.*	*Inward.*
1933	352	442
1934	375	420
1935	427	397
1936	411	382

The accuracy of these figures leaves much to be desired since a considerable number of men leave the islands, not as passengers but as ships' ratings.

The statistics of births and deaths are as follows:—

Year.	*No. of births.*	*Birth-rate per thousand.*	*Infantile mortality per thousand births.*	*No. of deaths.*	*Death-rate per thousand.*
1933 ...	162	30	154	156	29
1934 ...	172	28	52	55	9
1935 ...	197	33	25	50	8
1936 ...	188	31	53	55	8

During the year under review there were 37 marriages, which compare with preceding years as follows:

Year.	*No. of marriages.*	*Rate per thousand.*
1932	37	7
1933	32	6
1934	48	8
1935	41	7
1936	37	6

Of the 188 births 96 were males and 92 females. Illegitimate births numbered 37 giving an illegitimate birth-rate per mille of 196.

The population of the islands is preponderantly British, the next in numbers being nationals of the United States of America, but they include a large proportion of Cayman Islanders who have naturalized themselves as American citizens.

IV.—HEALTH.

During 1936 the health of the Dependency continued to be good, with no epidemics.

The birth and death rates have been given above. An analysis of the 55 deaths shows that 22 died from senility, whilst infantile mortality accounted for a further 10.

A single death was attributed to tuberculosis, but none to typhoid or malaria.

The unusual healthiness of the Dependency is illustrated in the following table, which shows that old age is the principal cause of death. In this respect the year 1931 presented some remarkable figures. In that year there were 14 deaths at Boddentown, the youngest of which was at 66 years and the oldest at 100, the average being 81. In the same year at East End there were four deaths at 84, 86, 84 and 87, respectively.

Year.	*Total deaths.*	*Enteric.*	*Dysentery.*	*Tuberculosis.*	*Malaria.*	*Over 70 years old.*	
						M.	*F.*
1933 ...	156	14	10	3	—	28	31
1934 ...	55	1	1	1	—	8	16
1935 ...	50	1	—	2	1	6	14
1936 ...	55	—	1	1	—	13	9

The fact that so many males are absent between the ages of 18 and 60 might be thought to account for these figures in a small way, but this is not the case and deaths of young and middle-aged men abroad from the Caymans are very rare. At the same time the female population between these years does not migrate, and their deaths between the ages of 18-60 are most uncommon.

The state of the healthiness is all the more surprising in view of the prevalence during the rainy season of vast swarms of mosquitoes and the almost complete lack of sanitation.

The mosquito problem has never been seriously tackled and presents great difficulties. The settlements have been allowed to grow up without any attention to town-planning, access to most of the houses being impossible for wheeled traffic. The result is that the great majority of houses are scattered without order and surrounded each by small compounds in which weeds and fruit trees have been allowed to grow at will, almost without any care at all. The soil is generally hard coral rock, full of cracks and crevices, and where it is soft it is during the summer months a mass of crab holes. Trees blown down in the storms have been allowed to lie on the ground; bananas, palms, corn and bread-fruit have been cultivated amongst the houses; pigs are indiscriminately kept; old tins, bottles and sea shells, chiefly of the conch, are thrown away regardlessly. In short everything has been done to facilitate the breeding of mosquitoes.

During the year under review continued efforts were made to clean Georgetown as was done in 1935 and the people responded so well that possibly if they persevere the plague of mosquitoes may diminish. It is an undeniable fact that after the cleaning the swarms of misquitoes decreased to a very great extent. But it is difficult as conditions are at present to do much more than take this first elementary step towards sanitation. There are no incinerators and the settlements could not afford a sanitary gang. Unfortunately the mosquito season coincides with the period when most of the men are away so that cleaning thoroughly cannot be undertaken, nor in the absence of legislation would it be possible to control the disposal of rubbish.

There has been no survey made of the mosquitoes themselves but it is to be noted that probably as much as 90 per cent. are *Aedes Aegypti.*

There is no hospital in the Dependency, but at the end of the year a small building was being prepared for this purpose. Provision for medical attention is provided by the services of a Government Medical Officer, stationed in Grand Cayman, and a dispenser resident in Cayman Brac.

The former enjoys private practice and is entitled to fees regulated by rules drawn up under Law 3 of 1901, which provided for the appointment.

It had been hoped to have arranged during 1936 for a Medical Missionary to be stationed in Cayman Brac. Negotiations, however, fell through; but for a short time a qualified Medical Officer resided in that island. After two months sojourn he left without notice and the island reverted to the former practice of relying upon the services of a Dispenser.

In December, 1936, the Government Medical Officer was transferred to Jamaica and a new Medical Officer appointed. The latter was able to spend two weeks in the Lesser Islands, where he conducted a close survey from a medical point of view and submitted a long report. His general conclusions can be summarized by a short paragraph from that report: "My general conclusion is that the people of Cayman Brac form a very healthy community, much too healthy to need, and much too poor to afford, the services of a resident doctor. I consider that the health of the people of Cayman Brac can be quite adequately looked after by the resident Government Dispenser."

There are no certificated midwives, such services being rendered by volunteers who usually receive a small remuneration.

The water supply of the Dependency leaves much to be desired. The people depend almost exclusively on rain which is caught from the iron roofs into cement cisterns or iron tanks. No statistics are available as to the number of these but at the end of the winter a shortage of water is experienced in most places.

The rainfall is very unevenly distributed although probably the average would be the same for each district. The result of this is that often there is a drought in some districts and an over-abundance of water in others, a condition which adds to the difficulty of arranging for a public water supply.

V.—HOUSING.

Since 1921, the number of houses in the Dependency has increased from 1,060 to 1,246, as shown below:—

		Number of houses.			*Average number of persons per house, 1934.*
		1911.	*1921.*	*1934.*	
Grand Cayman	...	765	815	961	4·7
Cayman Brac...	...	254	26	267	4·8
Little Cayman	...	29	[illegible]	18	4·0
		1,048	1,060	1,246	4·69

It cannot be said that there is general overcrowding except in a few isolated places in Georgetown.

Thatch roofs have almost disappeared, save for out-buildings such as kitchens. The roofs were made of the leaves of the palmetto *Thrinax argentea,* and were real objects of art, and it is to be hoped that this craftsmanship will be preserved. Outwardly the appearance is not striking, but from the inside the intricate and regular weaving of the leaves presents a view of good and beautiful workmanship. It is worth recording in connexion with the thatching of roofs that this work was performed not for remuneration but as a communal work for which the reward was a fiesta, even the principal artisans receiving no payment.

A few examples remain of a type of house which is claimed to be peculiar to the Cayman Islands. These were often two-storeyed with single roofs to which there was no overhang and of which the slope was not very acute. The walls were made of puddled coral and sand, the coral having first been reduced to powder by burning. Sections are set up one at a time between hardwood uprights and interlacing of small beams. Windows were cut and having no glass were merely shuttered, either with jalousies or boards.

Practically every house is owned by the family resident therein, only a few being rented. Rental varies from £1 a month upwards.

Lodging for working-class people is not expensive. Often young unmarried men come from the outlying areas to the larger centres for casual labour. Their board and lodging costs from 6s. a week upwards, but usually arrangements can be made to lodge with relatives.

There are no building societies in the Dependency; but a strong family or communal feeling exists whereby persons of the poorer class desirous of erecting a new house can obtain labour and assistance free of charge.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

For a short period (1884-90) the islands were exploited for phosphates, deposits being worked commercially in each of the three islands. But the grade of the phosphates was low and the area of the deposits not of any extent. Since the closing down of these works there has been no mineral production and the Dependency relies entirely on the harvest of the sea and of the field.

Agriculture.

Agriculturally the islands are of a very promising character and are capable of producing practically every crop that grows within the tropic zone. The soil consists of marl and this, enriched by vegetable decay as well as the mild phosphate deposits,

should have made the islands of considerable agricultural value. The Cayman Islanders, however, are essentially fisher-folk and seamen, and the result is that the fields are not cultivated to the full extent of their possibilities, nor are they cared for as they should be. It is the same with the fruit trees which are not cultivated but merely planted. A conspicuous feature of agricultural conditions is the complete indifference of the women-folk who in other parts take their full share of the labour. Even among the negro population the women do not display any real interest in the fields.

The principal field products are:—corn, guinea corn, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, cassava, pumpkins, melons, and plantains, and the principal fruit trees are mango, banana, sapodilla, avocado pear, paw-paw, sweet and sour sops and the various forms of citrus. It is notable that although sisal and Spanish sabre grow almost everywhere in the islands, pineapples are conspicuous by their absence. It is possible that this is due to superstition as the people relate that they believe children were fatally poisoned some years ago through eating pineapples imported from Central America.

Most of the agricultural production is by individual workers who, as a rule, own the land they farm. There are, however, a number of plantation owners who employ labour.

Statistics are not available as to the quantity or value of the crops grown in the Dependency, which are wholly consumed locally. The islands are not self-supporting, a certain amount of fresh fruits and vegetables being imported annually.

Live Stock.

A description of the live stock industry has been given in the 1935 Report.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry is the mainstay of the islanders. It consists of catching turtles, sharks and sponges. A description of these has been given in the 1934 and 1935 Reports.

There are 22 schooners engaged in this industry which takes them far afield.

The following return shows the amount and value of the catch:—

Year.	*Green Turtle.*		*Hawksbill Shell.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	No.	*£*	*lb.*	*£*
1932	1,004	1,049*	619	306*
1933	966	966	1,990	1,115
1934	1,504	1,504	9,883	5,690
1935	1,673	2,059	5,302	2,593
1936	3,161	4,979	6,798	2,984

* Grand Cayman only.

The sharking industry gave in 1936 the following returns: 6,487 skins valued at £1,423, compared with 11,962 valued at £2,532 in 1935, the export being exclusively to the United States of America.

The sponge fishery in 1935 shipped 250 cwt. of sponges valued at £180, but during 1936 the value of sponges shipped increased to £565.

To-day there are practically no local industries except that of thatch rope manufacture and a certain amount of weaving. Formerly a canning industry existed at Georgetown but this has long since disappeared. The thatch rope industry is carried out by the men and women-folk in their own homes and in their own time and at their own inclination. The importance of the industry to the islanders can be gauged from the quantity of rope exported. The accompanying table shows the fluctuations of the thatch rope industry:—

Year.	*Fathoms in 1,000's.*	*Value.* £	*Average cost per 1,000 fathoms.* s.
1932	1,525	1,534	20
1933	1,412	1,163	18
1934	1,374	1,374	20
1935	1,539	1,373	17
1936	1,929	1,456	16

Thatch rope is made from the palmetto *Thrinax argentea*. It is not cultivated but it is found growing everywhere in the islands. The manufacture of the rope is carried on by the poorer classes, principally in the districts of West Bay and East End. It is chiefly the women-folk who turn their hands to this industry for their livelihood.

The rope is shipped almost entirely to Jamaica where a curious trade-custom is still preserved. The vessel taking the rope receives no freight but is credited with 20 per cent. of the value received. This 20 per cent. is shared in various proportions between the owner and the master and crew. At the same time the practice is not only to sell rope to larger merchants in Kingston but also to peddle it around the coast, thereby competing with their principal clients, the distributing agents in Kingston. The survival of this antiquated method of doing business prevents any reasonable chance of thatch rope obtaining a better market.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports in 1936 were valued at £25,580, being £1,225 more than in 1935. Exports were valued at £12,934 showing an increase of £2,114 as compared with 1935. Re-exports are included, being valued at £48, as compared with £22 in 1935.

A revival of trade in the export of green turtles to Jamaica and the United States accounts for the increase in the exports compared with the previous year.

Trade is maintained principally with the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and the United States of America, and the percentages for the past five years are as follows:—

Imports.

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
United Kingdom...	8·01	45·85	14·04	16·42	20·63
Jamaica	23·07	41·11	36·00	31·43	31·05
United States of America.	52·58	34·74	29·55	32·72	25·23

Exports.

United Kingdom...	2·00	3·78	2·23	1·39	20·88
Jamaica	45·34	73·33	79·65	56·02	40·88
United States of America.	40·35	21·53	16·95	39·46	37·39

Imports from Empire sources for the year under review amounted to 50·00 per cent. of the total imports, a similar percentage compared with the year 1935.

The total value of domestic exports amounted to £12,886.

The following tables show the sources of the import trade and the distribution of the exports during the years 1931 to 1936. 1932 figures are not available:—

Imports.

	1931.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	2,816	5,035	3,250	4,000	5,278
Other British Possessions.	8,419	13,274	8,687	8,169	8,043
United States ...	18,373	11,030	6,841	7,971	6,454
Japan	—	59	1,237	1,748	2,021
Other Countries ...	5,532	2,352	3,130	2,467	3,784
	35,140	31,750	23,145	24,355	25,580

Exports (Domestic).

	1931.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	200	194	308	150	2,700
Other British Possessions.	4,724	3,761	10,343	6,051	5,286
United States of America.	4,021	1,104	2,257	4,262	4,836
Other Countries ...	1,018	68	—	335	64
	9,963	5,127	12,908	10,798	12,886

Re-Exports

	1931.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Jamaica	12	1,211	312	14	7
Other Countries ...	260	386	95	8	41
United States of America.	—	1,824	—	—	—
	272	3,421	407	22	48

The Chamber of Commerce for the Cayman Islands formed at Georgetown in 1934 continued to function throughout the year. This Chamber is filling a long-felt need, and is proving itself of considerable value to the community.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There is comparatively little employment for unskilled labour either by Government or other employers. The principal work is that of cleaning roads for which the usual daily rate is 3s. Agricultural labour is employed by some of the larger land owners but is of a temporary nature, permanent labour being practically unknown. Such labour is paid at the rate of 3s. a day. Boys are employed to herd the cattle and receive from 6s. to 8s. a month, together with food. Other casual labour is employed on the water-front and receives 6d. per hour.

There are no regulations as to the number of hours, but in Government employ these are limited to eight.

Skilled labour works as a rule by contract. Shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, &c. command a wage from 8s. to 12s. a day.

The staple food is wheaten flour and corn meal, both imported. It is difficult to estimate the value of the wages earned in terms of bread loaves as the people are usually their own bakers and the loaves are of irregular size and weight. There is a bakery at Georgetown, but this only serves the more well-to-do classes.

The cost of living for officials does not vary much whether the officer lives at Georgetown or elsewhere. In either case the cost is low compared with elsewhere in the West Indies. The majority of Government officials belong to local families and therefore have access without cost to the produce of the orchards and fields. A stranger would probably require at least £60 per annum and a married man about £100.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education throughout the Dependency is free and compulsory. The school age is from seven to fourteen for both sexes and is confined to elementary subjects. There are no secondary or technical schools or institutions for higher education. Control of education is vested in a Board appointed annually. The Board functions under Law 5 of 1920.

Since 1932 expenditure on education has been annually as follows:—

Year.	*Expenditure.* £	s.	d.	*No. of Children on school rolls.*
1932	1,429	9	10	887
1933	1,308	16	4	870
1934	1,563	17	8	824
1935	1,402	18	10	876
1936	1,266	9	10	874

The number of children on the roll during the year was 874, whose education was provided in 13 schools, four of which were at Cayman Brac. There is no school at Little Cayman where only two children of school age are to be found. At the same time there are six private schools with an attendance of 89 pupils. There are 22 teachers, the number including pupil-teachers. Teachers are appointed by the Board and are generally in possession of some teaching certificate.

The standard of teaching is based on the pupil-teachers' examination of Jamaica, of which there are three grades. In 1936, 54 students sat for this examination, and of these 15 were successful.

No provision is made for orphanages or for the maintenance of sick and aged people. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry grant a small sum towards the maintenance of paupers, which is distributed on the advice of the local Justices to deserving cases for the provision of small luxuries such as sugar, flour and tobacco.

The distribution has been entrusted to the Cayman Islands Friendly Society, which is composed of ladies from each one of the various districts. The society is able to import its requirements for this purpose duty free, and the work has been carried on most efficiently. The ladies visit all those who apply for assistance and are thus able to report on the actual conditions.

As in 1935 conditions of general poverty obtained everywhere in the Dependency. The aged people who depended on remittances from their sons abroad were left without that aid. Young mothers with families likewise dependent on money from outside were equally stranded. At the same time the continued fall in value of thatch rope affected directly the poorer classes, who have found themselves more and more involved in a variety of the "truck system" which enforces payment in kind in exchange for produce that is not readily marketable.

The smallness of the community and the close relationship of most people with one another tend naturally to the encouragement of mutual recreation. Concerts are frequently arranged for various charitable purposes and are well patronized.

The subscription library at Georgetown continued to function throughout the year. The annual grant of £40 was renewed, not as an absolute grant, but on condition that the papers, magazines and books subscribed for by the library should be regularly sent to the outlying districts.

The public reading room at West Bay, which is conducted by voluntary effort, was increasingly patronized and it is hoped that the distribution of the reading matter subscribed for through the grant will encourage this welcome enterprise.

The Sea Scout movement continued to make considerable progress during the year. A third troop was formed at Boddentown and a Cub Pack started there. The total number of Sea Scouts at the end of 1936 was 80, and the two Cub Packs totalled 55. The boys show great keenness and during 1937 the movement promises to extend even more.

A second company of Girl Guides was formed at Boddentown, and the total number of Guides at the end of the year was 52. The Guides are affiliated to the Jamaica Association whilst the Sea Scouts have their own Cayman Islands Association.

The second annual Regatta was held in January and was attended by many visitors from Jamaica, including a troop of Rover Scouts who brought their own vessel with them. This annual event which is held under the auspices of the Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club founded in 1934 promises to become an important factor in the development of the Dependency as a pleasure resort.

The Yacht Club is in reality the only social club of any importance in the Dependency. Its Commodore is His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica and it has a membership of 134.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The motorable roads were kept in order throughout the year in spite of the unusual rainfall. In Grand Cayman there are approximately 40 miles of motorable roads, and in Cayman Brac 11. The cost of maintenance was £12 per mile as against an average during the past of £16.

The first motor car was introduced into the islands in 1914, and at the end of 1936 there were 47 motor cars, 11 lorries and 5 motor cycles.

In the settlements of West Bay and Georgetown there are a few streets that follow no considered plan. There are also sections of road connecting the main artery with the North Sound both at Georgetown and West Bay, which during the year were widened and repaired. In Cayman Brac there is a good motorable highway running the length of the island. In Little Cayman there are no roads, only paths, as there is no need for any public communication other than connexion between houses of members of the same family.

Road communications cannot be said to be good. The roads are narrow and follow no direct line. Indeed until recently the authorities had met considerable opposition in getting permission to construct even the merest track.

A considerable amount of intercommunication is by the sea, in cat-boats and other small craft. No particulars are available.

A few pack horses, mules and donkeys still survive and are taxed.

A small telephone system is operated by Government between Georgetown, Boddentown and West Bay, with its central exchange at Georgetown. Instruments are not provided privately to the public, but the latter has access to those in the public buildings. A small charge is made, viz., 6d. per message and 3d. to 1s. 6d. for delivery according to distance.

At the end of the year the telephone system was being extended so as to cover the whole island, and early in 1937 telephone communication will be established between Northside, East End and the rest of Grand Cayman. In Cayman Brac a public telephone service was installed throughout the island during the year under review.

The installation of the public Wireless service towards the end of 1935 was followed by the establishment in 1936 of a small station in Cayman Brac.

The installation consists of:—

One Transmitter;

One Receiver;

One charging plant 7 h.p. petrol engine with generators for charging H.T. and L.T. accumulators and switches;

One set H.T. accumulators 500 volts 5 ampere hours, and two L.T. accumulators 6 volts 60 ampere hours;

and Messrs Cable & Wireless Ltd. carried out the installation. The Station came into operation on 22nd August, 1936.

Communication from Cayman Brac is through the principal station in Grand Cayman and the charges are the same, viz., Ordinary rate 1s., deferred 6d., code 7½d., per word, with a night letter telegram of 8s. 4d. as a minimum charge of 25 words. The rates are additional to the usual charges for communication with Jamaica.

The following are the details of the traffic handled during the first full year of the Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac Stations operation from 1st January to 31st December, 1936.

	Via Jamaica.	*Cayman Brac.*	*Havana.*	
Received ...	719	80	—	799
Despatched ...	650	144	289	1,083
Total messages				1,882

There is no inward traffic from Havana, that station being exclusively used for meteorological purposes, and no commercial business is transacted.

There are two communications, morning and evening, daily with both Kingston and Cayman Brac. Receipts totalled £457 0s. 4d. of which the company's share was £225 15s. 10d., leaving a net receipt of £221 4s. 6d. Expenditure incurred amounted to £278 18s. 5d. showing a net loss of £57 13s. 11d.

The growth of the traffic was much more than originally estimated so that the station may, in the near future, prove a profitable investment. But it must be remembered that in the first instance these installations were erected to maintain communication in the event of hurricanes.

The operator in Grand Cayman is a trained and certificated officer, but at Cayman Brac only a learner is in charge who draws at present a nominal salary. This is a weak link in this line of communication and difficult for the moment to remedy.

During the hurricane season, however, a meteorological observer stationed in Grand Cayman by the Cuban Observatory at Havana, as mentioned above, is also a trained operator, so that if need should arise he would be capable of carrying on.

The postal service has been maintained since the year 1890. There are post offices in every district, with deliveries daily in Georgetown and three times per week elsewhere.

External services are maintained by mail subsidy with Jamaica once in every 17 days in either direction and with Cuba and the United States about nine times a year. Use is made of schooners whenever possible. Communication between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman depends on the Jamaican service.

The volume of postal business carried in 1936 is estimated as follows:—

	Letters and postcards.	*Newspapers.*	*Books and circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
Inward ...	24,500	4,000	9,500	2,200	40,200
Outward ...	25,000	—	—	300	25,300

The contract for a subsidized mail service was renewed in February, 1932, for five years, and is to the amount of £600 of which the Dependency pays half.

A comparative table of revenue and expenditure of the postal department during the past five years is as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1932	3,529	1,182
1933	2,238	791
1934	1,067	741
1935	8,694	2,029
1936	7,565	2,236

The comparatively large revenue is due to the continued success of the sales of the pictorial issue of stamps, and the expenditure was swollen by £895 the cost of the two wireless intallations, and £228 the extension of the telephone system.

Imperial Penny postage was in force as from St. George's Day, 23rd April, 1936.

Georgetown is a port of registry for shipping and had on its register at the end of the year 45 sailing and 11 motor vessels, of a total tonnage of 4,443 (gross).

During the year, six ships of a total tonnage of 294 were added, and eight of a total tonnage of 514 removed.

During the year the arrivals and departures of vessels were as follows:—

Nationality.	*Sail and Motor.* *Arrivals.*	*Departures.*
British	178	174
Colombian	8	10
Honduranian	5	5
Nicaraguan	1	1
American	3	2
Total	195	192

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The currency and weights and measures are the same as those that obtain in Great Britain. Popular practice and the close connexion with the United States of America allows use to be made of the smaller denominations of United States currency, but these are not accepted in Government offices.

The total amount of currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £3,000, but it is difficult to arrive at any approach to accuracy.

There are no banks in the Dependency, other than a Post Office Savings Bank which was established in 1908. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. and depositors are allowed to deposit up to a maximum of £400, and not more than £200 in any one year. Statistics of the Bank are as follows:—

Year.	*No. of Depositors.*	*Amount of deposit at beginning of year.* £	s.	d.	*Amount of deposit during the year.* £	s.	d.	*Amount of withdrawal during the year.* £	s.	d.
1932 ...	64	1,772	9	8	1,238	17	6	1,003	12	9
1933 ...	68	2,055	7	2	1,226	15	5	1,344	1	10
1934 ...	78	1,993	8	7	922	3	11	922	5	9
1935 ...	125	2,042	4	8	2,389	4	3	1,268	10	0
1936 ...	135	3,215	10	10	2,810	11	6	2,101	2	5

Against the total deposit of £4,005 7s. 3d. the balance due to depositors at the end of the year, the Savings Bank had invested, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in recognized funds, £3,895 8s. 5d. at cost price.

The branch of the Bank opened at Cayman Brac in 1934 continued to work successfully throughout the year. There were 47 accounts, deposits totalling £1,810 2s. at the end of the year. This sum is included in the figures of the preceding paragraph.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In Grand Cayman no fresh work was undertaken with the exception of the extension of the telephone mentioned previously. Apart from this work the activities of the Department were confined to maintenance and repairs. The flower garden at Government House, started in 1934, was further improved, and the Bahamas grass now covers the whole area of the grounds.

At Cayman Brac apart from the installation of the telephone, the Department completed a King's Warehouse at Creek.

The Department consists of a Foreman of Works in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. The only labour is casual which is remunerated at the rate of 3s. a day, but a promise has been made to restore the rate to 4s. a day as soon as finances permit.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Law in force in the Dependency is the common law of England as it existed at the time of the enactment of the Imperial Act of the Government of the Cayman Islands dated 22nd June, 1863. Since then various Acts have been passed under the Constitution referred to in Chapter II, both in Jamaica and in the Dependency.

The principal court is the Grand Court constituted by the Jamaica Legislature, Chap. 18 of 1894. This court is a part of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica and is presided over by a Judge, who is also the Commissioner. It sits twice a year in June and December. There are Petty Courts, over which Justices preside in the various districts whenever occasion arises.

Justices of the Peace are appointed in a General Commission of the Peace and give their services voluntarily.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Dependency during the year:—

Persons charged by police or otherwise ...	—	43
Convicted summarily...	38	—
Acquitted summarily...	1	—
Committed to Grand Court	4	43
Convicted by Grand Court	—	4

The Police Force as reorganized at the end of 1935 consists of—One Inspector, one Sergeant, five Constables, five District Constables.

Four Constables are stationed at Georgetown, and one at Cayman Brac. They patrol the outer districts from time to time.

In each district there is a lock-up and at Georgetown there is a general prison for offenders to serve sentences. It has been the practice to send to Jamaica convicts sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment. The prison in Georgetown is an old building and provides accomodation in three cells. There is no special provision for juvenile offenders, but Magistrates have always exercised their discretionary powers in their case. In a similar way time is usually allowed for the payment of fines and use is made of the probation system.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good throughout the year.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted during the year:—

Law 4 of 1936. *The Public Launches and Boats (Insurance) Law* providing for a Fund for Replacement of Public Launches and Boats which may be injured or destroyed.

A similar law providing for the Replacement of Public Buildings was passed by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry but at the end of the year had not yet received the consent of His Excellency the Governor.

Other legislation included the usual laws providing for Supplementary Appropriation, amendments to laws in force, and appropriation for expenditure.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure is given below:—

Year.	*Revenue.*			*Expenditure.*		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	*£*	*s.*	*d.*
1932	8,141	1	4	6,547	14	9
1933	7,298	11	3	6,538	13	2
1934	5,695	9	5	6,994	18	5
1935	13,432	17	0	9,212	3	0
1936	12,746	7	0	9,926	14	5
Average 5 years ...	9,462	17	2	7,844	0	9

A loan of £3,660 at 3½ per cent. from the Jamaica Government in connection with financing the repairs to roads and buildings damaged in the hurricane of 1932 is the sole public debt. In November, 1933, the Jamaica Legislature had agreed to waive interest for five years. The loan was accepted in 1934.

The Dependency has £1,000 invested as a Reserve Fund.

Taxation.

Customs Tariff.—The general ad valorem duty is 12½ per cent., and there is a preferential rate in respect of certain goods imported from the British Empire the details of which were published in the 1935 report, where there is also to be found details of other taxation. There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government, printed matter, manures, fertilizers, insecticides.

Receipts over the past five years under the various heads of taxation are as follows:—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs, import duties	3,704	4,348	3,208	3,322	3,522
Taxes, personal, etc. ...	515	324	455	540	603
Liquor licences ...	28	28	29	28	24
Fines of Courts ...	18	15	18	19	6
Car Drivers' licences ...	28	23	25	24	27
Warehouse rents ...	201	219	154	185	199
Payments for specific services.	31	35	23	34	26

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

His Excellency the Governor accompanied by Lady Denham visited Grand Cayman on 14th March, 1936. He motored through to East End and West Bay.

The news of the death of His Late Majesty King George V was received with great sorrow by the people of the Dependency who showed their respect and affection by crowded congregations at Memorial services.

The Accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII was proclaimed at Georgetown on 22nd January, 1936.

At a special meeting of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry held on 12th December, the Abdication of His Majesty King Edward VIII was announced and immediately after a public Proclamation was made of the Accession of His Majesty King George VI.

H.M.S. *Dundee* visited Georgetown with His Excellency the Governor on board on 14th March, 1936.

The Cuban warship *20 de Mayo* visited Georgetown twice during the year, in July and November, in connection with the transport of the Meteorological Observer.

His Majesty's Trade Commissioner stationed at Jamaica, Mr. C. M. Pickthall, paid an official visit to the Dependency in October returning early in November.

The Dependency suffered a severe loss during July when the motorship *Nunoca* with a crew and passengers totalling 22 was posted as missing. She was on a voyage from Grand Cayman to Tampa, Florida, U.S.A., and after leaving the former port

on 4th July, disappeared and no trace of her has been discovered. She was a wooden vessel of 190 tons (gross), built in Grand Cayman in 1932, and had been engaged since her launching in trading between the Dependency and Florida.

In July and August the Commissioner who was home on leave was given the opportunity of broadcasting both to Great Britain and the Empire on the Cayman Islands and their people.

The Dependency through its Chamber of Commerce took a small part in the Vancouver Jubilee celebrations by sending a consignment of live turtles for their banquets.

Mr. A. W. Cardinall, the Commissioner, proceeded on leave in March and returned to Grand Cayman at the end of October. During his absence Mr. A. C. Panton, under a Dormant Commission, acted for him.

APPENDIX.

Bibliography.

A.—Official or Semi-Official Publications.

Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.* s.	d.
The Caymanian ...	—	In Jamaica ...	1908		2
Handbook of the Cayman Islands.	G. S. S. Hirst ...	Gleaner Co., Jamaica.	1908–9	1	6
Cayman Islands Gazette.	—	—	Occasional 1910–1913 only.		2

B.—Descriptive Publications.

Brief and Perfect Journal of the late proceedings and success of the English Army in the W. I.	L.S.	London	1665		
The Buccaneers of America.	John Esquemeling.	Amsterdam ...	1678		
History of the Pirates	C. Johnson ...	London	1724		
History of Jamaica*...	Long	London	1774		
Three Voyages of a Naturalist	M. J. Nicoll ...	Witherby & Co., London.	1908		
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Cayman Islands ...	B. D. Armstrong	Junior Philatelic Society.	1911	2	0
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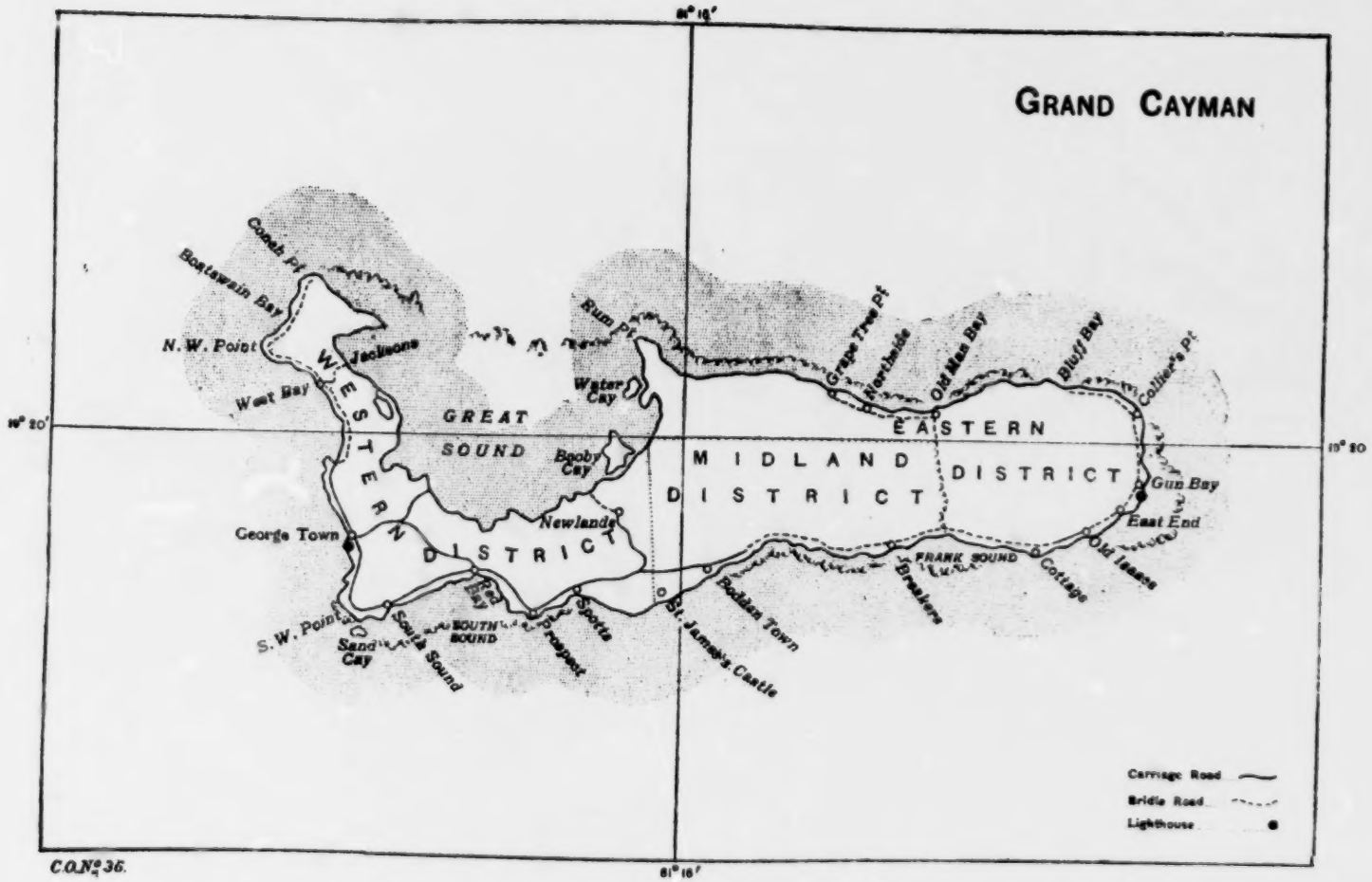
The Voyages of Captain William Jackson.	V. T. Harlow, edited.	Camden Miscellany Vol. XIII.	1923	—	
Geology of Cayman Islands.	G. A. Matley ...	Reprint from Qtr. Journal of Geological Society.	1926	—	

* 3 Vols., Book 1, Chapter XII gives a detailed account of the Cayman Islands.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1935 AND 1936.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides,

respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. The average annual rainfall at Grand Turk during the last ten years was 38·19 inches. The rainfall during 1935 and 1936 was 23·46 and 29·74 inches respectively.

These islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over them in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also Judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1936 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931 owing to the lack of funds.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent. were " coloured " (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent. were " white," and that about 1,800 people live in the Turks Islands and 3,500 in the Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

Most of the people of the Turks Islands are employed in the salt industry, while the people of the Caicos Islands are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

The births and deaths registered during the last five years were as follows:—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000*	*Death-rate per 1,000*
1932	201	76	36·4	13·7
1933	205	120	37·2	21·8
1934	168	97	30·2	17·2
1935	215	104	38·3	18·5
1936	184	195	32·7	34·5

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1935 was 27, equal to a death-rate of 4·8 per 1,000 births; and in 1936 the corresponding figures were 28 and 5·1 per mille. Forty-one marriages were registered in 1935 and 27 in 1936. Ninety-eight persons were receiving pauper relief from the Government at the end of 1936.

The immigration and emigration figures for the two years under review were:—

	1935	*1936*
Entered	139 ...	239
Departed	110 ...	162

IV.—HEALTH.

During the years 1935 and 1936 the health of the Dependency was fair. In dispensary practice, however, pellagra, the incidence of which decreased in 1935, was again more prevalent in 1936. This was more noticeable at Salt Cay and Grand Turk. The last hospital case treated, which, when admitted seemed absolutely hopeless, recovered within a few weeks on a special diet.

Malaria was only occasionally encountered. There were no infectious diseases during the years under review.

As regards preventive measures, only minor anti-mosquito measures were taken, such as clearing away bush and undergrowth and the filling up of pools. Major works could not be undertaken owing to the lack of funds.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements and the Inspectors of Nuisances were responsible to those Boards and to the Medical Officers for seeing that all premises were kept in a proper sanitary state.

Hygiene is one of the subjects taught in all the schools.

There was regular dental inspection of the pupils in the schools by a dentist who receives a subsidy from the Government for his services to the school-children and certain others.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and the other at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and they visit the out-islands when necessary.

There is a nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a small public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the directions and supervision of the Medical Officer.

There was no public health legislation enacted during the year under review.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these islands. One thousand two hundred and thirty-three were inhabited and 181 uninhabited; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Salt is also shipped to Jamaica and Puerto Rico. At present the quantity sold in the latter places is small but efforts are being made to extend the sales. Turks islands salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. Three grades are exported: *coarse,* the natural product of the salinas; *fishery,* a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish; and *industrial,* fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk; the industrial is bagged.

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the salt shipments in 1936 together with the 1935 figures in brackets:—

	Bushels.		*Value in £.*	
Canada	528,031	(209,214)	7,113	(3,148)
United States of America ...	454,422	(341,416)	5,152	(4,383)
Jamaica	128,255	(146,457)	1,294	(1,686)
Puerto Rico	32,305	(66,554)	312	(813)
Bermuda	5,821	(2,620)	52	(35)
Barbados	3,232	(12,078)	52	(213)
Haiti	2,575	(13,882)	27	(184)
New Zealand	—	(241)	—	(3)
Bahamas	—	(1,285)	—	(24)
Total ...	1,154,641	(993,747)	£14,002	(£10,489)

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years:—

	1932	*1933*	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	10,137	13,489	9,780	10,489	14,002
Sponges	2,417	2,031	1,949	1,242	2,435
Conchs	744	1,197	—	1,279	984
Turtle Shell ...	314	150	—	40	40
Sisal	—	50	—	2	8

Nearly all the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

The quantity of each of the principal articles of local produce exported during the last five years was:—

	1932	*1933*	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*
Salt, bus.	577,494	687,841	522,568	793,747	1,154,641
Sponges, lb. ...	23,261	27,961	25,718	15,032	31,338
Conchs, No. ...	744,100	1,196,600	1,012,750	1,278,788	984,625
Turtle Shell, lb. ...	343	150	—	40	40
Sisal, lb.	—	7,471	—	680	1,025

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows:—

	1932	*1933*	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	21,942	21,900	21,114	18,984	23,623
Exports	14,018	17,351	12,973	13,313	17,609
Total ...	35,960	39,251	34,087	32,297	41,232

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years:—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1932	5,511	3,982	12,449	21,942
1933	4,862	3,600	13,438	21,900
1934	2,922	3,863	14,329	21,114
1935	2,572	3,471	12,941	18,984
1936	2,924	5,257	15,442	23,623

The countries of origin of the import trade in 1935 and 1936 were:—

	1935. £	1935. £	1936. £	1936. £
United Kingdom		2,572		2,924
Other parts of the British Empire:—				
Bahamas	97		14	
British India	748		863	
British Guiana	33		100	
Barbados	54		22	
Bermuda	34		—	
Canada	2,038		3,460	
Jamaica	404		746	
Trinidad	7		32	
New Zealand	56		20	
		3,471		5,257
Total British imports		6,043		8,181
Argentine	—		21	
China	12		1	
Cuba	—		4	
Curacao	6		—	
Denmark	106		60	
Dominican Republic	89		460	
France	—			
Germany	16		67	
Holland	44		42	
Haiti	621		1,082	
Italy	6		—	
Japan	82		139	
Puerto Rico	[illegible]		55	
Spain	—		43	
Sweden	31		—	
United States of America ...	11,862		13,461	
Total Foreign imports		12,941		15,442
Total imports		£18,984		£23,623

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the years:—

	1935 £	1936 £
Food, drink and tobacco	10,842	13,553
Raw materials...	916	1,680
Manufactured articles	5,888	4,715
Miscellaneous	1,338	3,675
	£18,984	£23,623

The principal articles imported in 1936 together with the 1935 figures in brackets were as follows:—

Article.		*Quantity.*		*Value in £'s.*	
Flour	barrels	2,616	(1,841)	2,472	(1,744)
Cotton goods	...	—	—	2,358	(1,555)
Lard and substitutes	lb.	54,476	(49,358)	1,346	(1,284)
Haberdashery ...	...	—	—	1,053	(754)
Rice	lb.	204,561	(167,685)	871	(781)
Lumber	feet	98,000	(38,873)	795	(276)
Sugar	lb.	261,912	(213,850)	792	(672)
Condensed milk ...	cases	875	(739)	701	(645)
Corn and grain ...	lb.	265,889	—	700	—
Meats, salted	lb.	26,750	(35,232)	563	(1,009)
Oils, mineral	gals.	13,956	(12,937)	538	(592)
Butter and substitutes	lb.	11,438	(8,788)	507	(405)
Spirits...	gals.	1,698	(1,245)	403	(351)
Vegetables, fresh ...	...	—	—	386	(257)
Cigarettes	...	—	—	349	(281)
Fruit, fresh	...	—	—	335	(168)
Hominy	barrels	276	(182)	294	(214)
Soap, laundry ...	lb.	24,247	(28,522)	263	(314)
Machinery	...	—	—	223	(165)
Meal, corn	barrels	195	(146)	202	(168)
Boots and shoes ...	...	—	—	204	(195)

Exports.

The declared value of the domestic exports of the Dependency was £13,220 in 1935 and £17,520 in 1936; and the value of the re-exports was £93 in 1935 and £89 in 1936.

The following table shows the direction of the domestic exports in the last five years:—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1932	1,313	8,117	4,533	13,963
1933	1,199	11,007	5,053	17,259
1934	579	7,882	4,437	12,898
1935	182	5,463	7,575	13,220
1936	294	10,042	7,184	17,520

The destination of the exports (including re-exports) was as follows:—

	1935.		*1936.*	
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom		182		294
Bahamas	378		1,501	
Barbados	213		52	
Bermuda	35		52	
Canada	3,163		7,156	
Jamaica	1,694		1,315	
Newfoundland	3		—	
		5,486		10,076
Haiti	1,473		1,015	
Puerto Rico	858		314	
Santo Domingo	3		2	
United States of America ...	5,311		5,908	
		7,645		7,239
Total exports		£13,313		£17,609

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 2s. to 3s. a day of nine hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 12s. to 30s. a month with board and lodging.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions:—bread 4d. per lb.; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb.; salt meat, 10½d. per lb.; salt fish, 9d. per lb.; flour, 2½d. per lb.; rice, 4d. per qrt.; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt.; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt.; potatoes, 3d. per lb.; lard, 9d. per lb.; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz.; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin; butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb.; cheese 2s. per lb.; sugar 2½d. per lb.; syrup 9d. per qrt.; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb.; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.; cocoa, 1s. per lb.; common soap, 5d. per lb.; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the very poor nature of the soil, very little is grown.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools. There are eleven such schools throughout the Dependency; one in each of the principal settlements.

In 1936 the number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 806, and the average attendance 543. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. In 1936 there were 20 pupils on the roll, and the average attendance was 19·3. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a fair assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica, and one of them stops regularly every five weeks to land goods from England.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 71,750 postal articles during the year 1936, and with 96,650 in 1935.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados, and Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are really only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year 1936 was as follows (1935 figures in brackets):—

	British.		*Foreign.*		*Total No.*		*Net Tonnage.*	
Steamships	10	(11)	59	(46)	69	(57)	87,066	(71,758)
Sailing Vessels	208	(225)	10	(9)	218	(234)	9,802	(9,179)

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these islands. At the end of 1936 there were 786 accounts open with £12,930 on deposit. The investments amounted to £11,224.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver, and bronze coins, Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these islands

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the lack of funds no major public works were undertaken during the years 1935 and 1936.

The usual minor public works such as the upkeep of the public buildings, streets, and roads, etc., were carried on throughout the year but on a reduced scale.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Surpreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

There are three Magistrate's Courts, at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of four men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison and the senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison.

The crime statistics for 1935 and 1936 were:—

	1935	*1936*
Number of crimes reported or known to Police ...	139	171
Number of crimes brought before Magistrate ...	132	164
Number of cases dropped	7	7
Number of persons proceeded against (male) ...	115	134
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (female) ...	52	66
Number of persons apprehended	28	47
Number of persons summoned	139	153
Number discharged	25	26
Number summarily convicted	135	173
Number imprisoned	23	52
Number whipped	3	16
Number fined	88	82
Number bound over or otherwise disposed of ...	21	23

The convictions were classified as follows:—

	1935	*1936*
Offences against the person	31	17
Praedial larcency	3	23
Malicious injury to property	0	1
Other offences against property	43	41
Miscellaneous minor offences	84	89

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board, as follows:—

1935

No.

1. *The Supplementary Appropriation* (1934) *Ordinance*, 1935.
2. *The Civil Servants Salaries Amendment Ordinance*, 1935.
3. *The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance*, 1935.
4. *The Passport Ordinance*, 1935.

1936

No.

1. *General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance*, 1936.
2. *The Supplementary Appropriation* (1935) *Ordinance*, 1936.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, or legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there any legislation providing for sickness or old age.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1932	9,027	9,141
1933	9,774	10,518
1934	7,024	8,959
1935	11,192	8,846
1936	10,110	9,031

In 1936 the ordinary revenue amounted to £10,046 and the ordinary expenditure to £9,031.

The year 1935 opened with a deficit of £4,326 and closed with a deficit of £1,980. This was carried forward to 1936, and the latter year closed with a deficit of £901. In addition to this deficit there is a sum of £1,799 due to the Jamaica Treasury in respect of several loans expended principally on relief work to the unemployed, during the year 1934.

The main items of revenue in 1935 and 1936 were as follows:—

	1935	*1936*
	£	£
Customs Duties	3,756	4,804
Royalty on Salt	1,321	1,989
Port Dues	629	927
Internal Revenue	255	154
Payments for Specific Services, etc. ...	173	206
Post Office	4,400	1,705
Interest	62	8
Miscellaneous Receipts	308	180

The main items of expenditure in 1935 and 1936 were as follows:—

	1935	*1936*
	£	£
Interest on Public Debt	54	—
Pensions	1,405	1,768
Commissioner's Department	1,746	1,701
Treasury and Customs	801	778
Judicial Department	54	132
Police and Prisons	790	899
Medical Department	985	1,023
Paupers and Lunatics	384	512
Education	840	840
Miscellaneous	345	429
Post Office...	545	240
Lighthouse Department	285	280
Public Works Recurrent...	375	423
Unemployment Relief Works	79	—

Every effort has been made to keep down the ordinary expenditure to the lowest possible level, and in 1935 a retrenchment scheme was brought into operation, with a view to reducing expenditure, with diminishing effect during the following few years until trade conditions improve.

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income-tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals or vehicles; no poll tax and no excise or stamp duties.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows:

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. *ad valorem.*
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem.*

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

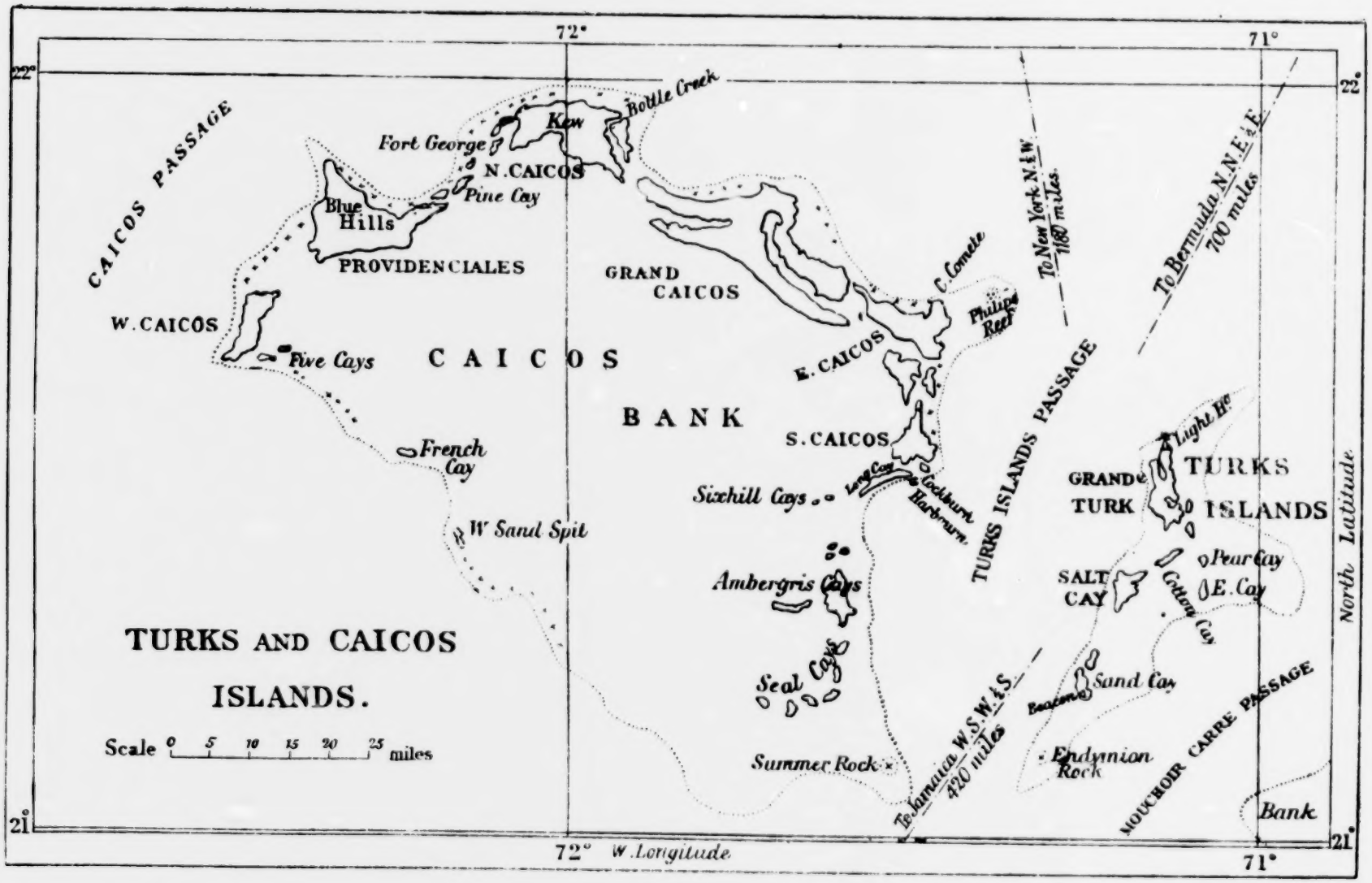
On the 16th June, 1936, the Commissioner, Mr. F. C. Clarkson, O.B.E., sailed for England on three months leave of absence, due to ill-health, and subsequently retired on medical grounds.

From the time of Mr. Clarkson's departure to the end of 1936 the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. C. W. Frith, acted as Commissioner.

On the 27th May, 1936, Mr. J. H. Gorvin, C.B.E., of the Ministry of Agriculture, who was appointed by the Governor of Jamaica as a Special Commissioner for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the present economic conditions in the Dependency, arrived from Jamaica on the Elders and Fyffes steamer *Manistee*.

Mr. Gorvin's appointment was the outcome of a Memorial addressed to His Majesty the King by the business section and others of the Dependency, asking that the economic conditions be investigated.

Mr. Gorvin, after completing his work, sailed for England via New York and Canada, on the 7th July, 1936.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1937.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of

reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English.

The climate of these islands may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to about 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally very hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. The average annual rainfall at Grand Turk during the last ten years was 38·19 inches. The rainfall during 1937 was 36·86 inches. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during the year were 95° and 63° respectively.

These islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over them in 1926 and one in

1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous, as regards destruction of property, in the history of the Dependency.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. H. C. N. Hill, M.C., assumed the duties of Commissioner in July.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

The Laws of Jamaica, which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands, have effect there.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides. During the year the Commissioner visited Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay.

The report of the Economic Commissioner, who visited the Dependency in 1936, was published in August. It contained constructive proposals in regard to the salt industry, and for the development of agriculture and marine industries in the Caicos Islands.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency according to the last census (1921) was 5,612. The estimated population in 1937 was 5,300.

No census was taken in 1931.

It is estimated that of the whole population, 5,140 or 97 per cent. were " coloured " (of mixed descent), while 160 or 3 per cent. were " white," and that about 1,800 people live in the Turks Islands and 3,500 in the Caicos Islands.

Throughout the Dependency the females exceed the males in numbers.

The births and deaths registered during the last six years were as follows:—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000*	*Death-rate per 1,000*
1932	201	76	36·4	13·7
1933	205	120	37·2	21·8
1934	168	97	30·2	17·2
1935	215	104	38·3	18·5
1936	184	195	32·7	34·5
1937	165	90	29·4	16·0

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1937 was 23, equal to a death-rate of 4·6 per 1,000 births; and in 1936 the corresponding figures were 28 and 5·1 per 1,000. Forty-seven marriages were registered in 1937. One hundred and ten persons were receiving pauper relief from the Government at the end of 1936.

The immigration and emigration figures for the year under review were:—

	1937
Entered	119
Departed	76

IV.—HEALTH.

During the year the health of the Dependency was fair. Pellagra was in evidence as usual. The reduced death rate from 34·7 in 1936 to 16 in 1937 indicates an improvement in the health of the community. In the dispensary practice 35 or 40 children were treated for diseases of the digestive tract. The Government Medical Officer reports on the difficulty of inducing parents to bring their children for treatment during the first stages of these disorders.

Among adults the more common ailments were muscular and articular rheumatism, arterio-sclerosis and acute and chronic nephritis as well as diseases of the digestive tract. Other diseases, such as anaemia, beri-beri, etc., which were treated, are directly or indirectly due to a dietary deficiency.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements, and Inspectors of Nuisances are responsible to those Boards and the Medical Officer for seeing that premises are kept in a sanitary condition.

There was regular dental inspection of school children by a dentist subsidised by the Government.

The two Government Medical Officers are the only medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice and visit the out-islands when required.

There is a nurse, paid by the Government, at each of the three principal settlements.

There is a public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the supervision of the Government Medical Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these islands. One thousand two hundred and thirty-three were inhabited and 181 uninhabited; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. There has been no noticeable change within the last ten years.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and therefore the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The industry is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. Three-fifths of the annual output, which averages approximately one and a half million bushels, is the product of salinas belonging to four proprietors. The salt is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. It is also shipped to Jamaica. Efforts are being made to extend the markets. Turks Islands salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. Three grades are exported; coarse, the natural pro-

duct of the salinas; fishery, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish; and industrial, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk; the industrial is bagged.

Very full information in regard to this industry can be obtained from the Report of the Economic Commissioner (1937).*

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and value of the salt shipments in 1937:—

	Bushels.	*Value in £.*
Bermuda	1,402	17
Canada	618,969	11,436
Barbados	12,298	244
British Guiana	6,246	78
Jamaica	113,706	1,303
Puerto Rico	34,384	355
Martinique	5,000	52
Newfoundland	30,739	512
United States	578,096	8,665
Total	1,400,840	£22,662

There is every hope that the sponge fishing industry will be developed. Legislation for control of the banks is under consideration and expert investigation will take place during the coming year. Other industries are of minor importance in so far as export trade is concerned. The United Fish Co. have established a small experimental cray fish canning factory on the Caicos bank where cray fish are found in large quantities. The export value of the canned fish was £2,030, but it is intended to extend operations considerably during the coming year. Shark and turtle are found in the waters of the Dependency, and it may be possible to develop these industries.

Agriculture is, owing to the poor nature of the soil, strictly limited. In the Caicos Islands the people can, in a good year produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves and sell a surplus at the main settlements. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown and the people have mainly to rely on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imports. In years past the exports of sisal and cotton were proportionately of considerable value to the Dependency. The fall in prices and failure to produce the first quality resulted in the closing down of the plantations. Sisal is indigenous and the peasants of the Caicos still produce a small quantity of cotton.

* Published for the Government of Jamaica, by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Price 2s. 6d.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years:—

		1933	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*
Salt, bushels	...	687,841	522,568	793,747	1,154,641	1,400,840
Value	...	£13,489	£9,780	£10,489	£14,002	£22,662
Sponges, lb.	...	27,961	25,718	15,032	31,338	39,500
Value	...	£2,031	£1,949	£1,242	£2,435	£3,545
Conches, No.	...	1,196,600	1,012,750	1,278,788	984,625	489,500
Value	...	£1,197	£935	£1,279	£984	£412
Lobster, tinned Cases		—	—	—	24	1,384
Value	...	—	—	—	£28	£2,030
Cotton, lb. ...	...	—	—	—	—	19,488
Value	...	—	—	—	—	£600

Nearly all the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

During the season the waters round the Caicos Islands offer a veritable paradise to amateur big-game fishermen, but owing to lack of communications and accommodation few have availed themselves of the splendid sport obtainable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows:—

		1933	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*
		£	£	£	£	£
Imports ...	...	21,900	21,114	18,984	23,623	25,654
Exports ...	...	17,351	12,973	13,313	17,609	29,978
Total	...	39,251	34,087	32,297	41,232	55,632

No coin or notes have been imported or exported during the years under review.

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years:—

		United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
		£	£	£	£
1933 ...	...	4,862	3,600	13,438	21,900
1934 ...	...	2,922	3,863	14,329	21,114
1935 ...	...	2,572	3,471	12,941	18,984
1936 ...	...	2,924	5,257	15,442	23,623
1937 ...	...	2,303	5,538	17,813	25,654

The countries of origin and value of the import trade in 1937 were:—

	£	£
United Kingdom		2,303
British India	1,065	
Canada	3,604	
Jamaica	568	
Other British Countries	301	
Total British Empire		5,538
Haiti	894	
United States of America ...	16,239	
Other Foreign Countries	680	
Total Foreign Countries		17,813
Total imports		£25,654

Thirty-six per cent. of Imports were from the British Empire and 64 per cent. from foreign countries.

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year showing the principal sources of supply:—

	1937 £	*Principal Sources of Supply.* *British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*
Food, drink and tobacco	13,913	39·3 per cent.	60·7 per cent.
Raw materials	1,252	38·5 per cent.	61·5 per cent.
Manufactured articles ...	6,654	16·3 per cent.	83·7 per cent.
Miscellaneous	3,835	21·0 per cent.	79·0 per cent.
	£25,654		

The principal articles imported in 1937 were as follows:—

Article.		*Quantity.*	*Value in £'s.*
Flour	barrels	2,557	3,106
Cotton goods	...	—	2,262
Lard and substitutes	lb.	60,021	1,362
Rice	lb.	199,609	1,073
Lumber	feet	75,200	595
Sugar	lb.	247,615	1,035
Condensed milk ...	cases	820	934
Meats, salted	lb.	28,150	672
Oils, mineral	gals.	12,146	518

Exports.

The declared value of the domestic exports of the Dependency was in 1937, £29,978 and the value of the re-exports was £83.

The following table shows the direction of the domestic exports in the last five years:—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1933	1,199	11,007	5,053	17,259
1934	579	7,882	4,437	12,898
1935	182	5,463	7,575	13,220
1936	294	10,042	7,184	17,520
1937	1,928	17,300	10,750	29,978

Of exports (including re-exports) 64 per cent. were sent to the Empire and 36 per cent. to foreign countries. Full statistics are:—

	£	£
United Kingdom		1,928
Bahamas	2,157	
Canada	12,687	
Jamaica	1,303	
Other British Countries	1,186	
Total British Empire	———	17,333
Haiti	413	
United States of America	9,948	
Other Foreign Countries	439	
Total Foreign Countries	———	10,800
Total exports		£30,061

VIII.—LABOUR.

The demand for labour is confined to that required in connexion with the salt industry. Sugar estates and large undertakings in Central and South America which formerly took surplus labour no longer do so, and the stevedore labour shipped by steamers calling at Grand Turk is now restricted to the few men taken by the steamers of the Royal Netherlands Line.

It is difficult to arrive at any figure in regard to the number employed in the salt industry. Labour is only required during approximately eight months of the year and even during that period, owing to the number of surplus labourers, a man may obtain only a few days' work during the week.

Wages are dealt with in another chapter. Employers are not responsible for housing or the feeding of their employees.

There is no Workmen's Compensation Act in force.

No statistics of employment have been kept and the following figures are merely an estimate of employment of males of 18 years and over:—

Settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour (including all Government employees in the Dependency).

	Males
Government employees	37
Salt Industry labourers	220
Artisans	80
Commerce	32
Domestic Service	3
Other Industries (Agriculture, fishing etc.)	293
Unfit	67
	732

Those shown under " other industries " are really unemployed who eke out a precarious living through their own efforts.

In the Caicos Islands the inhabitants are all peasant farmers and fishermen.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 2s. to 3s. a day of ten hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 12s. to 30s. a month with board and lodging.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions:—bread 4d. per lb.; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb.; salt meat, 10½d. per lb.; salt fish, 9d. per lb.; flour, 2½d. per lb.; rice, 4d. per qrt.; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt.; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt.; potatoes, 3d. per lb.; lard, 9d. per lb.; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz.; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin; butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb.; cheese 2s. per lb.; sugar 2½d. per lb.; syrup 9d. per qrt.; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb.; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.; cocoa, 1s. per lb.; common soap, 5d. per lb.; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

Most of the people in the Caicos Islands grow a large portion of their own food-stuffs, but in the Turks Islands, owing to the very poor nature of the soil, very little is grown.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman. An inspection by an official of the Department of Education, Jamaica, was made in December.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government for the maintenance of the public elementary schools. There are eleven such schools throughout the Dependency; one in each of the principal settlements.

In 1937 the number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 838, and the average attendance 590. There were also seven private elementary schools recognized by the Board. Whilst the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. In 1937 there were 19 pupils on the roll, and the average attendance was 16. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a good assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness, and death.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk, on their way south, every three weeks and call again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidized by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island. Sailings are approximately every three weeks.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 138,750 postal articles during the year.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados, and Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and with ships at sea within short range.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for sixty lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in serviceable condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year was as follows:—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total No.*	*Net Tonnage.*
Steamships	11	61	72	100,885
Sailing Vessels	150	19	169	112,269

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Considerable Unemployment Relief Work was afforded during the year by repairs to the roads. Repairs to the dock at Salt Cay were effected at a cost of £167, which expenditure was covered by Supplementary Appropriation. Food relief was granted in the Caicos Islands in return for work done in clearing and repairing paths.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

There are three Magistrate's Courts, at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of four men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty. The Police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation and is kept in good order and good sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the

hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well-fed and are allotted eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of the Prison, and Senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but Clergymen make regular visits to the prison.

The crime statistics for 1937 were:—

	1937
Number of crimes reported or known to Police ...	148
Number of crimes brought before Magistrate ...	148
Number of cases dropped	15
Number of persons proceeded against (male) ...	133
" " " " " (female) ...	53
Number of persons apprehended	37
Number of persons summoned	149
Number discharged	15
Number summarily convicted	171
Number imprisoned	20
Number whipped	11
Number fined	104
Number bound over or otherwise disposed of ...	36

The convictions were classified as follows:—

	1937
Offences against the person	25
Praedial larcency	2
Malicious injury to property	1
Other offences against property	36
Miscellaneous minor offences	122

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board as follows:—

No.

1. *The Cable Company's Extension Ordinance.*
2. *The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance,* 1937.
3. *The Supplementary Appropriation* (1936) *Ordinance,* 1937.
4. *The Salt Industry Ordinance,* 1937.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, or legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there any legislation providing for sickness or old age.

The Salt Industry Ordinance provides for the setting-up of a Board to bring about co-operation and reorganization in the Industry.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these islands. At the end of 1937 there were 829 accounts open with £12,158 on deposit. The investments amounted to £11,750.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver, and bronze coins, Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local Government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these islands.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1933	9,774	10,518
1934	7,024	8,959
1935	11,192	8,846
1936	10,110	9,031
1937	21,148	10,955

The year opened with a deficit of £901 and closed with a surplus of £7,492. A sum of £1,799 due the Jamaica Treasury was repaid during the year.

There is no Public Debt.

The main items of revenue were as follows:—

	1937
	£
Customs Duties	4,958
Royalty on Salt	2,498
Port Dues	927
Internal Revenue	196
Payment for Specific Services, etc.	785
Post Office	10,601
Interest	36
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,124

The main items of expenditure were as follows:—

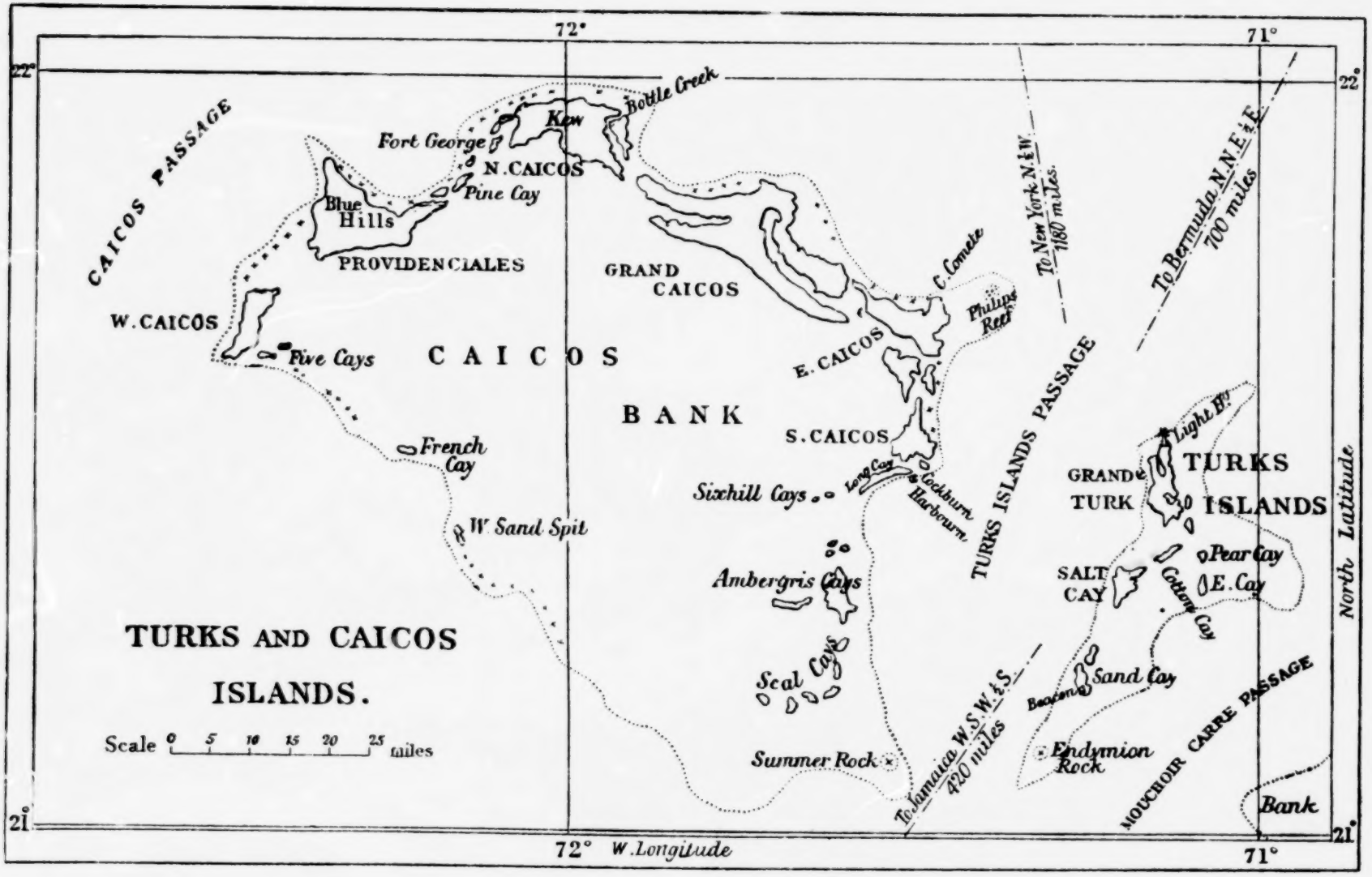
	1937 £
Pensions	1,832
Commissioner's Department	1,543
Treasury and Customs	758
Judicial Department	26
Police and Prisons	764
Medical Department	1,110
Paupers and Lunatics	393
Education	840
Miscellaneous	820
Post Office...	866
Lighthouse Department	314
Public Works Extraordinary	167
Caicos Relief	230
Education Inspection	48
Depreciation	467

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals or vehicles; no poll tax and no excise or stamp duties.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows:—

British Preferential Tariff ...	10 per cent. *ad valorem*.
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem*.



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CEYLON
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FIJI
THE GAMBIA
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GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
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MAURITIUS
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ST. HELENA
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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, 1937

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1937.

CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitution. Through the county of Surrey and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Exquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The Colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds, and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th Century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with Maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the Island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial

Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in number from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: The Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her

Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen, 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water Commission appointed under Law 34 of 1936 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and St. Andrew.. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population 8,694), Port Antonio, (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1937 was 11,843, being at the rate of 10.66 per thousand of population. Pauper Relief costs 1/10d. per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

There was an increase both in Emigration and in Immigration during 1937 compared with the year 1936. The departures in 1935 were 612, in 1936, 451 and in 1937, 524. The arrivals in 1935 were 1,306, in 1936, 969 and in 1937, 1,500

Vital Statistics.

Population.—The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1937, was 1,152,528, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1936 and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Marriages.—The number of marriages registered during 1937 was 5,305, the rate being 4.64 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.9 in 1936.

Births.—During the same period, 35,352 births were registered of which 17,917 were boys and 17,435 were girls. The birth rate works out at 32.07 per thousand as against 32.35 during 1936.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered were 17,481 of which 8,788 were males and 8,693 were females, the death rate being 15.30 per 1,000. The rate for 1936 was 17.37. During 1937, 5,310 or 30.38 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these, 4,190 or 23.97 were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1936 were 30.10 and 24.35 per cent.

The infantile death rate under one year was 118.52 per 1,000 as compared with 13.04 in 1936 per 100.

The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—Tuberculosis, 7.25; Heart Disease, 9.58; Congenital Debility, 5.68; Pneumonia, 9.36; Old Age, 5.46; Typhoid Fever, 2.54; Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 4.00; Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over), 2.65; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 2.05; Cancer and other malignant Tumours, 4.33; Syphilis, 2.16; Malaria, 2.05.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

The Health of the Island was particularly satisfactory during 1937, and the death rate, 15.3 per 1,000 population, was the lowest in record. There was a water borne epidemic of Typhoid Fever in St. Catherine with 73 cases and 7 deaths. In the last quarter of the year there was a sharp increase of Malaria in parts of Portland where no organised control work had hitherto been undertaken but measures were promptly undertaken with satisfactory results.

In the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew where Malaria had risen to epidemic proportions in the previous year following prolonged spring rains, the establishment of larvicidal measures of control effected marked reduction in the disease during 1937, but conditions in this area are not yet satisfactory.

Surveys undertaken during the year in areas which in former years shewed a high endemic incidence of Yaws have given evidence of a continued decline in the number of active cases, and there is good reason to believe that the programme laid down in 1933 will in time effect a reduction in this disease to a satisfactory low point.

There was a very marked reduction in the number of cases of Typhoid Fever as compared with the previous years, but on the other hand diphtheria and scarlet fever, which are rare, were somewhat more prevalent than usual towards the end of the year.

There was a further increase in outdoor attendance at Dispensaries under the ticket system for free medical service, there being 221,987 attendances as compared with 204,527 in 1936 and 59,327 in 1935 when the system was organised.

Vital Statistics.

Population.—The estimated population on 31st December, 1937 was 1,152,528.

Birth rate.—35,352 births were registered, giving a rate of 32.07 per 1,000 population. 25,200 of the births were illegitimate.

Death rate.—The crude death rate was 15.3 per 1,000 population, this rate being the lowest on record.

Infant Mortality.—The death rates under 1 year and under 5 years were respectively 119 and 168 per 1,000 live births as compared with 130 and 183 per 1,000 in 1936.

Principal Disease Groups.

Gastro Intestinal Diseases.

(a) *Enteric Fever.*—781 cases were notified as compared with 1,278 in 1936 and 1,117 in 1935, the decrease in this disease in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew being very marked. 137 cases with 43 deaths were treated in the Kingston Public Hospital as compared with 320 cases with 53 deaths in the previous year. In the District Hospitals there were 413 cases with 22 deaths. Mention has been made above of the water borne epidemic in a rural section of St. Catherine with 73 cases and 7 deaths.

(b) *Dysentery.*—133 cases were reported in 1937 as compared with 319 in the previous year. 71 cases were admitted to the public hospitals as compared with 121 in 1936.

(c) *Intestinal Parasites.*—Surveys carried out by the Health Units in areas not dealt with hitherto continue to show infection rates of 70% to 90% of the population in rural areas with intestinal worms, the Hookworm and Round Worms being the most commonly distributed, while the Tape Worm is very rare.

Although the infection rates remain high it is the general opinion of practising physicians that the general level of Hookworm infestation in the individual is lower than it was some years ago and the incidence of severe Hookworm Disease is much lower than formerly.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—1,311 cases were notified as compared with 1,452 in 1936, and 1,019 deaths were recorded, 46% of the cases being found in the three adjacent parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine.

During the year 3,664 new patients were examined at the Kingston Dispensary among whom 526 cases of Tuberculosis were found.

Malaria.—The rainfall during the greater part of the year was below average particularly in the Spring which favoured a reduction in the general incidence of malaria which had reached an unusually high peak in 1936. A total of 504 deaths were recorded, as compared with 672 in 1936 and 568 in 1935.

In the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew where the disease had risen to epidemic proportion in 1936 favourable weather conditions aided the programme of mosquito control which was put into effect, and there has been marked reduction in the number of new cases, though the endemic level in this area now remains far too high. Thus there were 661 admissions with 29 deaths in the Kingston Public Hospital during 1937, as compared with 1,359 cases and 42 deaths in the previous year.

The disease rose to epidemic proportions with a number of deaths during September in the coastal areas of the parish of Portland involving the townships of St. Margaret's Bay, Hope Bay, and the valley of the Rio Grande River, due to sluggishness and pooling of streams following several months of low rainfall. The measures undertaken were adequate, however, to bring the outbreak under control.

Yaws.—A total of 30,611 cases were brought under treatment as compared with 28,700 in 1936. This increase in the number of cases treated is probably due to improvement in case finding and to incresing co-operation of the public. Actually the statistical reports of periodical house to house surveys carried out by Parochial health staffs together with the experience of School teachers give convincing evidence of a further decline in the incidence of active cases during the year.

The Yaws Commission completed its research work in April and the two special Mobile Units of the Commission have been retained in the general control programme to maintain treatment over the areas of highest infection rate for some time to come until the incidence in these areas is reduced to the point where effective control can be maintained by the permanent staff. These Units are also serving as training centres for the staffs of the Local Health Authorities.

Venereal Diseases.—Records of treatment of Venereal Diseases during 1937 are as follows:

	Admissions.		Outdoor.	
	Syphilis.	Gonoccocal Infections.	Syphilis.	Gonoccocal Infections.
Kingston Public Hospital ..	416	385	..	1,154 (S & G)
District Hospitals ..	2,055	1,190	9,017	3,974
Kingston Venereal Diseases Clinic ..	..	..	4,381	6,227
Montego Bay Venereal Diseases Clinic ..	..	..	1,223	1,397
Port Antonio Venereal Diseases Clinic ..	..	..	707	543

These figures for the Special Clinics represent the number of new cases dealt with during 1937. The Montego Bay Clinic began work on 19th July, 1937, and the Port Antonio Clinic on 1st October, 1937. With regard to the figures for hospitals, it is not possible to state how many of the cases are new, and the admissions are in most instances recorded among the out-patient numbers prior to admission.

The Kingston Clinic was transferred in newly constructed buildings in a district of the city reputed for its association with prostitutes and considerable success has been achieved in inducing these women to attend.

The attendance of new cases at the 3 special clinics has entirely exceeded anticipation, and it is evident that substantial increases in the staffs particularly of the Kingston Clinic must be provided if adequate attention is to be given to the cases.

Diseases of School Children.—The Corporate area of Kingston and St. Andrew is the only Local Authority provided with a School Medical Service.

The School Medical Officer in this Area states that in 20 daily Elementary Schools examined during 1936 and 1937 the nutritional status of from 20% to 55% of over 8,000 children in various Schools is unsatisfactory.

Health Officers in charge of other parishes carried out preliminary surveys on groups of school children with particular reference to their state of nutrition. The nutritional state of 6,830 children from schools scattered all over the Island was classified as follows:—59% normal and 41% sub-normal. Defective vision was observed in 15%, and judging by the results of careful studies of defective vision in the children of the Corporate Area, it is probable that in the great majority of cases, an important underlying cause of poor vision is lack of vitamins. There is indication also that eye strain due to incorrect illumination in unsuitable buildings may be of some importance.

Hospitals.—The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

		Official No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	.. ..	380
Jubilee Hospital ..	.. ..	100
Public Lunatic Asylum	.. ..	2,089
Public General Hospital,	Morant Bay ..	32
" " "	Hordley ..	40
" " "	Port Antonio ..	55
" " "	Buff Bay ..	50
" " "	Annotto Bay ..	60
" " "	Port Maria ..	67
" " "	St. Ann's Bay ..	42
" " "	Cave Valley ..	14
" " "	Falmouth ..	41
" " "	Ulster Spring ..	8
" " "	St. James ..	72
" " "	Lucea ..	30
" " "	Sav.-la-Mar ..	68
" " "	Black River ..	72
" " "	Mandeville ..	37
" " "	Chapelton ..	35
" " "	Lionel Town ..	50
" " "	Spanish Town ..	70
" " "	Linstead ..	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	.. ..	120

The need for increased accommodation at several hospitals is now very acute and can only be properly met in many cases by additional buildings. The St. James's Hospital is actually carrying over 120 beds under very overcrowded conditions, and some other hospitals similarly are 20% to 60% overcrowded. Arrangements are being made to provide maintenance for additional beds next year in those hospitals where space permits.

Considerable progress was recorded in improving hospital facilities during the year. The new Operating Theatre at the Kingston Hospital is designed and equipped on up-to-date lines and will be in use early in

the new year. Designs have been approved for a new Outpatients Department and X-ray Institute for the same hospital and the work is being put in hand at once.

Maternity Wards have been completed at the Port Antonio, Buff Bay, Annotto Bay and Sav.-la-Mar hospitals. The tuberculosis wards at the St. Ann's Bay and Linstead hospitals were completed and put into use and construction of similar wards at the Lucea, Sav.-la-Mar and Port Maria hospitals is in progress.

Construction of the Tuberculosis Sanitorium will be put in hand early next year on the site selected, and some preliminary work has already been carried out.

The new Tuberculosis Dispensary in Kingston is nearly completed and will be put into use shortly, and the new building for the Venereal Diseases Clinic in Kingston was occupied during the year.

A site for a new hospital of 50 beds at Alexandria has been approved and plans for construction are being expedited.

Outdoor Dispensary Service.—The public took advantage to a greatly increased extent of the outdoor dispensary ticket system established in 1934, there being 221,987 attendances during the year as compared with 204,527 attendances in 1936. Five dispensaries were opened during the year.

Prevention of Disease.

Laboratory Work.—The rapidly increasing use of the Laboratory by Institutions and Private Practitioners is leading to continual improvement in the accuracy of diagnosis, particularly on Communicable Diseases. This is also indicated by the reduction in the number of specimens found necessary to be submitted for examination by Health Officers. The improvement in this respect is particularly noteworthy as regards Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, the Dysenteries and Malaria.

Medical Officers of Health in charge of parishes are undertaking to an increasing degree certain simpler procedures in their own departments such as sputum for tuberculosis and blood smears for malaria parasites.

The sources of material for examination for the past three years are as follows:—

	1935.	1936.	1937.
Kingston Public Hospital ..	22,634	20,064	19,073
Lunatic Asylum	1,530	1,642	2,358
Other Institutions	5,133	19,792	30,825
Country Medical Districts ..	3,871	7,527	10,312
Health Officers	3,440	4,241	2,824
Private Practitioners	2,958	4,684	6,309
Totals ..	39,566	57,950	71,701

Gastro Intestinal Diseases.—During the year the Mobile Health Units which carry out group treatments for worm infestations directed their efforts towards assisting three Local Boards of Health—Westmoreland Hanover and Clarendon—in expediting latrine construction in areas not yet properly sanitated rather than on actual treatments.

Considerable progress on this activity was thus obtained in a large area of high endemic typhoid in the parish of Clarendon.

32,454 anti-typhoid inoculations were administered as compared with 37,947 in 1936; special attention being given to protection of school

children, as this group provides from 30% to 35% of the notified cases and can be reached with less difficulty than the rest of the population.

13,643 new latrines were completed as compared with 12,442 in 1936, most marked progress being obtained in the northern sections of the parish of Clarendon where typhoid has shewn a relatively high endemic rate for the past two years.

Special efforts are made to hospitalise cases, in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew 83% of the notified cases were cared for in the Kingston Public Hospital while elsewhere 64% were admitted to district hospitals.

Group treatment for worm infections was maintained by special Health Units, but on a smaller scale than formerly because of the need for concentrating this staff on yaws and typhoid control.

Malaria.—The general programme of malaria control was again extended during the year particularly in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, and parts of St. Catherine, Portland and Clarendon.

The year was marked by the more generous provision of funds for "permanent" control measures—i.e. drainage and filling, than has ever been hitherto attempted, and the necessary co-ordination between the Health and Engineering Authorities has been arranged. In former years such limited funds as were available have been sufficient only to make use of "temporary" measures—i.e. the use of larvicides—under the direction of Health Officers. While continuous extensions of these latter measures have been of the greatest value in restraining malaria in areas of formerly very high endemicity, substantial expenditures for drainage and filling were not provided for the purpose of eradicating major breeding places, although demonstrations of drainage and filling on a small scale had been made by the Health Authorities at such places as Little London, Falmouth, Kingston Pen, and Golden Grove in St. Thomas.

It was, therefore, decided to apply these measures on a larger scale and funds have been allocated from Loan provisions to be expended on four schemes at Kingston Pen, Port Maria, Montego Bay, and Black River. The Kingston Pen swamp with an area of approximately 191 acres, the largest scheme undertaken, had been almost entirely eradicated partly by special expenditure from Loan provisions and partly by systematic filling with city refuse, and adequate permanent drainage for the whole area has been provided for removing subsoil and storm water.

Good progress was also made in the establishment of permanent drainage for the swamp close to the town of Port Maria. The measures for dealing permanently with the swamps near Montego Bay have not been finally settled, but in the meanwhile valuable results have been obtained with ditching and pumping by a private owner of a part of the swamp, and carefully maintained use of larvicides over the remainder is sufficient to ensure safety from malaria.

The experience gained by these first undertakings on a comparatively large scale will be of value for further development as funds are available.

In the Corporate Area effective drainage was provided at the Rock Spring swamp and partial drainage of the large Evans pond at Bull Bay.

Larvicidal measures were more thoroughly organised over the large swamps and irrigated banana lands extending for some miles to the west of Kingston with considerable reduction in the incidence of malaria over the previous two years, and investigations are being made in this area with a view to preparation of a drainage programme.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Preparation of the site for the construction of the King George V. Jubilee Memorial Hospital and Sanatorium was begun at the end of the year. It is to accommodate 220 beds and will be a thoroughly up-to-date and attractively designed institution. In continuation of the programme of provision of special tuberculosis wards at one hospital in each parish, wards of 16 beds was completed and put into use at the St. Ann's Bay and Linstead Hospitals, and a start was made on those at Savla-Mar, Lucea and Port Maria.

The work of the Kingston Tuberculosis Dispensary with a small hospital of 45 beds continued to show a great increase, particularly in major surgical procedures which included 60 operations on the Phrenic nerve, 60 of Internal Pneumolysis and 13 of Thoraco-plasty. With the establishment of this dispensary in 1927, each year up to 1931 shewed an increase in the number of new cases in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew. Since 1931 this increase has not been maintained while 1937 shews the lowest number on record for the past nine years. This information encourages the hope that the peak of occurrence of new cases of the disease has been passed in this area.

The Travelling X-Ray Unit took 3,459 photographs in 1937 as compared with 2,417 in the previous year. It continues to be of the greatest value in completing diagnosis in rural areas, and demands on its services will increase as the wards in district hospitals develop surgical treatment.

The effectiveness of dispensary services in both Kingston and other parishes is indicated by the fact that the Kingston Dispensary notified 89% of all cases notified in the Corporate Area, and elsewhere the Medical Officers of Health notified 34%.

The Rockefeller Foundation continued research work on vaccination against tuberculosis.

Yaws.—The general plan of control which has been outlined in previous reports was well maintained during the year. With increasing experience of the sanitary staff in recognition of the disease and improving co-operation on the part of the public, there has been satisfactory reduction in the incidence of active cases in many parts of the Island, and particularly in the areas of former heavy infection in the parishes of Portland, St. Thomas and Clarendon.

Infant Welfare.—The attendances at the centre of the Child Welfare Association in Kingston again shewed a slight decrease over the previous year. There was a total of 17,029 attendances of sick children, 220 of them having been referred to hospital, and 3,714 attendances of well babies.

Outside of Kingston interest is developing in this field of Health work with the support of voluntary organisations, particularly the Women's League. A well run clinic was organised during the year at Port Royal and with the recently accepted Government policy of full-time Public Health Nursing Service, and the provision of a few such posts, some Health Officers have made a start in establishing prenatal and Infant clinics.

Bureau of Health Education.—Volume XII of the Jamaica Public Health Bulletin was published during the year, 22,000 copies being issued each month. Pamphlets and prenatal letters were distributed as usual. A silent motion picture film on Venereal Diseases was purchased and a series of local lantern slides on yaws was obtained.

Public Health Nursing.—Following the demonstrations of the work of a Public Health Nurse particularly on rural tuberculosis carried out during the past two years, funds were provided for a few full time posts as a nucleus of a service to be developed which is on a co-operative

basis between Government and Local Health Authorities, the Government providing the salary of the nurse and the Local Board the Travelling Allowance. Six of the fourteen Local Boards have made provision for accepting one nurse each so far, and two others are making arrangements for the new year.

School Dental Clinics.—These were continued by 9 of the 14 Local Authorities namely, Kingston and St. Andrew, Portland, St. Mary' Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Clarendon, Port Royal and St. Catherine. Two more of them, St. Ann and Manchester, have made provisions for this service in the coming year. 14,741 extractions and 13,380 fillings were recorded as compared with 14,770 extractions and 13,479 fillings in 1936.

Parochial Health Departments.—The main activities by the 14 Local Boards of Health were control of Typhoid Fever and other Communicable Gastro-Intestinal diseases, Malaria, Yaws and Tuberculosis, supervision of milk and food supplies, Health Education, School Dental Clinics and in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew a School Medical Service.

The Central Government continued to assist Local Boards in these activities through the Central Board of Health mainly by provision of Medical Officers of Health and specially trained Sanitary Inspectors. The Central Government also provided 25% of the cost of 8 of the 10 Parochial School Dental Clinics.

Improved Diet for School Children.—Interest is developing as the possibilities of assisting the poorer groups of School children and of educating them in good dietary habits in a practical way. Demonstrations of provision of a mid-day meal at very low cost are being supported by the Education Department and Voluntary workers, in both town and rural schools.

The Education Department is already assisting 28 schools in establishing kitchens in such ways as providing stoves, kitchen utensils, tools and fencing for school gardens. A group of voluntary workers established a central kitchen during the year in Kingston to supply cooked lunches to elementary schools, at prices which are calculated just to cover the cost of preparation, making allowance for a number of free lunches to children who cannot afford to pay. In the period, June 1 to December 31, the kitchen supplied nearly 46,000 lunches of which 19,755 were allowed free. The remainder were sold at the very cheap price of 1½d. each which practically covered expenses, but it is to be noted that this price was only possible through the various forms of voluntary assistance.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

The Slum Clearance Bill was presented at the 1937 Spring Session of the Legislative Council, and the Central Housing Authority was appointed under the provisions of the Slum Clearance Law, Law 10 of 1937.

An Improvement Scheme, embracing the greater portion of Smith Village and development of a portion of Trench Pen property, as a Model township, was submitted by the Housing Authority as a First Scheme for Slum Clearance in the Corporate Area, the estimated cost of which is £48,400, to be met from the sum of £100,000 provided for Housing Scheme under the Development Loan.

The Scheme provides for the cost of construction by Private Enterprise, to be financed by loans from Building Societies, on special terms, and it is confidently expected that the arrangements will contribute towards improving the housing standard generally.

Details of the operation of the Central Housing Authority are contained in a separate Report which has been furnished by this Body.

Notwithstanding the increased cost of building materials, there has been much activity in the construction of residences in suburban areas of Kingston, and expansion in various areas is proceeding along satisfactory lines.

In the parishes, the Housing Conditions call for much improvement, and it is hoped that the functions of the Housing Authority will soon embrace the principal towns, which are urgently in need of improvement. The activities of Private Enterprise, notably in Montego Bay, have done much towards development of high class suburban settlements.

The improvement of Estate Barracks is receiving the attention of the Department, and, in many instances, dilapidated ranges are being replaced with model accommodations. The programme of Rose Hall estate in Saint James is deserving of special mention.

CHAPTER VI.

Natural Resources.

There are no reliable statistics relating to the distribution of land in Jamaica, but according to the Collector General's statements of tax ingivings, the area returned under 'wood and ruinate' is approximately 650,000 acres and cultivated land 950,000, a total of 1,600,000 acres. Crown Lands amount to approximately 270,000 and other non-taxable land to say 10,000 acres, making the total area accounted for 1,880,000 acres.

Of the 270,000 acres of Crown Land it is estimated that approximately 30,000 acres might be developed for agriculture, while at least 60,000 acres of private land should eventually be acquired and reserved as forest. Forest Reserves would then be in the region of 300,000 acres, or 10½% of the total land area. The survey and demarcation of these Forest Reserves was begun in 1937 and is being actively pursued.

As regards land tenure, etc., normally all Crown Lands are vested in the Colonial Secretary, but certain lands are leased from the War Department and private individuals for Forest Reserve. Forest rights—there are none. Water rights—in general it may be said that the rights to water flowing in definite stream channels are vested in the Crown, provided that riparian owners have the right to water for domestic and stock purposes.

As regards forest production, there is a very considerable local utilisation of hardwoods, particularly in the country, and utilisation is probably not less than £100,000 per annum in value. The principal species used include Cedar (Cedrela odorata), Mahoe (Hibiscus elatus), Bulletwood (Dipholis nigra), and Santa Maria (Calophyllum jacquinii) amongst others. Exports of "fancy" timbers amount to £2,000 to £3,000 a year, but the export of dyewoods, tans, etc., averages £130,000 a year (of which logwood and extracts account for approximately £122,000). Practically all the timber products exported come from private lands.

Organization of production.—The supply of timber for local consumption is in the hands of independent small contractors who employ sawyers, etc. Conversion and extraction are done by hand.

Weather conditions were generally favourable throughout the year. Certain localities experienced dry weather during October and November, while in November, flood rains and serious landslides occurred in Portland and some damage was done in St. James. The production of the Colony's main crops was good and banana exports constituted a new record of almost 27 million stems (actual figures 26,955,489 equivalent to 17,600,579 counts).

2. The total value of the Colony's domestic exports as determined by Customs returns closely approached £5,000,000 (actual figure £4,816,872), an increase of £1,119,264 over the value of domestic exports for the previous year. Of this increase nearly three-quarters of a million (£745,278) was accounted for by bananas and the balance of £373,986 by miscellaneous products, principally sugar and rum. Sugar showed a further noteworthy increase in exports from 77,809 tons in 1936, valued at £632,451, to 95,776 tons in 1937, valued at £864,579; an increase of 17,967 tons in quantity and £232,128 in value. The Rum position also continued to improve, exports increasing by 232,477 gallons over the 1936 figures, the total exports in 1937 being 903,812 gallons valued at £266,051,—an increase in value over the previous year of £71,406.

3. Coconut exports increased both in quantity and value.

4. Citrus fruits declined both in quantity and value, principally because of unattractive overseas markets. Freight rates continued to be high and although some reduction was made, further action appears to be necessary in the interest of this growing industry. Continued efforts are being put forth to produce standardised varieties of fruit which when available in sufficient quantity will improve Jamaica's position in export markets and again bring the Colony to the fore as a producer of first-class citrus fruits. The markets do not want our mixed seeded varieties.

5. It is noteworthy that the increases in the value of exports of bananas, sugar, rum and coconuts do not account entirely for the £1,119,264 by which our export trade exceeded in value that for the previous year. Despite the decline in the value of citrus exports, products other than those regarded as the island's principal exports showed an increase in value over the previous year of £51,146, which was well distributed over numerous comparatively small, though nevertheless important items. The organised production of tobacco for export showed up for the first time in our trade returns for 1937, while a remarkable increase took place in the export of numerous minor products dealt with by the Government Marketing Station of the Department of Agriculture. The export figures indicate that the Colony's minor products are gradually coming into greater prominence and that there is a welcome tendency towards more balanced agriculture with greater attention to the numerous crops which can be produced by the small settler. Thus, there was an increase in value of unclassified minor products of some £45,000 over the previous year.

6. It is remarkable that banana production increased during the period when Leaf Spot Disease, caused by the fungus *Cercospora musae* showed up in serious form in four banana producing districts. This disease is associated with other troubles affecting the banana which, in the aggregate, may render this crop unprofitable in limited areas unless the most careful steps are taken to conserve and restore soil

fertility and to "cultivate" as well as to "plant." Careful field enquiries have been instituted by the Department of Agriculture since this disease first appeared in serious form in the middle of 1936 and a campaign is about to be undertaken for the protective treatment of plants, combined with proper tillage operations and the application of fertilizers.

7. The field staffs of the Department of Agriculture and of the Agricultural Society are uniting in the prosecution of this work. The results of the field studies undertaken by one of the Fruit Companies are placed at the disposal of the Government. In addition to amounts already provided a further sum of £5,000 has been authorised for special expenditure in connection with banana diseases, other than Panama Disease. The last named continues to decimate banana fields. It is still, and is likely to remain the most serious trouble facing the banana planter.

8. The continued production of a single crop, without rotation, and in many cases without any attempt to maintain the fertility of the soil must in time lead to a loss of quality as well as a reduction in quantity of the product, and it is necessary, therefore, that all concerned should redouble their efforts both to study the various problems involved and to apply the results of experience to planting practice.

9. Two special cold storage trials carried out with fruit from infected and non-infected areas failed to show any difference in behaviour under cold storage conditions. Shipping trials conducted by one Company have confirmed this observation. There is thus no reason to fear that fruit otherwise suitable for shipment will break down during transit or ripening if it comes from areas with Leaf Spot.

10. In addition to other measures steps have been taken on the advice of the Colonial Advisory Council on Agriculture and Animal Health to speed up the work of banana breeding by providing facilities for extended studies by the Botanist in Jamaica, as well as by the introduction of new wild varieties principally from the Far East. It is an encouraging fact that the seedling varieties of banana show a high degree of resistance to Leaf Spot disease, and though the primary object is to develop a new commercial type banana immune to Panama Disease the possibility that such a type will also be highly resistant to Cercospora Leaf Spot is important.

11. The Banana Borer has also received attention and insects have been introduced from Fiji and from Malaya to combat it.

12. The banana fertilizer experiments undertaken with funds provided by the fruit companies are now approaching a stage where conculsive results are promised and have already developed sufficiently far to indicate the types of fertilizers which will be most suitable to particular soil conditions in different parts of the island.

13. The sugar industry, not only of Jamaica but of the whole world came under prominent review during 1937 and a World Restriction Agreement was negotiated in London. The production of the Colonial Empire was regarded as a single unit during the discussions and was later sub-divided under a quota system amongst the different Dominions and Colonies producing this commodity. The export quota allotted to Jamaica for the current season is 86,000 tons. The results of this World Agreement cannot yet clearly be foreseen in its effect upon our production.

14. Sugar-cane may properly be regarded as Jamaica's main crop exceeding as it does a production of one million tons per annum, and it is of first importance to take every possible step to maintain the sugar

industry of the island on a firm, profitable and continuing basis. It has now been necessary to bring production under control in order to give effect to the participation by the Colonial Empire in the World Sugar Agreement. The Sugar Industry Control Law, 1937 passed by the Council last December, has now been put into operation and the Sugar Control Board appointed under that Law is busily at work. The average yield of sugar cane per acre over all classes of cane was 29.08 tons in 1937.

15. The Jamaica Association of Sugar Technologists formed late in 1936, held its first Conference at Hope in November, 1937. The objects of this Association are to bring together the members of the staffs of sugar estates in the branches of administration, field production, engineering and chemical control, for the consideration and discussion of various technical problems in connection with the production of sugar. The Association is in no sense a Trade Union but rather a scientific organization.

16. Although citrus exports declined in 1937, a careful survey of the position indicates good prospects for the future. The careful inspection, not only of citrus fruits but of other produce leaving the island, undertaken by the Inspectors appointed under the Agricultural Produce Law, continues to enhance the regard in overseas markets for our exports. The quantity of fruit shipped to New Zealand during the current season has declined somewhat, partly because of the admission of Australian citrus to that Dominion. It is highly satisfactory to note, however, that exporters here have received orders for considerably greater quantities for next season.

17. The Government citrus nurseries continue to be maintained and the demand for plants is still high. Some of the earlier plantings under the Citrus Development Scheme are now coming into bearing. The fruit is of good quality, having regard to the age of the trees, and experienced planters who have established this crop are well satisfied that they have made a sound investment. The citrus fertilizer trial established at Grove Place is beginning to produce valuable results. A second experiment of a similar nature is now being undertaken at Wakefield in St. Catherine.

18. Special agricultural developments have been proceeding on three lines during the year. The Fruit and Vegetable Scheme advanced a further stage with the approval of funds to erect and equip a new packing house in Kingston and to provide staff for a period of three years. The new building which contains a Citrus Packing Plant adapted for limes, a Lime Oil Still, two pre-cooling rooms and miscellaneous equipment, was ready for occupation by the end of the year. The extension of this scheme necessitated a considerable increase in staff, while the increased quantities of produce handled has given employment to a larger number of workers than formerly.

19. During the 1937 season, from the 1st November, 1936 to 31st October, 1937, some 33,900 packages were shipped to England, Canada, the United States, and Bermuda compared with some 17,230 packages for the previous season. Fruits totalled about 17,500 packages, principally limes and mangoes. The more important vegetables were new potatoes, egg plants, sweet peppers and string beans, with smaller shipments of tomatoes.

20. A staff of field officers has been actively engaged in advising and assisting growers, principally in the Spanish Town, Old Harbour and Manchester areas. Many of those growers have had little previous experience in the cultivation of vegetable crops so that it has been

necessary to provide them with practical assistance in planting, spraying and harvesting. Unfortunately the weather during the early part of the present growing season was abnormally wet and this detrimentally affected many of the crops in the Spanish Town and Old Harbour areas. The encouragement given by the Government, combined with the regulation of vegetable exports under the Agricultural Produce Law has stimulated interest in these crops. The establishment of tomato growing in certain districts of southern St. Elizabeth is a welcome feature of this new development.

21. The organised production of cigar leaf tobacco for export, commenced in 1936, is continuing successfully. The Tobacco conditioning grading and packing Station was opened at "Clifton Pen" in February, 1937 and was doubled in size towards the end of the year in readiness for the crop planted during the current season, which is expected to reach at least 200,000 lbs. A total of 61,913 lbs. gross weight of tobacco was delivered to the Station from the 1936 crop. Twenty independent growers sent in their tobacco for curing, grading and shipping, and four exporters had their tobacco examined at the station prior to export in accordance with the Tobacco Regulations. The total advances to growers during the 1936-37 season amounted to £1,597, of which all but £170 has been recovered. Average yields exceeding 900 lbs. cured leaf per acre were obtained from the Government experimental plots indicating that growers can secure high returns with proper care. At two of these centres yields of 1,400 lbs. and 1,100 lbs. per acre respectively were obtained. Thirty-seven growers are being assisted for the 1937-38 crop in respect of 250 acres, while outside growers are expected to plant 100 acres of tobacco for export.

22. Reports on the tobacco are generally highly favourable and indicate good prospects, provided that the necessary care and attention is given to detail at all stages. Apart from the labour employed in the field, the Government Tobacco Station gave employment to an average of 50 women daily from the beginning of March to the middle of October in 1937, the total number of working days being 11,708.

23. The costs of grading, curing, packing and shipping for the 1936-37 crop were 4.2 pence per lb. and the average price slightly exceeded 1/- per lb. c.i.f. It is expected that the higher production during the present season will result in a slight reduction of the station costs.

24. Small production trials of Virginia leaf have been carried out during the present season.

25. The most recently introduced investigation is that of a range of food crops which can be produced locally but which are now largely imported. Legislative Council approved of a scheme involving an expenditure of £7,900 over a period of three years to be provided by a grant from the Colonial Development Fund. The special officers required for this work have arrived in the Island and the extension to the laboratory of the Agricultural Chemist is rapidly nearing completion. Enquiries have gone out to a great number of countries for supplies of varieties of food crop seeds which will be included in the trials. A commencement has been made with the analysis of food crops already grown in the island, for which no analytical data at present exists.

26. A detailed soil survey of an area of about 40 square miles in South Clarendon has been completed and apart from its relation to the Irrigation Scheme under consideration for that area, has provided valuable data in regard to the properties of soil types which exist, not only in that district, but over considerable other areas in the island. A further irrigation scheme in regard to which hydraulic surveys have

been completed, is under consideration for an area to the westward of the Rio Cobre irrigation system. The possibility of providing assistance to private individuals who desire to install well irrigation systems is under consideration.

27. The health of stock on the whole has been good but a severe outbreak of Swine Fever caused high mortality in districts of western Kingston and Lower St. Andrew. The services of the Stock Inspector, for which provision was made in the estimates for 1937-38, have proved popular and valuable to stock owners in the district of Manchester in which he is stationed.

28. The enrollment at the Farm School for the year was 52 students, the highest number since 1931. The school had a highly successful year in sporting activities, while one of the pupils, G. B. Grant, won the 1,500 and 5,000 meter races at the Panama Olympic Games recently. Three hundred and fifty-eight persons visited the school and Farm at Hope during 1937.

29. The Annual Staff Conference was held in January, 1938, and the Summer Course of Lectures and Demonstrations in July, 1937. Public meetings were organised and attended and addresses given by the Director and staff on numerous agricultural subjects, including diseases of the banana, with special reference to Cercospora Leaf Spot.

30. An excellent exhibit was staged at the British Industries Fair in February, 1937. A fine display of fruits and vegetables was made at the Imperial Fruit Show and Canners' Exhibition held in Birmingham during October, 1937. Arrangements in England for these exhibitions are made on behalf of Jamaica by the West India Committee, with whom are associated Messrs. T. J. Poupart, Limited.

Considerable progress has been made with Land Settlement and the Lands Department has now to administer 27 properties with a total acreage of 30,379 acres providing for 3,423 families or a population of approximately 17,000 persons. Since the beginning of last year three properties have been acquired, one group of properties known as the Western St. Mary Land Settlement has been taken over and five others are in process of acquisition.

Improved organisation and administration have resulted from the appointment of District Overseers who exercise a general control over the Settlement and by the establishment of demonstration plots to give practical agricultural instruction on the ground to settlers. Five such plots have already been established with the assistance of the Jamaica Agricultural Society through the new Instructors Committee. By such means abuses have been checked and these lands are no longer denuded of trees and cultivated without any regard to the rotation of crops.

It is proposed to go still further and to make these Settlements not only Schools for peasant proprietors but models for the formation of villages with better housing and general living conditions.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

The total trade of the Colony, £11,132,660, showed a marked increase over previous years, and was only exceeded by that of the year 1929—£11,192,086.

The value of Imports was £6,138,379, the highest since 1929. The principal items responsible are Cotton Piece Goods 6.9%, Flour 6.6.%, Fish of all kinds 4.8.%, and Boots and Shoes 3.9%. Fuel Oil was 4.4%. This commodity (a duty free item) improved considerably due

to the increased use of Motor Transport which burn heavy oil. Import Duties yielded £1,271,734 (including Parcels Post £36,835) as against £1,054,583 in 1936—the previously highest year.

The total value of Exports was £4,994,281, the highest for the last ten years, and was due principally to the export of Bananas 55.3%, Sugar 18% and Rum 5.5%.

The fair condition of the Colony's trade can be attributed to the absence of hurricanes, gales (frequent visitors to the Island) and drought consequently permitting seizure of any favourable opportunity offered for the marketing of the Island's products.

Further information may be obtained from the Tables following:—

Value of Imports (C.I.F.)

1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
£	£	£	£	£
4,367,843	4,777,069	5,009,906	5,073,815	6,138,379

Value of Exports and re Exports (F.O.B.)

2,745,300	3,219,072	3,838,933	3,821,281	4,994,281

Imports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
British Empire ..	70.0%	69.1%	71.6%	73.0%	67.4%
Other Countries ..	30.0%	30.9%	28.4%	27.0%	32.6%

Principal Countries.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
United Kingdom ..	40.2%	39.2%	40.3%	38.1%	33.7%
Canada	16.0%	15.9%	16.3%	16.3%	14.9%
Trinidad	5.7%	6.2%	5.4%	5.5%	4.8%
India	2.0%	2.3%	3.4%	4.1%	3.8%
U.S.A.	16.3%	18.3%	18.1%	16.9%	18.1%
Germany	1.9%	1.7%	2.0%	2.7%	3.5%

Exports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
British Empire ..	85.04%	85.93%	85.58%	85.70%	81.70%
Other Countries ..	14.96%	14.07%	14.42%	14.30%	18.30%

Principal Countries.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
United Kingdom ..	56.34%	55.01%	56.30%	54.30%	55.77%
Canada	27.75%	29.59%	28.00%	29.70%	24.74%
U.S.A.	9.43%	9.21%	8.91%	7.19%	4.81%
Holland	.12%	.39%	2.43%	2.18%	7.81%
Germany ..	1.28%	1.13%	.76%	2.78%	2.80%
France	2.47%	2.06%	1.40%	1.35%	1.83%

Exports, 1936.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Australia.		Canada.		Bahamas.		Bermuda.		New Zealand.		U. S. A.	
		Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value (F.O.B)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas	stems	15,437,384	1,529,396	..	..	2,458,375	289,360	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,295	3,971
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	3,602,455	49,157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coconuts ..	No.	1,847,480	4,961	..	..	10,290,190	21,902	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,104,205	48,806
Coffee ..	lbs.	293,178	6,432	..	..	8,165,520	126,191	16,400	320	..	..	..	..	1,876,446	26,970
Grapefruits ..	No.	16,115,454	62,956	..	..	1,222,600	4,228	..	..	182,316	717	432,900	1,496	..	..
Oranges ..	boxes	156,924	51,344	..	..	122,070	41,408	..	..	9,137	3,917	58,217	23,388	..	..
Rum ..	gall.	426,230	91,471	..	..	28,189	12,108	30,043	8,651	..	..	..	..	38,235	37,717
Sugar ..	tons	12,284	98,202	..	..	65,398	533,157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	336,267	7,287	55,760	1,464	98,373	2,293	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,161,083	51,331
Ginger ..	"	1,146,123	22,792	134,409	3,545	339,700	6,707	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,632,620	36,036
Tobacco, Cigars	"	5,888	5,592	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,283	1,632	..	..	..	..
Logwood ..	tons	1,204	3,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,482	6,723
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	22,465	72,975	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319	1,155

Exports, 1936.

Principal Items.	Uuit of Quantity.	France.		Germany.		Holland.		Panama.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	..	..	183,619	21,416	650,121	67,462	..	..	..	..	18,762,794	1,911,605
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,950	527	3,640,405	49,684
Coconuts ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164,604	607	31,406,479	76,276
Coffee ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,144	1,067	10,396,688	160,980
Grapefruits ..	No.	..	..	..	..	101,100	303	..	..	13,456	65	18,067,826	69,765
Oranges ..	boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	380	176	346,728	120,233
Rum ..	galls.	..	..	135,443	36,893	..	..	..	..	13,195	7,805	671,335	194,645
Sugar ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127	1,092	77,809	632,451
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	1,280,919	31,285	1,295,594	31,349	424,624	9,866	..	..	235,805	5,983	5,888,425	140,858
Ginger	"	..	..	90,121	1,807	..	..	..	..	77,799	1,749	3,420,772	72,636
Tobacco, Cigars	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,230	6,262	7,820	5,177	36,221	18,663
Logwood ..	tons	5,733	14,837	2,345	4,974	..	..	..	..	100	275	12,224	29,964
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	903	3,109	23,687	77,239

Exports, 1937.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Australia.		Canada.		Bahamas.		Bermuda.		New Zealand.		U.S.A.	
		Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Vzlue (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	20,085,548	1,968,927	..	..	2,619,541	288,457	..	..	..	..	..	..	63,574	6,264
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	31,900	580	..	..	4,394,080	74,476	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coconuts ..	No.	2,521,100	7,164	..	..	10,331,350	27,168	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,146,550	60,667
Coffee ..	lbs.	271,642	8,038	..	..	7,216,879	136,166	34,645	733	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grapefruits ..	No.	9,901,470	33,361	..	..	2,291,300	6,837	..	..	211,170	776	440,000	1,320	..	..
Oranges ..	boxes	77,490	25,615	..	..	124,220	37,527	..	..	8,230	3,201	28,832	10,580	..	..
Rum ..	gals.	587,915	123,994	..	..	38,326	16,646	47,913	11,124	..	..	..	..	59,369	57,306
Sugar ..	tons	32,896	301,787	..	..	62,845	562,378	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	534,822	13,454	175,074	4,550	226,236	5,339	..	..	..	..	..	..	599,985	14,877
Ginger ..	lbs.	1,448,113	34,130	146,455	4,074	296,600	6,825	..	..	..	..	..	..	938,422	21,243
Tobacco, Cigars	"	8,415	7,787	..	..	..	..	.	..	3,635	1,689	..	..	..	..
Logwood ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,361	10,161
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	22,173	72,081	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	434	1,595

Exports, 1937.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	France.		Germany.		Holland.		Panama.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value. (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	..	..	417,363	33,107	3,769,463	360,128	..	..	..	..	26,955,489	2,656,883
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	..	..	44,335	437	..	..	..	..	93,575	1,608	4,563,890	77,101
Coconuts ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53,640	234	34,052,640	95,233
Coffee ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51,849	1,082	7,575,015	146,019
Grapefruits ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,200	19	12,847,140	42,313
Oranges ..	boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183	102	238,955	77,025
Rum ..	gals.	..	..	153,721	49,195	..	..	..	..	16,568	7,786	903,812	266,051
Sugar ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	414	95,776	864,579
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	1,710,262	42,293	1,533,378	40,443	390,270	10,044	..	..	653,562	16,181	5,823,589	147,181
Ginger ..	lbs.	..	..	92,283	2,194	..	..	..	..	62,899	1,536	2,984,772	70,002
Tobacco, Cigars	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,348	5,692	8,506	5,750	37,904	20,918
Logwood ..	tons	15,981	40,287	1,687	3,270	..	..	..	..	30	65	22,059	53,783
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013	3,686	23,620	77,362

IMPORTS, 1936.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Canada.		Australia.		Bahamas.		British Guiana.	
			Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	112,019	1,049	5,640,332	54,144	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	66,164	55,772	269,011	254,761	91,459	77,766	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	370,467	1,737	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,455,526	5,655
	Milk	lbs.	4,265,476	64,723	168,399	3,092	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal	tons	163,347	180,474	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	1,210,718	8,775	..	..	1,896,542	14,470	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel	value	..	33,847	..	17,561	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	33,478	92,490	7,828	25,280	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	20,291,288	328,857	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hardware	value	..	77,976	..	11,086	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks ..	No.	351	49,653	694	102,894	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	42,538	..	13,147	..	..	..	..	..	..

Imports, 1936.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Hong Kong.		India.		Newfoundland.		Trinidad.		U.S.A.		D.W.I.	
			Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£		£
Class I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	8,303	613	..	..	11,426,555	113,955	..	..	17,825	837	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,141	1,758	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	36,126,274	149,407	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Milk	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	365,881	5,574	..	..
Class II.	Coal	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,275	4,255	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine ..	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,544,888	86,909	..	..
Class III.	Apparel	value	..	64,204	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,627	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	81,154	46,743	19,769	13,462	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	67,264	1,223	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,013,684	52,606	..	..
	Hardware	value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,279	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	379	56,226	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,338,756	121,000	121,993	4,426	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	97,517	105,659	103	365	31507	45432
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	4,492	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,412	..	..

IMPORTS, 1936.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Germany.		Holland.		Japan.		Other Countries.		Total.	
			Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,379	392	17,210,413	170,990
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	427,776	390,058
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,420,550	10,838	40,372,817	167,637
	Milk	lbs.	..	..	2,560,942	31,303	..	..	633,422	7,105	7,994,120	111,797
CLASS II.	Coal.	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	166,622	184,729
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,652,148	110,154
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,095	3,213	..	130,547
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,432	2,461	143,661	180,436
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	251,537	4,386	24,623,773	387,072
	Hardware ..	value	..	15,065	..	..	..	8,986	..	4,798	..	151,190
	Motor Cars and Trucks ..	No.	9	2,550	..	..	..	..	1	12	1,434	211,335
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	27	6,460,858	125,453
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129,127	151,456
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	3,804	..	..	..	23,873	..	17,243	..	119,509

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Canada.		Australia.		Bahamas.		British Guiana.	
			Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
I CLASS.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	196,190	2,327	2,280,145	27,105	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	36,365	34,530	211,335	243,641	111,791	110,589	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	269,469	1,264	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,629,743	14,102
	Milk	lbs.	2,744,842	39,008	1,476,178	24,284	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal	tons	25,508	38,133	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	354,338	4,259	..	..	1,854,651	18,429	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel	value	..	40,632	..	23,150	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	43,852	108,204	11,903	49,359	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	18,709,808	325,408	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hardware ..	value	..	96,193	..	18,093		..	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks ..	No.	402	56,756	810	122,166	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	36,012	..	15,089	..	..	..	..	..	..

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Hong Kong. Quantity.	Hong Kong. Value C.I.F.	India. Quantity.	India. Value C.I.F.	Newfoundland. Quantity.	Newfoundland. Value C.I.F.	Trinidad. Quantity.	Trinidad. Value C.I.F.	U. S. A. Quantity.	U. S. A. Value C.I.F.	D. W. I. Quantity.	D. W. I. Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	14,638	1,046	..	..	12,804,364	157788	..	..	17,089	942	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,600	9,618	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	36,108,936	155398	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Milk	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal	tons	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	83,160	94,569	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,388,250	121,427	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel	value	..	87,281	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,663	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	97,667	61,151	22,870	12,934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	174675	3,394	1,070,782	13,234	..	..	..	..	4,237,022	55,145	..	..
	Hardware	value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,006	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	400	63,929	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,506,741	105,964	151,624	5,106	1,833,269	34,065
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	126,326	133,782	137	456	70,031	126,389
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	17,797	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,336	..	..

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Germany.		Holland.		Japan.		Other Countries.		Total.	
			Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,040	156	15,314,466	189,364
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	367,091	398,379
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,206	259	40,052,354	171,023
	Milk	lbs.	..	..	4,271,371	49,882	..	..	491,879	6,084	8,984,270	119,258
CLASS II.	Coal	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000	4,000	112,668	136,702
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,393	93	14,605,632	144,208
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	..	..	..	..	5,183	..	5,250	..	167,159
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,054	3,670	178,346	235,318
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	675,912	18,731	24,868,199	415,912
	Hardware ..	value	..	26,287	..	..	..	5,889	..	7,707	..	202,175
	Motor Cars and Trucks ..	No.	51	8,266	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,663	251,117
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	144	26	7,491,778	145,161
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196,494	260,627
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	7,693	..	..	..	23,267	..	47,484	..	164 678

(6)

Imports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coins—Gold ..	817	..	..	..	..
Silver ..	2,674	11,270	670	1,516	3,639
Nickel ..	..	550	39	..	..
Bank Notes ..			Not available.		

Exports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coins—Gold ..	242,440	24,416	2,486	4,970	3,096
Silver ..	4,072	3,311	13,774	7,154	23,858
Nickel ..	..	70	100	136	..
Bank Notes ..	Not available.		3,092	2,842	5,920

Tourist Trade.

The growing importance of the tourist trade is reflected in the considerable increase in numbers of tourist arrivals for the calendar year 1937 compared with 1936, the figures being as follows:—

Year.	Cruise Tourists.	Stay-overs.	Total.
1936 ..	49,007	6,886	55,893
1937 ..	54,837	10,432	65,269

It is estimated that for the year, the value of the tourist traffic to the Colony was approximately £400,000 which, through the usual business channels, was circulated to the benefit of all classes and Government revenues.

Jamaica has been steadily increasing in popularity as a winter resort whilst the summer tourist traffic has also increased considerably in recent years. Tourist visitors are mostly drawn from the U.S.A., Great Britain and Canada, in which countries the island is advertised every year through the medium of newspapers and magazines, the distribution of descriptive literature and in a number of other ways. The advertising and publicity activities of the Tourist Trade Development Board, which was formed in the year 1922, have increased in scope —more particularly since legislation in 1935 provided for the collection of Passenger Duty from visitors, which has enabled more money to be expended and the whole cost of the Board's operations to be met out of the collections under such Law.

The Board conducts a Tourist Bureau in the capital, Kingston, where visitors are invited to call for free literature, information and advice. The Bureau and office of the Board are housed in a fine building, erected for the purpose in 1936 and situated in Harbour Street—one of the main thoroughfares. The Tourist Board are represented in London by the West India Committee; in Montreal by the Canadian-West Indian League; and in New York they have an office at 230 Park Avenue.

With a view to increasing hotel accommodation, the Jamaica Hotels Aid Law, No. 10 of 1936, was passed to enable hotel proprietors to import free of duty building materials, furniture, and equipment for new hotels or for the reconstruction or enlargement of existing hotels to contain not less than ten bed-rooms. In addition a scheme has been approved under which hotel proprietors who desire to increase accommodation at existing hotels or to construct new hotels may apply for a free grant not exceeding 1½% per annum for seven years, or 3% for a period not exceeding three years on the capital outlay, the expenditure being limited to a total of £1,500 per annum for seven years provided out of Passenger Duty collections. The encouragement afforded by these measures has already resulted in the construction of new hotels and the extension of others.

Whilst Jamaica is served by a number of lines which carry passengers and cargo, on regular schedules with short calls (particularly in the winter season) by large passenger liners, on cruises to the West Indies, there is a distinct need for faster services with greater passenger capacity between northern countries and Jamaica. During the past year, the Government entered into agreements for the provision of inceased transportation whereby a more frequent Air Service between the Colony and the U.S.A. was secured, as well as a special winter season Passenger

Ship Service, between Jamaica and Miami, Florida, the latter being an entirely new link with the U.S.A. Both these services proved highly successful in increasing the Colony's Tourist Traffic.

The Government's Road Improvement Programme combined with increased hotel accommodation and amenities for visitors, etc., have all contributed to make increasingly popular the tourist resorts of the island which, in addition to Kingston, include the seaside resorts of Montego Bay, Port Antonio, and smaller coastal towns, as well as the hill resorts such as Mandeville and Moneague and many smaller places situated in the Blue Mountains and other ranges, and the Thermal Mineral Springs at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon, and at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas.

An interesting feature of the work of the Tourist Board during the year was the provision of funds to enable the historic Fort Charles at Port Royal, commanded at one time by Nelson, to be restored. Historic sites were marked by notice boards and the first descriptive bronze tablet was placed on Rock Fort, east of Kingston, which dates back to the year 1694. A Tourist Rest and Refreshment Room was provided from the Board's funds at the Hope Botanic Gardens, near Kingston, and the facilities offered, as well as those at the Tourist Rest erected some years ago at Castleton Botanic Gardens, were appreciated by a considerable number of visitors.

CHAPTER VIII.

Labour.

There is no Labour Department in Jamaica and there are no statistics as to the approximate number of persons employed in particular industries or as to the labour supply and demand, generally.

2. In Jamaica labour is principally engaged in agricultural employment and in manufacturing or preparing for market the products of agriculture. There are only a few small factories manufacturing articles for local consumption such as matches, ice, cigars, aerated waters, beer, soap and edible oil from coconuts, etc.

3. Several of the International Conventions relating to Labour have been made applicable to Jamaica by local legislation and a Law has recently been passed to provide for the payment of compensation to workers for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

CHAPTER IX.

Wages and Cost of Living.

140. The average rate of wages for labourers in Government employ is—skilled, 6/- per day; unskilled, 2/4 per day. Private employers pay skilled men 5/4 per day, and unskilled men 2/- per day. Women in private employ get 1/- per day. Male factory workers receive a wage of 21/8 per week of six days, working nine hours per day inclusive of one hour for lunch. Female workers receive 11/10 per week. Shop Assistants receive a wage of from 50/- to 70/- per week of five and a half days of eight hours each. Notion Store girls receive wages of from

12/- to 20/- per week. Office Clerks (girls) receive from 15/- to 50/- per week. Pressmen receive wages on an average of 40/- per week. Male Compositors receive 30/- per week. Female Compositors receive 9/- per week.

141. The only Railway operating in Jamaica is the Jamaica Government Railway, and a schedule of the wages paid by the Department is set out below.

	Rate per week.	
	From.	To.
Clerks—1st Grade	85/-	120/-
" 2nd Grade	60/-	80/-
" 3rd Grade	35/-	60/-
" 4th Grade	25/-	35/-
Typists	35/-	50/-
Messengers	8/-	21/-
Draughtsmen—1st Grade	110/-	150/-
" 2nd Grade	70/-	110/-
Junior Draughtsmen	20/-	50/-
Permanent Way Superintendents—1st Grade	110/-	140/-
" " " 2nd Grade	70/-	110/-
Learner " "	20/-	50/-
Motor Trolley Drivers—Grade I	45/-	60/-
" " Grade II	30/-	40/-
Track Foremen—Grade I	50/-	65/-
" Grade II	30/-	50/-
Learners—Track Foremen	20/-	30/-
Gangers	24/-	30/-
Secondmen	18/-	24/-
Trackmen at Outstations	15/-	18/-
Wharf Foremen	60/-	80/-
Foreman, Water Fitter	80/-	90/-
Assistant Telegraph and Telephone Inspector	70/-	110/-
Telegraph and Telephone Instrument Repairer	30/-	50/-
Foreman, Linesman	30/-	40/-
Air Brake Instructor	105/-	130/-
Draughtsman—Senior (Locomotive Branch)	80/-	120/-
Works Checker	30/-	45/-
Foremen—Grade I	110/-	120/-
" Grade II	95/-	110/-
" Grade III	80/-	90/-
Shedmen—Day	24/-	27/-
" Night	30/-	33/-
Drivers—1st Grade	..	120/-
" 2nd Grade	..	100/-
" 3rd Grade	..	80/-
Firemen—1st Grade	..	65/-
" 2nd Grade	..	50/-
" 3rd Grade	..	40/-
Chargemen	50/-	80/-
" Labour Gang	..	38/-

		Rate per week. From.	Rate per week. To.
Artizans—			
Machinists			
Fitters			
Boilermakers	Grade I	55/-	70/-
Blacksmiths	Grade II	44/-	54/-
Coppersmiths	Grade III	32/-	42/-
Moulders			
Examiners Air Brake and C. & W.			
Welders	Grade I	55/-	70/-
Air Brake Fitters	Grade II	44/-	54/-
Electricians	Grade III	32/-	42/-
Carpenters			
Coal Crane Drivers	Grade I	50/-	60/-
Foundry Furnace	Grade II	42/-	48/-
Truck Fitters	Grade III	32/-	40/-
Pattern-Maker			
Millwright		60/-	80/-
Motor Trolley Mechanic			
Upholsterers			
Painters		32/-	48/-
Toolroom Keeper			
Saw Mill Machinist			
Greasers		32/-	40/-
First Aid Attendant		42/-	50/-
Apprentices		8/-	24/-
Labourers—semi-skilled (including:— Winchmen, Storemen, Pumpmen, Linesmen, Watchmen, etc.)		21/-	25/-
Labourers—Unskilled (including:— Trolleymen (Kingston) Pilotmen-out-stations, Porters (Kingston), etc.		18/-	21/-
Station Inspector		110/-	140/-
Travelling Ticket Examiner		50/-	80/-
Assistant Chief Trains Controller		125/-	150/-
Trains Controllers		95/-	125/-
Gatemen—(Kingston) Grade I		21/-	25/-
" " Grade II		18/-	21/-
Checkers		21/-	30/-
Coach Cleaners		12/-	15/-
Office Cleaners		8/-	12/-
Station Masters—1st Grade		90/-	110/-
" " 2nd Grade		65/-	85/-
" " 3rd Grade		50/-	60/-
Clerks-in-Charge		35/-	40/-
Relief Station Masters—2nd Grade		65/-	95/-
Learner Clerks		10/-	25/-
Station Clerks		35/-	50/-
Porters—Out-stations		15/-	18/-
Shunters—Grade I		35/-	50/-
" Grade II		25/-	35/-
Pilotmen (Kingston)		25/-	35/-
Guards—1st Grade		60/-	70/-
" 2nd Grade		40/-	60/-

	Rate per week.	
	From.	To.
Brakesmen—1st Grade	30/-	35/-
" 2nd Grade	21/-	30/-
Baggagemen—1st Grade	30/-	45/-
" 2nd Grade	21/-	30/-
Track Gatemen (1/- extra for Sundry Work) ..	..	11/-
Track Gatewomen " " " " ..	..	8/-

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and public holidays, and time and a half for Sunday Work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

Station Masters, Trains Controllers, Parcels Office Clerks, Kingston, and Booking Clerks, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for Sundays and Public Holidays.

Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

142. The following is a list giving costs of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring class in Jamaica:—

Bread	8 ozs. for 2d.
Crackers	¾d. per dozen
Peas and Beans	7½d. per quart
Yams	1½d. per lb.
Coconuts	1¼d. each
Sweet Potatoes	1d. per lb.
Cocoes	1d. per lb.
Plantains	1¼d. each
Sugar, Brown Albion	3d. per lb.
Flour	3d. "
Rice	2d. "
Meal	1½d. "
Codfish	5¼d. "
Herrings (dry-salted)	3d. "
Shads "	3½d. "
Mackerels .. "	4d. "
Salmon	10d. "
Onions	3d. "
Beef (wet-salted)	7d. "
Pork "	10d. "
Coconut Oil	1/4d. per qt.
Milk, Condensed	5½d. per lb. tin
Beef, fresh	5½d. per lb.
Salt, fine	1d. "

143. During 1937 a 4 lb. loaf of bread cost 1/4 and a labourer's pay, therefore, provided he worked for 6 days per week, was equal to 10½ loaves in Government employ, and 9 loaves in private employ.

In Jamaica, however, a labourer does not normally consume as much bread as would a labourer in a colder climate. The normal diet of a Jamaican labourer consists of a small quantity of bread and a much larger quantity of yams, sweet potatoes and other native foodstuffs.

144. The cost of living in Jamaica was higher by 15.6 than in 1936 (being 137.4 as against 121.8), and is still considerably above pre War level. Taking 100 as the index figure for the years 1913 and 1914, the index figure for 1937 works out at an average of 137.4 made up as follows:—

Foodstuffs—			
Local products	..	136.8	
Imported articles	..	115.4	126.1 (mean).
Clothing, etc.	..	..	161.9
Miscellaneous	..	..	124.1
Average	..		412.1
	..		137.4

145. Furnished bungalows cost from £12 to £20 per month in the residential districts of Kingston and St. Andrew, and unfurnished bungalows from £8 to £14 per month. In the country districts unfurnished bungalows (when obtainable) cost from £6 to £12 per month. These prices are, however, considerably advanced for short lets during the Tourist Season.

CHAPTER X.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1936-37 was £237,240, an increase of £10,848 on the expenditure for 1935-36.

There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools, (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owner's representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools, (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government Schools. On 1st April, 1937 there were 153 schools administered by School Boards 89 of which are owned by the Government while 64 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas.

The total enrolment for the whole Island is 152,330 with an average attendance of 55% and the total cost of elementary education exclusive of establishment charges for 1936-37 amounted to £197,282.

There are in all 653 grant-aided elementary schools. There is also a large number of elementary private schools for which statistics are not available. One Government School was opened during the year. Building grants to the value of £4,500 were made in 1937 for the repair of Denominational Schools and Teachers' quarters. Many buildings remain, however, in a bad state of repair.

The Primary Schools employ about 2,018 teachers, excluding pupil teachers; 58% of these are trained. There are four training colleges; one for men and three for women.

The further education of Elementary School Children is assisted from general revenue by Scholarships tenable at Secondary Schools for from two to five years. Nine special scholarships of the value of £50 per annum tenable for four years in the first instance are awarded annually to children resident in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition every grant-aided Secondary School is required

to maintain free places for at least 20% of its numbers. The grant-aided and recognized Secondary Schools, twenty-six in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and grants are recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools.

Public assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to the expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for three Scholarships tenable at British Universities, one of which is for girls and one at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. One Rhodes Scholarship a year is allocated to Jamaica.

The accepted External Examinations for the recognized Secondary Schools are those of the Cambridge Syndicate of Local Examinations held at 21 centres. At the last examinations held (July and December, 1937) 636 candidates sat for the Junior Examination of whom 368 passed (58%), 373 for the School Certificate of whom 232 passed (63%) and 26 entered for and 18 passed (68%) the Higher School Certificate Examination in July.

In the Examinations of the University of London held in Jamaica during 1937, 39 candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination and 22 passed, including 7 in the First Division. For the Intermediate Arts there were 5 candidates, 1 of whom passed. Three candidates sat for the Intermediate Examination in Laws and all failed, and one referred candidate in Science who also failed. One candidate sat for the Intermediate Examination in Economics and passed. In the final examinations one Candidate sat for the B.A. General Examination and failed and one sat for the B.A. Honours Subsidiary Subject and passed.

Manual Training for Elementary School Boys is provided in Kingston at the Technical School and one other centre. Similar training is provided elsewhere at Manual Training Centres attached to ten Government Schools.

Instruction in Needlecraft is given to all girls. Sewing has recently been reorganized and now occupies an important place in the curriculum. Agricultural Training is given in all schools though the extent of the instruction is in many cases limited by the small amount of land available. Various minor handicrafts, such as hat and rug making and simple carpentry is encouraged. In a few schools agricultural Home Projects are carried out. This policy is being rapidly developed in conjunction with the Agricultural Society.

Further Vocational Training is given at Practical Training Centres. The first of these was established in 1936 at Holmwood, Christiana, where a training in Agriculture and Craftsmanship is given to 55 boys. A similar school will be opened in 1938. The first Practical Training Centre for girls was opened in 1937. It gives a training in Domestic Subjects. There are also several private institutions which offer facilities in various branches of Vocational Training and many unaided Commercial Schools which give day and evening instruction in Literary and Commercial Subjects. There is also a system of Trade Scholarships intended to train skilled workmen by means of apprenticeship.

The Kingston Technical School, with an enrolment of 325 students provides training for girls and boys in Continuation, Commercial Domestic Science and Technical Subjects. Examinations are held by external examining bodies such as the Royal Society of Arts, and the City and Guilds of London Institute. Special courses for elementary

school teachers are also included. The continued large enrolment (416 at present) in the evening classes is evidence of public recognition of their value.

There are nine certified Industrial Schools and Orphanages, and four Orphanages uncertified. The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools and orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Children may now be detained until 18 years of age in cases where it is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well conducted Institutions but in some instances lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the class room or for trade instruction.

The Government Industrial School, Stony Hill (Boys) is maintained by the Government under the charge of the Inspector of Government Industrial Schools. A Board of Visitors is appointed by the Governor, which arranges visits of inspection and holds bi-monthly Board meetings. The number on roll on 31st December, 1937 was 330.

The School is situated at Stony Hill, at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level and only 9 miles from Kingston. The buildings though old are spacious, well ventilated and cool. The Girls' section was closed during 1936 and the buildings used for younger boys.

There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident nor for old age outside the Poor Relief Law, nor is there insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1936-37 of £1,000 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £200 to the Salvation Army School for the blind. With the exception of the last named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of physically defective or mentally retarded children.

The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands from teachers, Sanitary Inspectors and Citizens for information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease.

The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing "Jamaica Public Health." This bulletin is used in nearly every school of the island as a text in hygiene.

Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being dealt with by the Health Departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lanterns and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards, designed for use in schools at markets and other public places, to give information about the more common diseases are distributed.

Dental Clinics are in operation in ten parishes. It is only in the parishes of Portland, Trelawny, St. James, Clarendon and St. Catherine that the cost is now divided between the Government and the Parochial Boards. A Medical Officer for Schools was appointed by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation who maintained a systematic medical examination of school children during the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. Special attention has been given during the year to the problem of malnutrition among school children. A private organization is now providing 500 lunches daily to school children in Kingston

at a very low cost. In rural areas Schools have been assisted to grow vegetables on a large scale and to use them as a part of a school canteen scheme.

The activities of the Institute of Jamaica, founded for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art, are in the main limited to the Libraries—the General Library containing some 30,000 books and the West India Reference Library about some 13,000 works.

Very many students and also tourists and visitors to the island consulted works in both libraries. Over 60,000 books were distributed among members, while a number of volumes were presented to the libraries at Grand Cayman and Turks Island.

In addition to the continual use of the West India Reference Library by students both in Jamaica and from abroad, the importance of the research carried on in this Department for students and correspondents from abroad must be emphasized. This work is increasing continually and the value of this, possibly less obvious part of the Institute's activities, should be adequately appreciated.

Boxes of books were loaned to Teachers and Branch Libraries. In this connection through the generous grants by the Carnegie Corporation of New York made to the Institute of Jamaica, it has been possible for adequate steps to be taken towards beginning the reorganization of this important branch of the Institute's work. A large number of books has been purchased which will be available for distribution both to individual borrowers and in boxes, in the near future.

A number of Art Exhibitions were held during the year. A series of fortnightly lectures was also held.

The Silver Musgrave Medal was awarded to Dr. B. E. Washburn, in connection with his notable work for the Health of the Island for a period of eighteen years.

The number of parties, both of school children and adults who visited the Institute throughout the year is most gratifying. But the practical and educational advantages that a properly organised Museum could offer to these many visitors is nullified by the total inadequacy of the present grant and accommodation.

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its thirtieth annual examination of candidates in Pianoforte, Violin, Viola and Singing.

Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association the latest figures available show 155 groups actually at work. These groups comprise 140 Scout Troops, 55 Wolf Cub Packs and 44 Rover Crews, numbering 350 Scouters 2,130 Scouts, 61 Sea Scouts, 705 Cubs, 292 Rover Scouts, 121 Rover Sea Scouts—a total of 3,659. This shows an increase of 212 over 1935 when the total was 3,447.

His Excellency Sir Edward Denham, is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 144 Companies at work, including 290 Rangers, 1,974 Guides and 536 Brownies—a total of 2,800.

The President is Lady Denham and Mrs. D. O. Kelly-Lawson is Island Commissioner.

Cricket is played during the season all over the Island and at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925 and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams

from the Mother Country and by West Indian teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and actual play.

Association football is also keenly followed from October to February inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary Schoolboys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various Competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England.

As in the case of cricket the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Inter-Scholastic Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER XI.

Communications and Transport.

The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1933	entered	1,304	vessels of	3,698,330	net tons
1934	"	1,326	"	3,844,127	"
1935	"	1,457	"	4,268,701	"
1936	"	1,464	"	4,520,788	"
1937	"	1,510	"	4,621,300	"
1933	cleared	1,291	"	3,718,880	"
1934	"	1,291	"	3,812,128	"
1935	"	1,406	"	4,225,513	"
1936	"	1,453	"	4,524,460	"
1937	"	1,513	"	4,652,412	"

The following Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—Cunard Steamship Company, Blue Star Line, New Zealand Shipping Company, Anchor Line, Royal Mail Lines, Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, Jamaica Direct Fruit Line, Canadian National Steamships, Pacific Steam Navigation Company, James Norse & Company, Canadian Pacific R. R, S. Company, Standard Fruit & Steamship Company, Shaw, Saville & Albion, Webster Steamship Line, (the last named Company is registered in Jamaica).

Although Elders & Fyffes is a British Registered Company the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Co., an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The Grace Line, The United States Lines, The American Pioneer Line, The Eastern S.S. Company, The United Fruit Company, The Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, The Aluminum Line, The Gulf Pacific Line.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Holland American Line.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., The Hamburg American and the North German Lloyd.

French.—French Line.

Italian.—Italian Line.

Swedish.—Swedish American-East Asiatic Line.

Polish.—Gydnia Line.

also an Air Line by the Pan American Airways, Inc. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

Roads.

The Island possesses a good system of Macadam Roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,484 miles which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,409 miles of which 2,301 miles are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,108 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

During 1937, the main roads were maintained at an average cost of £104 per mile. Many of these roads were originally constructed of limestone surfacing without proper formation, and are, therefore, suitable only for light wheeled traffic. Legislation prohibiting importation and use without special permission of motor vehicles weighing more than two and a half tons unladen has been enacted.

Generally roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic safely. Up to the year under review the mileage of asphalt treated roads amounted to 251 miles.

During the months of May, October and November heavy rainfall occurred which resulted in considerable damage to roads, bridges and contingent works. All parishes suffered to some extent, but the October and November Flood rains were responsible for extensive damage to roads and bridges in the parishes of Portland and St. James.

Flood rains of May were confined to St. Thomas. The expenditure of £2,335 to restore all damages was met from the Roads Maintenance Vote.

Flood rains of October and November were much more severe, covering the entire Island. The revised total estimate of cost to restore damages amounted to £101,000. Of this amount £64,530 or approximately 63% of the total estimate has been for damages in Portland.

All roads were opened to traffic with little delay, with the exception of certain roads in Portland, which were entirely obliterated, and will need to be relocated.

Most of the damage will be repaired by the end of the financial year 1937-38, but restoration works on roads and bridges in Portland to the extent of £43,000 remain to be done in 1938-39.

Under Public Works Extraordinary, works of improvements to several existing main roads were carried out, and in addition the following new roads were constructed or part constructed:—

Portland.—Extension of Millbank Road towards Bath.

Portland and St. Mary.—Road Whitehall to Enfield (part constructed).

St. Mary.—Bye Pass Road Oracabessa (completion of).

St. Ann.—Extend road towards Perseverance (part constructed).

St. James.—Road Plumb towards Jericho (part constructed).

Road Catadupa Railway Station to Government School,

Manchester.—Parochial Road to Medina, deviate and reconstruct (part cost).

Clarendon.—Parochial Road to Wisbeach.

The programme of New Works under this Head provides also for the construction of the undermentioned new bridges as well as several weak bridges which were reconstructed during the year.

St. Thomas.—Bridge over Second Fording Mount Vernon Road. Bridge over Second Fording Aeolus Valley Road.

St. Mary.—Rock River Bridge.

St. James.—Bridge over Great River at Seniors.

Westmoreland.—Two small bridges near Darliston.

The programme of road construction works sanctioned by Loan Law 22 of 1935 commenced under the 1st Instalment of £500,000 was completed during the year.

Satisfactory progress is also being made on the Roads and Bridges, Works covering £124,000 provided for under the 2nd Instalment of £600,000. Most of the Road Works are well in hand and will be completed this year. Work on a few is being held up over land disputes and certain Bridge Works are awaiting arrival of steel structures.

The asphalting of main arterial roads also included under this Instalment is progressing satisfactorily. The following are sections being done covering the allotment of £15,972:—

Route Kingston to Montego Bay—

Ewarton towards Linstead.

St. Ann's Bay towards Runnaway Bay.

Route Kingston to Mandeville—

Whitney Turn towards Mandeville.

All items of Road Work will make for better road facilities, or open up fertile areas for agricultural development.

The mean rainfall for the Island was 77.44 or 3.57 inches above the 60 year average. The mean number of rainy days was 128, the average being 122.

Canals.

There are no navigable Canals in the Island.

Motor Omnibus Transport.

The Motor Omnibus services in the Island continue to play their part in the economic development of the communities served. In Kingston and Lower St. Andrew, fifty-seven omnibuses ply for hire on thirteen routes, totalling fifty-six miles.

There has been an increase in the number of omnibuses operating in the country districts during the present year. At present there are eighty-four omnibuses covering several hundred miles of roads.

The Road Traffic Law, Law 41 of 1937, which will come into force on 1st April, 1938, will be the means of controlling and co-ordinating the entire traffic and transport of the Island.

Jamaica Government Railway.

1. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32¼ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield —23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

2. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast Port Antonio being the north-east; and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

3. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1937, was £342,088. and the expenditure £274,047. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for Renewals, Depreciation and Betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 368,838 tons, as compared with 275,363 tons for the year 1936; the number of passengers carried in 1937 was 409,282 as compared with 381,960 in 1936.

4. The Management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of six members, consisting of the Director and five others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

5. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60-lb. rails with 80 lb. rails has been proceeding. 135 miles of 60-lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927, the sum of £200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1937, the total mileage which has been changed from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails is 102 miles. No relaying from 60 lb. to 80 lb. rails has been done during 1937.

6. *Passenger Traffic.*—The passenger traffic during this period showed improvement. There was an appreciable increase in the number of passengers carried owing largely to certain reductions in fares, this resulted however in a slight decrease in Revenue.

7. *General Merchandise Traffic.*—Under this Head, there has been an increased tonnage but a slight decrease in Revenue, owing to reductions in certain rates. The results are considered to be satisfactory under present conditions.

8. *Banana Traffic.*—There has been an increase in tonnage of 96,942 tons and in Revenue of £83,006 under this Head. This recovery is very satisfactory after the "set-backs" experienced during the preceeding year, due to abnormal climatic conditions. A new record was established for the year under review in the exportation of bananas from the Island, the total number of stems exported being approximately 27 million.

Postal.

Inland.—There are 299 Post Offices in Jamaica—an average of one office to each 38.5 square kilometers—of which 131 are branches of the Government Savings Bank.

Of these, 236 have one daily exchange of mails with Kingston, 40 have two exchanges; 14 have three, and 4 have four exchanges; while 5 offices exchange 9 mails weekly with the Head Office.

The inland mail services are performed by the Jamaica Government Railway, private contractors, Public Works Department, and Jamaica Public Service Company. The daily mileage covered is as follows:

		Miles.
Services by Jamaica Government Railway		756¼
Services operated by private contractors—		
By motor vans	1,157	
By animals	27	
By boat	12	1,196
Services operated by Public Works Department—		
By foot-couriers	1,638	
By animals	60	1,698
Services by Tram car		66
		3,716¼

or a yearly mileage (at 313 working days) of 1,162,247¼ miles.

Overseas (Steamshi)p.—Mail communications are maintained by steamers of Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., with Great Britain, Standard Fruit and Steamship Company with Europe and Republic of Honduras, Jamaica Banana Producers Steamship Company with Holland (direct letter mail), United Fruit Company and Colombian Line with United States, Canada and Mexico and Central America, Canadian National Steamships with Canada (parcel-post) and Central America, Pickford & Black with Canada, (Parcel Post), Aluminum Line with West India Islands, Cayman Island Motor Boat Company with Cayman Islands and also by various cruise ships.

Normally, mails are received from the United States and Canada, and Great Britain (via New York) on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; and are despatched for United States and Canada, and Great Britain on Tuesdays, and United States, Canada, and Great Britain (via New York) on Saturdays. A direct mail is also received from Great Britain on Wednesdays. Mails for West India Islands and the Guianas are despatched and received fortnightly by Aluminum Line vessels, and are despatched on alternate weeks by way of Cristobal. Mail exchanges with Central America average one a week.

Oversea (Aerial).—Jamaica is linked postally to North, Central and South America and the West Indies by the services of Pan American Airways Incorporated and allied systems.

The following is the operating schedule of Pan American Airways.

UNITED STATES-CUBA-JAMAICA-COLOMBIA-PANAMA.

Tuesday and Thursday.	(read down).	Saturday.		Sunday.	(read up).	Wednesday and Friday.
7.15 a.m.	7.15 a.m.	leave	Miami	arrive	5.10 p.m.	5.10 p.m
9.10 a.m.	9.10 a.m.	arrive	Cienfuegos	leave	3.20 p.m.	3.20 p.m.
9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.	leave	Cienfuegos	arrive	3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.
12.20 p.m.	12.20 p.m.	arrive	Kingston	leave	12.20 p.m.	12.20 p.m
12.40 p.m.	12.40 p.m.	leave	Kingston	arrive	noon	noon
4.30 p.m.		arrive	Barranquilla	leave	..	8.15 a.m.
	4.55 p.m.	arrive	Cristobal	leave	7.30 a.m.	

Puerto Rico-Haiti-Dominicana-Jamaica.

8.00 a.m.	leave	San Juan	arrive	2.00 p.m.
9.30 a.m.	arrive	San Pedro	leave	12.20 p.m.
9.50 a.m.	leave	San Pedro	arrive	12.05 p.m.
11.20 a.m.	arrive	Port-au-Prince	leave	10.30 a.m.
11.50 a.m.	leave	Port-au-Prince	arrive	10.10 a.m.
3.10 p.m.	arrive	Kingston	leave	6.15 a.m.

Air Mail for Europe and Africa.—Letters are forwarded by air to New York City to connect with the trans-Atlantic steamers, affording a 7 to 11-day service to the United Kingdom and the Continent, depending upon the speed of the vessels by which forwarded and the timeliness of the connections in New York.

Air Mail for Australia, etc.—Letters for Australia, New Zealand Japan, etc., are forwarded by air to U.S. Pacific exchange post office for transmission by steamer to destination and for Australia by way also of the "England-India-Australia" Air Mail Service leaving London every Wednesday and Saturday.

Air Mail for Hong Kong and China is forwarded by air to San Francisco, and thence either by steamer to destinations, or by air to Hong Kong and thence to Canton and Shanghai, etc., by air. The latter provides a 9-day service to Hong Kong, 10-day to Canton, and 11-day to Shanghai.

Postal Telegraph and Telephone Service.

The Government Postal and Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879 with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1937, there were 2,561—51 wire and 1,616-64 pole miles of Telegraph and Telephone lines with 61 Telegraph and 147 Telephone offices. One Telephone office was opened during the year.

2. The charge for Inland telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges.

3. An all-night and holiday Telegram Service is provided on payment of graduated fees. An optional service of telegrams conveying Christmas and New Year greetings was inaugurated in 1934 and is rendered yearly. The charge is sixpence for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word.

4. The Jamaica Government Railway Telegraphic Service in connection with which there are 46 offices assist in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in colloboration with the Postal Telegraph System but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

5. Overseas cables are handled in both directions i.e., outgoing and incoming by the Department which collected £3,947 16s. 1d. for cable tolls for delivery to the Cable Company.

Submarine Cables.—The Cable Companies were amalgamated in 1936 under the title "The West India and Panama Telegraph Company" which remains a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless Limited. Direct circuits are now operated from Kingston by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's System to Turks Island, Bermuda, Barbados and Halifax N.S. At Halifax semi-automatic retransmission is provided to Montreal and London providing a virtually direct circuit from Kingston to both places. The West India and Panama System also

provides direct circuits to Santiago, Cuba, Havana, Cuba, and New York City also to San Juan and Ponce Porto Rico.

The rates generally have remained unaltered but through the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's Association with Cable and Wireless, Ltd. there has been a marked increase in facilities through their co-operation and the vast net-work of Cable and Wireless Systems under their control.

6. *Wireless.*—During 1935 a new station was built at Halfway Tree to accommodate the Radio Telephone receivers and terminal equipment. The receivers for all services are now located at the Halfway Tree Station and the transmitters at Stony Hill. An overseas telephone service was opened to the public during 1936, the connection being through Miami Florida. This service has been extended to Europe, and ships at sea via New York and San Francisco.

7. *Ship Shore Service.*—Continuous watch is maintained for ships, and traffic is exchanged on medium and short waves on schedule providing a means of communication up to a distance of 2,000 miles or more from Kingston.

8. *Broadcasting.*—There is no broadcasting station in the Island. 4,691 broadcasting receiving licenses have been issued to date and 17 experimental transmitting licenses are in operation. Numerous Wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government license) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving programmes broadcast by the Empire, America, and other broadcasting stations.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

In addition to the construction of New Roads and Bridges, an account of which appears under Chapter XI the principal activities of the year were:—

Public Works Extraordinary.

New Post Offices at Trinity Ville and Manchioneal.
General Penitentiary, Special repairs.
Reconditioning the Hoffman Kiln for manufacturing bricks.
Special repairs, Mental Home.
Moneague Hotel, Install Hot Water System.
Jamaica College, repairs and improvements.
$11\frac{1}{4}$ miles of new telegraph and telephone lines were constructed and brought into use.

Loan Works.

Public and Municipal Works Loan Law 17 of 1933.

Schedule "A".

New Post Office, Petersfield.
New Government School, Park Mountain.

Loan Law 22 of 1935.

1st instalment.

Schedule "A," Harbours.

Completion and improvement to Kingston and Port Antonio Harbours.

Schedule "D" Buildings.

New Operating Theatre, P. G. Hospital (completed).
T.B. Ward , P.G. Hospital, St. Ann's Bay (completed).

2ND INSTALMENT.

Schedule "D" Buildings.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

"Dint Hill" in St. Catherine has been acquired and proposal for an additional centre in Manchester, at "Farm" or "Oakland" near Devon being investigated and awaiting report of Committee.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN KINGSTON AND ST. ANDREW.

New Central School, South Race Course to accommodate 800 pupils completed.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Type Plans and Estimates covering the programme of New Government Schools and extension to four Government Schools have been prepared. Negotiation and selection of sites are in hand. Enlargement of Allman Town and Rollington Pen Government Schools have been completed.

IMPROVEMENTS TO HOSPITALS AND FOR COMPLETION OF T.B. HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM.

Out-patients and X-Ray Building Public General Hospital, Kingston —Work in progress.
New Hospital, Alexandria, St. Ann—Plans being prepared.
New T.B. Clinic—Completed and handed over to Medical Department.
New T.B. Hospital and Sanatorium, Hope Pastures—Roadway to site constructed and water supply laid down. Actual construction work will commence shortly.

T.B. WARDS—PARISH HOSPITALS.

The following are in hand:—Port Maria, Sav.-la-Mar, Lucea, Mandeville.

IMPROVEMENT OF SPAS.

Milk River Bath—Work of improvement commenced.

DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS

Reclamation work at Kingston Pen and Drainage of Warner's Pond in hand.

Parochial Water Supplies.

The following are in hand:—

Montego Bay—Work proceeding.

Lucea—Practically completed.

May Pen—Practically completed.

Chapelton—Practically completed.

Buff Bay—Work proceeding.

Surveys of the Morant Bay Water Supply in hand and materials for the Brompton ordered.

V.D. Clinic.

The New V.D. Clinic, Kingston, provided for under Colonial Development Fund has been completed and handed over to the Medical Department.

The Public Works Department is established for the performance of the duties imposed by Law, or by the order of the Governor upon the Director of Public Works, which includes the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all main roads—Law 33 of 1931.

(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.

(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses—Law 8 of 1900.

(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines—Law 1 of 1879.

(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works,—Law 27 of 1872.

(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction, enlargement, improvement, repairs, management and control of any other Water Works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorized by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889, and 19 of 1900.

(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds of which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds of which are provided by Parochial Revenue or by the Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.

(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specification and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorised.

(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, the Telephone Law, the Tramway Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law, (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman of the Board of Transport (Law 30 of 1929).

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The Courts of the Island are as follows:—

1. The Supreme Court.
2. The Resident Magistrate's Court.
3. The Petty Sessions Court.
4. The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Court of Appeal which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil and criminal) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters/only.

There are four Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice, a Judge of the Court of Appeal and two Justices of the High Court.

238. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

There are fifteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and an Assistant Resident Magistrate for the parish of Kingston.

The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

POLICE.

In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867) establishing a new and improved Constabulary Force. This latter Law was repealed in 1935 and Law 27 of 1935 "The Jamaica Constabulary Force Consolidation and Amendment Law, 1935" brought into effect.

Under Law 27 of 1935, the Governor is empowered to appoint the Officers, and the Inspector General is authorised to appoint the Sub-Officers and Constables.

The present authorised Strength of the Force is 24 Officers and 1,106 Sub-Officers and Constables. No person shall be eligible for admission into the Jamaica Constabulary unless he can produce a Certificate of Character from a Magistrate or other gentleman of position, and can pass a satisfactory Medical Examination. He must not be less than five feet eight inches in height and thirty-three inches round the chest; not less than nineteen or more than thirty years of age, and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand.

Every Constable is enrolled for five years (the first six months being on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent.

Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines and perform the duties appertaining to the Office of Constables. There are, a separate Criminal Investigation Department and a Water Police Branch, recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Police Force.

Prisons.

1. *General Penitentiary.*—This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, European prisoners and prisoners remanded by the Courts of Kingston and St. Andrew. There is separate cell accommodation for 720 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the chapel, and 32 in Hospital Wards. It has not been necessary to keep prisoners in association since 1929. The remand prisoners are kept separate from convicted prisoners in a section of the prison that has been fitted for their exclusive use and contains a range of 78 cells, usual sanitary and other offices and exercise ground shaded by mango trees.

2. *St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.*—For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners under sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding 6 months. There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the chapel for 306, and Hospital Wards for 40.

3. *Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.*—For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accomodation for 66.

4. *Female's Prison, Kingston.*—For all women prisoners. Separate cell accomodation for 198; hospital wards for 15.

5. In adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

6. At the juvenile adult prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a juvenile party of the adult prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the juvenile adult prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons. Suitable boys are taught the citrus industry by members of the Department of Agriculture, and many have, in consequence, been placed in good jobs.

7. In the female's prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e. washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction.

Well behaved women prisoners serving long sentences are allowed to join a sewing class which is conducted by a Committee of Ladies uuder the leadership of Miss Marvin of the Deaconness Home. Periodically sales of their work are held to which interested ladies are invited. The proceeds enable the class to be self-supporting and leave a balance

which is paid to its members when they are discharged, the amount being decided upon by the Committee and based on progress made and work done.

8. *Education.*—This year a School-master has been added to the staff of the General Penitentiary. There is also a qualified teacher who is graded as Assistant Warder. With these two teachers it is now possible to give class-room instruction of an elementary nature to 50 prisoners each day between the hours of 5 p.m. nd 6.45 p.m. This is a very valuable addition to the work of the prison.

9. *Health and Sanitation.*—The health of the prisoners has been remarkably good. All parts of every prison are frequently inspected by the Medical Officers who render quarterly reports which indicate that the standard of sanitation is highly satisfactory.

Brief Statistics.

Average daily Population.

	1935.	1936.	1937.
General Penitentiary	572	596	564
St. Catherine District Prison	501	558	514
Female Prison	52	58	55
Juvenile Adult Prison	36	37	49
	1,161	1,249	1,182

1933—1,301; 1934—1,223.

Number in custody	31.12.36.	31.12.37.
General Penitentiary ..	623	640
St. Catherine District Prison	649	592
	1,272	1,232

1933—1,460; 1934—1,115; 1935—1,203.

Expenditure.

	1936.			1937.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure	40,998	18	0	40,154	19	7
Revenue	8,844	0	3	9,447	8	9
Materials supplied other Departments free	1,840	7	6	89	15	0
Cost of Prisons	£30,314	10	3	£30,617	15	10
Cost per prisoner per annum ..	£24	5	5	£25	18	1

Value of Prison manufactures and farm products used in prison:—

1936.	1937.
£3,145 15 9	£3,666 8 1

The average daily population for the past 10 years is 1,225 and in view of the amount of unemployment that exists in the Colony and the large increase in the population by repatriation during that period, it is very satisfactory to find the average daily population for 1937 below the ten year average to the extent of 43.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

Forty-seven Laws were passed during the year 1937. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest:—

Law 3 of 1937.—"A Law to Amend the Rum Control Law, 1934 (Law 22 of 1934)." This Law amended the Principal Law in order to provide for the establishment of a Rum Control Board. It further provides that the Rum Pool Agreement and the Regulation Agreement shall not be modified, and that no agreement shall be effective unless approved by the Governor in Privy Council after a full enquiry into the matter has been held by the Board established under the Law. The Law further provides for the termination of the Regulation Agreement on the 30th day of November, 1942, unless earlier terminated by the act of the parties thereto.

Law 10 of 1937.—"A Law to make provision with respect to the clearance or improvement of unhealthy areas, the repair or demolition of insanitary dwelling houses and barracks, the housing of persons of the working classes and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid." This Law marks a definite advance in social legislation in Jamaica. It provides for the establishment of a Central Housing Authority for the whole Island, and enables Government to ameliorate the housing conditions of persons of the working classes, by the clearance of slum areas and the erection of model dwellings.

Law 35 of 1937.—"A Law Relating to Designs." This Law provides *inter alia*, for the registration and protection of industrial designs in Jamaica. Its immediate object was to protect the designs of the Handicraft Division of the Women's League, which since its inception has enabled the employment and training of a number of women in handicraft work.

Law 37 of 1937.—"A Law for the Better Administration of Justice." This Law, *inter alia*, enables the Home Circuit Court to sit in separate divisions. By this means it is hoped that the congestion, owing to the large increase in the number of cases for trial, may be lessened, and the prolonged sittings of this Court considerably shortened. It further provides for the payment of reasonable travelling expenses in criminal causes to Jurors who reside more than five miles from the Circuit Court to which they are summoned.

Law 38 of 1937.—"A Law Relating to Shop Assistants." This Law amends the Shop Assistants Law, 1935. Its introduction was motived by the Chamber of Commerce. It permits, *inter alia*, the opening of stores for limited periods on public holidays in order to meet the demands of the tourist trade, and contains provisions for the protection of Shop Assistants and for extra payment to them for overtime work.

Law 39 of 1937.—"A Law to Provide for the Payment of Compensation to Workmen for Injuries suffered in the course of their Employment." This Law is another definite advance in social legislation and was introduced in order to provide for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and for compensation for their dependants on the death of workmen from injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

Law 40 of 1937.—"A Law Relating to Moneylending." This Law was introduced with the object, *inter alia*, of protecting borrowers from being compelled to pay excessive and unreasonable rates of interest.

Law 41 of 1937.—"A Law to Regulate Road Traffic." This Law was introduced to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Transport Commission. It repeals all Laws extant in the Island governing or regulating motor vehicles and motor traffic, and provides for the establishment of an Island Traffic Control Authority, and for the preparation and issue of a Highway Code for Jamaica.

Law 42 of 1937.—"A Law to make Provision for the Protection and Management of Forests." This Law was introduced with the object of repealing the Afforestation Law 1927, and the substitution in its stead of a comprehensive piece of legislation for the preservation and development of the forests of Jamaica.

Law 43 of 1937.—"A Law to Control the Sugar Industry." This Law incorporates into one piece of legislation all the Laws relating to the control of the Sugar Industry of Jamaica, and further gives effect to the International Agreement of the 6th May, 1937, relative to the regulation of production and marketing of sugar. It further provides for the establishment of a Sugar Control Board whose duty it is to carry out the provisions of the Law, and an Arbitration Authority whose duty it is to deal with all disputes between cane farmers and manufacturers arising out of any sale, purchase, delivery, acceptance or non-acceptance of cane farmers' canes to or by a manufacturer. The Law also enables the Governor by Order in Privy Council, whenever he considers it expedient in the interests of the Sugar Industry to fix the prices to be paid by manufacturers for cane farmers' canes.

CHAPTER XV.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclays Bank, Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank); The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

2. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1937, was as follows:—

	£
Barclays Bank, Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	125,931
Bank of Nova Scotia	146,256
Royal Bank of Canada	43,139
Canadian Bank of Commerce	10,584

3. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclays Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Browns Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

4. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—

British Gold and Silver Coins, local nickel and bronze alloy coins, Government currency notes.

Accounts are kept in sterling.

5. Government Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1937, to the extent of £114,897 7s. 6d. in the following denominations:—

2/6 Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/- Notes.
£112 2 6	£53,622 5 0	£61,163 0 0

6. Jamaica has its own subsidiary coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

CHAPTER XVI.

Public Finance and Taxation.

The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
£	£	£	£	£
2,169,307	2,037,319	2,260,352	2,121,965	2,212,365

Expenditure.

1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
£	£	£	£	£
2,081,635	2,186,056	2,255,502	2,178,228	2,206,079

The total Expenditure during the year ended the 31st March, 1937, was £6,286 less than the total Revenue.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1937, under the various heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs and Excise—	
Customs	1,055,292
Excise	215,571
II. Harbour Dues, etc.	7,310
III. Licence and other Internal Revenue—	
Licences	34,384
Fines, etc.	4,316
Judicial Revenue (Fines)	11,462
IV. Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, etc.—	
Fees of Office	9,080
Commissions	3
Stamp Duties	68,475
Judicial Revenue (Fees)	9,604
V. Reimbursements—	
(1) Debt Charges	118,013
(2) Pensions—Contributions	11,486
(3) Salaries, etc.	8,120
(4) General	7,382
VI. Post Office and Telegraphs —	
(a) Post Office	82,652
(b) Telegraphs	13,069
VII. Departmental Revenue—	
(a) Medical	7,629
(b) Prisons	9,084
(c) Science and Agriculture	2,719
(d) Printing Office	2,108
(e) Surveyor General	134
(f) Public Works Department	..
(g) Education Department	148
(h) Administrator General	1,983
(i) Trustee in Bankruptcy	118
VIII. Irrigation Receipts	13,322
IX. Direct Taxation	117,593
X. Currency	..
XI. Rents	2,922
XII. Interest	3,995
XIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	7,298
	£1,825,272
XIV. Surplus in Sinking Funds	7
XV. Land Sales	1,868
XVI. Colonial Development Fund	..
	£1,827,147

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Charges of Debt	191,383
Pensions	70,655
Pensions of Widows and Orphans	14,849
The Governor and Staff	6,510
Privy Council	47
Legislative Council	3,025
Colonial Secretariat	7,556
Lands Department	11,202
Land Settlement	4,528
Forestry	1,704
Audit Department	6,986
Public Treasury	5,278
Currency Commissioners	2,546
Government Savings Bank	10,264
Immigration Department	..
Collector General's Department	79,416
Post Office	82,243
Supreme Court	8,817
Law Officers	4,585
Resident Magistrates' Courts	35,171
Administrator General's Office	4,848
Bankruptcy Department	2,210
Medical—General Administration	21,356
" Health Service	32,562
" Hospitals and Lepers' Home	70,816
" Lunatic Asylum	33,035
Constabulary	149,671
Prisons	27,646
Industrial School	4,401
Education	183,950
Harbours and Pilotage	3,640
Marine Board	730
Imperial Force Allowances	4,361
Local Forces	5,727
Registrar General's Department and Island Record Office	6,221
Registration of Titles Office	2,722
Government Printing Office	19,847
Board of Supervision	437
Department of Science and Agriculture	39,526
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,583
Subventions	105,093
Miscellaneous	27,818
Railway	..
Public Works Department	39,808
" Annually Recurrent	216,895
" Extraordinary	23,678
	£1,575,346
Colonial Development Fund	10,345
	£1,585,691

2. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1937, were £1,107,876 and £1,091,654, respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £16,222. The following statement shows how the Assets of the Colony at the 31st March, 1937, were held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans—			
To Agricultural Loan Societies Board ..	28,612	4	9
To Wolmers Trust	3,596	10	6
From Parochial Water Supplies Fund, Law 25 of 1928	10,296	6	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15 of 1932, Advance	14,400	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 25 of 1933, Advance	14,060	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 24 of 1935, Advance	16,600	0	0
Hurricane Loans, 1933	5,128	3	0
Government of Cayman Islands	3,660	0	0
Government of Turks Islands	1,799	0	7
Milk River Bath	1,981	14	5
Bath Corporation, St. Thomas	310	0	0
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid, Law 15 of 1932	3,812	6	3
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid, Law 25 of 1933	1,972	5	8
Expenses Banana Industry Aid Board, Laws 15 of 1932, 25 of 1933 and 24 of 1935	8,227	14	6
Advances—			
Land Settlement	56,342	16	9
On account of Loans to be raised	74,862	19	6
To Parochial Boards	4,442	0	0
Stores	105,804	7	8
General	50,426	5	10
Appropriated Funds Invested—			
Redemption Funds for loans guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	80,622	13	5
Deposits for Investment	165,071	15	8
Trust Funds	24,498	0	1
Miscellaneous Funds (Insurance Fund, Reserve Fund and Earthquake Loan Board) ..	231,639	15	0
Collector General for Customs Revenue ..	58	4	5
Director Jamaica Railway	12,645	10	0
Emigration Agent, India	99	3	5
Crown Agents for Sundry Invested Funds ..	12	8	11
Imprests	27,936	14	8
Remittances in Transit	2,585	10	11
Remittances between Chests	18,944	18	11
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York	2,034	18	7
Treasurer	135,391	9	5
	£1,107,875	18	10

3. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £192,906 at the 31st March, 1937.

4. A Reserve Fund was created in 1936 for the purpose of meeting not only the remoter consequences of hurricane and similar calamities which could not be met from the Insurance Fund but also the cost of works which should find no place in a development loan programme. This Fund amounted to £24,182 14s. 10d. at the 31st March, 1937.

5. The amount of the Public Debt chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1937, was £3,974,477. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £512,239. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference—£3,462,238—exceeds by £1,182,439 the estimated Revenue for the financial year, 1937-38.

For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1937:—

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	
Great Britain ..	45,000,000	7,916,526,894	175.92
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	1,138,558	3,974,477	3.49

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1937, viz.:—£512,239, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £3 0s. 10d.

CHAPTER XVI.

Taxation.

260. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1937, are given hereunder under:—

	£	s.	d.
i. *Customs*—			
Import Duties	1,060,171	10	11
Export Duties	1,477	5	2
Package Tax	80,095	12	5
ii. *Harbour and Light Dues*—			
Harbour Fees	2,877	19	3
Light Dues	7,205	3	8
iii. Licences	40,984	14	4
Excise	254,655	0	11
Income Tax	89,173	18	3
Property Tax	84,500	13	5
Fines in Petty Sessions	12,053	11	2
Surcharges	4,865	16	3
Stamp Duties	72,941	5	3

Customs Tariff.

261. The general ad valorem duty is 20%, and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the heading of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Apparel.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural Implements.

Excise Duties.

262. The principal Excise Duties were on Cigars, from 6d. to 2/ per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per proof gallon.

Stamp Duties.

263. Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10% according to the relationship to the predecessor.

264. In addition to these are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyance, Leases, etc.

265. There is no Hut Tax nor Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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1937

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Dependency of the Cayman Islands consists of three small islands situate between longitude W. 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ in latitude N. 19° 15′ and 19° 45′. The westernmost is the island of Grand Cayman, approximately 20 miles long from east to west with a maximum breadth north to south of some 8 miles. The other two islands Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, lie about 60 miles north-east of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is about 10 miles long by 2 miles wide at its maximum while Cayman Brac is a little larger.

No survey of the land area has yet been made but the total of the group is estimated variously at from 140 square miles to as little as 92.

The islands are low-lying and Grand Cayman is in many parts little more than mangrove swamp. The maximum height is 130 feet above sea-level at the easternmost end of Cayman Brac, a culminating point to a high plateau that rises gradually from the west. This plateau has precipitous flanks both on the north and south sides, these cliffs being separated from the sea by a narrow stretch of beach and coral formation.

Geologically the islands consist of decayed coral limestone with deposits of phosphate and a loamy soil. They are covered with dense bush containing, in addition to mangroves, much logwood, mahogany, thatch-palm and other trees of no particular economic worth.

Pasture land of considerable value for raising cattle is found on each of the islands, but agricultural land is not so abundant owing to the too frequent outcrop of decaying coral limestone and to the presence of swamps.

Climate.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is for the most part of the year excellent. The temperature from November until the middle of April varies from 79° F. to 82° F., and the winds are usually gentle to fresh from north-east to north-west.

The summer months are hot, and, as a rule, rainfall is comparatively heavy. The hurricane season lasts from August to November, as elsewhere in the West Indies. The following is a list of the principal hurricanes during the present century:—

August, 1903.
August, 1915.
September, 1917.
7th-9th November, 1932.
1st July, 1933.
25th-27th September, 1935.

The rainfall for the year was 80·27 inches as compared with 91·44 inches in 1936, the average being 64·92 inches.

No month is free from rain, but the rainy season proper can be said to last from May till October inclusively, the wet-test months being September and October. During 1937, however, there was exceptionally heavy rain during January and November with 10·44 and 15·07 inches respectively.

The Meteorological Station, erected in 1935 by the Cuban Department of Agriculture at Georgetown continued its observations through the year, a trained observer from the National Observatory at Havana being stationed in Grand Cayman during the hurricane season. Reports are exchanged twice daily with Havana whence weather information is retransmitted throughout the Caribbean.

History.

The first account of the islands is the report of the third voyage of Columbus on his return from Porto Bello to Hispaniola in 1503. Therein it is stated that the islands were covered with turtle which swarmed also on the coasts in such multitudes as to look like ridges of rock.

No settlement appears, however, to have been founded; but the islands were frequently visited by vessels of all nations for revictualling purposes, the turtles being dried and salted.

An account exists of a visit paid in 1643 by the vessels under the command of Captain William Jackson after his abortive attempt on Jamaica. His description of Grand Cayman reads:—

> "This place is low land and all rockye, and there bee other 2 Islands of ye same name and Quallitie, being by ye Spanyards called Chimanos, from ye multitude of Alligators here found which are Serpents, if not resembling ye Crocodiles of Egypt. Hither doe infinitt numbers of Sea tortoises resorte to lay their Eggs upon ye Sandy Bay, which at this time (June) swarm so thick. The Island is much frequented by English, Dutch and French ships, that come purposely to salt up ye flesh of these Tortoises."

In 1655, Jamaica was taken and the Cayman Islands became a regular source of food supply for the soldiers and fleets of England cruising the Caribbean. Eventually, by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica was ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands.

In Esquemeling's History of the Buccaneers, one finds how the islands continued to maintain their importance as a source of meat supply and there is the following reference:—

> "It is a thing much deserving consideration how the tortoises can find out these islands. For the greatest part of them come from the Gulf of Honduras, distant thence the whole space of one hundred and fifty leagues. Certain it is, that many times the ships, having lost their latitude through the darkness of the weather, have steered their course only by the noise of the tortoise swimming that way, and have arrived at those isles. When their season of hatching is past, they retire towards the island of Cuba, where are many good places that afford them food. But while they are at the islands of Caymanes, they eat very little or nothing."

There does not appear to have been any serious settlement until the early part of the eighteenth century, although it is apparent that from time to time there were parties of residents chiefly composed of shipwrecked sailors, beachcombers and possibly marooned mariners.

Tradition further has it that during the six years of Sir Thomas Modyford's commission as Governor of Jamaica, 1664-70, he visited Little Cayman where his landing place is supposed to have been Muddyfoot's Bay, a possible corruption of his name. Not till 1734, however, is a grant of land recorded as having been made to the first settlers, followed by further patents in 1741. The families of "Bodden" and "Foster" are in all probability direct descendants from these patentees, some of whom bore those names.

There are no traces of any Spanish occupation but from time to time small finds are made of Spanish coins, which may indicate evidence of the residence in the islands of pirates and buccaneers. During 1934 one such find was made at Cayman Brac of 270 coins scattered over a small area, dated 168—. The coins were identified as having been minted in Mexico and, except for one gold piece, were all of silver alloy.

The name "Cayman" has been the subject of a certain amount of discussion, information regarding which will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

During the eighteenth century, public affairs in the Dependency were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, under the direction of one of them locally elected as "Governor". The principle of representative government was accepted in 1832, when elected members were received into the administrative body, and the term "custos rotulorum" was substituted for that of "Governor".

In 1863, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vict. Chap. 31) recognizing the existence of Acts and Resolutions passed by this body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Under this authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed, but at the same time provision was made for the continuance of the legislative powers of the Justices and Vestry. These powers were more closely defined in the Imperial Act of 1863 referred to above and in 1893 were further explained by Jamaica Law 37 of 1893.

Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated 21st October, 1934, when 24 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

There are 27 Vestrymen whose election takes place every two years, the latest having been held in August, 1936.

The power of the Custos is now vested in the office of Commissioner, who is at the same time Judge of the Grand Court. The duties of the Commissioner are regulated by Law 34 of 1898 (section 2).

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Dependency is an increasing one. In 1774, the whole population amounted to 176 souls. By 1802, when a census was taken by a Special Commissioner sent down by the then Governor of Jamaica, the figures showed 309 whites, 73 coloured, 6 free blacks and 545 slaves, a total of 933.

No further figures are obtainable until the first census proper in 1891.

In the Annual Report for 1935 details of the population and sex distribution are given. Summarized they are as follows:—

1891.		*1911.*		*1921.*		*1934.*	
M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
1,904	2,418	2,427	3,137	2,216	3,037	2,472	3,537
4,322		5,564		5,253		6,009	

The proportion of males to females remains the same and is approximately 100 males to 150 females. This excess of females is most noticeable after the age group 16 to 17. Until that age males and females are approximately 50:50.

There has been a steady annual increase of the population which it is estimated to-day to total 6,800, a number inclusive of those men absent fishing in 1934 when the census was taken.

Immigration and emigration statistics are as follows:—

Year.	*Outward.*	*Inward.*
1933	352	442
1934	375	420
1935	427	397
1936	411	382
1937	422	397

The accuracy of these figures leaves much to be desired since a considerable number of men leave the islands, not as passengers but as ship's ratings.

The statistics of births and deaths are as follows:—

Year.	*No. of births.*	*Birth-rate per thousand.*	*Infantile mortality per thousand births.*	*No. of deaths.*	*Death-rate per thousand.*
1933 ...	162	30	154	156	29
1934 ...	172	28	52	55	9
1935 ...	197	33	25	50	8
1936 ...	188	31	53	55	8
1937 ...	161	24	37	47	7

During the year under review there were 33 marriages, which compare with preceding years as follows:—

Year.	*No. of marriages.*	*Rate per thousand.*
1933	32	6
1934	48	8
1935	41	7
1936	37	6
1937	33	5

Of the 161 births 72 were males and 89 females. Illegitimate births numbered 31 giving an illegitimate birth-rate of 192 per mille.

The population of the islands is preponderantly British, the next in numbers being nationals of the United States of America, among whom is included a large proportion of Cayman Islanders naturalized as American citizens.

IV.—HEALTH.

During 1937 the health of the Dependency continued to be good.

In the early part of the year there was an epidemic of whooping cough throughout the island of Grand Cayman but no deaths resulted.

The birth and death rates have been given above. An analysis of the 47 deaths shows that 19 died from senility, whilst infantile mortality accounted for a further 6.

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis nor to typhoid or malaria.

The unusual healthiness of the Dependency is illustrated in the following table, which shows how old age is the principal cause of death.

Year.	*Total deaths.*	*Enteric.*	*Dysentery.*	*Tuberculosis.*	*Malaria.*	*Over 70 years old.*	
						M.	*F.*
1933 ...	156	14	10	3	—	28	31
1934 ...	55	1	1	1	—	8	16
1935 ...	50	1	—	2	1	6	14
1936 ...	55	—	1	1	—	13	9
1937 ...	47	—	—	—	—	12	7

The fact that so many males are absent between the ages of 18 and 60 might be thought to account for these figures to a certain extent, but this is not the case and deaths of young and middle-aged men abroad from the Caymans are very rare. Moreover the female population between these years does not migrate and their deaths between the ages of 18-60 are most uncommon.

The state of the healthiness is all the more surprising in view of the prevalence during the rainy season of vast swarms of mosquitoes and the almost complete lack of sanitation.

The mosquito problem referred to in the Annual Report for 1936 was still untackled in 1937, but steps were taken to arrange for a survey of the islands from the mosquito and sanitation points of view during 1938, for which the Legislative Assembly has voted a sum of £500 for this work, approving a similar amount being allotted for two further years.

The cleaning of compounds and bush areas continued and there is no doubt that these measures are proving to no small degree a partial success. The swarms of mosquitoes were less in 1937 than 1936 which again was better than the preceding years. This fact is appreciated by the people who willingly respond when called upon to clear and clean up. Education on the habits of the mosquitoes will still further help.

It must, however, be noted that the people have become so used to immense swarms invading the inhabited areas from the bush breeding places that they are apt to regard lightly the lesser and more dangerous breeding places around their homes.

The absence of malaria must not be taken to mean immunity, which is probably more due to lack of contact with infected areas, and the length of sea voyages in sailing ships. But with the growth of quicker means of communication, together with an increased inflow of visitors, contact with infected areas becomes almost certain.

The greater problem is that of sanitation and a campaign towards improving conditions is being started at once. The year 1938 should see a very great improvement indeed.

The Government Medical Officer points out that intestinal worms account for practically 90 per cent. of the ill-health of the children. Hookworm, round worm, whip worm, are all very prevalent. This fact was pointed out as long ago as 1917. The sanitary measures which are being undertaken will it is hoped remedy this state of affairs at no distant date.

Hospital.

During 1937 a small hospital containing four beds, an operating theatre, a dispensary and consulting room was opened on Coronation Day.

The hospital was made possible by the bequest of the late Miss Helen Lambert, and is comparatively very well provided with equipment. But, except for the attendance of out-door patients, no use was made of the facilities afforded during the year under review. This is to be expected in a small community where everyone has relatives and can be easily looked after in his own home.

The Government Medical Officer continued and increased the training of nurses, to whom the teaching of the elements of

nursing and hospital work was given. But in the absence of sickness this training perforce cannot be intensive.

The health of the Lesser Islands was watched by a Government Dispenser and conditions there showed no alteration to those of 1936 when the Government Medical Officer summarized them in his Report on Cayman Brac—" My general conclusion is that the people of Cayman Brac form a very healthy community, much too healthy to need, and much too poor to afford, the services of a resident doctor. I consider that the health of the people of Cayman Brac can be quite adequately looked after by the resident Government Dispenser."

There are no certificated midwives, such services being rendered by volunteers who usually receive a small remuneration.

In January, 1937, a visit was paid to the Dependency by Dr. G. M. Saunders of the Rockefeller Foundation, primarily for the purpose of determining the epidemicity of Yaws, if any. His conclusion after examining 200 children at haphazard for lesions of yaws was that there was not even a suggestion of the disease existing in the island and he felt justified in saying that yaws is neither " epi- nor en-demic " in Grand Cayman.

Blood smears were taken from children chosen at random for malaria and these were all negative to examination for parasites.

His remarks on general sanitation and health are of interest and are as follows:—

> " The general sanitation appears to be good. The houses are well constructed, clean and airy with no crowding for even the meanest dwelling has its small plot of land around it. Rain-water collected in concrete cisterns supplies drinking water. Nearly everywhere the cisterns are clean, well kept and protected against mosquitoes and the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Hortor, reports that he has found mosquito breeding in only a small proportion of them. Shallow wells provide water for washing. Water closets are practically non-existent, practically all households depending on outdoor latrines. While most of these appear well cared for, many of them are of the open-back, surface type and are not fly proof. The general health of the population seems to be good, and the medical reports show that the death rate for normal years averages about 10 per 1,000. Gastro-intestinal and upper respiratory diseases appear to be the chief causes of morbidity. Dr. Hydrick's hookworm survey in 1917 revealed that about 20 per cent. of the population were positive for hookworm, 65 per cent. for Ascaris, and 76 per cent. for Trichuris. Very probably these percentages have not altered greatly according to the histories given by children and mothers."

V.—HOUSING.

Since 1921, the number of houses in the Dependency has increased from 1,060 to 1,246, in 1934 when a Census was taken.

		Number of houses.			*Average number of persons per house, 1934.*
		1911.	*1921.*	*1934.*	
Grand Cayman	...	765	815	961	4·7
Cayman Brac...	...	254	226	267	4·8
Little Cayman	...	29	19	18	4·0
		1,048	1,060	1,246	4·69

Practically every house is owned by the family resident therein, only a few being rented. Rental varies from £1 a month upwards.

Lodging for working-class people is not expensive. Often young unmarried men come from the outlying areas to the larger centres for casual labour. Their board and lodging costs from 6s. a week upwards, but usually arrangements can be made to lodge with relatives.

There are no building societies in the Dependency; but a strong family or communal feeling exists whereby persons of the poorer class desirous of erecting a new house can obtain labour and assistance free of charge.

A description of the houses is to be found in the Annual Report for 1933. The tendency is more and more apparent to adopt the frame type of building usually to be seen in the poorer quarters in the townships of the Southern States.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

As mentioned above the total area of the Dependency has not been accurately ascertained, but estimated to amount to between 140 and 92 square miles. Of this area there is a very great proportion of swamp and pond lands.

No survey has been made of the proportion of land under development, whether agriculturally, minerally or for forest produce.

Minerals.

At present there is no production, but there is a certain amount of phosphate-bearing country, the extent of which is unknown. Formerly this was developed but export ceased as long ago as 1890.

Agriculture.

During the year a report was published on an agricultural survey of the Cayman Islands conducted in 1935 by Mr. W. H. Edwards, Government Entomologist of Jamaica. It appeared as

Bulletin No. 13 in the new series issued by the Department of Agriculture of Jamaica.

This report has particular reference to plant diseases and pests and should be of value to those few persons interested in agricultural development.

No agricultural produce is exported, and not enough is grown for local requirements, so that coconuts, potatoes, beans, ground nuts and fruits of all sorts are imported.

In former years there was an export of coconuts from the islands amounting to approximately two million per annum, but the trees have been attacked as a result of their exposure to hurricanes and since 1932 have almost entirely disappeared with the result that this export has ceased.

Similarly with Sisal. For a short while after the Great War when the market prices were inordinately high, sisal was planted, but although this grew in a promising manner the industry was allowed to lapse, chiefly because of the high cost of production and the fall in the market price, to which must be coupled the lack of agricultural instinct of the people.

An Agricultural Society at one time existed for the purpose of encouraging production of foodstuffs and exportable produce. This, however, died through lack of interest and the greater attraction of the sea for the younger men who take little or no interest in agriculture.

Livestock.

The estimate of livestock in the Dependency gives a figure of 1,500 head of cattle. These thrive and meadows of guinea-grass are cultivated especially for them. Cattle owners consume most of their own dairy products, but milk, butter and cheese are sufficiently abundant to make them easily obtainable.

The value of cattle is estimated by weight, the price being fixed traditionally at 9 cents per lb. whilst the meat is retailed at 6d. a lb., quite indiscriminately of the part or the cut of the meat. There is no sale for calves nor are these killed for market.

Most cottages keep their pig. These are well cared for and exceptionally well fed. They are not allowed to run free but kept tethered under shade trees.

Goats are not common and are chiefly kept by the poorer classes in West Bay.

Poultry are common but their breeding has not been controlled. Eggs fetch from 6d. to 2s. a dozen, and the birds from 1s. to 2s. 6d. each. Turkeys are kept but there are very few domestic ducks.

Forestry.

There has never been any survey of the forestry of Cayman, but its importance is considerable. The main products are the thatch palm "thrinax argentea," red mangrove, mahogany and logwood.

The first-named is used for the manufacture of thatch rope and the quantity produced during the past five years is as follows:—

Year.	*Fathoms in 1,000's.*	*Value.*	*Average per 1,000 fathoms.*
		£	s.
1933	1,412	1,163	18
1934	1,374	1,374	20
1935	1,539	1,373	17
1936	1,929	1,456	16
1937	1,322	1,019	15

A description of the industry appeared in the Annual Report for 1934.

Mangrove bark is almost exclusively cut by the people living in the district of West Bay, Grand Cayman. The following figures show the quantities exported during the past five years:—

Year.	*Tons.*	*Value.*
		£
1933	180	360
1934	88	352
1935	109	348
1936	22	74
1937	28	69

The Logwood industry once so important in the Caribbean is of little value to-day. The export figures are as follows; but in 1936 export ceased and as yet shows no sign of renewal:—

Year.	*Tons.*	*Value.*
		£
1933	254	635
1934	652	1,304
1935	245	438

The value of logwood is so unremunerative that the people take little interest in cutting it.

No definite figures can be given of mahogany cut, nor of its value. But it is of considerable importance in the Dependency where it is used in the ship-building industry. The trees are stunted in growth owing to the constant strong North-East trade wind which also bends them so that they assume naturally the shape of knees, elbows, &c., required for the ships. The lumbermen receive on an average 6d. a foot. The market is entirely local.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry is the mainstay of the islanders. It is principally confined to the catching of turtles, sharks and sponges.

A description of these has been given in the 1934 and 1935 Reports.

There were 15 schooners engaged in this industry during 1937.

The following return shows the amount and value of the catch:—

Year.	*Green Turtle.*		*Hawksbill Shell.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	No.	£	*lb.*	£
1933	966	966	1,990	1,115
1934	1,504	1,504	9,883	5,690
1935	1,673	2,059	5,302	2,593
1936	3,161	4,979	6,798	2,984
1937	2,921	2,865	6,650	3,728

The sale of Shark Skins remained approximately the same as in the previous year.

The returns are as follows:—

Year.	*No. of Hides.*	*Value.*
		£
1935	11,962	2,532
1936	6,487	1,423
1937	6,254	1,373

Sponges ceased to appear in 1937 as an article of export. Taken in Nicaraguan waters they were shipped direct to the American market, and the value of this trade is indeterminable.

To-day there are practically no local industries except that of thatch rope manufacture and a certain amount of weaving. Formerly a canning industry existed at Georgetown but this has long since disappeared. The thatch rope industry is carried out by the men and women-folk in their own homes and in their own time and at their own inclination. The importance of the industry to the islanders can be gauged from the quantity of rope exported, a table of which has been given above.

The rope is shipped almost entirely to Jamaica, where a curious trade custom is still preserved. The vessel taking the rope receives no freight but is credited with 20 per cent. of the value received. This 20 per cent. is shared in various proportions between the owner and the master and crew. At the same time the practice is not only to sell rope to wholesale merchants but also to peddle around the coast, thereby competing with their principal clients, the distributing agents in Kingston. The survival of this antiquated method of doing business prevents any reasonable chance of thatch rope obtaining a better market.

A new industry was started in 1937; yacht building for the British market. Two vessels approximately 12 and 15 tons respectively were laid down and it is expected that these will be in England in time for the 1938 yachting season.

It is thought that stronger and sturdier vessels can be built than the usual type launched at home. A small sum of money was voted to subsidize this industry as capital was lacking in the Dependency.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The commerce of the Cayman Islands is as has been indicated dependent almost exclusively on the various marine industries. Figures of imports and exports show an adverse trade balance but there is a considerable amount of concealed income earned by vessels engaged under charter.

During 1937 there were one motor vessel and four schooners occupied throughout the year in the carrying trade. It is of interest to note that these vessels covered the whole of the Caribbean from Abaco in Bahamas to Cartagena Colombia and from the Windward Islands to Florida and the Gulf Ports.

A further source of external trade is the sale of ships and during the year two schooners were sold whilst as has been mentioned a yacht building industry was started.

Nineteen hundred and thirty-seven saw the beginning of the tourist industry. The *Atlantis* of the Royal Mail Lines Limited called at Georgetown on 22nd February. Three hundred and forty-three tourists spent the day ashore. The visit was a success and before the year ended information had been received of the *Arandora Star* of the Blue Star Line calling in February, 1938.

In addition to this call of a large cruising vessel a greater number than usual of yachts put in for various periods of time and there was a larger number of visitors than in previous years.

The tourist industry would appear to be showing signs of growth.

Imports in 1937 were valued at £27,321, being £1,741 more than in 1936. Exports were valued at £10,488 showing a decrease of £2,446 as compared with 1936. Re-exports are included, being valued at £10, as compared with £48 in 1936.

Trade is maintained principally with the United Kingdom, Jamaica and the United States of America, and the percentages for the past five years are as follows:—

Imports.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
United Kingdom...	45·85	14·04	16·42	20·63	15·12
Jamaica	41·11	36·00	31·43	31·05	25·67
United States of America.	34·74	29·55	32·72	25·23	33·86
Japan	—	5·30	7·13	7·90	11·64

Exports.

United Kingdom...	3·78	2·23	1·39	20·88	25·74
Jamaica	73·33	79·65	56·02	40·88	52·24
United States of America.	21·53	16·95	39·46	37·39	19·94

Imports from Empire sources for the year under review amounted to 40·78 per cent. of the total imports, compared with 50 per cent. for 1936.

The decline in Empire trade can be attributed to the growth of imports from Japan to a certain extent, but chiefly to the renewal of importations from the United States which are cheaper than in Jamaica.

The decrease in value of the export trade is due entirely to a fall in the prices received for turtle in the American market.

The following tables show the sources of the import trade and the distribution of the exports during the years 1933 to 1937:—

Imports.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	5,035	3,250	4,000	5,278	4,130
Other British Possessions.	13,274	8,687	8,169	8,043	7,013
United States ...	11,030	6,841	7,971	6,454	9,251
Japan	59	1,237	1,748	2,021	3,182
Other Countries ...	2,352	3,130	2,467	3,784	3,745
	31,750	23,145	24,355	25,580	27,321

Exports.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	194	308	150	2,700	2,700
Other British Possessions.	3,761	10,343	6,051	5,286	5,551
United States of America.	1,104	2,257	4,262	4,836	2,091
Other Countries ...	68	—	335	64	136
	5,127	12,908	10,798	12,886	10,478

Re-Exports

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Jamaica	1,211	312	14	7	10
Other Countries ...	386	95	8	41	—
United States of America.	1,824	—	—	—	—
	3,421	407	22	48	10

The Chamber of Commerce for the Cayman Islands formed at Georgetown in 1934 continued to function throughout the year. This Chamber is filling a long-felt need, and is proving itself of considerable value to the community.

VIII.—LABOUR.

In 1934 a Census was taken and included a return of occupations. The figures revealed that whilst 50 per cent. of the manpower between 18 and 60 years of age were engaged in the seafaring industry, 28 per cent. were occupied with agriculture. Only 7·5 could be classified as casual.

Labour is not organized in any of the industries.

The total number of men in the wage-earning, as distinct from the salaried class, is 965 of whom 539 are sea-faring, 302 agriculture and 124 are casual or miscellaneous labourers.

Both fishing and agriculture are almost exclusively conducted on the basis of share of returns, and except by Government casual labour is scarcely employed at all.

In considering the labour conditions of the Cayman Islands it must be remembered that there are very few people who are unpossessed of land, so that when not wage-earning, most can spend their time and labour on their small holdings.

Female labour is almost unknown. There are a few domestic servants in the wealthier establishments and occasionally a woman will work in her holding but it is extremely rare to see one so occupied.

In the rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour, but this industry is unorganized, each individual working for herself.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There is comparatively little employment for unskilled labour either by Government or other employers. The principal work is that of cleaning roads for which the usual daily rate is 4s. Agricultural labour is employed by some of the larger land owners but is of a temporary nature, permanent labour being practically unknown. Such labour is paid at the rate of 4s. a day. Boys are employed to herd the cattle and receive from 6s. to 8s. a month, together with food. Other casual labour is employed on the water-front and receives 9d. per hour.

There are no regulations as to the number of hours, but in Government employ these are limited to eight.

Skilled labour works as a rule by contract. Shipwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, etc., command a wage from 8s. to 12s. a day.

The staple food is wheaten flour and corn meal, both imported. It is difficult to estimate the value of the wages earned in terms of bread loaves as the people are usually their own bakers and the loaves are of irregular size and weight. There is a bakery at Georgetown, but this only serves the more well-to-do classes.

The cost of living for officials does not vary much whether the officer lives at Georgetown or elsewhere. In either case the cost is low compared with elsewhere in the West Indies. The majority of Government officials belong to local families and, therefore, have access without cost to the produce of the orchards and fields. A stranger would probably require at least £60 per annum and a married man about £100

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education throughout the Dependency is free and compulsory. The school age is from seven to 14 for both sexes and is confined to elementary subjects. There are no secondary or technical schools or institutions for higher education. Control of education is vested in a Board appointed annually. The Board functions under Law 5 of 1920.

Since 1932 expenditure on education has been annually as follows:—

Year.	*Expenditure.* £	s.	d.	*No. of Children on school rolls.*
1933	1,308	16	4	870
1934	1,563	17	8	824
1935	1,402	18	10	876
1936	1,266	9	10	874
1937	1,280	5	6	886

The number of children on the roll during the year was 886, whose education was provided in 13 schools, four of which were at Cayman Brac. There is no school at Little Cayman where only two children of school age are to be found. At the same time there are six private schools with an attendance of 124 pupils. There are 22 teachers, the number including pupil-teachers. Teachers are appointed by the Board and are generally in possession of some teaching certificate.

The standard of teaching is based on the pupil-teachers' examination of Jamaica, of which there are three grades. In 1937, 42 students sat for this examination, and of these 10 were successful.

No provision is made for orphanages or for the maintenance of sick and aged people. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry grant a small sum towards the maintenance of paupers, which is distributed on the advice of the local Justices to deserving cases for the provision of small luxuries such as sugar, flour and tobacco.

The distribution has been entrusted to the Cayman Islands Friendly Society, which is composed of ladies from each one of the various districts. The Society is able to import its requirements for this purpose duty free, and the work has been carried

on most efficiently. The ladies visit all those who apply for assistance and are thus able to report on the actual conditions.

The smallness of the community and the close relationship of most people with one another tend naturally to the encouragement of mutual recreation. Concerts are frequently arranged for various charitable purposes and are well patronized.

The subscription library at Georgetown continued to function throughout the year. The annual grant of £40 was renewed, not as an absolute grant, but on condition that the papers, magazines and books subscribed for by the library should be regularly sent to the outlying districts.

The public reading room at West Bay, which is conducted by voluntary effort, was increasingly patronized and it is hoped that the distribution of the reading matter subscribed for through the grant will encourage this welcome enterprise.

At the end of 1937 plans were made for building a larger library to include reading and reference rooms at Georgetown. The Carnegie Corporation made a grant of $1,250.00 to equip the building which it is hoped to begin towards the end of 1938.

The Sea Scout movement continued to make considerable progress during the year. There are three troops, at Georgetown, West Bay and Bottentown, and two Cub Packs. The total number of Sea Scouts at the end of 1937 was 82, and the two Cub Packs totalled 59. The boys show great keenness and during 1938 the movement promises to continue further to extend.

A third company of Girl Guides was formed at West Bay and the total number of Guides at the end of the year was 88. The Guides are affiliated to the Jamaica Association whilst the Sea Scouts have their own Cayman Islands Association.

A third annual Regatta was held in January and was attended by many visitors from Jamaica as well as by H.M.S. *Dragon*. This annual event which is held under the auspices of the Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club founded in 1934 promises to become an important factor in the development of the Dependency as a pleasure resort.

The Yacht Club is in reality the only social club of any importance in the Dependency. Its Commodore is His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica and it has a membership of 134.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The motorable roads were kept in order throughout the year in spite of the unusual rainfall. In Grand Cayman there are approximately 46 miles of motorable roads, and in Cayman Brac 11. The cost of maintenance and improvements was £30 per mile.

The first motor car was introduced into the islands in 1914, and at the end of 1937 there were 49 motor cars, nine lorries, four motor cycles and three buses.

In the settlements of West Bay and Georgetown there are a few streets that follow no considered plan. There are also sections of road connecting the main artery with the North Sound both at Georgetown and West Bay. In Cayman Brac there is a good motorable highway running the length of the island. In Little Cayman there are no roads, only paths, as there is no need for any public communication other than connexion between houses of members of the same family.

A considerable amount of intercommunication is by the sea, in cat-boats and other small craft. No particulars are available.

A few pack horses, mules and donkeys still survive and are taxed.

A telephone system is operated throughout the island of Grand Cayman, with its Central Exchange at Georgetown. Instruments are not provided privately to the public, but the latter has access to those in the public buildings.

In Cayman Brac there is also a public telephone service with a single line connecting the East and West ends of the island.

There are two Wireless Stations, one in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. Particulars of these Stations were given in the Annual Reports for 1935 and 1936.

The following are the details of the traffic handled during the year:—

	Via Jamaica.	*Cayman Brac.*	*Havana.*	
Received ...	834	263	—	1,097
Despatched ...	748	207	465	1,420
	Total messages ...		... ...	2,517

The total number of messages in 1936, the first year of operation was 1,882. There is no inward traffic from Havana, that Station being exclusively used for Meteorological purposes no commercial business is transacted.

There are two communications, morning and evening, daily with both Kingston and Cayman Brac. Receipts totalled £339 19s. 6d. of which the company's share was £206 7s. 1d., leaving a net receipt of £133 12s. 5d. Expenditure incurred amounted to £290 19s. 10d. showing a net loss of £157 0s. 5d.

The growth of the traffic was much more than originally estimated so that the Station may, in the near future, prove a profitable investment. But it must be remembered that in the first instance these installations were erected to maintain communication in the event of hurricanes.

The operator in Grand Cayman is a trained and certificated officer, but at Cayman Brac only a learner is in charge who draws at present a nominal salary. This is a weak link in this line of communication and difficult for the moment to remedy.

During the hurricane season, however, a meteorological observer stationed in Grand Cayman by the Cuban Observatory at Havana, as mentioned above, is also a trained operator, so that if need should arise he would be capable of carrying on.

The postal service has been maintained since the year 1890. There are Post Offices in every district, with deliveries daily in Georgetown and three times per week elsewhere.

External services are maintained by mail subsidy with Jamaica once in every 17 days in either direction and with Cuba and the United States about nine times a year. Use is made of schooners whenever possible. Communication between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman depends on the Jamaican service.

The volume of postal business carried in 1937 is estimated as follows:—

	Letters and postcards.	*Newspapers.*	*Books and circulars.*	*Parcels.*	*Total.*
Inward ...	25,000	4,000	10,000	2,000	41,000
Outward ...	45,000	—	—	300	45,300

The contract for a subsidized mail service renewed in February, 1932, for five years, expired but was extended for a further twelve months, pending re-consideration. It is to the amount of £600 of which the Dependency pays half.

A comparative table of Revenue and Expenditure of the postal department during the past five years is as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1933	2,238	791
1934	1,067	741
1935	8,694	2,029
1936	7,565	2,236
1937	11,804	2,125

The comparatively large revenue is due to the continued success of the sales of the pictorial issue of stamps.

Imperial Penny postage has been in force from St. George's Day, 23rd April, 1936.

Georgetown is a Port of registry for shipping and had on its register at the end of the year 42 sailing and 9 motor vessels, of a total tonnage of 4,266 (gross).

During the year, two ships of a total tonnage of 143 were added, and seven of a total tonnage of 321 removed.

Arrivals and departures of vessels were as follows:—

Nationality.	*Arrivals.*	*Departures.*
British	161	177
Colombian	7	7
Honduranian	18	16
American	2	2
Total	188	202

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During 1937 the Public Works Department completed the small general hospital at Georgetown and the renovation of the offices at Government House.

A Clock Tower was erected at Georgetown, partly by subscription, as a memorial to His Late Majesty King George V.

In November there began the installation of a complete series of navigational lights on the coasts of the Dependency. An outright grant of £3,100 was made by the Colonial Development Fund's Advisory Committee, and the erection of the lights was carried out by the Gas Accumulator Company of Great Britain. The lights are situated at North-west point, South-west point and East End on Grand Cayman, at the West End of Little Cayman, and at the East End of Cayman Brac. There was also erected a Port light at Georgetown. They are sun-valve controlled lights and can be left unwatched for six months. The installation will have been completed before the end of January, 1938.

Roads were maintained in good condition, and those in the West Bay area and the Georgetown—North Sound road improved and widened.

Casual labour is paid at the rate of 4s. a day of 8 hours, and usually a 5-day week is observed. Warehouse labour is paid at the rate of 9d. an hour. The question of overtime in the conditions prevailing in the Dependency has not yet arisen.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Law in force in the Dependency is the common Law of England as it existed at the time of the enactment of the Imperial Act of the Government of the Cayman Islands dated 22nd June, 1863. Since then various Acts have been passed under the Constitution referred to in Chapter II, both in Jamaica and in the Dependency.

The principal court is the Grand Court constituted by the Jamaica Legislature, Chap. 18 of 1894. This Court is a part of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica and is presided over by a Judge, who is also the Commissioner. It sits twice

a year in June and December. There are Petty Courts, over which Justices preside in the various districts whenever occasion arises.

Justices of the Peace are appointed in a General Commission of the Peace and give their services voluntarily.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Dependency during the year:—

Persons charged by police or otherwise ...	—	49
Convicted summarily...	44	—
Acquitted summarily...	5	—

The Police Force as reorganized at the end of 1935 consists of—one Inspector, one Sergeant, five Constables, five District Constables.

Four Constables are stationed at Georgetown, and one at Cayman Brac. They patrol the outer districts from time to time.

In each district there is a lock-up and at Georgetown there is a general prison for offenders to serve sentences. It has been the practice to send to Jamaica convicts sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment. The prison in Georgetown is an old building and provides accommodation in three cells. There is no special provision for juvenile offenders, but Magistrates have always exercised their discretionary powers in their case. In a similar way time is usually allowed for the payment of fines and use is made of the probation system.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good throughout the year.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted during the year:—

Law 2 of 1937. *The Vexatious Actions Law*, 1937, preventing abuse of the process of the Courts of the Dependency by the institution of Vexatious Legal Proceedings.

Law 3 of 1937. *The Cayman Islands Hotels Aid Law*, 1937, a Law to aid the construction and enlargement of Hotels in the Dependency by allowing the free entry of certain goods under a special Import Licence.

Law 8 of 1937. *The Public Works Loan Law*, 1937, providing for the obtaining of a Loan of £6,500 for a term of 20 years with interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, for the purpose of the erection of public buildings and other works of improvement in the Dependency. At the end of the year this Law had not yet received the consent of His Excellency the Governor, but his approval to the programme had been given.

Other legislation included the usual Laws providing for Supplementary Appropriation, amendments to Laws in force and appropriation for expenditure.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The currency and weights and measures are the same as those that obtain in Great Britain. Popular practice and the close connexion with the United States of America allows use to be made of the smaller denominations of United States currency, but these are not accepted in Government offices.

The total amount of currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £3,000, but it is difficult to arrive at any approach to accuracy.

There are no banks in the Dependency, other than a Post Office Savings Bank which was established in 1908. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. and depositors are allowed to deposit up to a maximum of £400, and not more than £200 in any one year. Statistics of the Bank are as follows:—

Year.	*No. of Depositors.*	*Amount of deposit at beginning of year.*			*Amount of deposit during the year.*			*Amount of withdrawal during the year.*		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1933 ...	68	2,055	7	2	1,226	15	5	1,344	1	10
1934 ...	78	1,993	8	7	922	3	11	922	5	9
1935 ...	125	2,042	4	8	2,389	4	3	1,268	10	0
1936 ...	135	3,215	10	10	2,810	11	6	2,101	2	5
1937 ...	180	4,005	7	3	4,824	18	6	3,405	3	1

Against the total deposit of £5,542 19s. 1d. the balance due to depositors at the end of the year, the Savings Bank had invested, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in recognized funds, £5,829 11s. 11d. These investments are treated at present as a Reserve Fund and the interest earned allowed to accumulate until such time as the total amount invested will amount to 115 per cent. of the total deposited.

The branch of the Bank opened at Cayman Brac in 1934 continued to work successfully throughout the year. There were 57 accounts, deposits totalling £2,490 16s. 3d. at the end of the year. This sum is included in the figures of the preceding paragraph.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure is given below:—

Year.	*Revenue.*			*Expenditure.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1933	7,298	11	3	6,538	13	2
1934	5,695	9	5	6,994	18	5
1935	13,432	17	0	9,212	3	0
1936	12,746	7	0	9,926	14	5
1937	17,409	16	11	16,648	16	6

Average five years £11,316 12s. 4d., £9,864 5s. 1d.

The Reserve Funds of the Dependency were valued on 31st December, 1937, at £6,119.

A loan of £3,660 at 3½ per cent. from the Jamaica Government in connexion with financing the repairs to roads and buildings damaged in the hurricane of 1932 is the sole public debt. In November, 1933, the Jamaica Legislature had agreed to waive interest for five years. The loan was accepted in 1934.

Taxation.

Customs Tariff.—The general *ad valorem* duty is 12½ per cent., and there is a preferential rate in respect of certain goods imported from the British Empire the details of which were published in the 1935 Report, where there is also to be found details of other taxation. There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government, printed matter, manures, fertilizers, insecticides, mosquito netting.

Receipts over the past five years under the various heads of taxation are as follows:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs, import duties	4,348	3,208	3,322	3,522	3,832
Taxes, personal, etc. ...	324	455	540	603	870
Liquor licences ...	28	29	28	24	24
Fines of Court ...	15	18	19	6	26
Car Drivers' licences ...	23	25	24	27	28
Warehouse rents ...	219	154	185	199	215
Payments for specific services.	35	23	34	25	28

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was celebrated throughout the Dependency with general rejoicing. Luncheons were provided for the very aged and poor and the school children were given a monster banquet in Georgetown where people from all the outlying districts foregathered. Monster bonfires, a flower show, dances and other festivities marked this historic occasion.

H.M.S. *Dragon* visited Georgetown during the Regatta held in January.

For the first time one of His Majesty's Canadian vessels, H.M.C.S. *Saguenay* visited the Dependency arriving at Georgetown on 3rd February and leaving on the 8th.

The Cuban Warships *Viente de Mayo* and *Patria* visited the island on 14th July and 4th December, respectively.

The island schooner *Albert H* was lost off the coast of Nicaragua, but fortunately all lives were saved.

A Clock Tower to the memory of His Majesty King George V was erected in front of the Town Hall and the commemorative tablet unveiled on 12th May.

The new hospital at Georgetown was opened on Coronation Day, advantage being taken of the crowds assembled in honour of that event.

The pioneer visit of a cruising vessel was made by the *Atlantis* of the Royal Mail Lines on 14th February. Her visit was the occasion of general celebrations in Georgetown, and through the courtesy of the Officer Commanding, the vessel was open to the public throughout the day, a most unusual compliment to the people of Cayman.

APPENDIX.

Bibliography.

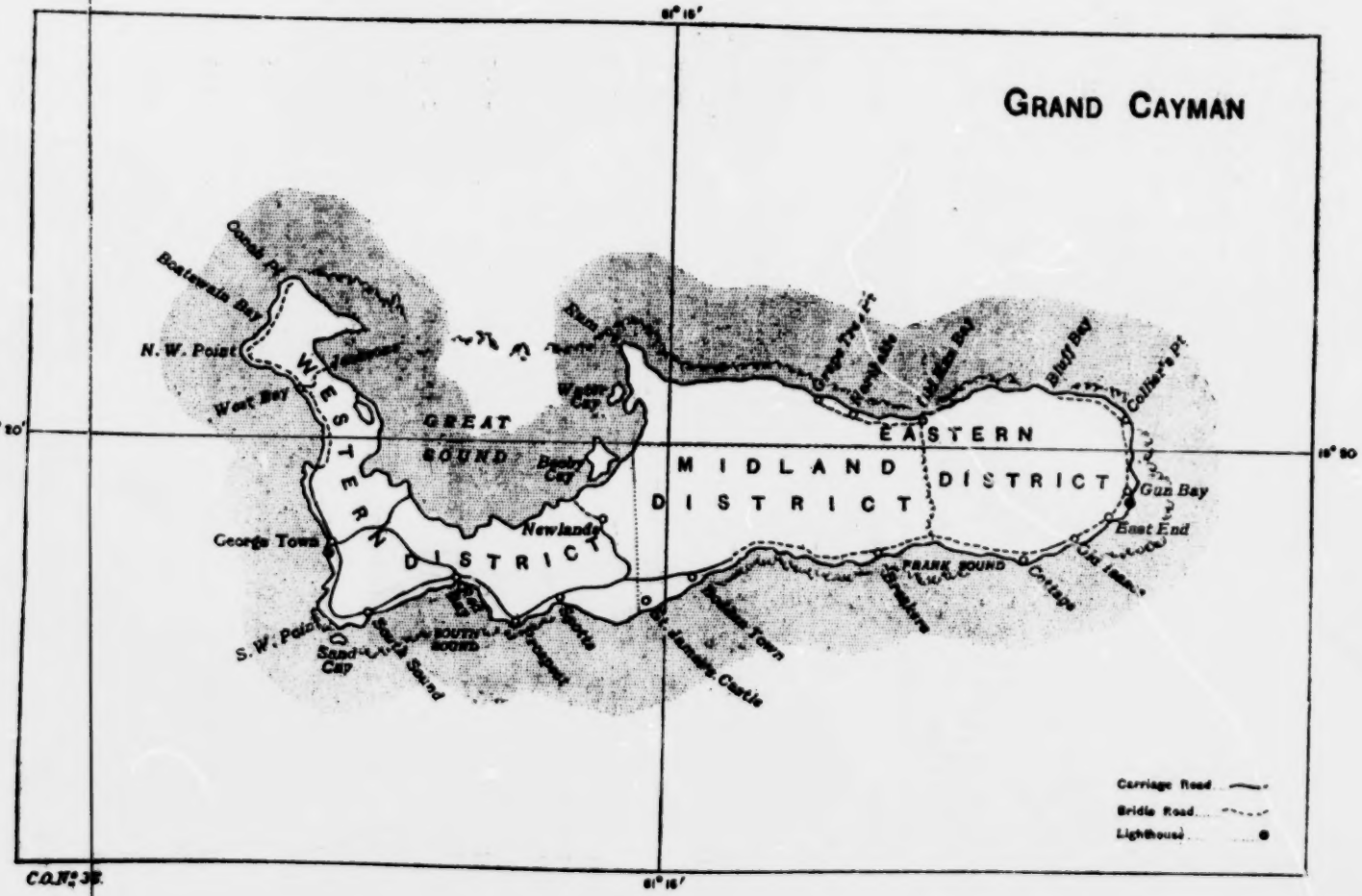
A.—Official or Semi-Official Publications.

Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.* s.	d.
The Caymanian ...	—	In Jamaica ...	1908		2
Handbook of the Cayman Islands.	G. S. S. Hirst ...	Gleaner Co., Jamaica.	1908–9	1	6
Cayman Islands Gazette.	—	—	Occasional 1910–1913 only.		2

B.—Descriptive Publications.

Brief and Perfect Journal of the late proceedings and success of the English Army in the W. I.	L.S.	London	1665		
The Buccaneers of America.	John Esquemeling.	Amsterdam ...	1678		
History of the Pirates	C. Johnson ...	London	1724		
History of Jamaica*...	Long	London	1774		
Three Voyages of a Naturalist	M. J. Nicoll ...	Witherby & Co., London.	1908		
History of the Cayman Islands.	G. S. S. Hirst ...	Benjamin Mfg. Co., Jamaica.	1910	6	0
Cayman Islands ...	B. D. Armstrong	Junior Philatelic Society.	1911	2	0
Birds of the Cayman Islands.	R. P. Lowe ...	Ibis	1911	8	0
Natural History of Grand Cayman.	T. M. S. English	Handbook of Jamaica.	1912	—	
Life and Adventure ...	"Vaquero" ...	Bale & Danielson, London.	1914	7	6
Cayman Islands ...	F. J. Melville ...	S. Gibbons ...	1914		6
The Voyages of Captain William Jackson.	V. T. Harlow, edited.	Camden Miscellany Vol. XIII.	1923	—	
Geology of Cayman Islands.	G. A. Matley ...	Reprint from Qtr. Journal of Geological Society.	1926	—	
Isles of Romance ...	G. A. England...	Century Co. ...	1929	—	
To the South Seas ...	G. Pinchot ...	Winston, Toronto	1930	—	

* 3 Vols., Book 1, Chapter XII gives a detailed account of the Cayman Islands.



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Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Reports by Mr. J. S. Neill and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. [Colonial No. 155] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

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Statement to accompany the Estimates for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services, 1939 [Cmd. 6023] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

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Return showing the composition, etc. [H. of C. 169, 1937/38] 6d. (7d.)

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Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1938 [Cmd. 5789] 9d. (10d.)

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, 1938

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA, FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, situated between 17° 43′ and 18°32′ N. latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 20′ 50″ W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

Surrey.	Sq. Miles.	*Middlesex.*	Sq. Miles.	*Cornwall.*	Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118 or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area, and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the sea-coast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitution. Through the county of Surrey and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges and intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Exquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661, a regular civil government was established by Charles II, who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The Colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds, and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th Century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with Maroons or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the Island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the

Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £800,000, chiefly in aid of the re-building, was authorized from the Home Exchequer.

10. English is the only language spoken in Jamaica. Traces of the Spanish occupation still remain in the names of many places, such as Rio Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Jago de la Vega, etc., and here and there a name of obviously African origin, such as Accompong, is to be found.

11. There are many purely local words such as "quattie" to describe the sum of 1½d., "buckra" to describe a white man, and "busha" to describe the manager of a plantation, and it takes a new comer to Jamaica some time to grasp what is being said to him especially in the remoter country districts.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

12. The original Constitution granted by Charles II, which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members, but fluctuated in number from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution, but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

13. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community, and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

14. By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

15. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote), five ex-officio members, viz.: The Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector

General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

16. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

17. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

18. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. The Corporation acts through the Council which exercises all powers vested in the Corporation or the Council. The Council consists of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. The Councillors, eight in number, are elected, 4 for the Urban District, 2 for the Sub-Urban and 2 for the Rural. The Aldermen, 2 in number, are elected by the Council from voters holding qualifications necessary to entitle them to be elected as Councillors. No person holding the office of Councillor is qualified for election as an Alderman. In addition to the above, the Elected Members of the Legislative Council for Kingston and St. Andrew and the Custodes of Kingston and St. Andrew, are ex-officio members of the Council. A Water Commission appointed under Law 34 of 1936 controls the water and sewerage systems in Kingston and St. Andrew. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town, (population 8,694), Port Antonio, (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth, (population, 2,136), Port Maria, (population, 2,481) and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

19. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own institutions, managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number or registered poor in 1938 was 17,322, being at the rate of 15.33 per thousand of population. Pauper relief costs 1/10d. per head of population.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

There was a decrease in Emigration and an increase in Immigration during 1938, compared with the year 1937. The departures in 1936 were 451, in 1937, 524 and in 1938, 295. The arrivals in 1936 were 969, in 1937, 1,500 and in 1938, 1,580.

Vital Statistics.

Population:

21. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1938 was 1,173,645, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population on 31st December, 1937 and adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Marriages:

22. The number of marriages registered during 1938 was 5,416, the rate being 4.61 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.64 in 1937.

Births:

23. During the same period, 37,970 were registered, of which 19,306 were boys and 18,664 were girls. The birth rate was 32.35 per 1,000 as against 32.07 during 1937. 26,957 births were illegitimate.

Deaths:

24. The number of deaths registered was 19,124, of which 9,476 were males and 9,648 females, the death rate being 16.29 per 1,000. The rate for 1937 was 15.3. During 1938, 6,078 or 31.78 per cent. of the total deaths were those of children under two years of age and of these 4,905 or 25.65 were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures for 1937 were 30.38 and 23.97 per cent. respectively.

25. The infantile death rates under one year and under five years were 129.18 and 180 per 1,000 respectively, as compared with 118.52 and 168 per 1,000 in 1937.

26. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Tuberculosis 9.91, Pneumonia 8.24, Heart Disease 7.54, Old Age 5.66, Congenital Debility 5.17, Syphilis 4.47, Cancer and other malignant Tumours 3.93, Diarrhoea and Enteritis 3.77, Premature Birth 3.66, Chronic Nephritis (including unspecified 10 years of age and over) 2.96, General Paralysis of the Insane 2.64, Diseases of the Liver 2.47, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy 2.10, Malaria 1.94, Diabetes 1.45, Typhoid Fever 1.40.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

27. The Health of the Island was very satisfactory during 1938. The estimated death rate was 16.3 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.3 in 1937, the lowest on record.

28. No epidemics were recorded, and the marked reduction in Typhoid fever noted in 1937 was well maintained in 1938, there being 578 notifications as compared with 781 in 1937 and 1,277 in 1936.

29. 72 cases of Diphtheria were reported as compared with 29 in 1937 and 15 in 1936; 54 of these occurred in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew. The cases were distributed over the year and the increase may be only apparent as a result of the increased activities of the Health Authorities.

30. 1,376 cases of, and 1,083 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were recorded as compared with 1,311 cases and 1,019 deaths in 1937.

31. The Rainfall was 60 inches—14 inches below average—with the result that the incidence of Malaria was lower than usual and Yaws control was considerably facilitated.

32. The work of the special clinics for Venereal Diseases, established with the assistance of the Colonial Development Fund during the past two years, which was necessarily largely experimental and investigatory, makes it clear that the programme of control will have to be enlarged very materially if the problem is to be met with any reasonable degree of effectiveness, and, Government was fortunate in obtaining in the early stages of this undertaking a month's visit of Lieutenant Colonel L. W. Harrison, D.S.O., Adviser to the Minister of Health on Venereal Diseases. Already urgently required alterations and extensions have been completed for the Kingston Clinic as recommended by him, and his other recommendations are receiving the careful consideration of the Government though lack of funds will delay progress in carrying them out.

Principal Disease Groups.

Gastro Intestinal Disease:

33. (a) *Enteric Fever*: 578 cases were notified as compared with 781 in 1937 and 1,277 in 1936 and the marked decline previously noted in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew was well maintained. 446 cases with 117 deaths were treated in the hospitals.

(b) *Dysentery*: 161 cases were reported as compared with 132 in 1937, and 99 were admitted to the hospitals. 139 of them were of Amoebic infection.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 1,376 cases and 1,083 deaths were recorded as compared with 1,311 cases and 1,019 deaths in 1937, 55% of the cases being found in the adjacent parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Clarendon within easy reach of the new Tuberculosis Hospital and Kingston Dispensary. This Dispensary notified 476 cases, or 34% of the total number recorded for the Island.

34. *Malaria*: The extent of Malaria as a problem in any given year is largely determined by the rainfall. In 1938, as compared with the years since 1932, was marked by a low rainfall, and as would be expected the hospital records indicate a comparatively low incidence for the year under review. The numbers were somewhat higher than in 1937, but still well below the figures for 1936. There were 525 deaths registered as due to this disease as compared with 504 in 1937.

A total of 11,059 cases were treated at Public Hospitals during the year. This figure does not include the Out-patient Department at the Kingston Public Hospital.

An outbreak in and around Ulster Spring in Trelawny presented an interesting study. Over a period of three months extending from August to November there occurred about 30 cases of Malaria, and as far as investigation could disclose these persons all acquired their infection locally. Ulster Spring is about 1,500 feet above sea-level and no known case had ever occurred previously in the area where infection could not be traced to some low-lying endemic area in the same parish or elsewhere. It was known that Anopheline mosquitoes (albimanus) were breeding in this area from the previous year, and it appears that the necessary gametocyte carrier came into the area some time during 1938.

There were no other epidemic outbreaks.

In the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, according to statistics from the Kingston Public Hospital, the endemic level fell somewhat below that of 1937.

35. A total of 21,497 cases were treated as compared with 30,611 in 1937 and 28,700 in 1936. Reports from all areas for 1938 confirmed the findings of previous years that the programme of control which has been developed during the past 4 years is effecting a steady decline in the incidence of active cases.

Venereal Diseases:

36. The number of new cases of Venereal Diseases which attended the special clinics were as follows:—

	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.
Kingston Clinics ...	3,720	6,262
Montego Bay Clinic ...	1,057	1,050
Port Antonio Clinic ...	714	884
Total	5,491	8,196

The record of treatment at Hospitals are as follows:—

	Admissions.		Outdoor.	
	Syphilis.	Gonococcal Infections.	Syphilis.	Gonococcal Infections.
Kingston Public Hospital	425	476	5,534	1,625
District Hospitals	1,161	856	4,730	3,027
Total	1,586	1,332	10,264	4,652

It is not possible to state how many of these are new cases.

Diseases of School Children:

37. Examinations carried out on 2,207 children in two rural parishes (Clarendon and Portland) show defects as follows:—

Malnutrition	39%
Granulated lids	14%
Dental caries	18%
Enlarged spleens	13%
Defective vision	8%
Enlarged tonsils	7%
Head lice	5%

The incidence of enlarged spleens is "weighted" by the fact that a proportion of the children were taken from areas of high malaria in Clarendon.

Dental caries were low in this group because School Dental Service has been provided for some years in these parishes.

Hospitals:

38. The following is a list of the Hospitals and Institutions of the Medical Department:—

	Official No. of Beds.
Public Hospital, Kingston	380
Jubilee Lying-In Hospital	100
Mental Hospital	2,059
Public General Hospital, Morant Bay ...	32
,, ,, ,, Hordley	40
,, ,, ,, Port Antonio ...	75
,, ,, ,, Buff Bay	54
,, ,, ,, Annotto Bay ...	64
,, ,, ,, Port Maria ...	71
,, ,, ,, St. Ann's Bay ...	42
,, ,, ,, Cave Valley ...	14
,, ,, ,, Falmouth ...	41
,, ,, ,, Ulster Spring ...	8
,, ,, ,, St. James ...	72
,, ,, ,, Lucea	58
,, ,, ,, Sav.-la-Mar ...	88
,, ,, ,, Black River ...	76
,, ,, ,, Mandeville ...	53
,, ,, ,, Chapelton ...	35
,, ,, ,, Lionel Town ...	54
,, ,, ,, Spanish Town ...	74
,, ,, ,, Linstead	60
Lepers' Home, Spanish Town	120

Buildings:

39. At the Kingston Public Hospital, the new Operating Theatre has been in operation since March, 1938. The necessary covered ways have been completed and put in use. The new building for Out-patients and X-ray work at the Kingston Public Hospital is rapidly nearing completion. Not only will this add to despatch and comfort in handling the ever increasing number of patients but it marks another step in the modernising programme steadily pursued at this Hospital.

40. In the outlaying hospitals, building improvements this year have been mostly in the direction of providing increased facilities for maternity work and for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Maternity Wards have been opened at Lucea, Black River, Lionel Town, Spainsh Town and Montego Bay, making a total of 10 Public General Hospitals outside of Kingston now provided with this service.

41. Four new Tuberculosis Wards at District Hospitals with a total accommodation of 72 beds were completed during the year. The Central Tuberculosis Hospital in the Corporate Area is in advanced state of construction, with two large wards of 100 beds each, two private wards of 11 beds each, and accessory buildings. It is hoped that this Hospital will be ready for service by the middle of 1939.

42. A new scheme for development of hospital facilities has been approved by Government. The policy decided on is that hospital accommodation in selected main centres of population will be considerably enlarged either by new hospitals or extension of existing ones, while a number of cottage hospitals will be established in more remote

centres primarily as feeding stations. A service of ambulances will collect cases daily from the feeding stations and transport them to th main hospitals.

Personnel:

43. The number of patients attending Out-patient Departments of Government Hospitals has continued to increase to the point where added Medical personnel has become an imperative need in the hospitals of the more populous centres; since 1st July, 1938, the following hospitals have been provided with a part-time Assistant Medical Officer:—

St. Ann's Bay	Black River
Port Antonio	Port Maria.

Outdoor Dispensary Service:

44. The total attendances of outdoor patients under the Outdoor Dispensary system, excluding the Kingston Public Hospital, was 254,507 as compared with 221,987 in 1937. Six dispensaries were opened during the year.

Prevention of Disease.

Laboratory Work:

45. The year showed a continued increase in laboratory procedures, particularly with respect to Malaria, Venereal Diseases and Diptheria. Free laboratory facilities for all practitioners for diagnostic purposes in connection with Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Diptheria, Typhoid and Gastro Intestinal infections was established in 1936 with the result that each year shows improvement in the accuracy of information with regard to the incidence and treatment of communicable diseases. With the development of the special clinics for Venereal Diseases, it has become possible to relieve the Central Laboratory to some extent.

46. A total of 70,810 examinations were carried out, some of the main items being as follows:—

Serum-Kahn Test	32,006
Blood Smears for Malaria Parasites ...	5,224
Enteric Diseases (Bacteriological) ...	3,072
Stool Examinations	6,352
Examination for Gonococci (Does not include work done by the V.D. Clinics) ...	2,126
Sputum for Tuberculosis (Does not include work done by the Tuberculosis Dispensary) ...	1,867
Throat Swabs	643

Gastro Intestinal Diseases:

47. 11,842 new latrines were completed as compared with 13,643 in 1937. Certain parishes which have been backward in the past began to make fair progress in this activity and in each case a specially experienced Senior Sanitary Inspector was loaned by the Central Board of Health to supervise the work.

48. 32,166 Anti-typhoid inoculations were given as compared with 32,454 in 1937, the policy being to carry out mass inoculations in any district where a case occurs, and also to inoculate school children as these provide some 30% to 35% of the notified cases. Hospitalization of cases has been highly developed especially in the Corporate Area where at least 80% of known cases are so cared for.

Malaria:

49. The attention given to the importance of permanence in control measures in 1937 received further emphasis during 1938. At the close of the year the stretch of costal swamp in the Greenwhich Farm and Kingston Pen areas had been reduced to a very small percentage of its original proportions due to the combined efforts of the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew and Government. The former continued their programme of filling with city refuse the Eastern section, while the latter reclaimed several acres with earth filling and ditching in the Western section.

50. Plans have been completed for establishing and maintaining a system of drainage for an area to the west of Kingston extending as far as, and including Duhaney River, which is designed to remove excess irrigation and storm water rapidly from higher ground, as well as to relieve the swampy conditions at lower levels. Sub-Urban Kingston is rapidly extending westward both by private enterprise and through the activities of the Housing Authority while consideration is also being given to the possibilities of settling small holders, so that this drainage scheme will be an important feature in the protection of the Corporate Area from Malaria.

51. The West Indies Sugar Company have instituted extensive drainage measures on their Estates in the parish of Westmoreland. Adjacent villages which might have considerably minimized the results of this undertaking were also put under control as a co-operative scheme between the Company and Government.

52. There was further extension of what are known as "temporary control measures," that is, the use of larvicides and periodical clearing of vegetation from streams and stagnant water collections. The Milk River in Clarendon and St. Thomas-Ye-Vale in St. Catherine were the two areas to benefit by these extensions.

53. The main swamp problem in the town of Montego Bay remained unchanged throughout the year.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

54. The main features of Government's plan for control of Tuberculosis are:—

(a) Establishment of Dispensary Services;
(b) Provision of Beds;
(c) Supervision of infected families at home.

The main progress was in the direction of providing beds for active medical and surgical treatment. The programme laid down in 1936 provided for 400 beds, of which 80 are now available and 200 more will be ready within a year by the completion of the new Hospital.

55. The new Kingston Tuberculosis Dispensary was opened early in the past year providing very great improvement in comfort and efficiency, and over 5,000 new persons attended for examination. This Unit notified 476 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis out of a total of 1,376 reported for the whole Island during the year under review. Dispensary services were maintained in nearly all other parishes with the assistance of the Motor X-ray unit which took X-ray pictures of 3,713 persons.

56. Government has embarked on the establishment of a Public Health Nursing Service, one of the main activities of which is to supervise infected families at home.

57. It is realised, however, that the activities of the Medical Profession can play only a limited part in the solution of the problem. Its control is closely associated with such major socio-economic questions as Housing, Nutrition, Education and Land Settlement and special efforts are being made in these directions.

58. The research work on vaccination against Tuberculosis continues in the hands of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Yaws:

59. The Yaws Control programme was actively maintained during the year. In areas of moderately high infection where a mobile unit operated for the first time, surveys showed that in a population of approximately 20,000 about 21% gave history of having had yaws while about 9% showed lesions. Repeat surveys in areas which five or six years ago showed very high infection (20% to 30% of the population with lesions) and which have been systematically followed-up with treatment campaign now show from 5% to 10% with lesions. The exception to this marked decline is the heavily infected section of the parish of St. Mary, due to the inadequacy of staff for maintaining close follow-up work.

Venereal Diseases:

60. During the year a total of 13,687 new patients attended the three special clinics at Kingston, Montego Bay and Port Antonio. Although the problem of Venereal Diseases was well known for years to be a large and serious one, the programme for control as undertaken at the start had, of necessity, an element of investigation as the true extent of the requirements were not known. The experience of the past two years, particularly in Kingston, has made it clear that the programme will have to be very materially enlarged if the problem is to be met with any degree of adequacy. In the early stages of the undertaking, Government was fortunate in securing a month's visit of the Adviser on Venereal Diseases to the Ministry of Health—Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. Harrison, D.S.O., and his recommendations as to buildings, staff and treatment are now being considered. Already urgently required alterations and extensions have been completed for the Kingston Clinic with greatly increased comfort and efficiency, and proposals for extension of the service are being considered.

Water Supply:

Considerable progress was made in improving both the quantity and quality of the water supplies of the larger towns. In the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew, the Water Commission completed installation of a new thoroughly modern purification plant with a capacity of 8,000,000 gallons to replace one of their worn-out plants. New works were completed at a cost of approximately £36,000 for the towns of May Pen, Chapelton, Montego Bay and Lucea, which works estimated at approximately £30,000 are in hand for Morant Bay, Buff Bay and Brompton.

61. Within the past two years the policy has been laid down that no schemes for water supplies will be approved unless adequate provision is made for high sanitary quality.

Housing:

62. The first Housing Project for dealing with slum areas in Kingston is now well advanced. This consists of an improvement scheme for an overcrowded slum area of the town together with development of a new township nearby.

63. The necessary new roads and water and sewer mains are now nearing completion and it is expected that the new Building programme to be carried out by the Central Housing Authority will be commenced shortly.

64. It is hoped to introduce during the Spring Session of 1939 an Amendment Bill to the Building Societies Law whereby Special Financial Assistance will be given to Owners concerned in Housing Schemes.

65. Proposals have been made to Government by the Authority for dealing with Slum Clearance and Town Expansion Schemes with respect to other townships, and the matter is receiving attention of Government. In the meantime, Parochial Boards in their capacity as Local Housing Authorities are investigating Housing Conditions in their Parishes to enable preparation of detailed schemes by way of notification to Government as to the expenditure involved.

66. Two Improvement Schemes under the Slum Clearance Law, Law 10 of 1937, are now in force dealing with certain Areas in Montego Bay, and a Housing Development Project for displaced persons has recently been approved and is being put in operation.

Nutrition:

67. This subject is engaging the attention of the three Departments most intimately concerned, namely, the Medical, Agricultural and Educational, and it has been receiving considerable publicity in the local press.

68. Under the auspices of the Nutrition Committee the Medical Department carried out economic surveys in all parishes covering 1,400 families with a view to ascertaining some fairly exact information as to the dietary habits and food purchasing power of the working classes. Lack of special staff for dealing with the material collected has delayed completion of the study.

69. In approaching the problem the Medical Department is aiming at development of special services for expectant mothers and children up to school leaving age in elementary schools. These services are fairly well advanced in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew. Here the Jubilee Maternity Hospital with 100 beds and 2,500 deliveries per annum (approximately 50% of the total births of the area) maintains an ante-natal department reaching the majority of the mothers delivered in the hospital. The Child Welfare Association, a voluntary organisation with headquarters in Kingston is subsidised by Government by the provision of a Medical Officer as well as by an annual cash contribution. The Kingston Clinic reports for 1938 that 1,524 expectant mothers paid 3,209 visits to their ante-natal sessions, and there were 21,095 attendances of children up to 5 years of age. The Clinic works in co-operation with the Maternity Hospital, and the great majority of their mothers are delivered in the Hospital. No outdoor nursing service is yet provided for either institution, but it is hoped that this will be established in the coming year. In the meantime voluntary lady workers provide a limited visiting service.

70. A nucleus for a Public Health Nursing Service has been established during the past two years on a co-operated plan between Central and Local Health Authorities, the former providing the nurse's salary and the latter her travelling allowance. So far, nine parishes have got 1 nurse each. In each case the provision of a nurse has made it possible for the Health Officer to carry out demonstrations in rural

areas on (a) prenatal care, (b) infant hygiene, (c) school hygiene. The Child Welfare Association has also established a number of branches outside of Kingston in co-operation with the local Health Authority. Government has formulated a policy to be followed by Local Authorities for developing nursing services, and in the two parishes, Manchester and Clarendon, where good progress has been made, there has been a marked increase in the number of deliveries by registered midwives.

71. Continuous publicity is being given to the subject of Nutrition through the Bulletin of the Bureau of Health Education and lectures by Health Officers.

72. The Mission of Friends, a Quaker organisation, includes child welfare in their programme and has an American qualified Public Health Nurse.

73. Certain important activities of relatively recent development in the Agricultural Department and the Jamaica Agricultural Society are having a beneficial effect in meeting some of the problems of nutrition, and these Agricultural authorities are fully conscious of the importance of the subject. Included in the programme of the Agricultural Department are (a) Research work with the assistance of the Colonial Development Fund on local varieties of pulse crops and on analysis of soils with a view to increasing local supplies of vegetable protein; (b) fostering development of vegetable crops of "protective" value for both export and local consumption, such as green vegetables, for which our poorer classes formerly had very little taste. The Agricultural Department's overseas marketing development are of very great value, both economically, but as already effecting increased local consumption of such portions of these "protective" crops as are not suitable for export.

74. The Department of Agriculture is also investigating the possibility of organising the fishing industry which could make a most valuable addition to the supply of animal protein for the poorer classes who can obtain only an extremely limited quantity thereof for economic reasons.

75. The Jamaica Agricultural Society, a Government subsidised organisation with 319 branches and a staff of Agricultural Instructors, co-operate in the marketing developments of the Agricultural Department undertaking several activities of direct value to the cause of improved nutrition. Its sales of seeds, at extremely low prices, of such vegetables as tomatoes, carrots, turnips, sweet peppers, beet, etc., have quadrupled in recent years and reached £800 in 1938. The Society encourages, with subsidies, improvement of milking strains of goats and, by means of competitions, endeavours to interest Juveniles in vegetable growing and rearing of small stock. It now operates a corn mill for the locally grown product, and is hulling native rice for distribution through its Sales Department.

76. Government is supporting the establishment of a condensary which should stimulate the development of the dairy industry and make milk more available by lowered prices to the poorer groups of population.

77. The Education Department is giving special attention to the development of School Gardens, Kitchen-Garden projects and lunch schemes, and in the process of revision of the syllabus, hygiene has been brought up to date. During the past two years 30 kitchen-garden projects have been established in rural schools. In Kingston supplies of hot lunches are reaching 20 schools from the Children's Lunch Fund which is such a promising voluntary effort that Government is subsidising it to the extent of £600 per annum.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

78. The First Scheme under the Slum Clearance Law, Law 10 of 1937, embracing Improvement of Smith Village District in Kingston and development of Trench Pen Township was approved finally in the early part of the year and the project is now in operation under the Central Housing Authority.

79. Work done in Smith Village has been limited to acquisition of some properties, demolition of buildings and certain aspects of Street improvements. Sewer mains have been laid by the Water Commission, while the reconstruction of buildings is awaiting Legislative action to enable special financial assistance to be afforded to owners in the area.

80. Development works in Trench Pen, including construction of Roads, Storm Water Drain, Laying of Water and Sewer Mains, etc. etc. are nearing completion, and it is expected that the building programme will be put in hand at an early date.

81. There has been no improvement in the Housing conditions in other Slum areas and the question of the measures to be introduced for dealing with the problem is receiving earnest consideration of the Central Housing Authority.

82. New areas have been laid out by private enterprise in the Corporate Area and building activities were well sustained, particularly in suburban areas.

83. Residential areas in the parishes continue to be developed along satisfactory lines.

84. Simultaneously with the introduction of Local Reguations, the Parochial Boards are investigating conditions in slum areas with a view to ascertaining the cost of improvement measures.

85. Resulting from a survey of Barracks on the principal Plantations throughout the Island, an intensive campaign was carried out, requiring owners to improve Estate Barracks. Interim reports indicate gradual progress. The programme of Rose Hall Estate in St. James continues satisfactorily, while Messrs. Tate and Lyle (The West India Sugar Co.) have started reconstruction work in Clarendon and Westmoreland.

CHAPTER VI.

Natural Resources.

86. There are no reliable statistics relating to the distribution of land in Jamaica, but according to the Collector General's statements of tax ingivings, the area returned under 'wood and ruinate' is approximately 650,000 acres and cultivated land 950,000, a total of 1,600,000 acres. Crown lands amount to approximate 270,000 and other non-taxable land to say 10,000 acres, making the total area accounted for 1,880,000 acres.

87. Of the 270,000 acres of Crown Land it is estimated that approximately 30,000 acres might be developed for agriculture, while at least 60,000 acres of private land should eventually be acquired and reserved as forest. Forest Reserves would then be in the region of 300,000 acres or 10½% of the total land area. The survey and demarcation of these Forest Reserves was begun in 1937 and is being actively pursued.

88. As regards land tenure, normally all Crown Lands are vested in the Colonial Secretary, but certain lands are leased from the War Department and private individuals for Forest Reserve. Forest rights —there are none. Water rights—in general it may be said that the rights to water flowing in definite stream channels are vested in the Crown, provided that riparian owners have the right to water for domestic and stock purposes.

Production:

89. The natural wealth of the colony is at present confined to its agricultural potentialities. Any mineral wealth it may possess is at present completely untapped, and its industrial and manufacturing establishments are concerned with the processing of agricultural and livestock products, a few factories for the manufacture of Ice, Biscuits and Beverages for local consumption being excepted.

90. There are no statistics available as to the total production or local consumption of any of the agricultural products, with the exception of sugar and rum. Returns of the Island's export trade for 1939 however, show that the total value of the Island's exports for 1938 exceeded the exports for the previous year by £93,830, and at £4,833,322 constitutes the highest recorded value of exports from the Island. Of this total, the value of Banana exports represents over 60%. It is encouraging to note that though the total number of stems of bananas exported was approximately 2,000,000 short of the 1937 total, the actual value at £2,916,956 exceeded that of the previous year by £260,073.

91. During the year under review, the Island suffered a marked diminution in annual rainfall, the total for the year (59.95 ins.) being nearly fourteen inches below the previous sixty-year average (73.87 ins.). The Island was fortunate, however, in sustaining no significant damage from wind disturbances, and apart from a slight decrease in yields per acre, which has been noticed in most crops, production was satisfactory.

92. The following data compiled by the Collector General's Department show the comparative export trade in Island products for the years 1937 and 1938:—

ISLAND OF JAMAICA.

Articles.		Quantities, January to December, 1937.	Values, January to December, 1937.	Quantities, January to December, 1938.	Values, January to December, 1938.
			£		£
Bananas	stems	26,955,489	2,656,883	23,811,337	2,916,956
Bananas, dried	lbs.	4,002	106	150	4
Cocoa ..	cwt.	40,749	77,101	47,165	47,020
Coconuts	No.	34,052,640	95,233	33,415,379	84,155
Coffee ..	lbs.	7,575,015	146,019	9,462,456	132,907
Copra ..	lbs. ..	1,018,905	8,659	1,666,151	10,647
Coconut Oil	galls.	128,724	16,566	5,832	653
Dyewood ..	tons	23,704	58,007	6,314	15,745
Dyewood Extracts	cwt.	23,620	77,362	15,690	50,677
Ginger	cwt.	26,650	70,002	26,166	50,939
Goatskins	No.	183,042	22,109	172,922	12,754
Grapefruits	pkgs.	124,965	42,313	136,949	38,441
Hides ..	No.	24,807	17,627	12,450	5,107
Honey	galls.	144,429	22,835	133,299	18,049
Lime Juice, raw	galls.	15,672	1,230	19,871	1,473
Limes ..	pkgs.	15,378	8,715	16,889	5,609
Oranges ..	boxes	238,955	77,025	327,082	96,952
Orange Oil	lbs.	47,056	11,400	42,653	10,171
Pimento ..	cwt.	51,996	147,181	77,472	207,070
Pine Apples	dozs.	120	44	125	26
Rum ..	galls.	903,812	266,051	899,821	247,892
Specie—Silver	£	..	23,858	..	1,976
Do. Gold	£ ..	..	3,096	..	..
Sugar ..	tons	95,776	864,579	105,034	859,500
Tobacco, Cigars	lbs. ..	37,904	20,918	32,272	17,028
Wood, Bitterwood	tons	2,581	4,573	877	1,571
			4,739,492	..	4,833,322

Organization of Production.

Bananas.

93. Apart from freedom from hurricanes or serious wind disturbances the main factors on which the prosperity of the banana industry of the Colony depend are:—

(1) Continuance of regulated marketing.

(2) Adequate Disease Control.

The marketing of bananas is controlled by three companies in Jamaica—The United Fruit Co., The Standard Fruit Co., and the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association. Formerly the three companies, the last named of which was a co-operative organization, were engaged in active and damaging competition one with the other. As a result of this competition the co-operative organization, which had but barely got under way was subjected to much adverse criticism, and infidelity on the part of contractors who could not be restrained from selling contracted fruit to another company which was offering a more satisfactory price. Late in 1935 it was found desirable to appoint a commission to investigate the situation. The Commission arrived in Jamaica in January, 1936 and after an intensive and comprehensive survey of the situation submitted their report in May of that year.

94. The suggestions and recommendations embodied in this valuable report were speedily put into operation by the enaction of legislation in 1936, and a ten-year agreement was entered into by the three companies, as a result of which payments based on the actual realised prices are made to growers. The result has been most satisfactory. Fair market prices are now assured to growers at all periods of the year and inter-company competition with its attendant waste has been eliminated.

95. Panama Disease remains the most serious menace to the Banana Industry. Its spread maintains steady progress and necessitates a retreating policy which has so far resulted in no decrease of acreage under bananas but in the utilization of lands less suitable for this crop.

96. Since 1936, Cercospora Leaf Spot of Bananas has accentuated the hazards of banana growing in this Colony, exhibiting periodic outbreaks of severe intensity from time to time and occasioning considerable anxiety on the part of planters. It has been demonstrated that efficient control of this disease can be economically attained on level, high producing areas by spraying with copper fungicides. On steep hillsides, where the topography of the land and the frequent scarcity of water make spraying difficult and expensive, the problem is by no means one of easy solution and is now the subject of close enquiry by the interests concerned.

97. From certain preliminary investigations made by the Agricultural Chemist it appears that the nutrient status of soils is not without some influence on the intensity of infection by Cercospora.

Research.

98. Efforts to produce a commercial variety of banana immune to Panama Disease have been unremittingly continued by the Botanical Division of the Department of Agriculture. On the advice of the Colonial Advisory Council of Agricultural and Animal Health steps have recently been taken to speed up the work of banana breeding in Jamaica, by providing extended facilities for the operation of the Botanist, and the introduction of new wild varieties from the East. It is an encouraging fact that seedling varieties immune to Panama Disease also exhibit a high degree of resistance to Cercospora Leaf Spot

and though the primary object of the investigation is the production of a variety immune to Panama Disease, it is probable that the production of such a variety will simultaneously solve the two important Banana Disease problems.

Sugar:

99. The sugar industry has always held an important place in the Colony's agricultural programme. Recent years have seen a rapid expansion in production due partly to increased acreage as lands become useless for Banana growing, owing to the presence of Panama Disease, but largely also to greater efficiency in field and factory practice. Centralisation, the adoption of chemical control in the factories, the growing of high yielding disease-resistant varieties of cane, the increased use of mechanically propelled implements for tillage and the institution of a factory statistical service all have played their part in the expansion of production.

100. Perhaps the greatest value of the sugar industry of Jamaica as to other countries, lies in its capacity to employ labour. Consumers of sugar within the colony, therefore, contribute largely to the industry, paying a higher price for sugar in the Colony than is paid in England. This local price is controlled by Law, and all sugar liberated on the local market is sold through the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of which all factory owners are members.

101. Considerable expansion of production is still possible, and in view of the great importance of the industry to the Island it was not without misgiving that the Colony became aware of the proposal for international control of sugar produced in 1937.

102. To give effect to the International Sugar Agreement and to facilitate its smooth and equitable operation, Law 43 of 1937 was passed on 29.12.37. The Export quota alloted to Jamaica under this Law was 86,000 tons, but it was found possible to increase this subsequently to 102,600 tons. The Export quota for 1938-39 crop is fixed at 82,400 tons.

103. Since 1933 there has been a steady increase in the percentage of the total cane crop represented by small cane farmers. During the 1937-38 crop there were 5,698 cane farmers registered in accordance with Law 43 of 1937. The proportion of the total cane crop supplied by them was estimated at 25%.

104. The 1937-38 sugar crop constituted a record for the century. Yields of cane per acre were lower than the previous year, but this was largely offset by an increase of the sugar content of the canes. Factory returns indicate an improvement in efficiency of extraction, tons of cane per ton of sugar, averaging 9.92 for the crop as against 10.27 for the 1936-37 crop.

105. In many districts of the Island, small proprietors conduct a remunerative trade in the production of wet sugar for local consumption. The price of this article is largely regulated by the price for Vacuum Pan Sugar and though no statistics of areas cultivated in cane for this purpose are available, however, they must total an appreciable acreage.

Rum:

106. Since the formation of a Rum Pool the Rum industry has found itself on a firmer footing, and sales have maintained a steady increase. From 385,872 gallons, valued at £48,273 in 1933, exports reached a total of 903,812 gallons, valued at £266,051 in 1937. In 1938, 899,821 gallons were exported, valued at £247,892.

Citrus:

107. The introduction of the Citrus Development Scheme in 1933 has provided much stimulus to the development of the citrus industry in the Island. It is now evident that the markets abroad have little need for the unstandardised miscellaneous types of citrus formerly marketed in large quantities and no effort is being spared to encourage and facilitate the replacement of the former semi-wild product with regulated orchards of standardised varieties of citrus.

108. Marked improvement has also taken place in recent years in the handling and marketing of citrus products and gratifying reports have been received from New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom on the quality of the fruit and the excellence of the pack.

109. An encouraging feature of the citrus industry has been the recent growth of a good local demand for citrus, especially oranges.

110. The Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture has succeeded in expanding considerably the trade in limes. Exports have increased considerably and fresh limes unsuitable for shipment for various reasons are utilised for the production of lime oil.

Coconuts:

111. The present position of the coconut industry is largely due to the encouragement of the co-operative system of marketing by the formation of the Jamaica Coconut Producers' Association Ltd., and subsequently the establishment of factories locally for the manufacture of edible oil, soap and stock feed.

112. The importation of edible oils has now been reduced to negligible proportions and the local market itself has reached a point of saturation.

113. Fortunately a profitable outlet for selected whole nuts exists in the United States and to a larger extent in Canada, and during 1938 thirty-three million nuts valued at £84,155 were disposed of in this way.

114. Poor grade nuts are usually converted into copra for local use or for export. Owing to the present saturation of the local market for edible oils, it is inevitable but that the exportation of copra, which has been considerably curtailed (in 1938, 1,666,151 lbs. copra were exported as against 6-10 million lbs. annually during the years 1926-31), will undoubtedly be once more renewed on a large scale.

115. Other avenues of disposal of the Colony's coconut crop are represented by the trade in "Water Coconuts" or raw coconuts for drinking purposes, and the activities of the village oil-boilers who it is estimated are responsible for the annual disposal of approximately 20 million nuts.

Coffee:

116. This crop represents the chief permanent crop of the small settlers of the Colony. There are two main grades of coffee produced:—

(a) The Blue Mountain Coffee, a high priced product which can be grown only in a very limited area in the Colony. Production of this type approximates about 2,500 barrels per year. It is estimated that about two-thirds of this crop is produced by small settlers who sell their crop in the cherry form to well-equipped factories.

(b) Lowland Coffee, production of which is almost entirely confined at present to the small settlers. Some of this crop is sold to large factories in the cherry form but the majority is cured by the

small settlers themselves, the finished product exhibiting considerable variations according to the methods used for preparation, the manner in which these are conducted and the particular districts in which the crop is grown.

117. The industry is at present passing through a period of depression owing to the low prices offered for our coffee which is mostly used for blending purposes.

118. Methods of cultivation are, generally speaking, in great need of improvement, especially in regards to the adoption of anti-erosion measures. The bulk of the crop is grown on steep hillsides under conditions which lend themselves to excessive loss of soil and it cannot be denied that if the settlers could be prevailed upon to adopt suitable measures the yield and quality of crops would be much improved. Present prices are, however, most discouraging.

Pimento:

119. The prosperity of farmers in the parishes of St. Ann and Manchester was at one time almost solely dependent upon the current prices for coffee and pimento. In 1934 a Rust disease became virulent on pimento and was the cause of considerable anxiety and concern. From over 12 million lbs. in 1934 our export trade fell rapidly to under 6 million in 1936. Fortunately the widespread infection that was characteristic of 1934 and 1935 has retreated and gradually but definitely the disease has confined its most virulent attacks to the crops grown in the higher altitudes. Jamaica constitutes at present the sole source of this "All-Spice" of commerce and though the volume of production has been largely curtailed by the disease and individuals have been hard hit, the total value of the export trade in this commodity has very definitely increased.

Tobacco:

120. Tobacco has long been an important minor crop in Jamaica. Owing to improper or imperfect methods of curing, however, the product was very crude and very little of the Island's production found its way into the export market but was almost completely disposed of locally for pipe use in the form of "Donkey-rope." Under the Agricultural Development Scheme a Tobacco Specialist was appointed in 1936 and organized production and marketing of Cigar Leaf Tobacco was soon under way. Financial, advisory and practical assistance to growers by the Tobacco Specialist and his Staff has been a prominent feature of the Scheme. A tobacco conditioning, grading and packing Station was erected in early 1937 and was doubled in size in preparation for the 1937-38 crop. Legislation was introduced further to protect the Industry by insisting that all tobacco for export should be passed through the Station and be subjected to examination by the Tobacco Specialist. The following figures indicate the rapid expansion that has taken place in the marketing:—

In 1937 a total of 61,913 lbs. gross weight tobacco from the 1936-37 crop was delivered to the Station. In 1938 a total of 164,704 lbs. gross weight tobacco from the 1937-38 crop was delivered to the Station.

It is estimated that the 1938-39 crop will approximate 300,000 lbs. which is the present limit of the English market.

121. Attempts are being made to develop a trade in Virginia Tobacco and Jamaica grown samples of this product were exhibited in England during the year, where they received favourable comment. Prospects for the development of this trade seem definitely promising.

Minor Fruits and Vegetables.

122. Practical effect was given to the recommendation of the Fruit and Vegetables Conference held in Jamaica 1933 by the establishment early in 1935 of the Low Temperature and Marketing Station for investigating the possibilities of developing an export trade in minor fruit and vegetables. It soon became apparent that the importance of this division of the Department and magnitude of the responsibilities it would have to undertake necessitated considerable expansion and a Marketing Officer has since been appointed with a large and efficient staff and the necessary accommodation.

123. The marketing Division by its activities in the field and by its arrangements for the satisfactory disposal of various products for export has rendered valuable assistance to growers, and considerable shipments of Bombay Mangoes, Limes, Egg-plants, Peppers, Potatoes and other tropical fruit and vegetables have been made through this Station.

Minor Crops:

124. The activities of this Division have recently been expanded to include the regulating the marketing within the Island of minor crops such as corn, potatoes and peas. Growers of these commodities have in the past suffered the disability of being forced to sell their products locally at a time when the market is in a state of temporary glut and prices accordingly low, no organization being available to take off the surplus crop and store it, spreading distribution over a larger period. The activities of the Marketing Division along these lines should prove of great value to growers and at the same time encourage increased consumption of native products. Indeed a market extension in the growing of these food crops was a note-worthy feature of agricultural activities during the latter part of the year.

Nutrition:

125. During the year the Fertilizer Investigation Scheme financed with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund has been inaugurated under the Department of Agricuture. Work is now in progress in four main centres. The main line of investigation has been directed towards the introduction of new varieties of legumes, rice, maize and other food crops, and improved methods of cultivation, in the hope that the cost of production of these commodities by the small settler may be reduced. Special attention is deing directed towards the production on an extended scale of leguminous crops so that the local dietary may be improved by a more general consumption of non-imported high protein foods.

126. Other countries have co-operated whole-heartedly in supplying to Jamaica a large number of varieties of pulse, rice and maize, and the yields, food value and field behaviour of these imported varieties are being closely watched for comparison with those of varieties now popular locally.

Livestock Industry:

127. There are large areas in Jamaica which are peculiarly suited to the rearing of livestock. The local market for livestock products is at present only partially explored, and there is little doubt but that considerable expansion is possible in this industry once existing obstacles are overcome. The main obstacle to development has so far

been a lack of adequate facilities for the organized marketing and distribution of livestock products and commercial utilisation of by-products. As a result, year after year has seen a rapid increase in the importation of butter, skimmed-milk and meats, while the pen-keepers of the colony remain in a state of severe financial stringency. Work is due to commence shortly on the erection of a modern slaughter-house in Kingston with a suitable by products plant and possibly a small cannery attached. This step should assist materially in overcoming the chief obstacles to development of the meat industry. The recently concluded agreement with the Nestlé's Anglo-Swiss Milk Products Ltd. under which this Company undertakes to erect and operate a suitable Condensed Milk Factory, should prove of great value to the Livestock Industry in general and to the Dairy Industry in particular.

128. The Colony's export trade in livestock products is confined to the export of goatskins and hides of cattle. Owing to depressed prices for these commodities on the United States and United Kingdom markets the value of this trade declined considerably during the year.

129. At the Hope Stock Farm the demand for breeding stock, especially bull calves, was especially good during the year and a healthy and encouraging interest has been exhibited by pen-keepers generally in improving their herds. Work on the development of a breed of dairy cattle suitable for the Colony has progressed definitely, and animals of the Montgomery-Jersey cross are becoming standardised in type.

130. Particular attention is being devoted by the Department of Agriculture to the study of the most economical rations for various types of livestock with special reference to the possible extended use of locally produced concentrated feeds and the relative values of various fodder grasses.

Forestry:

131. The Forest Law of 1937 making provision for the protection and management of forests has enabled considerable progress to be made in the general organization of the forestry work under the control of the Forest Officer. Rules governing the removal of timber and the registration of timber property marks were drawn up and passed into Law in October, 1938.

132. Eighteen blocks of Crown Lands, totalling 2,412 acres were purchased for Forest Reservation in badly eroded areas of the Blue Mountain and Bull Head Mountain regions. Three of these properties were acquired on behalf of the Water Commission. A further 700 acres of land in the Hope catchment was leased from the War Department and all Water Commission holdings in the catchment areas were taken over for forest management.

Afforestation:

133. Approximately 80 acres of denuded land in the Kingston Water Supply catchments was re-afforested, mainly with local hardwoods and part of the areas planted in 1937 were replanted, where mortality due to unfavourable weather conditions was high. Small areas on the Liguanea Ridge and in the Highgate Water Supply catchment were also afforested.

Timber Licenses:

134. Comprehensive Crown Lands Forest Produce Rules were approved and printed and Forest Guards were put in charge of timber cutting. Royalties increased from under £200 to over £600, and the

market value of timber cut was approximately £6,000. Particular attention was paid to the prevention of overcutting and of the cutting of immature timber.

Production:

135. There is a very considerable local utilisation of hardwoods, particularly in country districts, probably amounting to not less than £100,000 per annum in value. The principal species used include Cedar (Cedrela odorata), Mahoe (Hibiscus elatus), Bulletwood (Dipholis nigar), and Santa Maria (Calophyllum jacquinii) amongst others. Exports of "fancy timbers" approximate £2,000 to £3,000 per annum and exports of dyewoods, tans, etc. average £130,000 per year (of which logwood and extracts account for approximately £122,000). Practically all the timber exported come from private lands.

Organization of Production:

136. The supply of timber for local consumption is in the hands of independent small contractors who employ sawyers, etc. Conversion and extraction are done by hand.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

137. The total trade of the Colony, £11,517,961, has only been exceeded in 1929, when it was £11,696,186. The year does not show any marked difference over the previous year.

138. The value of imports was £6,485,221, an increase of £346,842 over the previous year. Special importations of sugar machinery of a value of £234,000 largely accounts for this. Rice was an article which showed a marked increase, and flour was also at a high level, the two together accounting for 10.3% in value of the total imports.

139. As regards imports, trade with the Empire declined—the percentage of Empire origin being only 65.6%. The percentage from the United States of America increased to 21.6%. The chief increases in United States of America trade were cotton-piece goods, flour, implements and tools and machinery. Owing to the temporary removal of the Empire preference, petrol and fuel oil were imported from the Dutch West Indies, which accounts for the decrease in trade with Trinidad.

140. The value of exports was £5,032,740, the highest on record. While shipments of bananas were slightly below that of last year, the price was good and this commodity accounted for 59.4% of the total value of exports. Sugar at a low price accounted for 17.5%, Rum 5%, and Pimento 4.2%. Although Coffee exports were considerable, the low price accounted for a value of only £132,907 or 2.7%.

141. As regards exports, trade with the Empire increased, the percentage being 87.1. Exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 59.36% (bananas accounting for 49%), while Canada took 26.67%, the chief item being sugar.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports (C.I.F.)	4,777,069	5,009,906	5,073,815	6,138,379	6,485,221
Value of Exports and re-Exports (F.O.B.)	3,219,072	3,838,933	3,821,281	4,994,281	5,032,740

IMPORTS.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
British Empire ..	69.1	71.6	73.0	67.4	65.6
Other Countries	30.9	28.4	27.0	32.6	34.4

PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	39.2	40.3	38.1	33.7	33.5
Canada ..	15.9	16.3	16.3	14.9	16.1
Trinidad ..	6.2	5.4	5.5	4.8	4.0
India	2.3	3.4	4.1	3.8	.9
Burma ..	..	..	..	..	2.9
United States of America	18.3	18.1	16.9	18.1	21.6
Germany ..	1.7	2.0	2.7	3.5	2.9
D. W. I. ..	.4	.8	1.0	2.7	2.5

EXPORTS.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
British Empire ..	85.93	85.58	85.70	81.70	87.11
Other Countries ..	14.07	14.42	14.30	18.30	12.89

PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	55.01	56.30	54.30	55.77	59.36
Canada ..	29.59	28.00	29.70	24.74	26.67
United States of America	9.21	8.91	7.19	4.81	3.67
Holland ..	.39	2.43	2.18	7.81	2.80
Germany ..	1.13	.76	2.78	2.80	4.21
France ..	2.06	1.40	1.35	1.83	1.10

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Canada.		Australia.		Bahamas.		British Guiana.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	196,190	2,327	2,280,145	27,105	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	36,365	34,530	211,335	243,641	111,791	110,589	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	269,469	1,264	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,629,[illegible]43	14,102
	Milk ..	lbs.	2,744,842	39,008	1,476,178	24,284	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons	25,508	38,133	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	354,338	4,259	..	..	1,854,651	18,429	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	40,632	.	23,150	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	43,852	108,204	11,903	49,359	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	18,709,808	325,408	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hardware ..	value	..	96,193	..	18,093	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	402	56,756	810	122,166	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	36,012	..	15,089	..	..	..	..	..	..

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Hong Kong.		India.		Newfoundland.		Trinidad.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£	£	£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	14,638	1,046	..	..	12,804,364	157,788	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	36,108,936	155,398	..	..	..	..
	Milk ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	87,281	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	dos. prs.	97,667	61,151	22,870	12,934	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	174,675	3,394	1,070,782	13,234	..	..	..	..
	Hardware ..	value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,506,741	105,964
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	126,326	133,782
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	17,797	..	..	..	..	..	.

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	U. S. A.		D. W. I.		Germany.		Holland.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	17,089	942	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	7,600	9,618	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Milk ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,271,371	49,882
CLASS II.	Coal ...	tons	83,160	94,569	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	2,388,250	121,427	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	5,663	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	4,237,022	55,145	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hardware ..	value	..	48,006	..	..	..	26,287	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	400	63,929	..	..	51	8,266	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	151,624	5,106	1,833,269	34,065	...	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	137	456	70,031	126,389	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	17,336	..	..	..	7,693	..	..

IMPORTS, 1937.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Japan.		Other Countries.		Total.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£		£		
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs. ..	..	..	2,040	156	15,314,466	189,364
	Grains—Flour ..	bags ..	..	..	..	..	367,091	398,379
	Rice ..	lbs. ..	..	..	44,206	259	40,052,304	171,023
	Milk ..	lbs. ..	..	..	491,879	6,084	8,984,270	119,258
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons ..	..	..	4,000	4,000	112,668	136,702
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine White Pine	feet ..	..	..	8,393	93	14,605,632	144,268
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value ..	..	5,183	..	6,250	..	167,159
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs. ..	..	..	2,054	3,670	178,346	235,318
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds. ..	..	..	675,912	18,731	24,868,199	415,912
	Hardware ..	value ..	..	5,889	..	7,707	..	202,175
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No. ..	..	..	..	..	1,663	251,117
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls. ..	..	..	144	26	7,491,778	145,161
	Fuel Oils ..	tons ..	..	..	..	..	196,404	260,627
	Silk Manufactures ..	value ..	..	73,267	..	47,484	..	164,678

IMPORTS, 1938.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Canada.		Australia.		Bahamas.		British Guiana	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted)	lbs.	5,096	109	2,395,871	25,903	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour	bags	41,173	38,761	288,750	262,726	112,422	111,011	..	..	..	..
	Rice	lbs.	3,074	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	966,285	4,258
	Milk	lbs.	1,087,938	17,917	1,934,968	33,114	..	..	24	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal	tons	72,973	83,880	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	2,929,078	28,089	..	..	987,515	9,487	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel	value	..	33,853	..	24,544	..	..	..	101	..	..
	Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	30,089	105,548	12,433	48,949	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods	yds.	12,526,305	218,961	5,496	206	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hardware	value	..	74,218	..	16,791	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	309	48,646	734	123,633	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit	galls.	124	23	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures	value	..	37,160	..	13,708	..	..	..	..	..	..

IMPORTS, 1938.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Burma.		Hong Kong.		India.		Newfoundland.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F
				£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	..	..	8,564	784	..	..	15,799,887	184,173
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rice ..	lbs.	39,917,588	185,277	340	3	541,812	2,432	..	..
	Milk ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	..	..	42,972	..	34	..	..
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	40,762	29,679	18,777	11,455	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	..	..	71,600	1,204	564,640	6,505	..	..
	Hardware ..	value	..	..	..	31	..	..	..	..
	Motor Cars and Trucks*	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	..	..	5,222	..	..	..	..

IMPORTS, 1938.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Trinidad.		U. S. A.		D. W. I.		Germany.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	..	..	27,914	1,076	..	..	..	..
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	31,286	39,458	..	..	..	
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	2,330	9	..	..	..	..
	Milk ..	lbs.	..	..	138	1	..	..	..	..
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons	..	..	70,024	76,331	..	..	..	..
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	12,146,545	112,611	..	..	..	..
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	..	..	7,189	..	..	..	60
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	154	300	..	..	..	..
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	..	..	12,117,470	146,100	..	..	50,281	1,741
	Hardware ..	value	..	..	..	48,974	..	..	..	22,693
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	..	..	322	54,995	..	..	67	9,742
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	4,705,021	86,013	135,768	5,374	3,277,373	54,218	..	..
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	89,451	121,846	76	256	69,554	102,221	..	..
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	..	..	15,059	..	..	..	4,385

IMPORTS, 1938.

	Principal Articles.	Unit of Quantity.	Holland.		Japan.		Other Countries.		Total.	
			Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value, C.I.F.	Quantity.	Value. C.I.F.
				£		£		£		£
CLASS I.	Fish (Dried Salted) ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	1,389	135	18,238,721	212,180
	Grains—Flour ..	bags	..	..	..	..	..	1	413,631	451,957
	Rice ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	679,447	3,187	42,110,876	195,198
	Milk ..	lbs.	6,471,870	87,107	..	..	404,801	5,752	9,809,750	143,891
CLASS II.	Coal ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	142,997	160,211
	Wood—Douglas Fir, Pitch Pine, White Pine	feet	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,063,188	150,187
CLASS III.	Apparel ..	value	..	..	..	3,211	..	2,935	..	114,899
	Boots and Shoes ..	doz. prs.	..	..	..	..	2,578	6,011	113,793	201,942
	Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	41,076	1,804	1,087	70	468,725	11,199	25,846,680	387,790
	Hardware ..	value	..	193	..	3,324	..	5,536	..	172,760
	Motor Cars and Trucks	No.	..	..	..	..	4	336	1,436	237,352
	Oils—Motor Spirit ..	galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,118,350	145,632
	Fuel Oils ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	159,081	224,323
	Silk Manufactures ..	value	..	12	..	18,157	..	47,639	..	141,342

Exports, 1937.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Australia.		Canada.		Bahamas.		Bermuda.		New Zealand.		U. S. A.	
		Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	20,085,548	1,968,927	..	..	2,619,541	288,457	..	..	..	..	..	..	63,574	6,264
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	31,900	580	..	..	4,394,080	74,476	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coconuts ..	No.	2,521,100	7,164	..	..	10,331,350	27,168	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,146,550	60,667
Coffee ..	lbs.	271,642	8,038	..	..	7,216,879	136,166	34,645	733	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grapefruits ..	No.	9,901,470	33,361	..	..	2,291,300	6,837	..	..	211,170	776	440,000	1,320	..	..
Oranges ..	boxes	77,490	25,615	..	..	124,220	37,527	..	..	8,230	3,201	28,832	10,580	..	..
Rum ..	galls.	587,915	123,994	..	..	38,326	16,646	47,913	11,124	..	..	..	..	59,369	57,306
Sugar ..	tons	32,896	301,787	..	..	62,845	562,378	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	534,822	13,454	175,074	4,550	226,236	5,339	..	..	..	..	..	..	599,985	14,877
Ginger ..	"	1,448,113	34,130	146,455	4,074	296,600	6,825	..	..	..	..	..	..	938,422	21,243
Tobacco, Cigars	"	8,415	7,787	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,635	1,689	..	..	..	..
Logwood ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,361	10,161
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	22,173	72,081	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	434	1,595

Exports, 1937.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	France.		Germany.		Holland.		Panama.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£	£	£
Bananas ..	stems	..	..	417,363	33,107	3,769,463	360,128	..	..	..	..	26,955,489	2,656,883
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	..	..	44,335	437	..	..	..	..	93,575	1,608	4,563,890	77,101
Coconuts ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53,640	234	34,052,640	95,233
Coffee ..	lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51,849	1,082	7,575,015	146,019
Grapefruits ..	No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,200	19	12,847,140	42,313
Oranges ..	boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183	102	238,955	77,025
Rum ..	galls.	..	..	153,721	49,195	..	..			16,568	7,786	903,812	266,051
Sugar ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	414	95,776	864,579
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	1,710,262	42,293	1,533,378	40,443	390,270	10,044	..	..	653,562	16,181	5,823,589	147,181
Ginger ..	"	..	..	92,283	2,194	..	..	..	..	62,899	1,536	2,984,772	70,002
Tobacco, Cigars	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,348	5,692	8,506	5,750	37,904	20,918
Logwood ..	tons	15,981	40,287	1,687	3,270	..	..	..	..	30	65	22,059	53,783
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013	3,686	23,620	77,362

Exports. 1938.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	United Kingdom.		Australia.		Canada.		Bahamas.		Bermuda.		New Zealand.		U. S. A.	
		Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	19,878,308	2,409,705	..	..	2,316,056	320,855	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	98,750	790	..	..	4,858,549	42,945	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coconuts ..	No.	3,192,854	8,291	..	..	11,529,650	26,663	1,100	4	1,810	7	..	..	18,601,095	48,963
Coffee ..	lbs.	279,492	7,609	15,120	408	9,075,762	123,213	24,140	484	..	..	10,408	263	16,575	297
Grapefruits ..	No.	12,262,520	34,460	..	..	840,050	2,272	120	1	160,670	565	530,250	1,065	..	..
Oranges ..	boxes	232,579	70,129	..	..	38,172	11,075	..	..	9,104	3,013	46,580	12,556	10	5
Rum ..	galls.	615,827	126,482	276	192	31,834	14,524	39,500	9,365	1,410	894	950	530	44,777	47,523
Sugar ..	tons	13,528	108,814	..	..	91,467	750,282	29	302	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	713,851	16,517	97,856	2,416	196,494	4,675	..	..	..	..	25,544	632	869,504	20,343
Ginger ..	"	1,574,972	27,030	165,552	3,413	274,613	5,154	25	..	..	..	1,122	24	859,000	14,338
Tobacco, Cigars	"	5,597	5,239	..	..	1,169	1,006	730	334	3,805	1,690	200	195	225	168
Logwood ..	tons	61	123	..	..	..	..					..	..	735	1,984
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	14,526	46,619	60	231	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	22	343	1,100

EXPORTS, 1938.

Principal Items.	Unit of Quantity.	France.		Germany.		Holland.		Panama.		Other Countries.		Total.	
		Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)	Quantity.	Value, (F.O.B.)
			£		£		£		£		£		£
Bananas ..	stems	..	..	595,912	63,964	1,021,061	122,432	..	..	..	..	23,811,337	2,916,956
Cocoa (Raw) ..	lbs.	22,120	200	122,725	1,140	..	..	..	..	180,340	1,945	5,282,484	47,020
Coconuts ..	No.	..	..	10,000	32	71,500	167	..	..	7,370	28	33,415,379	84,155
Coffee ..	lbs.	..	..	9,940	199	..	..	..	..	31,019	434	9,462,456	132,907
Grapefruits ..	No.	..	..	..	..	19,900	50	..	..	10,100	28	13,823,610	38,441
Oranges ..	boxes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	637	174	327,082	96,952
Rum ..	galls.	2,629	734	144,984	41,328	..	..	703	657	16,931	5,663	899,821	247,892
Sugar ..	tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	102	105,034	859,500
Spices, Pimento	lbs.	1,708,801	39,165	671,851	89,840	484,935	11,976	..	..	907,965	21,506	8,676,801	207,070
Ginger ..	"	..	..	44,635	765	..	..	..	..	10,654	215	2,930,573	50,939
Tobacco, Cigars	"	..	..	..	..	57	56	15,537	5,149	4,952	3,191	32,272	17,028
Logwood ..	tons	4,962	12,132	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,758	14,239
Logwood Extracts	cwt.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	755	2,705	15,690	50,677

Imports.

	1934. Value. £	1935. Value. £	1936. Value. £	1937. Value. £	1938. Value. £
Coins—Gold ..	..	..	..	..	3,540
Silver ..	11,270	670	1,516	3,639	51,314
Nickel ..	550	39	..	..	7,500
Bank Notes ..		Not available.			

Exports.

	1934. Value. £	1935. Value. £	1936. Value £	1937. Value. £	1938. Value. £
Coins—Gold ..	24,416	2,486	4,970	3,096	..
Silver ..	3,311	13,774	7,154	23,858	1,976
Nickel ..	70	100	136	..	400
Bank Notes	Not available.	3,092	2,842	5,920	5,942

Tourist Trade.

142. For the calendar year 1938, the numbers of tourist arrivals were as follows:—

Year.		Cruise Tourists.	Stay-overs.	Total.
1938	...	52,782	9,908	62,690

143. It is estimated that for the year, the value of the tourist traffic to the Colony was in excess of £400,000 which, through the usual business channels, was circulated to the benefit of all classes and Government revenues.

144. Jamaica has been steadily increasing in popularity as a winter resort whilst the summer tourist traffic has also increased considerably in recent years. Tourist visitors are mostly drawn from the U.S.A., Great Britain and Canada, in which countries the island is advertised every year through the medium of newspapers and magazines, the distribution of descriptive literature and in a number of other ways. The advertising and publicity activities of the Tourist Trade Development Board, which was formed in the year 1922, have increased in scope—more particularly since legislation in 1935 provided for the collection of Passenger Duty from visitors, which has enabled more money to be expended and the whole cost of the Board's operations to be met out of the collections under such Law.

145. The Board conducts a Tourist Bureau in the capital, Kingston, where visitors are invited to call for free literature, information and advice. The Bureau and office of the Board are housed in a fine building, erected for the purpose in 1936 and situated in Harbour Street —one of the main thoroughfares. The Tourist Board are represented in London by the West India Committee; in Montreal by the Canadian-West Indian League; and in New York they have an office at 230 Park Avenue.

The Government's Road Improvement Programme combined with increased hotel accommodation and amenities for visitors, etc., have all contributed to make increasingly popular the tourist resort of the Island which, in addition to Kingston, include the seaside resorts of Montego Bay, Port Antonio, and smaller coastal towns, as well as the hill resorts such as Mandeville and Moneague and many smaller places situated in the Blue Mountains and other ranges, and the Thermal Mineral Springs at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon, and at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas.

146. The encouragement afforded by measures introduced by the Government in the past two or three years—namely, to offer free grants to hotel proprietors who construct new hotels or increase accommodation at existing hotels, and duty free importation of building materials, etc., for such, has resulted in the construction of new hotels and the extension of others.

147. Whilst Jamaica is served by a number of lines which carry passengers and cargo, on regular schedules and by large passenger liners which make short calls in the course of cruises (particularly in the winter season) to the West Indies, there is a distinct need for faster services with greater passenger capacity between northern countries and Jamaica. During the winter season, January-April, 1938, an additional passenger ship service was secured as a result of an Agreement entered into between the Government and the Clarke Steamship Co., Ltd., to

provide for a weekly service between Miami and Jamaica. Provision for an additional air service between the Colony and the U.S.A. was also secured under an Agreement entered into by the Government with the Pan American Airways.

CHAPTER VIII.

LABOUR.

148. In Jamaica, Labour is principally engaged in Agriculture, and in manufacturing and preparing for market, the products of Agriculture. There are only a few small factories manufacturing articles for local consumption, such as Ice, Mineral Water, Beer, Cigars, Cigarettes, Matches, Biscuits, Soap, Edible Oil from Coconuts, etc.

149. For some time there has been unrest among the working classes in Jamaica, due to the problem of unemployment. The population has been steadily increasing, and the outlet, which existed in past years, by emigration to neighbouring countries has ceased. In addition to this, there has been a steady return to the Island of persons who had previously taken up residence abroad. Consequently there is not enough work to go round, and many able-bodied persons are partially or totally unemployed.

150. In March, 1938, the Government appointed a Commission to enquire into and report upon the rates of wages and conditions of employment of field and day labour. Before this Commission could report, serious labour disturbances and strikes occurred. The Commission was, therefore, replaced by a Conciliation Board which did valuable work in settling strikes, etc. The Board also recommended the establishment of a Labour Department.

151. In September, 1938, the Government opened an Unemployment Registration Bureau in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew to ascertain the number of unemployed, and subsequently extended its activities to other parishes in the Island. In the meantime remedial measures were undertaken. The road programme of the Public Works Department and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation were increased and accelerated. A separate Department was set up to undertake an extensive Land Settlement Scheme to establish small settlers on land; the scheme includes provision for housing and assistance for the provision of tools, seeds, etc. It is proposed in the coming year to establish a Labour Department with a Statistical Bureau.

The International Convention concerning the creation of minimum wage fixing machinery was made applicable to Jamaica by the passing of a Law entitled "The Minimum Wage Law 1938." Under this law the Governor is empowered to fix minimum rates of wages for any occupation in the Island in any case in which he is satisfied that the wages paid are unreasonably low.

The following additional legislation with regard to labour was enacted:—

Law 35 of 1938, a Law to amend the Trade Union Law 1919, (Law 37 of 1919). This law provides, *inter alia*, for the compulsory registration of a Trade Union, peaceful picketing and prevention of intimidation.

Law 36 of 1938, A Law to amend the Shop Assistants Law 1937, (Law 38 of 1937). The Law prohibits the proprietor of a shop from employing a Shop Assistant on Sundays, and imposes certain restrictions as to employment on Public Holidays. It also prohibits a shop from remaining open after 10.00 p.m. on the day immediately preceding

Christmas Day. Under the Law which it amends, a shop was permitted to remain open until midnight on the day in question.

CHAPTER IX.

Wages and Cost of Living.

152. The following comparative statements are attached, showing the prices of foodstuffs and clothing in 1913-14 as the base (100), with the prices and Index figures for July 1937, and July 1938.

1. Local foodstuffs.
2. Imported foodstuffs
3. Clothing, etc.
4. Miscellaneous articles
5. Summary of Statements 1—4
6. Index Figures for July 1928 to July 1938 inclusive. and graphs Nos. 1 and 2.

Local Foodstuffs.

153. There is an increase of 6·2 units in the Index Figure for this class of commodity over the figure for July 1937. This is due mainly to a rise in the prices of yams, sweet potatoes and cocoes. The usual heaviest season for these, particularly yams, commences in about July, but poor rainfall this year resulted in late harvesting of these crops. This forced up the prices in 1938 over those for the corresponding period in 1937, when these foodstuffs came in earlier and fetched lower prices. Slight decreases are noticeable in the prices of peas and beans, Irish potatoes and coffee beans.

Imported Foodstuffs.

154. This statement shows a fall of 3·6 units as compared with the previous year. Reduced prices in 1938 for all the fishstuffs, viz.: codfish, mackerel, salmon (pickled and canned) and alewives contributed largely to this. It has been learnt from many good sources that the chief reason for the drop in the price of fish is that the imports by Spain, where a large quantity of Newfoundland and Canadian codfish usually found a good market, has considerably dwindled. This has had the effect of turning most of her codfish trade into other markets. Another reason is that unprecedented large catches of mackerel, salmon and alewives have kept their prices down. Thus the price of fish generally has been lowered. Prices were also less in 1938 for Irish potatoes and condensed milk. There was, however, an advance in the price of butter (most of which is imported from New Zealand) over July 1937, which has now put it on a level with the price of our native product.

Clothing, etc.

155. There is a decrease of 7.9 units in the Index Figure under this heading, as compared with the figure for July 1937. It will easily be seen that most of the items made of cotton contribute largely to this fall. It is gathered from reliable quarters that there has been in July 1938 a distinct drop in prices for most lines of cotton goods, as compared with prices which obtained in July 1937. Indicated by percentages, prices of cotton from the United Kingdom show a drop of approximately 12½% and from U.S.A. from 15% to 20%. This is due, to a great extent, to general trade depression in America and the entering into the cotton market of a new competitor in Brazil.

Miscellaneous Articles.

156. The fall of 1.6 in this statement, is caused chiefly by a lower price in 1938 for boot polish.

Summary of Statements 1—4.

157. This statement is a summary of the Index Figures for the foregoing ones, condensed to one average Index Figure for July 1938, thereby comprising all the commodities in common use. Compared with the previous year, a decrease of 2.8 is recorded, that is, 134.6 in July 1938 and 137.4 in July 1937.

158. The Index Figures for each of the years July 1923 to July 1928 are listed in this statement, and illustrated by Graph No. 1. Prices (as indicated by Index Figures) steadily fell from 1928 to 1936, then made a marked upward turn in 1937, but again fell slightly in 1938.

159. Graph No. 2 illustrates in more detail the fluctuation of the Index Figures under each class of goods from 1931 to 1938. It is interesting to note that while prices generally in July 1938 for imported clothing and foodstuffs have kept below those for the previous year, prices for local foodstuffs increased.

Table 1.—Comparative Statement of the Prices of Foodstuffs (Local Products) in 1913-14 with Prices and Index Figures for July 1937 and 1938. (1913-14 taken as 100).

Article.	1913-14 Price.	July, 1937.		July, 1938.	
		Price.	Index Figure.	Price.	Index Figure.
Peas & Beans..	4½d. per qt.	7½d.	167	6d.	133
Crackers ..	¾d. per doz.	¾d.	100	¾d.	100
Bread ..	1-3/5d. per 8 ozs.	2d.	125	2d.	125
Milk ..	6d. per qt.	7d.	117	7d.	117
Yams ..	1d. per lb.	1½d.	150	2d.	200
Butter ..	2/- per lb.	1/6	75	1/6	75
Sugar, B.A. ..	2d. per lb.	3d.	150	3d.	150
Pork ..	6d. per lb.	7½d.	125	7½d.	125
Beef ..	6d. per lb.	5½d.	92	6d.	100
Goat's flesh ..	4½d. per lb.	8½d.	189	9d.	200
Mutton ..	9d. per lb.	1/-	133	1/-	133
Fresh fish ..	6d. per lb.	7½d.	125	9d.	150
Coconuts ..	1½d. each	1¼d.	83	1d.	67
Potatoes, Irish	1d. per lb.	3d.	300	2½d.	250
Plantains ..	3d. for 4	1¼d. (each)	167	1½d. (each)	200
Potatoes, Sweet	½ d. per lb.	1d.	200	1½d.	300
Cocoes ..	¾d. per lb.	1d.	133	1¼d.	167
Eggs ..	1/6 per doz.	1/4	89	1/4	89
Coffee, Beans..	6d. per qt.	8¼d.	137	6d.	100
Coffee, ground	1/3 per lb.	1/-	80	1/-	80
	Total ..		2,737		2,861

Index Figure for this class of article 136.8 143

TABLE 2.—Comparative Statement of the Prices of Foodstuffs (Imported Articles) in 1913-14 with Prices and Index Figures for July, 1937 and 1938. (1913-14 taken as 100).

Article.	1913-14 Price.	July, 1937.		July, 1938.	
		Price.	Index Figure.	Price.	Index Figure.
Flour ..	3d. per lb.	3d.	100	3d.	100
Rice ..	2½d. per lb.	2d.	80	2d.	80
Meal ..	1¼d. per lb.	1½d.	120	1½d.	120
Beef, wet salted	9d. per lb.	7d.	78	7d.	78
Pork, wet salted	7½d. per lb.	10d.	133	10d.	133
Cod Fish ..	5d. per lb.	5¼d.	105	5d.	100
Potatoes, Irish ..	1½d per lb.	3d.	200	2½d.	167
Milk, condensed	6d. per tin	5½d.	92	5d.	83
Tea ..	2/6 per lb.	4/-	160	4/-	160
Lard ..	7½d. per lb.	8d.	107	8d.	107
Margarine ..	1/- per lb.	10d.	83	10d.	83
Onions ..	4d. per lb.	3d.	75	3d.	75
Butter ..	1/9 per lb.	1/4	76	1/6	86
Quaker Oats ..	5½d per pk.	7d.	117	9d.	164
Herring ..	2d. per lb.	3d.	150	3d.	150
Shad ..	2d. per lb.	3½d.	175	3d.	150
Mackerel ..	6d. per lb.	4d.	67	3½d.	58
Salmon (pickled)	7½d. per lb.	10d.	133	9d.	120
Salmon (canned)	9d. per tin	1/-	133	9d.	100
Salt (fine) ..	¾d. per lb.	1d.	133	1d.	133
Cottonseed oil*	1/3 per qt.	1/4	107	1/3	100
	Total	..	2,424	..	2,347
Index Figure for this class of article			115.4		111.8

* Prices for 1937 and 1938 are for refined coconut oil.

TABLE 3.—Comparative Statement of the Prices of Clothing, etc., in 1913-14 with Prices and Index Figures for July 1937 and 1938. (1913-14 taken as 100).

Article.	1913-14 Price	July, 1937.		July, 1938.	
		Price.	Index Figure.	Price.	Index Figure.
Khaki Drill ..	6d. per yd.	10½d.	175	1/-	200
Shirts ..	2/6 each	3/6	140	3/6	140
Shirts (common)	1/6 each	2/3	150	2/-	133
Tweeds & Serges	12/- per yd.	17/6	146	15/-	125
Collars ..	9d. each	1/-	133	1/-	133
White Drill ..	6d. per yd.	10½d.	175	1/-	200
Hosiery ..	6d. per pr.	10½d.	175	9d.	150
Undervests ..	1/- each	1/3	125	1/-	100
Aertex shirts ..	4/6 ea.	8/9	194	8/9	194
Boots (average)	16/- per pr.	21/-	131	20/-	125
Calico (brown) ..	3d. per yd.	4½d.	150	4½d.	150
Calico (white) ..	4½d. per yd.	7d.	155	6d.	133
Calico (white) ..	6d. per yd.	9d.	150	7½d.	125
Sheeting (cotton)	2/6 per yd.	3/-	120	2/6	100
Drills, Linen ..	2/6 per yd.	5/-	200	4/-	160
Drills, Union ..	3/- per yd.	4/9	158	3/-	100
Handerchiefs (linen)	1/- each	1/6	150	1/6	150
Handkerchiefs (cotton)	3d. each	6d.	200	6d.	200
Cotton (reels of of 400 yds.) ..	3½d. each	6d.	171	6d.	171
Flannelette ..	6d. per yd.	9d.	150	9d.	150
Flannel (Welsh)	9d. per yd.	1/4	178	1/4½	183
Assam suiting ..	1/6 per yd.	2/6	167	2/6	167
Hats (Felt) ..	10/6 each	16/-	153	16/-	153
Tailors' charges for making:					
Jackets ..	16/- each	30/-	188	30/-	188
Pants ..	8/- each	15/-	187	15/-	187
Suits (2-piece) ..	24/-	45/-	188	45/-	188
	Total	..	4,209	..	4,005

Index Figure for this class of article 161.9 154

TABLE 4.—Comparative Statement of the Prices of Miscellaneous Articles in 1913-14 with Prices and Index Figures for July 1937 and 1938. (Index Figure 1913-14 taken as 100).

Article.	1913-14 Price	July, 1937.		July, 1938.	
		Price.	Index Figure.	Price.	Index Figure.
Kerosene Oil ..	4d. per qt.	3d.	75	3½d.	88
Soap (Laundry)	9d. per bar	9d.	100	10d.	111
Starch (Laundry)	6d. per qt.	5d.	83	5d.	83
Matches ..	¼d. per box	½d.	200	½d.	200
Boot polish ..	1½d. per tin	2½d.	167	2d.	133
Charcoal ..	1/3 per bag	1/6	120	1/6	120
	Total		745		735
Index Figure for this class of article			124.1		122.5

TABLE 5.—Summary.

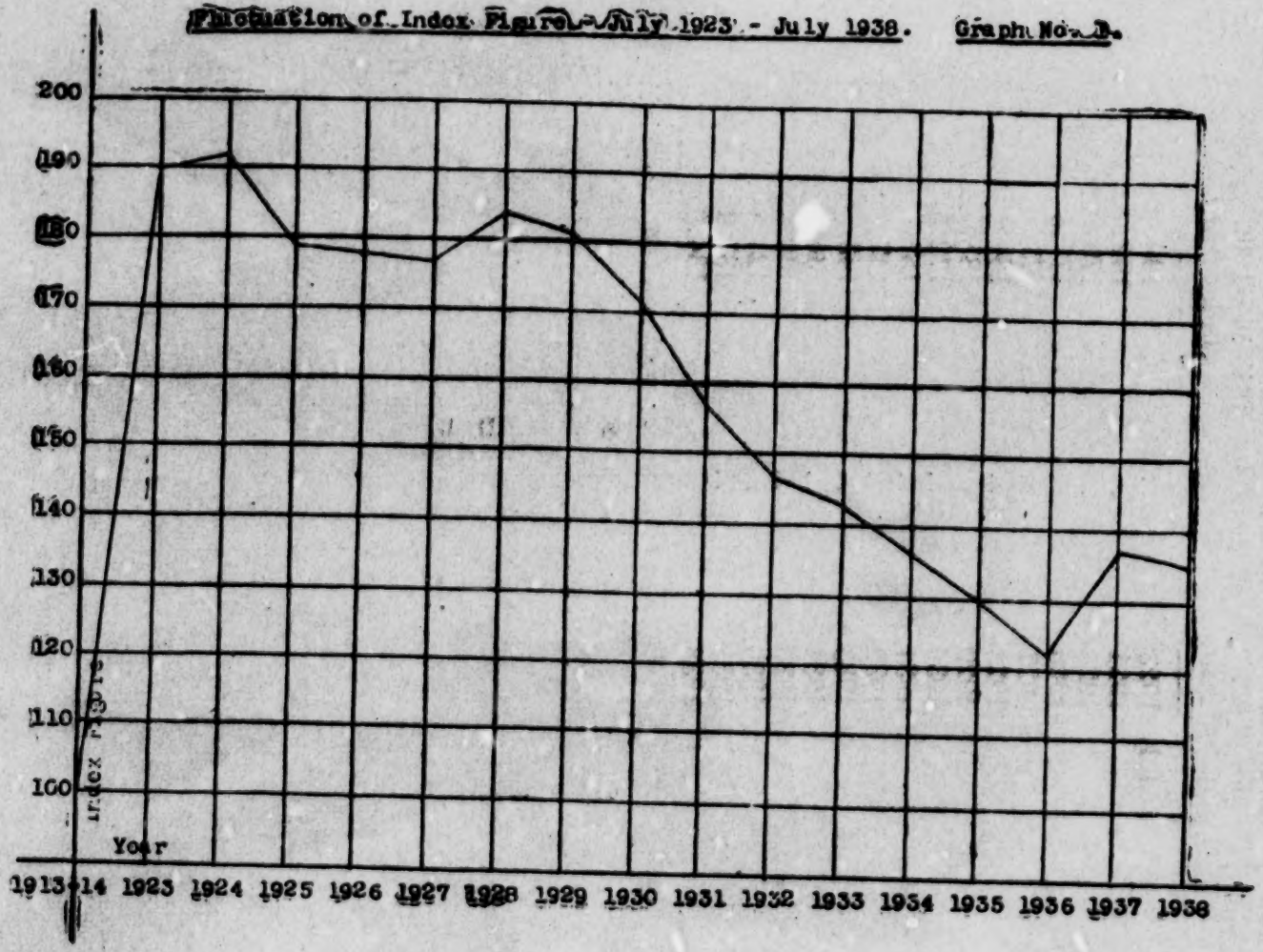
(Index Figure 1913-14 = 100).

Class of Article.		July, 1937.	July 1938.	
	Index figure for class.	Mean Index Figure.	Index figure for class.	Mean Index Figure.
Foodstuffs:				
Local products ..	136.8	..	143.0	
Imported articles ..	115.4	126.1	111.8	127.4
Clothing, etc. ..	..	161.9	..	154.0
Miscellaneous articles ..	..	124.1	..	122.5
Total ..	..	412.1	..	403.9
Average ..	..	137.4	..	134.6

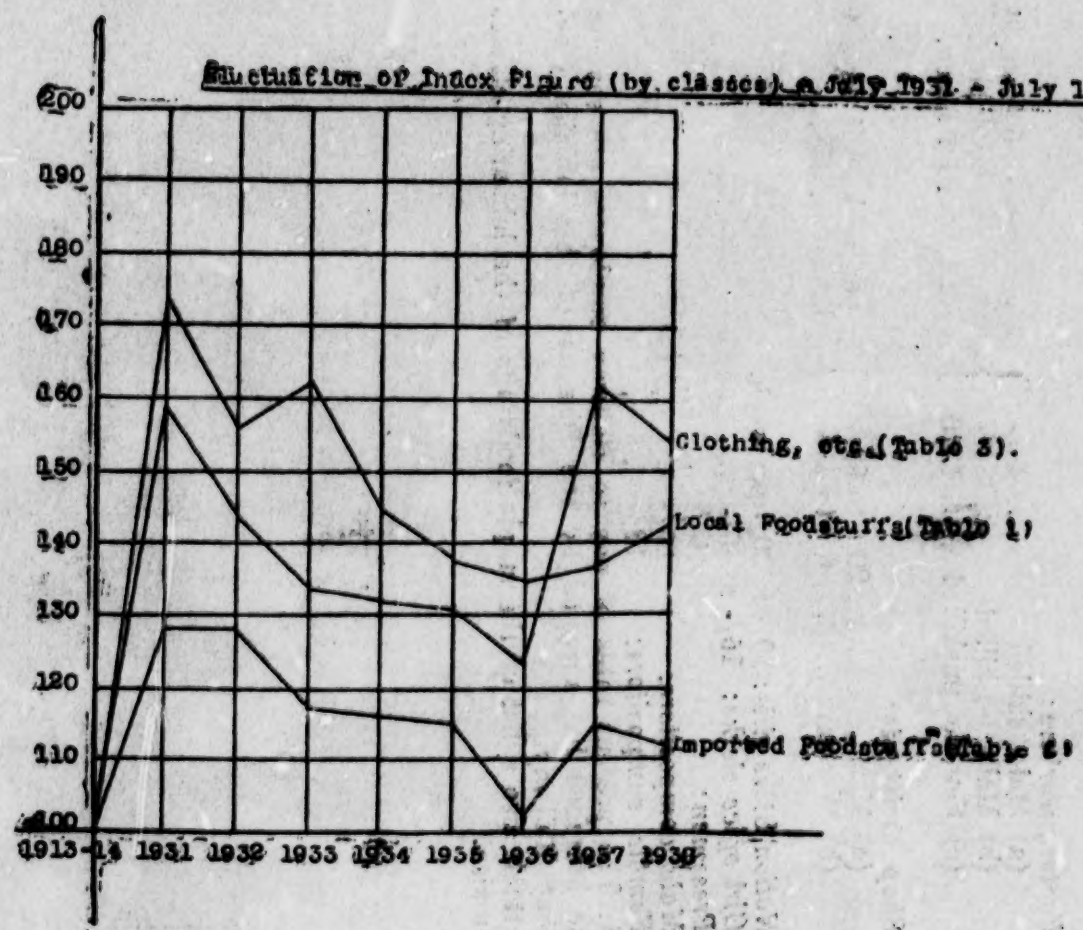
TABLE 6.—Statement showing the Fluctuations of the Index Figure July 1923–July 1938. (Note 1913-14 = 100).

Year.		Index figure.
July, 1923	..	190
1924	..	192
1925	..	179
1926	..	177.5
1927	..	177
1928	..	184
1929	..	181
1930	..	172.5
1931	..	157
1932	..	147
1933	..	143
1934	..	136
1935	..	130
1936	..	121.8
1937	..	137.4
1938	..	134.6

Fluctuation of Index Figures - July 1923 - July 1938. Graph No. B.



Fluctuation of Index Figure (by classes) - July 1931 - July 1938. Graph No. 6.



Note. No figures available for previous years.

160. Average rates of wages paid to:—

Labourers:

In Government employ:

(a) Skilled ... 7/- per day.
(b) Unskilled ... 3/3 per day.

In private employ:

(a) Male skilled .. 6/- per day.
(b) Male unskilled .... 2/6 per day.
(c) Female unskilled ... 1/3 per day.

Factory workers:

(a) Male skilled ... 48/-
(b) Male unskilled ... 24/-
(c) Female unskilled ... 13/6

} per week of 6 days, 8½ hours per day inclusive of 1 hour for lunch.

Shop assistants:

(a) Men ..... 20/- to 60/-
(b) Women ..... 6/- to 45/-

} per week of 5½ days, 9 hours per day.

Notion Store girls: 10/- to 20/- per week.
Girl office clerks: 15/- to 45/- ,, ,,
Pressmen: 45/- ,, ,,
Male compositors: 35/- ,, ,,
Female compositors: 18/- ,, ,,

161. The present rates of pay to Railway employees are set out in the attached list supplied by the Director of the Jamaica Government Railway.

I attach also a list of the staple foodstuffs of the labouring classes in Jamaica.

LIST OF THE STAPLE FOODSTUFFS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES IN JAMAICA IN 1908.

Bread	2d. per 8 ounces.
Crackers	¾d. per dozen.
Peas and Beans	6d. per qt.
Yams	2d. per lb.
Coconuts	1d. each.
Sweet potatoes	1½d. per lb.
Cocoes	1¼d. per lb.
Plantains	1½d. each.
Sugar, Brown Albion	3d. per lb.
Flour	3d. per lb.
Rice	2d. per lb.
Meal	1½d. per lb.
Codfish	5d. per lb.
Herrings, pickled	3d. per lb.
Alewives, pickled (Shad)	3d. per lb.
Mackerels, pickled	3½d. per lb.
Salmon, pickled	9d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Beef, wet salted	7d. per lb.
Pork, wet salted	10d. per lb.
Coconut oil	1/3d. per qt.
Milk, condensed	5d. per tin (approx. 1 lb.)
Beef, fresh	6d. per lb.
Salt, fine	1d. per lb.

JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAY
RATES OF PAY
AS LAID DOWN BY THE RAILWAY REGRADING COMMITTEE OF 1935 AND LATER GRADINGS.

	Rate per week. FROM	TO
Clerks—1st grade	85/-	120/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	60/-	80/-
,, 3rd ,, ...	35/-	60/-
,, 4th ,, ...	25/-	35/-
Typists	35/-	50/-
Messengers	14/-	24/-
Draughtsmen—1st grade	110/-	150/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	70/-	110/-
Junior Draughtsmen	20/-	50/-
Permanent Way Superintendents—		
,, ,, ,, 1st grade	110/-	140/-
,, ,, ,, 2nd grade	70/-	110/
Learner (ditto)	20/-	50/-
Motor trolley drivers—Grade 1	45/-	60/-
Motor trolley drivers—Grade II	30/-	40/-
Track foremen—Grade 1	50/-	65/-
,, ,, ,, II	30/-	50/-
Learners—track foremen	20/-	30/-
Gangers Kingston	33/-	36/-
Gangers outstations	27/-	33/-
Secondmen Kingston	27/-	30/-
Secondmen outstations	24/-	27/-
Trackmen Kingston	23/-	26/-
Trackmen Outstations	18/-	23/-
Wharf foremen	60/-	80/-
Foreman Water Fitter	80/-	90/-
Asst. Telegraph and Telephone Inspector ...	70/-	110/-
Telegraph and Telephone Instrument Repairer ...	30/-	50/-
Foreman Linesman	30/-	40/-
Air Brake Instructor	105/-	130/-
Draughtsman—Senior (Locomotive Branch) ...	80/-	120/-
Works Checker	30/-	45/-
Foremen—Grade I	110/-	120/-
,, ,, II	95/-	110/-
,, ,, III	80/-	90/-
Shedmen—Day	24/-	27/-
Shedmen—Night	30/-	33/-
Drivers—1st grade	—	120/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	—	100/-
,, 3rd ,, ...	—	80/-
Firemen—1st grade	—	65/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	—	50/-
,, 3rd ,, ...	—	40/-
Chargemen	50/-	80/-
,, Labour Gang	—	33/-

		Rate per week. FROM	TO
Artisans:			
Machinists, Fitters, Boilermakers, Blacksmiths, Coppersmiths, Moulders, Examiners Air Brake and C. & W.	Grade 1	55/-	70/-
	,, 2	44/-	54/-
	,, 3	32/-	42/-
Welders, Air Brake Fitters, Electricians	Grade 1	60/-	75/-
	,, 2	48/-	58/-
	,, 3	36/-	46/-
Carpenters, Coal Crane Drivers, Foundry Furnacemen, Truck Fitters, Pattern-maker, Millwright, Motor trolley mechanic	Grade 1	55/-	65/-
	,, 2	46/-	52/-
	,, 3	36/-	44/-
		60/-	80/-
Upholsterers, Painters, Toolroom Keeper, Saw-mill machinist		36/-	52/-
Greasers		32/-	40/-
First-aid Attendant		42/-	50/-
Apprentices		8/-	24/-
Labourers—semi-skilled (Kingston) ... ... (Including Winchmen, Storemen, Pumpmen, Linesmen, Watchmen, etc.)		23/-	26/-
Labourers—unskilled ... ... (Including Trolleymen (Kingston) Pilotmen—Outstations, Porters (Kingston) etc.		18/-	23/-
Station Inspector		110/-	140/-
Travelling Ticket Examiner		50/-	80/-
Asst. Chief Trains Controller		125/-	150/-
Trains Controllers		85/-	125/-
Gatemen—(Kingston) Grade 1		23/-	26/-
,, ,, ,, II		18/-	23/-
Checkers		21/-	30/-
Coach Cleaners		12/-	15/-
Office Cleaners		8/-	12/-
Station Masters—1st Grade		90/-	110/-
,, ,, 2nd ,, ...		65/-	85/-
,, ,, 3rd ,, ...		50/-	60/-
Clerks-in-charge		35/-	40/-
Relief Station Masters—2nd Grade		65/-	85/-
Learner clerks		10/-	25/-
Station clerks		35/-	50/-
Porters (Kingston)		18/-	23/-
Porters (Outstations)		18/-	21/-
Shunters—Grade I		35/-	50/-

	Rate per week. FROM	TO
Shunters—Grade II	25/-	35/-
Pilotmen (Kingston)	25/-	35/-
Guards—1st grade	60/-	70/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	40/-	60/-
Brakesmen—1st grade	30/-	35/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	21/-	30/-
Baggagemen—1st grade	30/-	45/-
,, 2nd ,, ...	21/-	30/-
Track Gatemen (1/- extra for Sunday work) ...	—	15/-
Track Gatewomen (ditto) ...	—	11/-

Overtime is allowed to the daily paid staff at the rate of time and a quarter for ordinary overtime and Public Holidays, and time and a half for Sunday work.

Drivers and Firemen are given overtime on a specially settled basis.

Station Masters, Trains Controllers, Parcels Office Clerks, Kingston, and Booking Clerks, Kingston, are paid an extra day's pay for working on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Clerical workers do not get overtime pay.

162. The prices shown are averages of prices collected from markets, groceries, families and leading retail dry-goods stores in Kingston. Samples of several articles were actually purchased so as to be better able to arrive at accurate prevailing market prices. Where samples were not procured, enquiries of the prices of such items were made from several retail sellers of the articles so that average prices could be ascertained as near to the correct figure as possible.

163. From information supplied by Collectors of Taxes and Inspectors of Police, the average monthly rental of tenement rooms in towns during July 1938, is from 8/- to 18/- in Kingston and St. Andrew, and in other parishes from 5/- to 10/- or a general average of 10/- per month. Small cottages are let at an average of £3, and larger houses from £6 to £10 per month. There are no appreciable differences between these figures and those for 1937.

164. Servants' wages increased in 1938, ranging from 4/- to 12/- per week. A general rise in wages of the labouring classes is accountable for this.

CHAPTER X.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

165. The total Departmental Expenditure on Education for the year 1937-38 was £245,170, an increase of £7,980 on the expenditure for 1936-37.

166. There are four classes of recognized Public Elementary Schools, (a) Voluntary Denominational Schools, (b) Voluntary Undenominational Schools whose only difference from Denominational Schools is that the Manager is not necessarily the owner's representative but is appointed to represent the interests of two or more amalgamated schools, (c) Trust Schools owned by the Ludford Trust and treated for most purposes as Government Schools, and (d) Schools administered by a School Board and known as Government Schools. In practice (a) and (b) are styled Voluntary Schools and (c) and (d) Government

Schools. On 1st April, 1938, there were 159 schools administered by School Boards, 90 of which are owned by the Government while 69 receive a nominal rent. Compulsory attendance is limited to 14 compulsory areas.

167. The total enrolment for the whole Island is 158,418 with an average attendance of 56%, and the total cost of elementary education exclusive of establishment charges for 1937-38 amounted to £208,193.

168. There are in all 664 grant-aided elementary schools. There is also a large number of elementary private schools for which statistics are not available. Six Government Schools were opened during the year. Building grants to the value of £4,000 were made in 1938 for the repair of Denominational Schools and Teachers' Quarters. Many buildings remain, however, in a bad state of repair.

169. The Primary Schools employ about 2,180 teachers, excluding pupil teachers; 58% of these are trained. There are four training colleges, one for men and three for women.

170. The further education of Elementary School children is assisted from general revenue by nine scholarships varying in value from £15 to £40 per annum tenable at Secondary Schools for two to five years and nine special scholarships of £50 per annum tenable for four years in the first instance, awarded annually to children resident in parishes unprovided with Secondary Schools. In addition, every grant-aided Secondary School is required to maintain free places (free tuition only) for at least 20% of its numbers. The distribution and organization of Scholarships for secondary education in all its aspects has been the subject of a detailed report by a special Committee whose recommendations are now under consideration by Government. The award of Vocational Scholarships to mark the centenary of Emancipation is also under consideration.

171. Public assistance for University and Collegiate Education is confined to expenditure for Scholarships. Provision is made annually from Government funds for two Scholarships (one for girls) tenable at British Universities, one Scholarship tenable at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and one of less value tenable in Jamaica. One Rhodes Scholarship is allocated each year to Jamaica, and in 1938 the Issa Scholarship, tenable at British Universities or Technical Institutions, was inaugurated. At the end of the year a proposal was under consideration by Government to award a University Scholarship annually to ex-elementary school pupils alone in commemoration of the Centenary of Emancipation.

172. The grant-aided and recognized Secondary Schools, twenty-six in number, are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, grants being recommended in accordance with the Annual Reports submitted by the Supervising Inspector of Secondary Schools. The accepted external school examinations are those held by the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, but most girls' schools also prepare for the London University Matriculation Examination, on the results of which the Jamaica Girls' Scholarship is awarded.

173. The Cambridge Local Examination results which were announced during the year, that is, for the December 1937 and the July 1938 examinations, showed that 664 candidates entered for the Junior Certificate of whom 366 or 55% passed, 397 for the School Certificate of whom 224 or 56% passed, and 31 for the Higher School Certificate of whom 19 or 61% passed.

174. The usual Examinations of the University of London were held during 1938. Forty-five candidates sat for the Matriculation

Examination and 28 passed. For the Intermediate Arts there were 9 candidates, 3 of whom passed. Two candidates sat for the Intermediate Laws and both failed; the one candidate for Intermediate Science also failed. In the final Examinations, one candidate successfully sat for the B.A. General and one for the B.A. Honours, the latter being placed in the First Class.

175. Manual Training for Elementary School Boys is provided in Kingston at the Technical School and one other Centre. Similar training is provided elsewhere at Manual Training Centres attached to ten Government Schools.

176. Instruction in Needlecraft is given to all girls. Sewing has recently been reorganized and now occupies an important place in the curriculum. Agricultural Training is given in all schools though the extent of the instruction is in many cases limited by the small amount of land available. Various minor handicrafts, such as hat and rug making and simple carpentry are encouraged. In a few schools Agricultural Home Projects are carried out. This policy is being rapidly developed in conjunction with the Agricultural Society.

177. Further Vocational training is given at Practical Training Centres. The first of these was established in 1936 at Holmwood, Christiana, where a training in Agriculture and Craftsmanship is given to 52 boys. A similar school was opened at Dinthill, Linstead, in April, 1938. The first Practical Training Centre for Girls was opened in 1937; it gives a training in domestic subjects. There are also several private institutions which offer facilities in various branches of vocational training, and many unaided Commercial Schools which give day and evening instruction in literary and commercial subjects. A new system of Scholarships was inaugurated in 1938, providing for education at Practical Training Centres. Further Scholarships enable boys to proceed to the Farm or Technical School or to receive further instruction in trades.

178. The Kingston Technical School, with an enrolment of 305 full-time day students provide training for girls and boys in continuation. commercial, domestic and technical subjects. Students are tested by external examining bodies such as the Royal Society of Arts and the City and Guilds of London Institute. Special courses for elementary school teachers and part-time instruction for the children were also provided. The continued large enrolment (397) in the evening classes is evidence of public recognition of their value. New accommodation for classes in Domestic Science and general subjects has recently been provided at the cost of £3,500.

179. There are nine certified industrial Schools and Orphanges and four uncertified Orphanages. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Stony Hill, is maintained wholly from Government Funds and is under the supervision of the Director of Prisons. The remaining schools and orphanages are financed partly by the Parochial Boards, partly by the Government and partly by private funds. Admission to an Industrial School is in most cases by Magistrate's order. The Lyndale, Swift and Wortley Homes are primarily for East Indian children. Children may now be detained until 18 years of age in cases where such extension is shown to be desirable in the interest of the child or the community. The Industrial Schools are as a rule well-conducted institutions, but in some instances they lack funds to employ a sufficiently trained staff whether for the class room or for trade instruction.

180. The Government Industrial School has a Board of Visitors appointed by the Governor. The Board meets once in every two months and arranges visits of inspection. The number on Roll on 31st December, 1938 was 330. The School is situated at an elevation of 1,360 feet above sea level and only 9 miles from Kingston. The buildings though old are spacious, well ventilated and cool. There was a section for girls up till 1936, when it was closed and the buildings used for the younger boys.

181. The year under review was marked by a rapid development in the use of educational films, not as lesson aids during school hours, but as a means of widening the outlook of rural school children and adults. Accordingly, the majority of the films used were of the "background" and documentary type.

182. The movement had begun some two years before with the showing of a few educational films at local theatres by Jamaica Theatres Ltd. The Department co-operated in the experiment but it was not repeated. In 1937 the exhibition of silent educational films at rural schools in parishes near to Kingston was proposed by Mr. J. H. Briggs who carried out a programme of visits with the assistance of the Department. This programme was, however, limited in scope by the high cost of films and transport which was barely covered by the low admission charges; indeed, the undertaking has continued only through a grant made from Carnegie Funds.

183. In April, 1938, Jamaica Welfare Ltd., an institution with more adequate financial resources, entered the field in two parishes with an experimental travelling unit. Full use was made of the Department's organization and experience in the selection of films and in the making of various arrangements. The venture has proved successful so far as can be judged at this early date. Plans have been made to extend the project to another parish early in 1939.

184. There is no provision (outside the Public Hospitals) for maintenance in the event of sickness or accident, no help for the aged outside the Poor Relief Law and no insurance against unemployment. Grants were made in 1937-38 of £1,200 to the Child Welfare Association, £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £250 to the Salvation Army School for the Blind. With the exception of the last-named Institution there is no provision in the Colony for the education of defective children. A grant of £100 was made to assist in the establishment of a special class for the deaf and dumb.

185. The Bureau of Health Education was established in 1926 to meet the demands of teachers, sanitary inspectors and citizens for authoritative information regarding personal hygiene and the spread and prevention of disease. The main educational work of the Bureau consists in publishing "Jamaica Public Health." This bulletin is used in nearly every school of the Island as a text in hygiene.

Suitable literature is provided on the problems which are being dealt with by the Health Departments of the Island. Assistance is given health workers through the provision of moving picture projectors and films, magic lantern and slides, and material for microscopical demonstrations. Also special leaflets and posters and placards designed for use in schools, at markets and other public places are distributed with the object of spreading information about the more common diseases.

187. Dental Clinics controlled by Parochial Boards are in operation in eleven parishes. In Portland, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Clarendon and St. Catherine, a proportion of the cost is borne by the Central Government. A School Medical Officer for Schools

employed by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation carried out systematic medical examinations of school children during the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. Special attention has again been given to the problem of malnutrition among school children. A private organization continues to provide 500 cooked lunches daily to school children in Kingston at a very low cost. In rural areas schools have been assisted to grow vegetables on a large scale and to use them as a part of a school canteen scheme.

188. The activities of the Institute of Jamaica, founded for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art, are in the main limited to the Libraries—the General Library containing some 30,000 books, and the West India Reference Library containing some 13,000 works.

189. There are 1,511 Subscribing Members, 986 Affiliated Members, 52 Affiliated Societies, 24 Teachers' Libraries and 142 Juvenile Members, who make use of the General Library. Very many students, as well as tourists and visitors to the Island, consult works in both libraries.

190. In addition to the continual use of the West India Reference Library by Students, both in Jamaica and from abroad, the importance of the research carried on in this department for students and correspondents from abroad must be emphasized. This work is increasing continually, and the value of this possibly less obvious part of the Institute's activities should be adequately appreciated.

191. Practically all of the generous grant made by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the Institute has now been expended, and a large number of new books will be available for distribution early in 1939.

192. A number of Art Exhibitions were held during the year, and a series of fortnightly lectures was also held.

193. The Musgrave Medal was awarded to Mr. Richardson Wright in recognition of his literary work, particularly in connection with his book "Revels in Jamaica."

194. The number of parties, both of School Children and Adults, who visited the Institute throughout the year is most gratifying. It is hoped that, when the new Museum has been completed, the practical and educational advantages of such visits will be greatly increased.

195. The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, held its 31st Annual Examination of candidates in pianoforte, violin, viola and singing.

196. Under the Jamaica Boy Scouts' Association, the latest figures available show 149 Groups actually at work. These groups comprise 134 Scout Troops, 39 Wolf Cub Packs and 40 Rover Crews, numbering 307 Scouters, 1,822 Scouts, 71 Sea Scouts, 307 Cubs, 270 Rover Scouts, 109 Rover Sea Scouts—a total of 2,886. This shows a decrease of 773 in comparison with the total for 1936.

197. His Excellency Sir Arthur Richards is Chief Scout of Jamaica.

198. Under the Girl Guides Local Association there are now 157 Companies at work, including 310 Rangers, 2,182 Guides and 382 Brownies—a total of 2,874.

199. The President is Lady Richards, and the Island Commissioner, Mrs. D. O. Kelly-Lawson.

Cricket is played during the season throughout the Island, at all Secondary Schools and at the majority of Elementary Schools. The Jamaica Cricket Association was formed in 1925, and all the principal clubs in the Island are affiliated to it. It is governed by a Board of Control. Senior and Junior Competitions are held throughout the

Colony, and these conjoined with the visits paid by first class teams from the Mother Country and by West Indian teams to England and Australia have resulted in great strides being made in the game, both as regards keenness and proficiency.

200. Association football is also keenly followed from October to February inclusive. The Competitions under the Jamaica Football Association number eight, including two for Secondary School boys, and the game has now achieved great popularity throughout the Island.

201. Lawn Tennis is played all the year round and is fostered by various Competitions under the Jamaica Lawn Tennis Association which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association of England. As in the case of cricket, the visits of well-known stars have done much to raise the standard of the game throughout the Island.

202. School Sports are held in connection with all Secondary and many Elementary Schools, and Inter-Scholastic Track and Boxing Competitions are arranged for annually.

CHAPTER XI.

Communications and Transport.

203. The following statement shows the volume of shipping during the past five years:—

1933	entered	1,304	vessels of	3,698,330	net tons
1934	"	1,326	"	3,844,127	"
1935	"	1,457	"	4,268,701	"
1936	"	1,464	"	4,520,788	"
1937	"	1,510	"	4,621,300	"
1933	cleared	1,291	"	3,718,880	"
1934	"	1,291	"	3,812,128	"
1935	"	1,406	"	4,225,513	"
1936	"	1,453	"	4,524,460	"
1937	"	1,513	"	4,652,412	"
1938	"	1,390	"	4,242,295	"

204. The following are the principal steamship connections between Jamaica and countries abroad:—

Steamship Line.	Ports of call.	Distance Marine Miles.	Time in transit.	Periodicity of service.
1. Aluminum Line	Bridgetown Port of Spain Georgetown	1146* 1309 1694	8 days 9 days 12 days	Fortnightly (Wednesday)
2. Canadian National Steamship	Belize	665	3 days	Fortnightly (Friday)
3. do. ..	Nassau, Hamilton, Montreal	662 1490 2845	2½ days 6 days 12 days	Fortnightly (Wednesday) for Montreal, calling fortnightly at Nassau and Bermuda (summer service)
4. do. ..	Nassau, Hamilton, Halifax	2243	10 days	Fortnightly (Tuesday) for Halifax calling fortnightly at Nassau and Bermuda (winter service)
5. do. ..	Montreal (direct)	2323	12 days	Fortnightly (summer service)
6. do. ..	Halifax (direct)	1795	9 days	Fortnightly winter service)
7. Elders & Fyffes	Bristol	4097	12½ days	Weekly (Tuesday)
8. Grace Line	Cap-Haitien New York	330 1650	18 hrs. 5 days.	Weekly (Wednesday)
9. Standard Fruit & Steamship Co.	London, etc.	4510	12 days	Fortnightly (Tuesday)
10. do. ..	La Ceiba	615	1 day 16 hrs.	Weekly (Thursday)

Steamship Line.	Ports of call.	Distance Marine Miles.	Time in transit.	Periodicity of service.
11. United Fruit Co.	New York	1,474	3 days 20 hrs.	Weekly (Sunday)
12. do. ..	Belize, and	670	1 day 22 hrs.	Fortnightly (Friday)
	Puerto Barrios	715	2 days 18 hrs.	
13. do. ..	Puerto Colombia,	430	1 day 3 hrs.	Weekly (Sunday)
	Cartagena	510	2 days 11 hrs.	
	Cristobal	791	3 days 18 hrs.	

205. A Comprehensive List of Steamship Lines serving the Colony is as follows:—

	British Register.
Jamaica Producer Steamship Co.	Fleet supplemented from time to time by chartered vessels under foreign register.
Canadian National Steamships	
Royal Mail Line ..	Joint service with Holland America Line.
Pacific Steam Navigation Co.	
Elders & Fyffes ..	Controlled by United Fruit Company—an American corporation
New Zealand Shipping Co.	
Harrison Line	
James Norse & Co.	
Shaw, Saville & Albion	
Webster Steamship Co.	
Standard Fruit & Shipping Co.	Has also vessels under Hondurian register
Blue Funnel Line	Occasional
Canadian Transport Co.	Lumber
Trinidad Leaseholds	Tanker
Shell Oil Co. ..	Tanker—also charter tankers under foreign register.
Cunard Steamship Co.	Cruise passengers occasionaly.
Blue Star Line ..	Do. do. do.
Anchor Line ..	Do. do. do.
Canadian Pacific R.R.S. Co.	Do. do. do.
Furness Bermuda Line	Do. do. do.
Orient Line ..	Do. do. do.
Commonwealth & Dominion Line	Do. do. do.

In addition to the above, Messrs. Pickford & Black, a British firm, operate a regular service with chartered vessels of foreign registry.

U. S. A. Register.

United Fruit Co.	
Aluminum Line	
Gulf Pacific Line	
American Pioneer Line	
The United States Line	
Texas Co. *Tanker.*	
Grace Line ..	Cruise passengers occasional.
Eastern Steamship Line	Do. do. do.
Clyde Mallory Line ..	Do. do. seldom
Munson Steamship Line	Do. do. do.
The Clarke Steamship Co.	Cruise passengers—operation with chartered vessel of British register.

Swedish Register.

East Asiatic Line	

Dutch Register.

Royal Netherland Steamship Co.	
Holland American Line	In conjunction with Royal Mail.

German Register.

Horn Steamship Line	
Hamburg America Line	
North German Lloyd	Cruise passengers occasional.

French Register.

French Line	Do. do. do.

Italian Register.

Italian Line ..	Do. do. do.

Polish Register.

Gydia ..	Do. do. do,

Norwegian Register.

Norwegian American Line	Do. do. do.

ROADS.

206. The Island possesses a good system of Macadam Roads which are divided into two classes:—

(a) Main Roads of a total length of 2,458 miles which are maintained out of General Revenue of the Colony.

(b) Parochial Roads aggregating 4,437 miles of which 2,136 are suitable for light motor traffic and 2,301 miles are unsuitable, being cart or bridle roads. They are maintained by Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

207. During 1938 the main roads were maintained at an approximate cost of £100 per mile. Many of these roads were originally constructed of limestone surfacing without proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. Legislation prohibiting importation and use without special permission of motor vehicles weighing more than 16,000 lbs. laden has been enacted.

208. Generally roads are being gradually improved to cope with the ever increasing demand of Motor Traffic Transport and up to the end of the year under review the mileage of Asphalt treated roads amounted to 284 miles.

209. The Island has been fortunate in the absence of abnormal rainfall or tropical disturbances in adjacent Caribbean areas, which have always been directly responsible for damage to main roads and con-

tingent works. During August to October, heavy rains occurred over the Island incurring damage estimated at £5,000. Restoration works, however, were carried out expeditiously without causing any disruption in traffic, the expenditure being financed from the Roads Maintenance Funds.

210. Restoration works caused through flood rains of October and November 1937, were continued and completed or nearing completion at the end of the year. The amount re-voted, viz. £43,000, of which £41,500 is being spent in Portland, will be a charge against the Colony's Insurance Fund.

211. Under Public Works Extraordinary a programme of New Works on Roads and Bridges, as well as improvements to existing Main Roads and the reconstruction of several structurally weak Bridges, amounting to approximately £62,000 has been undertaken and up to the year under review many of these works were completed or nearing completion.

212. The major items of works being carried out were as follows:—

St. Andrew.

New Road Guava Ridge towards Content.
Reconstruct road towards Gordon Town.
Reconstruct in Asphalt and improve Olivier, Shortwood and Norbrook Roads with short branch towards Cambridge.
Reconstruct and asphalt a section of Long Mountain Road.

St. Thomas.

Road Albion via Easington to Yallahs—Improvement of.

Portland.

New Road, Bangor Ridge to Berwick Spring—Part Constructed.
Extension of Road Chepstowe towards Thompson Gap to Claverty Cottage—Part Constructed.
Foreshore Road Port Antonio.

Portland and St. Mary.

Completion of Road Whitehall to Enfield.

St. Mary.

Dover Bridge—Reconstruction of.
Two Bridges at Water Valley—Reconstruction of.
Bridge Warwick Castle Fording on Rio Nuevo.

St. Ann

Bridge over the White River, reconstruction of.
Pear Tree Bottom Bridge, reconstruction of.
New Road Bohemia to Cascade.

Trelawny.

Rock Spring Bridge—Reconstruction of.

St. James.

Completion of Road Plumb towards Jericho.
Construct Sea Wall on Coast Road.
Retrieve Bridge—Reconstruction of.

Hanover.

Improvement to road, Flower Hill district.

Westmoreland.

Raise Road at Camel Piece and New Hope.
Bridge on Main Road Little London to Negril.

St. Elizabeth.

Aphalting road through Malvern.

Clarendon.

Asphalting main road through Alley.
Protective Works, Hermitage Bridge.

St. Catherine.

Bridge over Calabash Fording—Construct.

213. The programme of Road and Bridge construction Works sanctioned by Loan Law 22 of 1935 is being steadily pushed on.

214. Works allotted under the 1st Instalment have been completed.

215. Allotment of £124,000 covering works provided for under the 2nd Instalment of £600,000 commenced in 1937, were completed with the exception of the following works:—

Portland.

Construction of New Road from Fruitful Vale via Chatsworth to Friendship Hall.

St. Mary.

Increase the span of Haughton River Bridge and raise Road.

216. During the year, a further programme of works was approved, amounting to £120,000 which has been included under the 3rd Instalment of £500,000 to be raised.

217. Surveys, plans and Estimates were carried through expeditiously and up to the end of the year satisfactory progress was made on all works started. The Bridges to be constructed are however being held up awaiting arrival of steel structures indented for.

218. Of the £120,000 referred to above, £90,793 has been allotted for the continuation of the Asphalt Surfacing of Main Arterial Roads commenced under the 1st and 2nd Instalments of the Loan.

219. On Route Kingston to Montego Bay the following sections are in hand:—

St. Ann.

St. Ann's Bay Westward.

Trelawny.

Asphalting at Duncans.
Falmouth to Pillars.

St. James.

Pillars to Montego Bay.

St. Ann and St. Catherine.

Bog Walk to Moneague.

220. On Route Kingston to Port Antonio via Annotto Bay the undermentioned sections are in hand:—

St. Andrew and St. Mary.

To complete section Kingston to Castleton.

St. Mary.

Castleton towards Annotto Bay.
Annotto Bay Eastward.

Portland.

Port Antonio Westward.

221. The programme of Works undertaken under this Law apart from the works provided for improvement to existing Main Roads, had been the means of the opening up of fertile Agricultural Areas for development.

222. The mean rainfall for the Island was 60.00 inches or 13.87 inches below the 60-year average. The mean number of rainy days was 115, the average being 122.

CANALS.

223. There are no navigable Canals in the Island.

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MOTOR OMNIBUS TRANSPORT.

224. The Road Traffic Law (Law 41 of 1937) was brought into force on the 1st April, 1938. Under the provisions of the Law the Island has been divided into 5 Licensing Areas, and each Licensing Authority consists of 3 Members. For the purpose of traffic control the Island has been divided into 13 Traffic Areas.

The Traffic Area Authorities control the issue of Certificates of Fitness and Certificates of Competence for vehicles and drivers respectively.

Since the Law came into force there has been a large increase in the number of vehicles carrying passengers for hire or reward, and it is now possible to go by regular transport facilities from Kingston to all the principal and important towns of the Island. There has been no extension of the city services however.

Recently Mr. A. R. Fearnley, Transport Expert, visited the Island and made a survey in connection with the granting of franchise for city services to replace the Tramways when they cease to be operated.

JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

225. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

From May Pen junction (32¼ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this Branch.

226. The main lines run across high mountains which form the backbone of the Island, to the north coast Port Antonio being the north-east; and Montego Bay north-west of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The guage is 4′ 8½″. The maximum gradients are 1 in 30, and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,705 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—905 feet.

227. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1938, was £308,984, and the Expenditure £300,505. There is no Depreciation Fund, but provision is made for a Renewals Fund. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 349,796 tons, as compared with 368,838 tons for the year 1937; the number of passengers carried in 1938 was 410,354 as compared with 409,282 in 1937.

228. The Management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of seven members, consisting of the Director and six others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

229. Since 1925, the work of relaying old 60-lb. rails with 80-lb. rails has been proceeding. 135 miles of 60-lb. rails were in existence. In 1925, 5 miles were relaid, in 1926, 5 miles. In 1927 the sum of

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£200,000 was voted so that the relaying could be carried out more expeditiously, and under Law 20 of 1930, a further sum of £32,500 was voted. From 1927 to the end of 1937, the total mileage which has been changed from 60-lb. to 80-lb. rails is 102 miles. No relaying from 60-lb. to 80-lb. rails has been done during 1938. A programme of relaying with 65-lb. rails was also started in 1938 and 3 miles of old 60-lb. rails were relayed with 65-lb. rails in that year.

230. *Passenger Traffic:* The Passenger Traffic during the period continues to reflect an increase in the number of passengers carried due largely to certain reductions in fares. A decrease in Revenue, however, is still observed.

231. *General Merchandise Traffic*: Under this head there has been increased tonnage and also an appreciable increase in Revenue (despite keen road competition) due to reduced rates. The results are considered encouraging.

232. *Banana Traffic*: There has been a decrease in tonnage of 36,147 tons and Revenue £32,035. This is largely the result of the Leaf Spot Disease, which is likely to seriously affect the Banana output in the future. Taking into consideration however, that 1937 was a record year for Bananas, the period under review compares favourably.

233. *General Remarks*: This year marked the most disastrous train accident in the annals of the Railway. Train No. 3, derailed at Oxford Siding near Balaclava, resulting in the death of 35 people and injuring 117—as far as this Department has been able to ascertain. A commission was appointed by Government to enquire into this accident, and a Report was duly made on the 9th September, 1938.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

POSTAL.

Inland.

234. There are 301 Post Offices in Jamaica—an average of one office to each 38.28 square kilometers—of which 131 are branches of the Government Savings Bank. (Five more offices are to be opened by the end of the financial year).

235. Of these, 238 have one daily exchange of mails with Kingston, 40 have two exchanges; 14 have three, and 4 have four exchanges; while 5 offices exchange 9 mails weekly with the Head Office.

236. The inland mail services are performed by the Jamaica Government Railway, private contractors, Public Works Department, and Jamaica Public Service Company. The daily mileage covered is as follows:—

Services by Jamaica Government Railway.			756¼
Services operated by private contractors.	*By Motor Vans*	... 1,157	
	By animals	.. 27	
	By boat	... 12	1,196
Services operated by Public Works Department.	*By foot-couriers*	... 1,676½	
	By animals	... 82	1,758½
Services by tram car.			66
			3,776¾

or a yearly mileage (at 313 working days) of 1,182,122¾ miles.

(STEAMSHIP)

Overseas.

237. Mail communications are maintained by steamers of Elders & Fyffe Ltd. with Great Britain; Standard Fruit & Steamship Co., with Great Britain and Republic of Honduras; Jamaica Banana Asso- with Great Britain and Republic of Honduras; Jamaica Banana Producers Association Steamship Company with Holland (direct letter mail) and Great Britain; United Fruit Company and Grace Line with United States of America, Canada (via New York) and Central America; Canadian National Steamship Ltd. with Canada (parcel-post) and Central America; Pickford and Black with Canada (parcel-post); Aluminum Line with West India Islands; Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. with Trinidad; Cayman Islands Motor Boat Company with Cayman Islands; and also by sundry cruise ships, chiefly during the winter months.

238. Normally, mails are received from the United States and Canada, and Europe (via New York) on Sundays and Thursdays (or Fridays); and are dispatched on Sundays and Wednesdays for United States, Canada and Europe (via New York); and for Great Britain direct on Tuesdays. Mails for the West India Islands are dispatched and received fortnightly (by Aluminum Line steamers), and occasionally by Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. steamers. Mails are exchanged with Central America (except Honduras) twice a week, being dispatched on Sundays and Wednesdays and received on the same days. Mail is exchanged weekly with British Honduras and with the Islands of Nassau and Bermuda fortnightly.

Overseas. (By Air).

239.—

UNITED STATES—CUBA—JAMAICA—COLUMBIA—PANAMA.

(*Read down*) Tuesday and Thursday	Saturday			Sunday		(*Read up*) Wednesday and Friday
7.15 a.m.	7.15 a.m.	leave	Miami	arrive	5.10 p.m.	5.10 p.m.
9.10 a.m.	9.10 a.m.	arrive	Cienfuegos	leave	3.20 p.m.	3.20 p.m.
9.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m.	leave	Cienfuegos	arrive	3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.
12.20 p.m.	12.20 p.m.	arrive	Kingston	leave	12.00 p.m.	12.00 p.m.
12.40 p.m.	12.25 p.m.	leave	Kingston	arrive	noon	noon
4.30 p.m.		arrive	Barranquilla	leave		8.15 a.m.
	4.55 p.m.	arrive	Cristobal	leave	7.30 a.m.	

PUERTO RICO—HAITI—DOMINICANA—JAMAICA.

(*Read down*) Monday			(*Read up*) Tuesday	
8.00 a.m.	leave	San Juan	arrive	2.00 p.m.
9.30 a.m.	arrive	San Pedro	leave	12.20 p.m.
9.50 a.m.	leave	San Pedro	arrive	12.05 p.m.
11.20 a.m.	arrive	Port-au-Prince	leave	10.30 a.m.
11.50 a.m.	leave	Port-au-Prince	arrive	10.10 a.m.
3.10 p.m.	arrive	Kingston	leave	6.15 a.m.

240. *Air Mail for Europe and Africa:*—Letters are forwarded by air to New York City to connect with the trans-Atlantic steamers, affording a 7 to 9-day service to the United Kingdom and the Continent, depending upon the speed of the vessels by which forwarded and the timeliness of the connexion in New York.

241. *Air Mail for Australia, etc.*—Letters for Australia, New Zealand, Japan, etc., are forwarded by air to U.S. Pacific exchange post office for transmission by steamer to destinations; and for Australia by way also of the "England-India-Australia" Air Mail Service leaving London three times a week.

242. *Air Mail for Hong Kong and China* is forwarded by air to San Francisco, and thence either by steamer to destinations, or by air to Hong Kong and thence to Canton and Shanghai, etc., by air. The latter provides a 9-day service to Hong Kong, 10-day to Canton, and 11-day to Shanghai.

Telegraph and Telephone Service.

243. The Government Postal and Telegraph System was inaugurated in 1879 with a complement of 47 offices; at the close of the calendar year 1938, there were 2581-34½ chains of wire and 1630-18¼ chains pole miles of telegraph and telephone lines with 58 Telegraph and 153 Telephone offices. Three new Telephone offices were opened and 3 Telegraph offices converted from Telegraph to Telephone.

244. The charge for inland Telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press Telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges.

245. An all night, Holiday and Sunday Telegram Service is provided on payment of graduated fees. An optional service of Telegrams conveying Christmas and New Year greetings was inaugurated in 1934 and is rendered yearly. The charge is sixpence for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word.

246. The Jamaica Government Railway Telegraphic Service in connection with which there are 46 offices assist in placing Telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in colloboration with the Postal Telegraph System and are controlled by the management of the Railway.

Overseas Cables are transferred to and from Messrs. Cable and Wireless being handled over the inland telegraphs.

Broadcasting.

247. No broadcasting station exists on the island. At present approximately 4,000 broadcasting receiving licences are in force and 16 experimental transmitting licences are in existence. Numerous Wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government licence) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving programmes broadcast by the Empire, America and other broadcasting stations.

Submarine Cables.

248. Messrs. Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. operate from Kingston to Turks Island, Bermuda, Barbados and Halifax N.S. At Halifax semi-automatc retransmission is provided to Montreal and London providing a virtually direct circuit from Kingston to both places. Direct circuits are also operated to Santiago, Cuba; Havana, Cuba, and New York City also to San Juan and Ponce, Porto Rico.

249. In April 1938, Cable and Wireless, Limited, introduced an "Empire Flat Rate Scheme" whereby telegrams can be exchanged by the public between any one British Empire Country, Dominion,

Colony and Protectorate, and any other at the following rates:—

Ordinary Full Rate Telegrams	1/3 per word.
Code Telegrams	10d. per word.
Deferred Telegrams	7½d. per word.
Letter Telegrams	5d. per word.

(Min. Charge as for 25 words).

250. It is a condition of the scheme that Senders must route their telegrams "*Via Imperial*" as the former higher rates still apply to messages forwarded by foreign "*Vias.*"

251. Still lower rates are to be provided when certain conditions as to the Company's Revenue are fulfilled; a percentage of the profits from telegraph traffic over and above a certain "Standard Revenue" will be applied to a reduction of rates.

Wireless.

252. During 1935 a new station was built at Half-Way Tree to accommodate the Radio Telephone receivers and terminal equipments. The receivers for all services are now located at the Half-Way-Tree Station and the transmitters at Stony Hill. An overseas telephone service was opened to the public during 1936, the connection being through Miami, Florida. This service has been extended to Europe, and ships at sea off Jamaica direct, other ships via New York and San Francisco.

Ship Shore Service.

253. Continuous watch is maintained for ships, and traffic is exchanged on medium and short waves on schedule providing a means of communication up to a distance of 2,000 miles or more from Kingston.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

254. In addition to the construction of New Roads and Bridges, an account of which appears under Chapter XI, the principal activities of the year were:—

Public Works Extraordinary.

Air conditioning of Appeal Court Room and Chambers of Judges of Appeal.

Alterations to R.M. Court, Sutton Street and provision for additional Court Room for Supreme Court, Government Buildings.

Naval Intelligence Office for Staff.

New Post Office, Retreat.

Post Office Black River including purchase and repairs of premises.

General Penitentiary—Special Repairs.

General Penitentiary—Overhauling machinery, repairs to roof of machine shop and re-roofing drying shed of Brick Works.

Quarters for Inspector of Police, Halfway Tree.

Industrial School, Stony Hill, Teacher's Cottage—special repairs, install Electric lights and Water Supply; erect Blacksmith's shop and Mason's room.

Police Station Bath—Alterations and repairs.

Quarters of Inspector of Police, Port Antonio.

New Police Station, Riversdale.

St. Catherine District Prison—Special Repairs.

Mental Home—Special Repairs.
Mental Home—(Male Div.) Enlargement of main Kitchen.
Mental Home—Enlarge existing accommodation for main Stores.
V.D. Clinic, Highholborn Street—Alterations and additions to.
Public General Hospital, Buff Bay—Alterations and improvements.
King's House—Special repairs.
Extension to Government Chemical Laboratories, Hope, and equipment.
Extension to Agricultural Chemist Laboratory, Hope.
Quarantine Station for Animals.
Purchase premises and erect Public Works Depot, Pt. Maria.
Quarters for Superintendent, P.W. Department, Santa Cruz.
Additional accommodation for Students Grove Place Stud Farm.
Sewer System to serve Collectorate, Court House and Police Station, Linstead.
Latrines, Government Buildings, Spanish Town, conversion into water-borne system (1st Instl.)
Technical School—Additional accommodation.
New Government School—Lime Tree Garden.
Construction of New Telegraph and Telephone Lines:—
Somerton to Adelphi.
Rosehall to Munro.
Union to Gayle.
Aerodrome Palisadoes.

LOAN WORKS.

Public and Municipal Works Loan Law 17 of 1933.

Schedule "A."

255. Works of Improvement to Falmouth Harbour have been completed at a cost of £25,932. Of this amount £19,206 was spent this year, £11,104 of which is to be financed from funds provided for under Other Harbours of Loan Law 22 of 1935.

Loan Law 22 of 1935.

Liabilities totalling £11,098, being amount advanced for the completion of Improvements to Falmouth Harbour, are to be met from 4th Instalment.

Schedule "D."

2nd Instalment.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Type plans and Estimates covering the programme of Schools have been prepared. The following Shools were completed:—
Greenwich Farm.
Mount Pleasant.
Exchange.
Crofts Hill.
Grateful Hill.
Bath—Extension.

In addition, satisfactory progress has been made on many others, and in regard to the remaining schools, not yet started, sites have been acquired or negotiations for purchase of sites in hand.

Improvements to Hospitals and for Completion of T.B. Hospital and Sanatorium.

256. New Outpatients' and X-Ray Building, Public General Hospital, Kingston—nearing completion.

New Hospital Alexandria, St. Ann—Work progressing.

New T.B. Hospital and Sanatorium, Hope Pastures,—Work well in hand and it is hoped to complete this work at the end of the Current Financial Year.

T. B. Wards attached to Parish Hospitals.

257. From funds provided under this instalment, the following were the works undertaken:—

T.B. Ward, Port Maria—completed.
T.B. Ward, Sav.-la-Mar—completed.
T.B. Ward, Lucea—completed.
T.B. Ward, Mandeville—completed.

Improvement of Spas.

Milk River Baths, Improvements:—

Engine House, Lighting and Sanitary Annexes have been completed.

Drainage and Reclamation of Swamp Lands.

258 Swamp Lands at Kingston Pen commenced under 1st Instalment was continued and the Drainage of Warner's Pond completed. The amount allotted under this Instalment was fully expended on these works.

Parochial Water Supplies.

259. The following works have been undertaken by the Public Works Department:—

Lucea Water Supply		completed.
May Pen	,,	,,
Chapelton	,,	,,
Montego Bay	,,	,,
Buff Bay	,,	nearing completion
Morant Bay	,,	work progressing
Brompton	,,	,,

3rd Instalment.

Elementary Schools and Teachers' Cottages.

260. The allotment of £28,300 under this Instalment will be used to complete the programme of works commenced under the 2nd Instalment.

Improvements to Hospitals and for the Construction of T.B. Hospital and Sanatorium.

261. The greater portion of the allotment of £51,900 will be used to cover works commenced under the 2nd Instalment.

Other Buildings.

262. New Post Office at Ipswich in hand.

Reclamation of Swamp Lands.

263. The following works are in hand:—
Swamp Reclamation—Kingston Pen.
Hope Bay—Drainage.
The drainage scheme for Area westward of Duhaney River commenced; was, however, deferred and the allotment transferred to Kingston Pen Swamp Reclamation Work.

Other Works Undertaken.

264. Hut Blue Mountain Peak.
New Building Government Savings Bank.
Office for Commissioner of Land Settlement.

265. The duties of the Public Works Department include the following:—

(a) The making, repairing, deviating, maintaining and managing of all main roads—Law 33 of 1931.
(b) The erection and maintenance of all Public Buildings—Law 16 of 1868.
(c) The care and management of all Lighthouses,—Law 8 of 1900.
(d) The laying out, construction and maintenance of all Government Telegraph and Telephone Lines,—Law 1 of 1879.
(e) The management and control of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works—Law 27 of 1872.
(f) The management and control of the Spanish Town Water Works,—Law 16 of 1877. And the construction, enlargement, improvement, repairs, management and control of any other Water Works, at the request of a Parochial Board and authorized by the Governor—Laws 28 of 1889, and 19 of 1900.
(g) The carrying out of all undertakings, the funds of which are provided by General Revenue or by Loans, and the design and carrying out of all important works, the funds of which are provided by parochial Revenue or by the Loans or Grants to Parochial Boards.
(h) The Director of Public Works is the chief adviser of the Government in regard to all matters involving structural work of any kind or the use of machinery, and is charged with the preparation of studies, designs, specification and estimates for all such undertakings, and for the construction of the works when authorized.
(i) The Director of Public Works has statutory powers under the Electric Lighting Law, the Telephone Law, the Tramway Law, and the Motor Vehicle Law. He is the Tribunal of Appeal under the Kingston Building Law, (24 of 1907) and is ex-officio a Trustee of the Titchfield Property, a member of the Board of Management of the Milk River Baths (Law 30 of 1927) and Chairman, Island Traffic Authority (Law 41 of 1937).

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

266. The Courts of the Island are asfollows:—
The Supreme Court.
The Resident Magistrate's Court.
The Petty Sessions Court.
The Coroner's Court.

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The Supreme Court consists of the following:—

The Supreme Court with jurisdiction in civil matters over £100.

The Circuit Court with jurisdiction in indictable offences beyond the jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates. Appeals from Petty Sessions are also heard by the Judge of the Circuit Court.

The Court of Appeal which hears appeals from the Supreme Court (civil and criminal) the Resident Magistrate's Court (civil and criminal) also appeals from the Cayman Islands in civil and criminal matters and from the Turks and Caicos Islands in criminal matters only.

There are four Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, a Chief Justice, a Judge of the Court of Appeal and two Justices of the High Court.

267. The Resident Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters—

(a) In civil matters where the amount claimed does not exceed £100.

(b) In criminal matters as set out in Section 270 of Law 39 of 1927.

There is also a summary jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates by statute.

The Petty Sessions Court is generally presided over by Justices of the Peace or by the Resident Magistrate of the parish who has the jurisdiction of two Justices of the Peace. The Court deals with minor offences.

There are fifteen Resident Magistrates in the Island, and an Assistant Resident Magistrate for the parish of Kingston.

The Coroner's Court is presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the parish with a jury.

POLICE.

268. In 1866 it was considered necessary to abolish the old Police Force dating from 1834, and a Law was passed (No. 8 of 1867), establishing a new and improved Constabulary Force. This latter Law was repealed in 1935 and Law 27 of 1935, "The Jamaica Constabulary Force Consolidation and Amendment Law, 1935" brought into effect.

269. The present authorized strength of the Force is 25 Officers and 1,182 Sub-Officers and Constables. No person shall be eligible for admission into the Jamaica Constabulary unless he can produce a Certificate of Character from a Magistrate or other gentleman of position and can pass a satisfactory Medical Examination. He must not be less than 5 ft. 8 ins. in height and 33 ins. round the chest; not less than nineteen or more than thirty years of age, and be able to read without hesitation any printed or written document and to write a fair hand.

270. Every Constable is enrolled for five years (the first six months being on probation) and is bound to serve and reside in any place to which he may be appointed—his native parish and the parish with which he may be connected by marriage or family ties not being one of the districts to which he may be sent.

271. Members of the Force are trained on semi-military lines and perform the duties appertaining to the Office of Constables. There are a separate Criminal Investigation Department and a Water Police Branch, recruited from the Regular Force. There is also a District Constabulary Force, for the purpose of connecting the main Police system with the remote parts of the Island. The members are drawn from the better class small settlers, and act as auxiliaries to the Regular Force.

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PRISONS.

General Penitentiary.

272. This is for convicted male prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, European prisoners and prisoners remanded by the Courts of Kingston and St. Andrew. There is separate cell accommodation for 720 prisoners; a further 150 can be housed in association by using the Chapel, and 32 in Hospital Wards. The Remand prisoners are kept separate from convicted prisoners in a section of the Prison that has been fitted for their exclusive use and contains a range of 78 cells, usual sanitary and other offices and exercise ground shaded by mango trees.

St. Catherine District Prison, Spanish Town.

273. For male prisoners awaiting trial, debtors, prisoners awaiting sentence of death, and convicted male prisoners with sentences not exceeding 6 months. There is separate cell accommodation for 512, association rooms including the Chapel for 306, and Hospital Wards for 40.

Juvenile Adult Prison, Spanish Town.

274. For selected male prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21. Maximum accommodation for 66.

Female's Prison, Kingston.

275. For all women prisoners. Separate cell accommodation for 198; Hospital Wards for 15.

276. In adult prisons, first offenders are located and work apart from the more hardened criminals.

277. At the Juvenile Adult Prison, special rules and conditions prevail which include progressive grades, each grade having its special privileges. There is physical drill daily, and among other privileges which may be earned are games, and meals in association. Any boy proving to be a bad influence is reverted to a Juvenile party of the Adult Prison. Any young prisoners not selected for the Juvenile Adult Prison are located and work apart from adults in the ordinary prisons. Suitable boys are taught the citrus industry by members of the Department of Agriculture, and many have, in consequence, been placed in good posts.

278. In the Female's Prison satisfactory classification is not possible as there are only three forms of labour, i.e., washing (mostly for the Public Hospital), ironing and a small amount of sewing. This is particularly unfortunate because so many young girls of 14 to 18 are sent to Prison with short sentences, often on a first conviction. Well behaved women prisoners serving long sentences are allowed to join a sewing class which is conducted by a Committee of Ladies under the leadership of Miss Marvin of the Deaconess Home. Periodically, sales of their work are held, to which interested ladies are invited. The proceeds enable the class to be self-supporting and leave a balance which is paid to its members when they are discharged, the amount being decided upon by the Committee and based on progress made and work done.

Education. General Penitentiary.

279. The Schoolmaster, assisted by a Warder who is an ex-teacher, conduct classes each evening from 5—6.45 p.m. The instructions given are of an elementary nature and aim at raising prisoners to the average standard of literacy of the section of the community to which

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they will return. The average number under instruction each night has been 50. Talks on varied subjects form part of the instruction given.

St. Catherine District Prison.

The Juvenile Adults receive elementary instruction from a Warder who was a qualified School Teacher and who is under the guidance of the Chaplain. In addition to ordinary class-room subjects, talks on varied subjects are given.

Health and Sanitation.

280. The health of the prisoners has been remarkably good. All parts of every prison are frequently inspected by the Medical Officers who render quarterly reports which indicate that the standard of sanitation is highly satisfactory.

BRIEF STATISTICS.

281. AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION.

		1936	1937	1938
General Penitentiary	...	596	564	623
St. Catherine District Prison	...	558	514	468
Female Prison	...	58	55	54
Juvenile Adult Prison	...	37	49	41
		1,249	1,182	1,186

1934—1,223; 1935—1,161.

Number in Custody—		31.12.37.	31.12.38.
General Penitentiary	...	640	654
St. Catherine District Prison	...	592	491
		1,232	1,145

1934—1,115; 1935—1,208; 1936—1,272.

Expenditure	...	£40,154 19s. 7d.	£46,123 10s. 7d.
Revenue	...	9,447 8s. 9d.	8,941 7s. 6d.
Materials supplied other Departments free	...	89 15s. 0d.	—
Cost of Prisons	...	£30,617 15s. 10d.	£37,182 3s. 1d.
Cost per prisoner per annum		£25 18s. 1d.	£31 7s. 0d.

282. The increase in expenditure is mainly due to increases of pay granted to all grades of subordinate officers and to resumption of brick-making which involved additional temporary staff and the purchasing of a considerable quantity of fuel.

283. Orders have been received for bricks, but have not yet been supplied, so Revenue has not benefited up to 31.12.38.

Value of Prison manufactures and farm products used in Prison:

1937	1938
£2,666 8s. 1d.	£1,871 7s. 4d.

ublishing company, inc.

The decline in the value of Prison manufactures and farm products used in Prison is due to:—

(1) A cessation of work at the farms and quarries of both Prisons during periods of labour unrest.

(2) A change of diet scale which resulted in the use of less home grown vegetables, etc.

(3) The reserve-stock of clothing for prisoners at General Penitentiary issued and not replaced.

(4) Excessive theft of produce from Kingston Pen Farm.

284. The average daily population for the past 10 years is 1,217, and in view of the amount of unemployment that exists in the Colony and the large increase in the population by repatriation during that period, it is very satisfactory to find the average daily population for 1938 below the ten-year average to the extent of 31.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

285. Forty Laws were passed during the year 1938.

286. The following is a brief summary of those which may be considered of interest :

Law 7 of 1938.—"A Law to Substitute the name 'Mental Hospital' for the name 'Lunatic Asylum' and to Amend the Laws relating to the said Institution."

The Law was motived by representations made by the Director of Medical Sevices and the Senior Medical Officer, Lunatic Asylum. It made, *inter alia* the following substantial amendments to the Lunacy Laws :—

(a) Changes the name of Lunatic Asylum to Mental Hospital, and amends the relevant Laws in order to render effective the proposed change of name;

(b) Provides for the reception in the Mental Hospital of private patients on—

(i) a reception order, and

(ii) an urgency order,

and provides effective safeguards for the protection of such patients.

(c) Provides for reception into the Mental Hospital of voluntary Boarders, and effective safeguards for the protection of such patients.

287. Law 9 of 1938.—"A Law to make exception provision for the Protection of the Community in cases of Emergency."

The Law was introduced and passed during the disturbances which commenced on the 23rd May, 1938. It gives the Governor power to declare, by Proclamation, that a state of Emergency exists, if at any time it appears to him that any action has been taken or is immediately threatened by any person or body of persons of such a nature as to be calculated to affect the securing of the essentials of life to the community, or as may interfere with good order and the preservation of peace. The Law further gives the Governor in Privy Council power to make Regulations for ensuring that the essentials of life shall be available to the community. It requires such Regulations to be placed before the Legislative Council as soon as may be after they

are made, and provides that they shall not continue in force after the expiration of seven days from the time that they are so laid, unless a Resolution is passed by the Legislative Council providing for the continuance thereof. The Law contains a further provision that it shall only continue in force until and including the 31st December, 1938.

288. Law 11 of 1938.—"A Law to amend further the Match Excise Duty Law, 1934 (Law 25 of 1934)."

Law 15 of 1938.—"A Law to amend the Income Tax Law, 1919 (Law 24 of 1919)."

Law 16 of 1938.—"A Law to amend further the Tariff Laws."

Law 17 of 1938.—"A Law to amend the Brewers Licenses Law, 1896 and the Brewers Licenses Law, 1896, Amendments Law, 1899."

Law 18 of 1938.—"A Law to amend the Rum Duty Laws, 1878 to 1931."

Law 21 of 1938.—"A Law to impose a duty on Entertainments to which the public are admitted for payment."

The abovementioned Laws were enacted in order to provide additional revenue to meet substantial increases in wages of labourers employed by the Public Works Department and other Government employees, interest and sinking fund in connection with the raising of the loan of £778,000 for Land Settlement Schemes, an All-Island Telephone Scheme, the constructon of and improvements to Parochial Hospitals, construction of a Court House at Half-Way Tree and an addition to the present building of the Institute of Jamaica.

289. Law 22 of 1938.—"A Law for raising the necessary money for Land Settlement and other purposes."

The Law authorises the Governor to raise by the issue of a loan either at one time or by instalments a sum of £778,000 divided as follows:—

(a) £650,000 for Land Settlement Schemes and matters connected therewith.

(b) £75,000 for an All-Island Telephone Scheme.

(c) £31,000 for the construction of and improvements to Parochial Hospitals.

(d) £12,000 for the construction of a Court House at Halfway Tree.

(e) £1,000 for an additional building at the Institute of Jamaica.

290. Law 23 of 1938.—"A Law to Amend the Law Relating to Divorce."

The Law marks a definite advance in social legislation in Jamaica. It provides, *inter alia*—

(a) additional grounds for divorce in that it enables a petition for divorce to be presented by either party to the marriage on the grounds of—

(i) desertion for a period of three years immediately preceding the presentment of the petition;

(ii) cruelty;

(iii) unsoundness of mind which has endured under treatment for a period of five years immediately preceding the presentment of the petition;

(b) preserves the right of the wife to present a petition for divorce on the ground that her husband, since the celebration of the marriage, has been guilty of certain unnatural offences.

(c) permits the presentment of a petition for judicial separation on any ground for which a decree for divorce "A mensa et thoro" might have been pronounced in England immediately before the commencement of The Matrimonial Causes Act, 1857.

(d) provides, *inter alia*, the following further grounds for a decree of nullity of marriage—

(i) wilful refusal of the respondent to consummate the marriage;

(ii) mental defectiveness of the respondent at the time of the marriage or that he was subject to recurrent fits of insanity or epilepsy;

(e) enables the party against whom the Decree Nisi has been granted to apply to the Court to make the Decree Absolute in cases where the party in whose favour the Decree was made neglects to make the Application.

(f) enables the Court to presume, on a Petition presented for that purpose, death of either party to the marriage if for seven years or upwards that party has been continuously absent from the petitioner, and the petitioner has no reason to believe that the party whose death is sought to be presumed has been living within that time.

291. Law 24 of 1938.—"A Law to make Better Provision for the Defence of Poor Persons Charged with any Capital Offence."

The Law makes provision for legal aid to poor prisoners charged with any captial offence—

(1) before an investigating Magistrate,

(2) before a Court of trial, and where sentence of death is pronounced by the Court of Trial for free legal aid to the convicted person to advise him as to whether he has any grounds for appeal or for an application for leave to appeal and for drafting of all necessary documents where the convicted person appeals or applies for leave to appeal.

The Law further makes provision that an application for leave to appeal in such cases shall be heard in open Court and by the two Judges of the Court of Appeal, instead of, as hitherto, by one Judge in Chambers.

292. Law 29 of 1938.—"A Law to amend the Agricultural Loan Societies Law, 1912 (Law 6 of 1912)."

The Law is a considerable advance on prior legislation. It provides, *inter alia*,—

(a) that Societies may borrow from the Board an amount not exceeding two-thirds of their share capital or the total amount of their paid up capital or such an amount as the Governor in Privy Council may approve. Under previous legislation all they could borrow was up to two-thirds of their share capital;

(b) permits the Board to make loans not exceeding a sum of £500 to an Agricultural Loan Society;

(c) enables a Society to make loans to individual shareholders to an amount in excess of £200 on such terms and conditions as the Board may approve.

293. Law 30 of 1938.—"A Law to Amend the Sugar Industry Control Law, 1937 (Law 43 of 1937)."

Under Law 43 of 1937 Reserve Sugar was controlled on a basis of compulsory and strictly proportionate quotas. The Law releases Reserve Sugar from the strict control mentioned, and enables

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factories to produce what Reserve Sugar the canes they grow and buy will permit, so long as the aggregate of their reserve does not exceed the quantity fixed. It also fixed the basis on which Cane Farmers are to be licensed on a more practical and equitable footing than was provided for by the Law which it amends. The Law further provides that persons acquiring by purchase, lease, operation of Law or otherwise, cane cultivations from a Registered Cane Farmer may, upon registration, be licensed.

294.—Law 31 of 1938.—"A Law to make provision for the Fixing of Minimum Wages."

The Law enables the Governor in Privy Council to fix minimum rates of wages for any occupation in the Island either generally or in any specified area, place or district, in any case in which he is satisfied that the wages being paid to any person employed in any such occupation are unreasonably low.

295. Law 35 of 1938.—"A Law to amend the Trade Union Law 1919 (Law 37 of 1919)."

The Law provides for the compulsory registration of Trade Unions. It repeals the definition of "Trade Union" contained in the Law that it amends and substitutes a new definition which incorporates amendments introduced by the Trade Union Act, Amendment Act 1876 (Imperial) and the Trade Union Act 1913 (Imperial). The Law also contains provisions with respect to peaceful picketing, and provisions with respect to the prevention of intimidation. It also affords to Trade Unions in Jamaica the same protection with respect to actions of tort which is afforded to similar bodies in England.

296. Law 37 of 1938.—A Law for Raising the Necessary Money for Public Works and other Purposes."

The Law enables the Governor to raise by the issue of a loan, either at one time or by instalments, as may be convenient, the sum of £500,000 sterling, and such further sums as may be necessary to defray the expenses of issue, for the following purposes:—

(1) £110,000 for the extension of hospital facilities in the several Parishes of the Island;

(2) £70,000 for a new Legislative Council building;

(3) £150,000 for re-loan by Government to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation to be used as follows:—

- (a) £105,000 for street and road re-construction and gully improvements within the Corporate Area;
- (b) £8,000 for a new Council Chamber, Offices and Stores;
- (c) £15,000 to meet increased expenditure on new Fire Station;
- (d) To repay Government advances totalling £12,000 being £8,000 advanced in connection with rural Water Supplies, and £4,000 in connection with improvements to Bournemouth Bath;
- (e) £4,000 for a new Tuberculosis Ward at the Corporation Poor House;
- (f) £6,000 for repairs to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Poor House and Maxfield Park.

(4) £70,000 for re-loan by Government to the Water Commission for improvements and extension of sewerage works within the Corporate Area;

(5) £100,000 for re-loan by Government to the several Parochial Boards in the Island to be utilised in Parochial improvement schemes.

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297. Law 40 of 1938.—"A Law to Amend Further the Tariff Laws."

The Law gives effect to the Trade Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the United States of America, in so far as such Agreement affects Jamaica.

CHAPTER XV.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

298. The Commercial Banks doing business in Jamaica are Barclays Bank, Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

299. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at 31st December, 1938, was as follows:—

Barclays Bank, Dominion Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£132,327
Bank of Nova Scotia	£166,352
Royal Bank of Canada	£50,643
Canadian Bank of Commerce	£14,640

300. The Banks all have their principal offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclays Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Christiana, Brown's Town, Mandeville, May Pen, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

301. The following are legal tender in Jamaica:—British Gold and Silver Coins, local nickel and bronze alloy coins, Government Currency Notes.

Accounts are kept in sterling.

302. Government Currency Notes which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on the 31st December, 1938, to the extent of £148,661 10/- in the following denominations:—

2/6 Notes.	5/- Notes.	10/- Notes.
£112 0 0	£60,070 10 0	£88,479 0 0

303. Jamaica has its own subsidiary coinage of 1d., ½d., and ¼d. denominations.

304. Imperial Weights and Measures are in common use.

CHAPTER XVI.

Finance.

Public Finance and Taxation.

The following statement shews the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

£ 1933-34.	£ 1934-35.	£ 1935-36.	£ 1936-37.	£ 1937-38.
2,037,319	2,260,352	2,121,965	2,212,365	2,476,136

Expenditure.

1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
£2,186,056	£2,255,502	£2,178,228	£2,206,079	£2,271,174

The total Expenditure during the year ended 31st March, 1938, was £204,962 less than the total Revenue.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the period from the 1st April to the 31st December, 1938, under the various Heads:—

Head of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
I. Customs and Excise—	
Customs	1,192,138
Excise	248,354
II. Harbour Dues, etc.	6,742
III. License and other Internal Revenue—	
Licenses	35,818
Fines, etc.	3,151
Judicial Revenue (Fines)	8,377
Entertainment Tax	3,110
IV. Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, etc.—	
Fees of Office	9,083
Commissions	1
Stamp Duties	51,659
Judicial Revenue (Fees)	9,491
V. Reimbursements—	
(1) Debt Charges	83,067
(2) Pensions—Contributions	12,113
(3) Salaries, etc.	15,508
(4) General	17,052
(5) Audit Services	750
VI. Post Office and Telegraphs—	
(a) Post Office	75,403
(b) Telegraphs	21,341
VII. Departmental Revenue—	
(a) Medical	7,802
(b) Prisons	7,628
(c) Science and Agriculture	2,946
(d) Printing Office	2,343
(e) Surveyor General	782
(f) Public Works Department	16
(g) Education Department	178
(h) Administrator General	2,572
(i) Trustee in Bankruptcy	203
VIII. Irrigation Receipts	12,868
IX. Direct Taxation	142,770
X. Currency	..
XI. Rents	3,049
XII. Interest	6,346
XIII. Miscellaneous Receipts	10,849
	1,993,898
XIV. Surplus in Sinking Funds	..
XV. Land Sales	1,475
XVI. Colonial Development Fund	194
	£1,995,567

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Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Charges of Debt	211,266
Pensions	75,388
Pensions of Widows and Orphans	15,279
The Governor and Staff	6,144
Privy Council	46
Legislative Council	4,575
Colonial Secretariat	8,684
Lands Department	11,375
Land Settlement	5,586
Forestry	4,431
Audit Department	9,657
Public Treasury	6,023
Currency Commissioners	2,198
Government Savings Bank	11,879
Immigration Department	10
Collector General's Department	80,996
Post Office	96,786
Supreme Court	9,261
Law Officers	4,616
Resident Magistrate Courts	36,814
Administrator General's Office	5,054
Bankruptcy Department	2,410
Medical General Administration	24,142
Medical Health Service	34,838
Medical Hospitals and Lepers Home	78,725
Medical Mental Hospital	34,470
Constabulary	171,642
Prisons	35,264
Industrial School	4,637
Education	200,799
Harbours and Pilotage	3,902
Marine Board	687
Imperial Forces Allowances	5,277
Local Forces	6,271
Registrar General's Department and Island Record Office	6,782
Registration of Titles Office	2,740
Government Printing Office	21,066
Board of Supervision	567
Department of Science and Agricutlure	41,334
Agricultural Loan Societies Board	1,634
Subventions	201,953
Miscellaneous	35,997
Railway	27,170
Public Works Department	39,791
Public Works Annual Recurrent	248,798
Public Works Extraordinary	78,345
Island Traffic Authority	3,980
	1,919,289
Colonial Development Fund	2,002
	£1,921,291

306. The Assets and Liabilities at the 31st March, 1938, were £1,431,916 and £1,210,732, respectively. The year, therefore, closed with a surplus of £221,184. The following statement shews how the Assets of the Colony at 31st March, 1938 were held:—

	£	s.	d.
Loans—			
To Agricultural Loan Societies Board ..	17,863	3	9
To Wolmer's Trust	3,276	10	6
Bath Corporation, St. Thomas	240	0	0
Milk River Bath	1,871	1	1
Government Cayman Islands	3,660	0	0
To Manning's Trust	748	0	6
To Hope Stock Farm for acquisition of Hope Pasture	1,250	0	0
From Parochial Water Supplies Fund, Law 25 of 1928	8,990	17	7
Hurricane Loans, 1933	4,512	6	9
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 15 of 1932, Advance	9,700	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 25 of 1933, Advance	8,060	0	0
Banana Industry Aid Board, Law 24 of 1935, Advance	8,700	0	0
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid Law 15 of 1932	2,704	15	3
Interest on Loans from Banks under the Banana Industry Aid Law 25 of 1933	1,464	8	8
Expenses Banana Industry Aid Board Laws 15 of 1932, 25 of 1933 and 24 of 1935 ..	9,627	14	6
Advances—			
Land Settlement	65,664	16	4
On account of Loans to be raised ..	25,059	17	2
To Parochial Boards	4,551	0	0
Stores	116,684	2	2
Other Governments Advances	1,873	19	2
General	79,989	3	8
Appropriated Funds Invested—			
Redemption Funds for Loans guaranteed and unguaranteed by the Colony	16,633	11	1
Deposits for Investment	201,884	10	7
Trust Funds	35,912	5	11
Miscellaneous Funds (Insurance Fund and Reserve Fund)	249,128	16	4
Revenue Collections in Transit	7,398	10	4
Director Jamaica Railway	11,661	6	4
Emigration Agent, India	99	13	2
Imprests	16,595	5	6
Remittances in Transit	246	17	10
Remittances between Chests	1,315	4	2
Crown Agents for Joint Colonial Fund ..	206,000	0	0
Bank of Nova Scotia, New York ..	2,004	0	2
Cash Balances—Treasurer	306,544	15	4
	£1,431,916	13	10

307. The Colony's Insurance Fund, which forms part of the Assets and is specially earmarked against earthquake, hurricane, or calamity of a like nature, amounted to £199,397 at 31st March, 1938.

308. A Reserve Fund was created in 1936 for the purpose of meeting not only the remoter consequences of hurricane and similar calamities which could not be met from the Insurance Fund but also the cost of works which should find no place in a development loan Programme. This Fund amounted to £49,731 at the 31st March, 1938.

309. The amount of the Public Debt, chargeable on General Revenue outstanding at the 31st March, 1938, was £4,604,477. The accumulated Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Debt amounted to £605,492. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference—£3,998,985—exceeds by £1,541,516 the estimated Revenue for the financial year 1938-39.

310. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of Great Britain and Jamaica in 1938.

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
Great Britain	45,000,000	£8,144,128,418	180.98
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	1,152,528	£4,604,477	3.99

If the accumulation standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1938, viz.: £605,492—be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita would be £3 9s. 5d.

Taxation.

311. A description of the main heads of Taxation and the yield of each, in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1938, are given hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.
i. Customs—			
Import Duties	1,250,035	18	0
Export Duties	768	2	7
Package Tax	83,170	10	1
ii. Harbour and Light Dues—			
Harbour Fees	2,921	14	0
Light Dues	7,545	13	9
iii. Licences	64,445	0	0
Excise	282,536	0	0
Income Tax	102,172	0	0
Property Tax	67,017	0	0
Fines in Petty Sessions	14,796	0	0
Penalties	5,246	0	0
Stamp Duties	102,478	0	0

Customs Tariff.

312. The general ad valorem duty is 20%, and the preferential rate to the British Empire is 15% with slight variations in the duties on certain classes of goods, in addition to specific duties on articles falling chiefly under the heading of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Apparel.

There is also a Free List consisting chiefly of goods for Government and the Parochial Boards, Coal, Manures, Fertilisers, Insecticides, etc., and Agricultural implements.

Excise Duty.

313. The principal Excise duties were on Cigars, from 6d. to 2/- per 100 according to their value, and Rum 8/- per proof gallon.

Stamp Duties.

314. Estate Duty is chargeable on the value of Real and Personal Property according to the graduated scale denoted in Section 1 of Law 15 of 1929, varying from 3% to 20%.

Legacy Duty is chargeable on all legacies at rates varying from 1% to 10%, according to the consanguinity of the legatee to the testator.

Succession Duty varies from 1% to 10%, according to the relationship to the predecessor.

In addition to these are various Stamp Duties on Agreements, Bills of Exchange, Conveyance, Leases, etc. under Law 36 of 1937.

There is no Hut Tax nor Poll Tax collected in the Colony.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR 1938.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A threepointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively.

In his report of the Survey of Sponge Grounds (1938), Dr. H. H. Brown describes the Geological structure of the Caicos Bank as precisely similar to that of the Bahamas. " A flat-topped rock rises steeply from the ocean bed consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin; this rock mass comprises the whole Caicos Banks and Cays and is similar to other rock masses of the Bahama group."

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coast line of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef. Dr. Brown writes: " This reef of living coral is superimposed on the edge of the limestone landmass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers on which the seas break heavily. It is therefore very dangerous to navigate." On the islands " the limestone is weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." On the bank coast of these islands there is found " a mangrove and sea-water swamp which is intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate and had resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock." Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. The first beginning from the north consists of white mud or marl under some three or four feet of water. The second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as " Bank." " The ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface, which is not shifted or surred up by currents and high winds; it can therefore support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass and burrowing animals (Annelida Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant in the surface." The last zone under shallow water consists of clean shifting biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide.

At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found " the barrier reef from the edge of which soundings drop down with spectacular suddenness."

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. This system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The only language spoken is English.

The climate may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from about 60° minimum to 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December is generally pleasant. At Grand Turk the average rainfall for the last ten years has been 34·4 inches. The rainfall during 1938 was 24·04 inches and the maximum and minimum temperature was 93° and 64° with a mean maximum and minimum of 83·09° and 74·74°.

These islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over them in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous as regards destruction of property in the history of the Dependency.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. H. C. N. Hill, M.C., assumed the duties of Commissioner in July 1937.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

Certain laws of Jamaica are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

Other settlements are Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos where there is a District Commissioner, and Salt Cay on the island of that name, where there is a Government Officer. There are ten settlements in the Caicos all of which are inhabited solely by people of African origin, and at each of which there is a District Constable.

During the year the Commissioner visited Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay on various occasions and he also made two tours of the Caicos Islands. No Commissioner had visited the outer islands for some 15 years. The first tour was undertaken in a small schooner without auxiliary power and terminated at Port-de-Paix, Haiti, to which port the vessel was driven in a storm. The second was made in a motor cruiser which in August had been acquired by the Government with partial aid from the Colonial Development Fund.

Small local committees have been established in each settlement to keep the administration informed on the general social and economic conditions prevailing. These committees have already shown themselves to be of value and to provide a very necessary link between the people of remote parts of the Dependency and Government.

The Commissioner visited Jamaica twice during the year. On the second occasion evidence was given before the West India Royal Commission.

III.—POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1921 when the population of the Dependency was 5,612. The estimated population in 1938 was 5,300; 4,620 are of pure African descent, 560 are of mixed descent and 120 of European descent. Females exceed the males in numbers.

The births and deaths registered during the last six years were as follows:—

	Number of Births.	*Number of Deaths.*	*Birth-rate per 1,000*	*Death-rate per 1,000*
1933	205	120	37·2	21·8
1934	168	97	30·2	17·2
1935	215	104	38·3	18·5
1936	184	195	32·7	34·5
1937	165	90	29·4	16·0
1938	205	110	38·7	20·8

The above rates are based on the population of 1921.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1938 was 25, equal to a death rate of 122 per 1,000 births; and in 1937 the corresponding figures were 23 and 139·4 per 1,000. Sixty-seven marriages were registered in 1938.

The emigration and immigration figures for the year under review were:—

	1938
Entered	173
Departed	130

IV.—HEALTH.

During the year the health of the Dependency was fair. Pellagra was in evidence but not to the same extent as the previous year. Between 35 and 40 infants received treatment for diseases of the digestive tract. Among the adults, muscular and articular rheumatism, arteriosclerosis and acute and chronic nephritis were also treated as well as some cases of malaria. Anaemia and beri-beri symptoms due to dietary deficiency came under observation and treatment. Skin diseases were prevalent amongst children and young women. There were no infectious epidemics but sporadic cases of chickenpox and mumps were in evidence early in the year.

No cases of primary syphilis came under observation. Nine cases of gonorrhoea were treated in the dispensary. Two cases of leprosy were treated in the isolation houses in the hospital grounds. At the commencement of the year the Manning Hospital at Grand Turk was, after repairs, re-opened. Thirty-five persons were admitted and there is no doubt that the poor have benefited by proper food and care which they could not have obtained outside.

There is a local Board of Health at each of the three principal settlements, and Inspectors of Nuisances are responsible to those Boards and the Medical Officer for seeing that premises are kept in a sanitary condition.

At the main settlements there was regular dental inspection of school children by a dentist subsidised by the Government, and prophylactic treatment was introduced during the year.

Two Government Medical Officers are the only Medical practitioners in the Dependency. One is stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. They are allowed private practice. There is no medical supervision or aid in the Caicos settlements.

At each of the three principal settlements there is a maternity nurse paid by the Government. There are no maternity nurses in the Caicos settlements, but during the coming year two girls are to be sent to Jamaica for training and will ultimately be available for the Caicos.

There is a public hospital at Grand Turk which is under the supervision of the Government Medical Officer and an Inspection Committee.

V.—HOUSING.

With regard to the Housing conditions in this Dependency, there are no statistics available beyond the figures given in the 1921 Census Report.

According to that census there were 1,414 dwelling houses in these islands; 1,233 were inhabited and 181 uninhabited; 900 were built of wood and 514 of stone. During the hurricane of 1926 the number of dwelling houses destroyed was 534. Some 200 houses were built out of hurricane relief funds.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed.

There is no building law and the people are free to build as they please.

There is no property tax in this Dependency and there are no building societies here.

In these islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings, although some are in very poor condition.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The industry is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. Three-fifths of the annual output, which over the past 25 years has averaged one million three hundred thousand bushels is the product of salinas belonging to four proprietors. The salt is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. It is also shipped to Jamaica. Efforts are being made to extend the markets. Turks Islands salt is famous for its purity and it has an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. Three grades are exported; coarse, the natural product of the salinas; fishery, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish; and industrial, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk; the industrial is bagged.

Very full information in regard to this industry can be obtained from the report of the Economic Commissioner (1937).

The 1938 raking was above the average, but owing to lack of demand during the last two months of the year exports fell to just under a million bushels. The price at the beginning of the year was good and was maintained until the latter half of the year since when there has been a distinct downward tendency.

The following table shows the destination, quality and value of the salt shipments in 1938:—

	Bushels.	*Value in £.*
Canada	510,257	10,580
Barbados	6,336	138
Jamaica	154,651	2,169
Newfoundland	21,532	512
United States	287,669	5,052
Total	980,445	£18,451

The optimism expressed in the last annual report that the sponge industry might be developed has been somewhat tempered by the report of Dr. H. Brown, Director of Sponge Fishery Investigations, Bahamas, who visited the Dependency in November. Sponge cultivation is not likely to be a financial success. However, the quality of two classes of sponge is said to be high and with conservation there is no reason why a minor industry valued at £2,000 to £3,000 a year should not be maintained. Prices have ruled low during the year, but the reductions in the import duty of the United States may tend to a recovery in prices on sponge sold through the Nassau Market.

The United Fish Company have continued experimental exports of canned cray fish. The factory has been moved to Chalk Sound on Providenciales, which is nearer the fishing centre.

The dried conchs, shark skin and turtle industries maintained their level.

Agriculture is mainly confined to the Caicos Islands, where the people can, in a good year, produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves and sell a surplus at the main settlements. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown and the people have mainly to rely on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imports.

Owing to a severe drought the 1937-8 winter crop was a failure, and this was followed by a partial failure in the summer crop. Some £700 towards relief was voted by Government. The 1938-9 winter crop has been above the average.

In years past the exports of sisal and cotton were of considerable value to the Dependency. The fall in prices and failure to produce the first quality resulted in the closing down of the plantations.

A small shipment of peasant-grown sisal was purchased for export to Jamaica, where, after representation had been made, the ban on importation from the Dependency had been removed by Proclamation.

No sea island cotton was exported during the year.

The cultivation of sisal, which is indigenous, and sea island cotton appear to be the only possible cash crops through which the inhabitants of the Caicos can obtain the means necessary to provide for the essentials of life beyond the limited food supplies which they can raise. The comparatively small amount which the Caicos could produce would be immaterial to the world's markets and further consideration should be given to the renewal of cultivation assisted by a Government subsidy.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last five years:—

		1934	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*	*1938*
Salt, bushels	...	522,568	793,747	1,154,641	1,400,840	980,445
Value	...	£9,780	£10,489	£14,002	£22,662	£18,451
Sponges, lb.	...	25,718	15,032	31,338	39,500	19,494
Value	...	£1,949	£1,242	£2,435	£3,545	£2,251
Conchs, No.	...	1,012,750	1,278,788	984,625	489,500	599,451
Value	...	£935	£1,279	£984	£412	£584
Lobster, tinned Cases		—	—	24	1,384	808
Value	...	—	—	£28	£2,030	£1,293

Approximately half the salt production and nearly all of the remainder of the above exports were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

During the season the waters round the Caicos Islands offer a veritable paradise to amateur big-game fishermen, but owing to lack of communications and accommodation few have availed themselves of the splendid sport obtainable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last five years was as follows:—

	1934	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*	*1938*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	21,114	18,984	23,623	25,654	25,974
Exports (Including Re-Exports).	12,973	13,313	17,609	30,061	23,052
Total ...	34,087	32,297	41,232	55,715	49,026

No coin or notes have been imported or exported during the years under review.

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last five years:—

	United Kingdom.	*Other parts of the British Empire.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
1934	2,922	3,863	14,329	21,114
1935	2,572	3,471	12,941	18,984
1936	2,924	5,257	15,442	23,623
1937	2,303	5,538	17,813	25,654
1938	2,114	5,656	18,204	25,974

The countries of origin and value of the import trade in 1938 were:—

	£	£
United Kingdom		2,114
British India	1,183	
Canada	3,382	
Jamaica	699	
Other British Countries	392	
Total British Empire		5,656
Haiti	1,069	
United States of America ...	16,208	
Other Foreign Countries	927	
Total Foreign Countries		18,204
Total imports		£25,974

Thirty per cent. of imports were from the British Empire and 70 per cent. from foreign countries.

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year showing the principal sources of supply:—

	1938 £	Principal Sources of Supply. British Empire.	Foreign Countries.
Food, drink and tobacco	14,052	39·6 per cent.	60·4 per cent.
Raw materials	1,472	41·7 per cent.	58·3 per cent.
Manufactured articles ...	7,629	10·3 per cent.	89·7 per cent.
Miscellaneous	2,821	18·3 per cent.	71·7 per cent.
	£25,974		

The principal articles imported in 1938 were as follows:—

Article.		Quantity.	Value in £'s.
Flour	barrels	2,656	2,607
Cotton goods... ...	...	—	2,144
Lard and substitutes	lb.	57,972	10,069
Rice	lb.	202,177	1,192
Lumber	feet	97,000	547
Sugar	lb.	257,889	1,037
Condensed milk ...	cases	782	672
Meats, salted... ...	lb.	26,150	482
Oils, mineral	gals.	15,337	561

EXPORTS.

During 1938 the declared value of the domestic exports of the Dependency was £23,009 and the value of the re-exports was £43.

The following Table shows the direction of the domestic exports in the last five years:—

	United Kingdom. £	Other parts of the British Empire. £	Foreign Countries. £	Total. £
1934	579	7,882	4,437	12,898
1935	182	5,463	7,575	13,220
1936	294	10,042	7,184	17,520
1937	1,928	17,300	10,750	29,978
1938	410	14,624	7,975	23,009

Of exports 65 per cent. were sent to the Empire and 35 per cent. to foreign countries. Full statistics are:—

	£	£
United Kingdom		410
Bahamas	1,065	
Canada	10,740	
Jamaica	2,169	
Other British Countries	650	
Total British Empire		14,624
Haiti	584	
United States of America	7,388	
Other Foreign Countries	3	
Total Foreign Countries		7,975
Total exports...		£23,009

VIII.—LABOUR.

The demand for labour is confined to that required in connexion with the salt industry. Sugar estates and large undertakings in Central and South America, which formerly took surplus labour, no longer do so, and the stevedore labour shipped by steamers calling at Grand Turk is now restricted to the few men taken by the steamers of the Royal Netherlands Line.

It is difficult to arrive at any figure in regard to the number employed in the salt industry. Labour is only required during approximately eight months of the year and even during that period, owing to the number of surplus labourers, a man may obtain only a few days' work during the week.

Employers are not responsible for housing or the feeding of their employees.

There is no Workmen's Compensation Act in force.

No statistics of employment have been kept and the following figures taken from the report for the year 1937 are merely an estimate of employment of males of 18 years and over:—

Settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour (including all Government Employees in the Dependency)

	Males
Government employees ...	37
Salt Industry labourers	220
Artisans ...	80
Commerce	32
Domestic Service	3
Other Industries (Agriculture, fishing etc.)	293
Unfit	67
	732

Those shown under " other industries " are really unemployed who eke out a precarious living through their own efforts.

In the Caicos Islands labour is confined to peasant farming and fishing in which industries probably some 700 men are employed.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 2s. to 3s. a day of ten hours and from 3s. to 6s. a day when shipping it. Labourers from these islands who are engaged for employment on the steamers that call here, are paid 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 12s. to 30s. a month with board and lodging. Payment of wages in goods from the stores of the salt proprietors is prevalent.

The following are the average retail prices of the principal provisions: bread, 4d. per lb.; fresh meat and poultry, 9d. to 1s. per lb.; salt meat, 10½d. per lb.; salt fish, 9d. per lb.; flour, 2½d. per lb.; rice, 4d. per qrt.; hominy and corn meal, 3½d. per qrt.; beans and peas, 1s. per qrt.; potatoes, 3d. per lb.; lard, 9d. per lb.; eggs, 1s. 6d. per doz.; milk (condensed), 7½d. per tin; butter (salt), 2s. 9d. per lb.; cheese, 2s. per lb.; sugar, 2½d. per lb.; syrup, 9d. per qrt.; tea, 3s. to 4s. per lb.; coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb.; cocoa, 1s. per lb.; common soap, 5d. per lb.; kerosene oil, 6d. per qrt.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands, where it is not possible to maintain schools to meet the requirements of some of the small isolated communities.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government. There are eleven elementary schools.

In 1938 the number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 896, and the average attendance 639. There were also five private elementary schools with a total of 63 pupils. Whilst the average appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads.

During the food shortage free issues of milk and cod liver oil were made. Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent.

There is a public secondary school at Grand Turk. In 1938 there were 12 pupils on the roll, and the average attendance was 11. The master of this school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

The Secondary School is to be closed as from the commencement of 1939 and a Senior Government School is to be established at which pupils may be trained as teachers.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a good assortment of current papers and magazines.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment or sickness.

One hundred and sixty-three persons were in receipt of poor relief from Government funds.

There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans, and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness and death.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is a regular steamship communication between the Dependency and the United States of America. Steamers of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, operating between New York and South America, call at Grand Turk on their way south every three weeks and again on their return north. These vessels carry mails, passengers, and freight to and from the Dependency.

Steamers of the Fyffes Line, on their way to Jamaica, call occasionally at Grand Turk to disembark passengers from England and/or embark passengers and mails for Jamaica.

Arrangements were made for a trial subsidised service by steamers of the Pickford and Black Line. They called once a month on the outward and homeword journey between Halifax and Kingston, Jamaica. Unfortunately, the arrangements broke down after six months. Negotiations for the renewal of this service in 1939 are being conducted.

There is also communication with Jamaica by sailing vessels, one of which is subsidised by the Government to give a regular monthly mail, passenger, and freight service to and from that Island. Sailings are approximately every three weeks.

There is constant communication between the Dependency and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing-craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via New York.

The Post Office dealt with about 187,140 postal articles during the year.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados, and Bermuda. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telegraph system provides service between Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. The equipment and plant is old and there have been many breakdowns. A new plant is to be installed in 1939.

There is a public telephone system at Grand Turk with provision for 60 lines.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in serviceable condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

At the end of the year there were 69 registered vessels owned in the Dependency.

The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year was as follows:—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total No.*	*Net Tonnage.*
Steamships	7	57	64	76,400
Sailing Vessels	151	25	176	13,578

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Unemployment Relief Work on road repairs was afforded during the year. Long overdue repairs to public buildings were commenced and the programme will be completed in 1939.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Government of the Bahamas and the Ordinances passed by the Local Legislature. The Government of Jamaica has powers to extend to this Dependency legislation passed by the Legislative Council. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

There are three Magistrate's Courts, at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force is very small. It consists of four men stationed at Grand Turk and one at Cockburn Harbour. In addition there is a local district constable at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands. A revenue constable at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour also do police duty.

The police also perform the duties of Prison Warders and they operate the telephone exchange at Grand Turk. The District Magistrate acts as Inspector of Police.

There is a prison at Grand Turk to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. It is a large well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation and is kept in good order and sanitary condition. There is complete separation between the male and female inmates.

There are ten cells for males and four for females, and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of floor area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during the hours of sleep. The prisoners are classified according to the prison rules. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are mainly employed outside the prison on cleaning the streets and repairing the roads and breaking stones, always under the supervision of a Police Officer, while the females are employed within the prison on washing clothes and other light work. The prisoners are well fed and are allotted 11 hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Government Medical Officer visits the prison daily and treats any prisoner who may be ill and in need of his attention, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health.

The District Magistrate Acts as Inspector of the Prison, and Senior N.C.O. of Police as Superintendent of the Prison, and the prison rules are strictly observed. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no chaplain, but Clergy of various denominations make regular visits to the prison.

The crime statistics for 1938 were:—

	1938
Number of crimes reported or known to Police ...	131
Number of crimes brought before Magistrate ...	131
Number of cases dropped	18
Number of persons proceeded against (male) ...	98
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (female) ...	52
Number of persons apprehended	58
Number of persons summoned	92
Number discharged	18
Number summarily convicted	130
Number imprisoned	27
Number whipped	5
Number fined	74
Number bound over or otherwise disposed of ...	24

The convictions were classified as follows:—

	1938
Offences against the person	18
Praedial larceny	1
Malicious injury to property	–
Other offences against property	35
Miscellaneous minor offences	76

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board as follows:—

No.

1. *The Supplementary Appropriation* (1937) *Ordinance*, 1938.
2. *The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance*, 1938.
3. *The Salt Valuation for Royalty Ordinance.*
4. *The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1938.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, or legislation for compensation for accidents, nor is there any legislation providing for sickness or old age.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only bank in these islands. At the end of 1938 there were 863 accounts in operation with £12,072 4s. 5d. to the credit of depositors. Deposits and withdrawals during the year amounted to £3,492 18s. 2d. and £3863 16s. 5d. respectively. Interest paid to depositors was £284 5s. 1d. The assets of the bank at the 31st December, 1938, included investments of a market value of £12,193 10s. 7d. and a cash balance of £962 10s. 7d. In pursuance of a recent regulation requiring that the assets of the bank shall exceed the amount due depositors by 10 per cent., a further sum of £123 7s. 8d. will be provided from the surplus funds of the Dependency.

The currency of the Dependency consists of British gold, silver and bronze coins, Jamaica nickel coins, and currency notes issued by the local government. A small number of British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use in these islands.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1934	7,024	8,959
1935	11,192	8,846
1936	10,110	9,031
1937	21,148	10,955
1938	14,359	14,660

The year opened with a surplus of £7,492 and closed with a surplus of £7,191, to which may be added an amount of £1,015 due by the Colonial Development Fund.

Extraordinary expenditure included the part cost of a motor cruiser, investments on behalf of the Savings Bank and Public Works.

There is no Public Debt.

The main items of revenue were as follows:—

	1938
	£
Customs Duties	4,812
Royalty on Salt	1,663
Port Dues	632
Internal Revenue	178
Payment for Specific Services, etc.	193
Post Office	5,900
Interest	204
Miscellaneous Receipts	271

The main items of expenditure were as follows:—

	1938
	£
Pensions	1,514
Commissioner's Department	1,847
Treasury and Customs	824
Judicial Department	97
Police and Prisons	789
Medical Department	1,304
Paupers and Lunatics	712
Education	840
Miscellaneous	1,074
Post Office...	1,007
Lighthouse Department	299
Public Works Recurrent...	1,479
Extraordinary:	
Investments on behalf of the Savings Bank	1,180
Colonial Development Fund	634
Purchase of Motor Vessel	1,056

Taxation in this Dependency is very light. There is no income tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals or vehicles; no poll tax and no excise or stamp duties.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows:—

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. *ad valorem*
General Tariff	15 per cent. *ad valorem*

The present sound financial position of the Dependency is almost entirely due to the sale of new stamps issues in 1937 and 1938. Trade has also improved during the past two years. Salt, the main item of export, is, however, a low-priced commodity and markets are unstable. It is unlikely that, unless there is development of cash crops for export, revenue will meet expenditure in a normal year.

APPENDIX.

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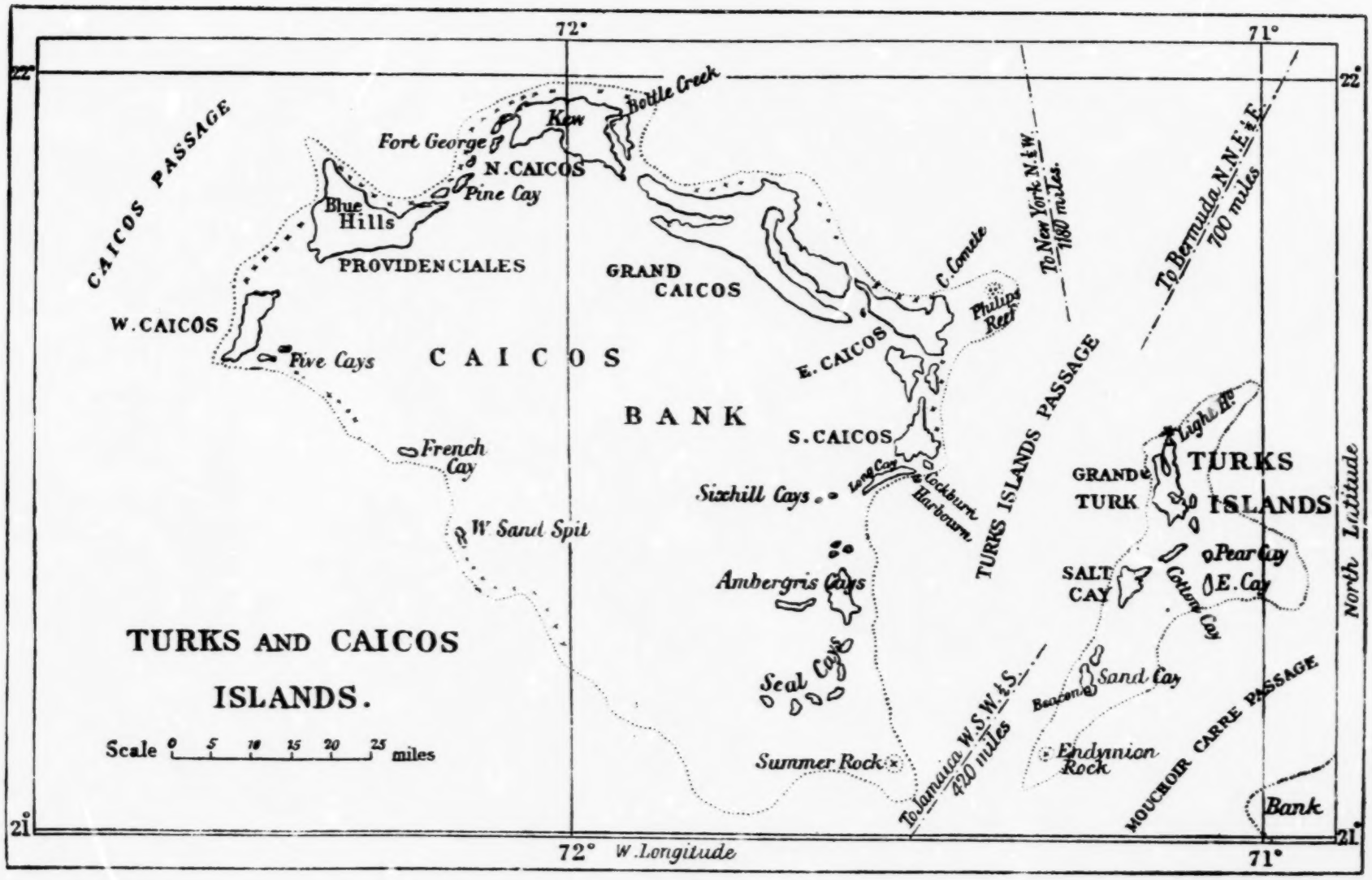

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